

Evaluation of SSHRC's Research-based Knowledge Culture

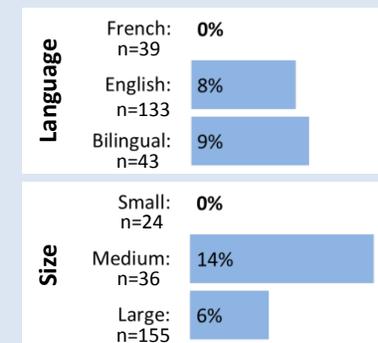
In 2017, SSHRC completed an evaluation of the Research-Based Knowledge Culture sub-program, and in particular for its main component, the Impact Awards funding opportunity. Impact Awards are prizes offered to recognize outstanding researchers and celebrate their achievements in research, research training, knowledge mobilization and outreach activities funded at least partly by SSHRC. The evaluation examined the first three rounds of the Awards, from 2013 to 2015, and employed five methods: interviews, achievement reporting, administrative data review, document review, and an analysis of Twitter data.

About the Impact Awards	Award value	In recognition of	
	Gold Medal:	\$100,000	Sustained leadership, dedication and originality of thought that inspired others
	Talent Award:	\$50,000	Outstanding achievement by a SSHRC scholarship/fellowship recipient
	Insight Award:	\$50,000	Outstanding achievement from SSHRC-funded research
	Connection Award:	\$50,000	Outstanding SSHRC-funded initiative to facilitate exchange of research knowledge
	Partnership Award:	\$50,000	Outstanding achievement from a SSHRC-funded partnership

Success Rates

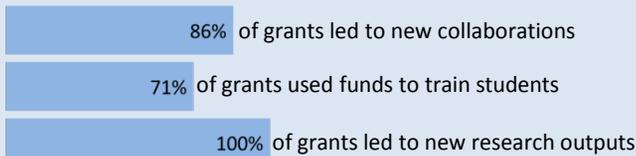
Success in winning the Impact Awards is not shared equally: French institutions and small institutions have never won an Award. Small institutions are also less likely to nominate a candidate.

Percent of nominees who win from different institutions:



Impact of Awards

Funding from the Awards supported research capacity and production:



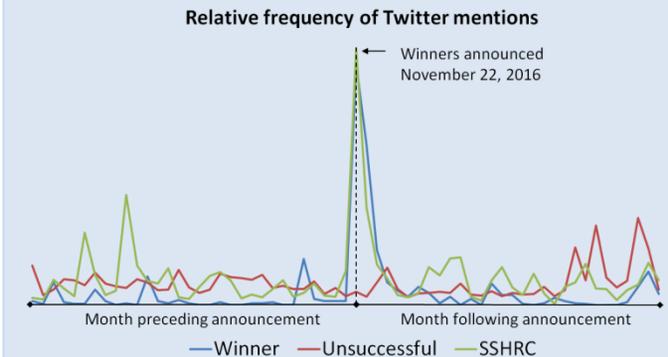
The average winner also engaged in 5.1 knowledge mobilization activities.

Relevance and Cost Efficiency

The Impact Awards fulfill a distinct and important purpose: rewarding achievements in Canadian SSH research and supporting the mobilization of knowledge through society. The Awards have relatively high administrative costs due to the small value of the awards, but cost-efficiency ratios compare favourably to similar prizes offered by other agencies.

Recognition

The Awards are perceived to be prestigious, but their effect on the visibility of award winners and SSHRC is brief – as indicated in the chart below, showing Twitter mentions of nominees and SSHRC keywords before and after the winners were announced.



The effect is less pronounced, but more sustained, for winning institutions.

Design and Delivery

The Impact Awards have been mostly delivered as planned and to stakeholders' satisfaction, with a key exception being the visibility of the award ceremony, which many think could be improved. Barriers to access for specific groups were not identified – even though small and French institutions have not won an award in the three years examined.

For more information, please see the full evaluation report on SSHRC's website:
www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/evaluations-eng.aspx