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## STRUCTURING AND MANAGING INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREES



The Shipping News

## Annie Proulx

WINNER OI
THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION THE IRISH TIMES INTERNATIONAL. PRIZE

THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD




# Over 3000 graduate students Over 100 graduate programs 

18 graduate interdisciplinary programs (three in development)

## Aquaculture

Arts and Education
Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology
Computational Science
Computer Engineering
Employment Relations
Engineering Management
Environmental Science
Environmental Systems Engineering and
Management

Ethnomusicology
Fisheries Resource Management
Humanities
Interdisciplinary PhD
Maritime Management
Oil and Gas Engineering
Technology Management
Theoretical Physics
Women's Studies

## Interdisciplinary graduate programs promise:

-flexibility
-intellectual health
-progressive and innovative research programs
-breadth and depth

## but struggle against

-institutional inflexibility
-collective agreement
-workload issues
-homelessness

## Interdisciplinary Madness!

I work in but get paid by My Advisor is in

| I work in | but get paid by | My Advisor is in |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Lab) | (Program) | (Department) |
| .but my real Advisor is in | Officially, I'm part of | ...even though my office is in |
| (another Department) | (Research Center) | (Basement of another building) |
| Most of my classes are on | yet technically, my degree is in | So basically, I belong |
| (Stuff I haven't seen since High School) | (Major other than my undergrad's) | (Nowhere) |

## Collective Agreement

## WORKLOAD OF FACULTY MEMBERS

3.07 The determination of course offerings shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Head. In determining course offerings the Administrative Head shall take into account the resources of the Academic Unit and expertise of the Faculty Members as well as the needs of the students.

## VARIATIONS FROM THE TEACHING NORM

3.17 On an annual basis the proportion of a Faculty Member's work devoted to teaching may be increased under one or the other of the following provisions:
a) A voluntary increase may be given following a signed agreement between a Faculty Member and the Administrative Head. With this increase in work devoted to teaching, the expectations for research, scholarly, creative and professional activities shall be correspondingly reduced. This provision shall be applied either when the Faculty Member voluntarily takes on one (1) or more sections beyond the normal teaching assignment or when, without a change in the number of course sections, the Faculty Member voluntarily undertakes implementation or operation of a major teaching project or programme for which there is a demonstrable need in the Academic Unit.
b) Where the Faculty Member's record of research, scholarly, creative and professional activities is significantly below expectations, judged over the past three (3) years, the proportion of their work devoted to teaching may be increased by one (1) course or equivalent above the teaching norm in an Academic Year.

Good news ... many faculty workit out with their Heads and Deans and end up on interdisciplinary graduate program committees. SGS encourages these negotiations and supports workload flexibility.

## Governance

SGS oversees ID programs
Dean appoints program coordinator (stipend and course release)
ID admissions committee for each program recommends candidates to SGS
Supervisory Committees (minimum 3) determine course work and comps examinations

SGS covers costs of directed reading courses where necessary

## Sample ID PhD thesis topics

Virtual Magic: enchantment and illusionism in immersive media (Philosophy, Communications, Education, Psychology)

Recruiting the Visual: Deepening Dialogue on CommonPlace and Local Knowledge (Anthropology, Communications, History, Medicine)

The Role of Critical Thinking in Police Officer Decision Making (Business, Psychology, Education)

Interconnected Systems (Education, Mental Health, \& Medicine) For Emotionally Disturbed Youth: The Nova Scotia Schools Plus Program (Education, Medicine, Psychology, Sociology)

# Health and richness of ID programs altering the culture, relaxing institutional boundaries. 



## www.mun.ca/sgs

## MEMORIA UNIVERSITY

