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Trio receives Canada Research Chairs funding

Contact:

Marianne Meadahl, PAMR, [Phone removed]

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Three Simon Fraser University researchers are the latest to receive funding from the federal government's Canada Research Chairs program.

Diane Gromala, an associate professor in SFU Surrey's School for Interactive Arts and Technology, sociology professor Cindy Patton and education professor Phil Winne are among the 129 faculty members from 35 universities across Canada to receive new or renewed funding, announced today.

Gromala, one of 29 new Canada Research Chair (CRC) holders, receives funding for a Chair in Multidisciplinary and Multimedia Arts. Gromala is the founding director of SFU's BioMedia lab and is working with doctors to learn how virtual reality therapies can give people ways to express and keep track of their pain.

Patton currently holds a CRC in Community, Culture and Health and is developing a community-based research unit called the Health Research and Methods Training Facility at SFU's Vancouver campus at Harbour Centre.

Another of her research goals is to investigate 'complex' patients. 'This work will look at several cases in which multiple medical disciplines must work together,' she explains. The work will explore differences between medical subdisciplines, medical and allied health approaches to the patient, and lay and expert understandings of disease.

Winne holds a Chair in Self-Regulated Learning and Learning Technologies. Winne and his research team spent a decade creating unique software for learning, including an innovative program called gSTUDY.

The federal government is investing \$113 million to fund the chairs. The CRC program is designed to attract the best talent from Canada and around the world, helping universities to achieve research excellence in natural sciences and engineering, health sciences and social sciences and humanities.