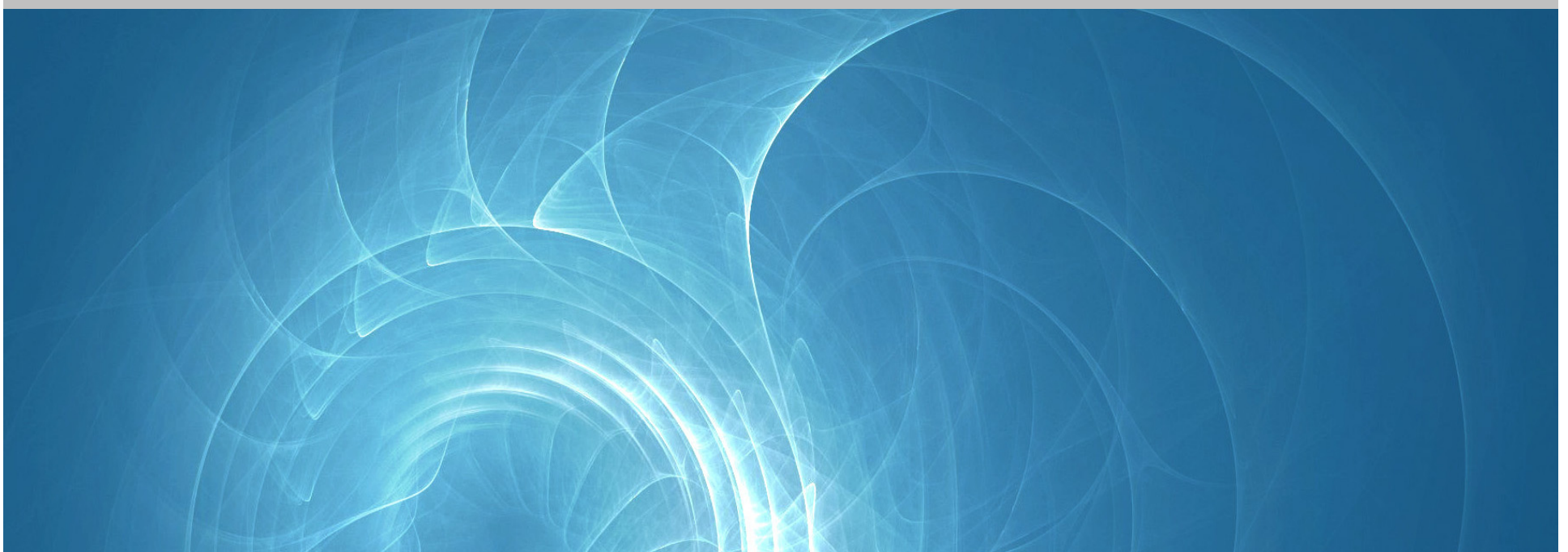




Science-Metrix

**How is SSH research being used?  
Insights from the Blue Ribbon Panel Survey on  
SSHRC's Peer-Review Process**





## Where is research used as a function of time of employment as a professor?

Employment as professor	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
Less than 5 years	72%	75%	94%	1276	62%	41%	74%	1194
6 to 10 years	73%	80%	96%	1607	66%	41%	77%	1506
11 to 20 years	78%	83%	98%	1500	67%	41%	78%	1403
More than 20 years	77%	84%	98%	1676	69%	43%	79%	1565
Total	75%	81%	96%	6059	66%	41%	77%	5668

- In academia, the results of research are used increasingly at the international level as professors gain in seniority.
- The pattern is also observed in terms of use outside of academia, where research results are used increasingly at the national level as professors gain in seniority.



## Where is research used as a function of chair-holding?

Type of chair	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
Senior Canada Research Chair	77%	98%	100%	81	72%	64%	88%	76
Junior Canada Research Chair	81%	86%	100%	128	74%	43%	85%	123
Other chairs	74%	89%	98%	241	72%	55%	83%	227
Not a chairholder	75%	80%	96%	5612	66%	40%	77%	5247
Total	75%	80%	96%	6062	66%	41%	77%	5673

- Data suggests that researchers holding a junior Canada Research Chair have more impact in the national academic community than do senior chairholders. However, senior chairholders see a decidedly greater use of their research at the international level.
- A larger proportion of Canada Research Chair holders claim that their research is used in non-academic sectors, both at the national and international levels, than do non-chairholders.
- Junior Canada Research Chair holders report that their research is used nationally whereas, comparatively, senior chairholders have a much greater impact than junior chairholders at the international level.



## Where is research used as a function of institution size?

Size of institution	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
Less than 5,000 students	72%	72%	93%	568	69%	36%	76%	538
5,000 to 15,000 students	74%	75%	94%	1125	67%	37%	77%	1063
More than 15,000 students	76%	83%	97%	4381	66%	43%	77%	4087
Total	75%	81%	96%	6074	66%	41%	77%	5688

- The use of research results in academia is correlated with the institution's size. This is particularly the case for use of research at the international level.
- Likewise, in non-academic sectors, use of research results at the international level is a function of the institution's size. However, the smaller the institution, the greater the propensity of results to be used nationally. This shows that smaller institutions are more closely linked with the local community whereas larger institutions contribute proportionally more to the international community.



## Where is research used as a function of funding by SSHRC?

Funding by SSHRC	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
Funded by SSHRC as a PI	77%	86%	98%	3751	66%	43%	78%	3496
Funded by SSHRC as a C.-A.	78%	70%	96%	762	76%	37%	82%	719
Never been funded by SSHRC	69%	73%	93%	1209	62%	42%	73%	1141
Never applied to SSHRC	66%	68%	89%	395	60%	37%	73%	370
Total	75%	80%	96%	6117	66%	41%	77%	5726

- Researchers who have been funded by SSHRC as Principal Investigators (PI) have a significantly greater use for their research output in the international academic community.
- Research results of Co-Applicants (C-A) funded by SSHRC are being used more than those of PIs or researchers that have not been funded by SSHRC at the national level in both the academic and non-academic sectors.
- Researchers who have never applied to SSHRC have the lowest rate of use for their research, be it in the academic or non-academic sectors, nationally or internationally.



## Where is research used as a function of number of grants obtained?

Number of grants received	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
0	66%	69%	88%	395	51%	34%	63%	368
At least 1 to 4	74%	79%	96%	4023	62%	38%	74%	3719
At least 4 to 10	80%	86%	99%	1227	77%	46%	86%	1178
11 or More	77%	85%	98%	467	83%	61%	92%	458
Total	75%	80%	96%	6112	66%	41%	77%	5723

- There is a relationship between the number of grants received and the use of research results in the national and international communities: as the number of grants received increases, research results are increasingly used by the academic and non-academic sector.
- However, there might be a threshold after which there is a decreasing return: researchers who have received funding 11 or more times from SSHRC or other granting agencies tend to have less use for their research in academia than do researchers who received funding 4 to 10 times.
- Importantly though, the more researchers are funded, the more their research is being used outside of academia—regardless of whether the users of research are within the national or international community.



## Where is research used as a function of level of interdisciplinarity?

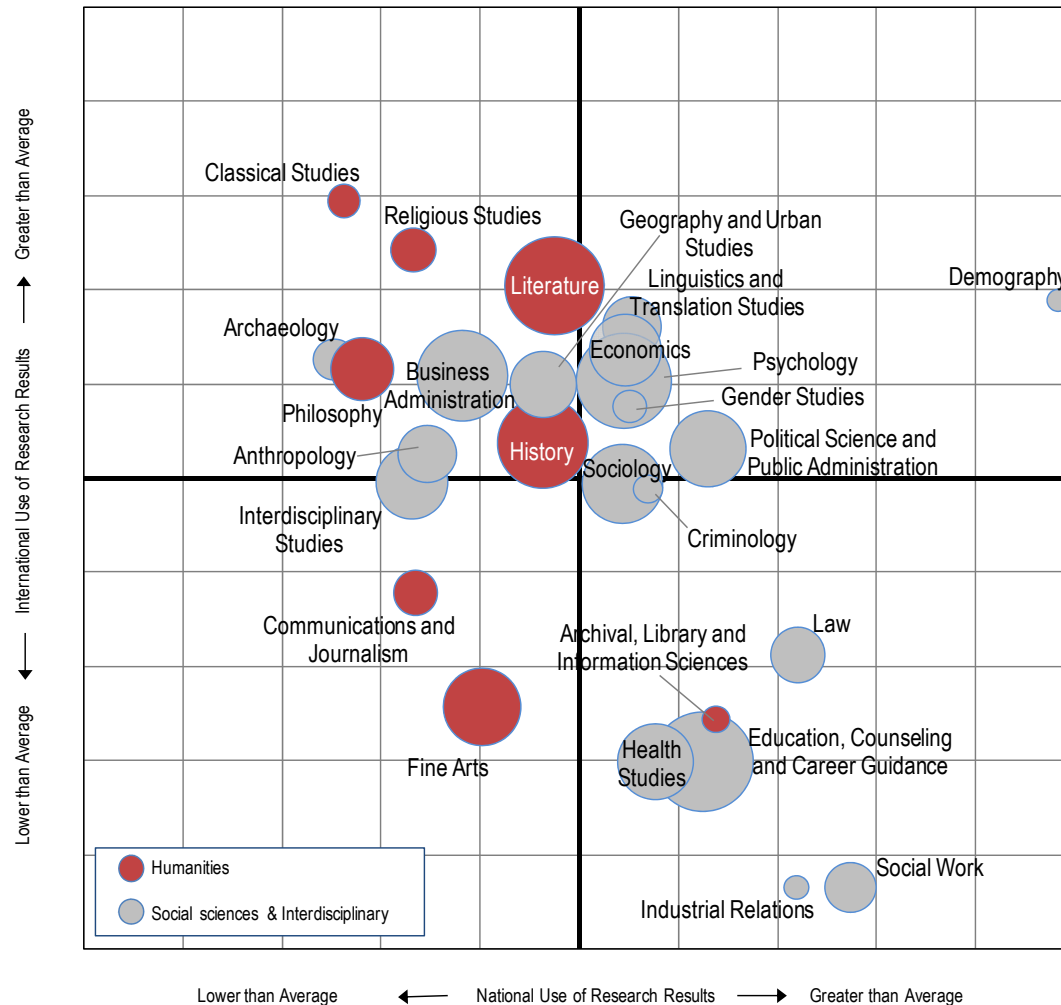
Disciplinary Emphasis	Research is used in academic sector				Research is used in non-academic sectors			
	National	International	Total	(n)	National	International	Total	(n)
Extremely Interdisciplinary	72%	81%	96%	1610	71%	50%	83%	1544
Quite interdisciplinary	76%	80%	97%	2217	68%	42%	79%	2078
Quite disciplinary	76%	81%	97%	1682	62%	35%	73%	1554
Exclusively disciplinary	78%	82%	97%	303	48%	25%	55%	262
Total	75%	81%	96%	5812	66%	41%	77%	5438

- The most important finding is that the use of research results outside of academia increases as the interdisciplinarity of research increases. This trend is clear at the national and international levels.
- These results strongly suggest that performing interdisciplinary research increases the diffusion of research results outside of academia and therefore presents a strong case in favour of funding interdisciplinary teams to tackle social, governmental and industrial problems.





# Where are research results used within academia, by SSH disciplines?

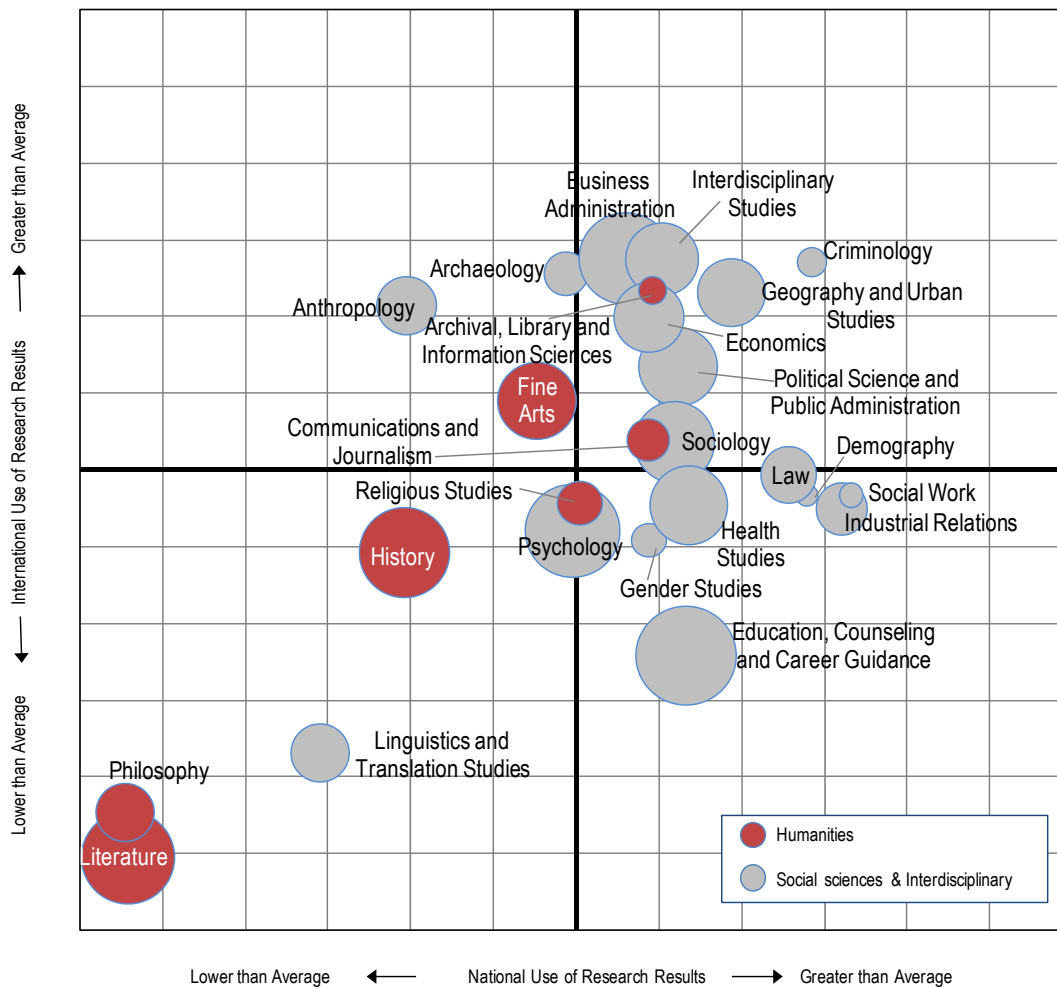


- It is obvious that researchers in the arts and humanities do not consider that their research is used nationally as much as do researchers in the social sciences.
- Importantly, these appreciations are relative to the average of respondents and one should in no way infer that individual researchers consider their research to be less useful. Indeed, as seen in the previous tables, most of the researchers consider their research to be useful in academia.
- These results should be seen in light of comparisons of perception of usefulness of research results between fields.
- Several disciplines of the humanities appear to produce research results that are used much more at the international level. This includes classical studies, religious studies and literature, which all produce knowledge that appears to transcend national boundaries more than do other disciplines.
- Researchers in the fine arts and in communications and journalism tend to see the least use for their research in academia regardless of where it is used, whereas researchers in demography see their research as being useful both locally and internationally.





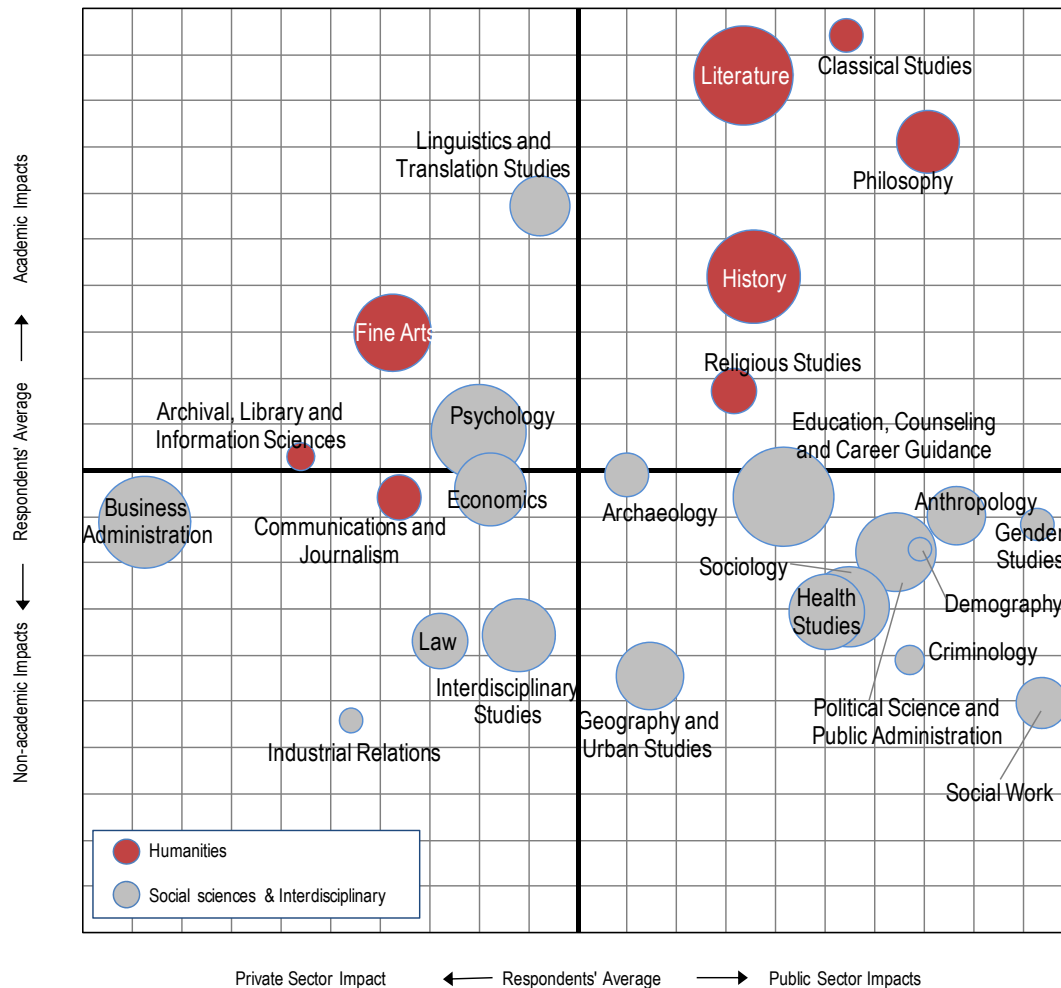
# Where are research results used outside of academia, by SSH disciplines?



- Philosophy and literature are the disciplines where the greatest proportion of researchers do not think their research results are used outside academia, be it at the local or the international level.
- Social work and industrial relations are the disciplines where the greatest proportion of researchers claim their research is used nationally outside of academia.
- Several disciplines compete for the greatest use of results outside of academia at the international level, including business administration, interdisciplinary studies, criminology, archaeology, archival, library and information sciences, geography and urban studies, and anthropology, among others.
- By and large, the results shown here are quite intuitive. For instance, it is not surprising to see that researchers in fields such as education, health studies and social work claim that their results are used nationally but perhaps not all that much internationally.



# In which sectors are impacts comparatively important, by SSH disciplines?



- This figure examines the perception of research impacts by examining how they are polarized according to two variables: private versus public sector use (x-axis) and academic vs. non-academic use (y-axis).
- Not surprisingly, researchers in business and management are the ones who, relative to the average of survey respondents, claim to have the greatest impact on the private sector.
- Social work and gender studies are at the other extreme, having more impacts than others on the public sector.
- This does not mean that businesses do not have impacts on the public sector, nor that gender studies do not have an important impact on the private sector. It is just that, compared to the average, their research results are more important in these respective spheres.
- By and large, as noticed earlier, the humanities have more academic impacts generally, and one can see here that these impacts are more polarized towards the public sphere.
- Social work and criminology have, relatively speaking, greater impacts on the public, non-academic spheres than do other disciplines.



# How is SSH Research being used? Insights from the Blue Ribbon Panel Survey

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*Prepared for:*

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**

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**March 27, 2009**

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