



Live Work Well Research Centre

Strategic Plan Renewal 2023-27

Session 2



**COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND
APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES**

LIVE • WORK • WELL RESEARCH CENTRE

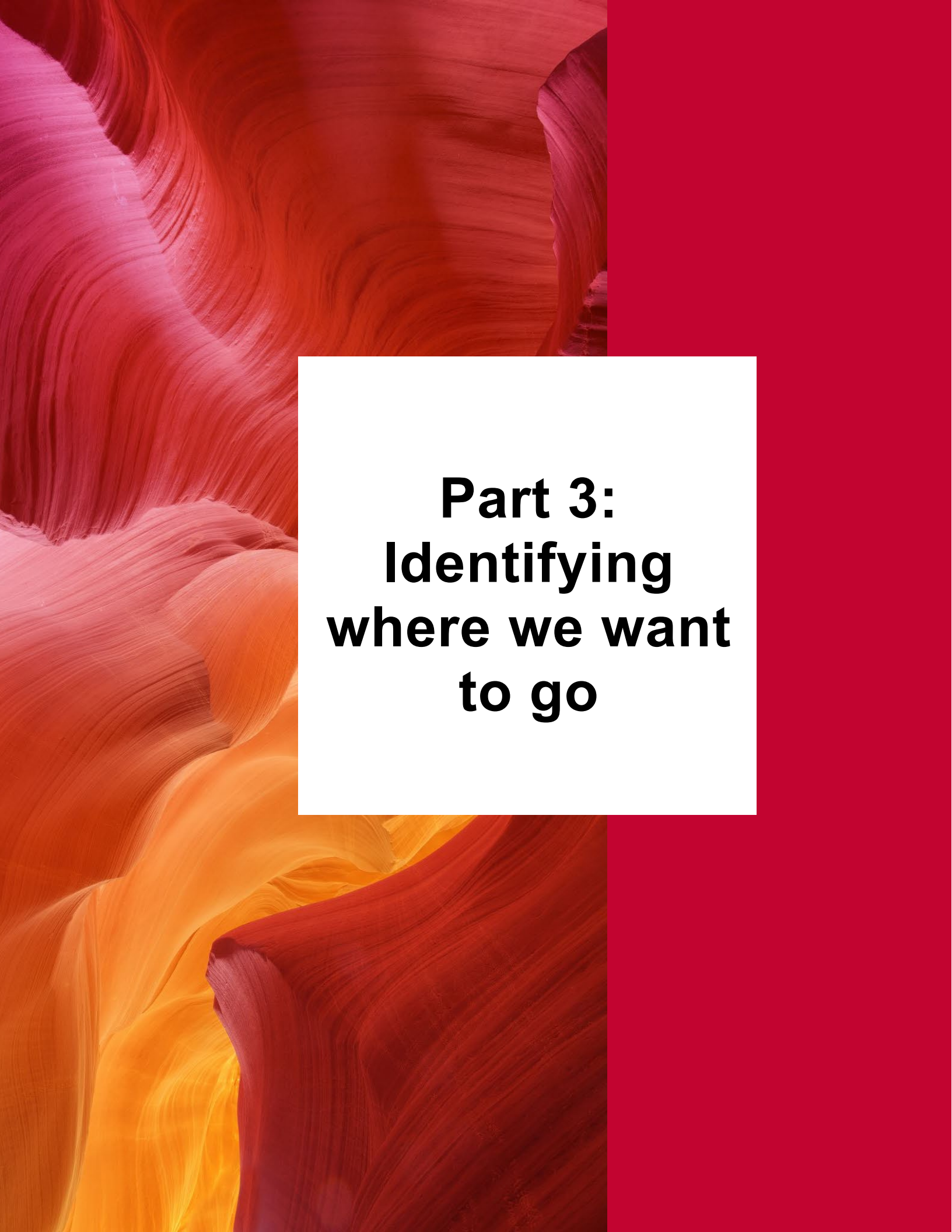


Introduction

This year, the Live Work Well Research Centre is embarking on renewing our strategic plan for the next five years. We are inviting our partners and collaborators to join us in a three-part discussion over two meetings in March, to reflect, discuss, recommit, and reimagine the Centre's vision, work, values, and goals from 2023-27.

In the first meeting on March 8th, we will focus on Parts 1 and 2 of the discussion. In Part 1, we will revisit our vision, work, values, and goals from our [2017-22 strategic plan](#). And, in Part 2, we will reflect on where we are today and how we got here, involving discussions on our successes, challenges, opportunities, and areas for growth.

Then, in the second meeting on March 21st, we will focus on Part 3 of the discussion, which will involve identifying where we want to go over the next five years, and outlining how we want to get there.



**Part 3:
Identifying
where we want
to go**

Where do we want to go?

Discussion Questions:

In thinking about how we will get from where we are today to where we want to be in the future:

- ▶ What can a research centre do? What can't it do?
- ▶ Reflecting on our discussions on the strengths, areas for growth, opportunities, and challenges of the Live Work Well Research Centre, what kind of research centre would we like to be?



Over the next few pages, we've selected six examples of projects and activities we've done over the past five years, that we feel illustrate the directions we want to continue growing in moving forward.

Example A:

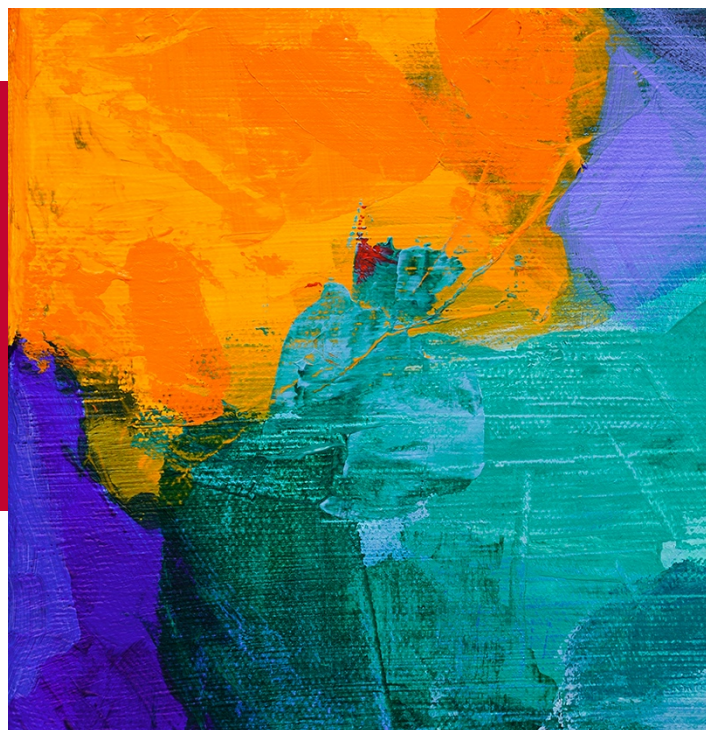
Interactive Workshop on Women’s Emotional Labour and Leadership: Lunch and Learn Series (2018) and Community Workshop (2019)

As part of the Centre’s “Lunch and Learn” series, Dr. M. Gloria Gonzalez-Morales (formerly an associate professor of Psychology at Guelph), and Dr. Grace Ewles (who, at the time, was a recent Ph.D. graduate in Psychology), hosted the “[Interactive Workshop on Women’s Emotional Labour and Leadership](#)” in March 2018.

- ▶ More than 60 participants gathered to learn and develop strategies to translate women’s emotional labour into executive leadership practices.
- ▶ Not only were participants energized by what they learned, but they became aware of and more engaged in the work of the Centre.

Following the success of the Lunch and Learn Workshop, Drs. Gonzalez-Morales and Ewles hosted a [community workshop](#) on the same topic at 10 Carden Shared Space in downtown Guelph, in November 2019.

- ▶ This community workshop was designed as a 90-minute interactive session to explore women’s experiences managing social relationships in the workplace as embedded in their work roles, and the implications of these relational practices for health and well-being.



Example B:

Poverty and Housing From the Margins: Communities Respond to COVID-19: Panel Discussion (2020)

This panel event in June 2020 focused on discussing the impacts of the pandemic on poverty and housing, seeking to elevate perspectives often excluded from dominant discussions on COVID-19.

- ▶ Panelists included: Dominica McPherson (Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination), Tina Bophey (Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination), and Cory O’Handley (Services and Housing in the Province). Karen Metcalfe, Dufferin resident and advocate, also offered contributions.
- ▶ The panel was moderated by Tobin Haley, Assistant Professor at Cape Breton University.
- ▶ Panelists discussed the specific challenges their communities and organizations are experiencing due to COVID-19, and the social, political, and economic conditions underlying these challenges. They also shared how they responded to these challenges.

Example C:

Making Connections – Student-Parents at U of G: Webinar (2021)

This webinar, hosted in partnership with Student Wellness, took place in March 2021. It brought together U of G student-parents and caregivers to share experiences, resources, and strategies, and simply connect with one another.

- ▶ The webinar was part of an effort to advocate and improve support for student-parents and their families.



Example D:

Storied Lives: Shifting Perspectives on Poverty (2018 -)

“Storied Lives” started as a SSHRC-funded research project (Partnership Engage Grant) hosted by the Live Work Well Research Centre, the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute, and the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination (PTF), that aims to improve peoples’ understandings of the complex experiences of individuals living with poverty in Ontario and beyond.

- ▶ Following the completion of the initial research, the research team then applied for and secured a Connection Grant to continue the work.
- ▶ This next phase of the work involved the creation of a series of four podcasts, each telling a composite story. They are fictional narratives, based on a collection of true accounts, that allow people with lived experiences to share their knowledge.
- ▶ Each composite story is followed by a short discussion with a community activist with expertise in combatting poverty.
- ▶ Listeners are asked to complete pre-and post-surveys, which aim to improve our understanding of how stories impact perceptions of poverty.

Now, the research team is working with the PTF and student groups to develop resources for poverty education and awareness training that centres the podcasts, as well as to develop community engagement toolkits for individuals and organizations to continue engaging with the podcasts and reflecting on what they learn.

- ▶ This project illustrates what we can do as a research centre, and the kind of projects we want to do more of.
- ▶ In this case, our community partner, the PTF, reached out to use with a clearly-identified need. We worked together to develop a proposal for a project, and secured funding. We collaborated on each phase of the project, and were able to design each phase around our respective needs, priorities, and capacities.



Example E:

“Art in a Just Recovery”: Community Mural Project (2022 -)

Amy Kipp and Roberta Hawkins, Co-Leads of the “Reimagining Care” Cluster, are working together with their partners at Art Not Shame, a non-profit organization delivering arts-based workshops in Guelph on a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant to support their community mural project, “Art in a Just Recovery.”

- ▶ The project aims to build knowledge about community care and its connections with collective artmaking in the context of pandemic recovery.
- ▶ Amy and Roberta chose to apply for this grant through the Centre because of our alignment with the project objectives and the intellectual/logistical resources we can provide (e.g. knowledge mobilization and research support; student co-supervision; and grant administration).
- ▶ This project represents the practical ways we can connect with and support the work of the Research Clusters, who have identified grant administration and research and knowledge mobilization resources as key areas they would like more support with.

Example F:

“Imagining a More Just University”: Panel Discussion (2022)

This hybrid panel event was organized by Leah Levac, Co-Lead of the Displacement, Emergence, and Change Cluster, and Acting Director of the Centre in 2022. Five panelists from diverse disciplines and sectors explored how to create more just academic spaces that reduce/eliminate barriers to access and ensure equity for everyone.

- ▶ The Centre provided logistical and technical support for the event and is working on producing summary materials to be shared with panelists and attendees, as well as mobilized more widely.
- ▶ Attendance and engagement at this event were very strong, and many attendees indicated their desire to continue the conversations started during the panel. Panelists are currently working on debriefing the event, and discussing strategies for how we can continue to move these conversations forward.
- ▶ This event provided an opportunity to initiate discussions around ideas for potential projects and initiatives at and with the Centre. Similarly, these kinds of events can also be designed to celebrate the culmination of existing projects and initiatives.
- ▶ This event represents how the Centre can support Cluster-initiated ideas for stimulating discussions around important and timely topics that relate to their areas of research and work.

Discussion Questions

1. Given these examples, what modifications, if any, should be made to the Centre's goals for the next five years? What else can we do?

2018-22 Strategic Goals:

- ▶ **Research Activities:** *Research Clusters will initiate cluster-based and cross-cluster research activities. The Centre will support these through knowledge mobilization, grant administration and coordination in consultation with the CSAHS and University research offices.*
- ▶ **Student Engagement & Development:** *The Centre will create opportunities for students to develop research and collaboration skills, support and learn from peers, and engage in Centre activities, in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Hub and the PhD in Social Practice and Transformational Change, and other programs.*
- ▶ **Community Engagement:** *The Centre will develop and implement a community engagement process to extend its relationships with relevant local, national and international communities, in collaboration with the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI).*
- ▶ **Communities of Practice:** *To extend our circle of knowledge across a wide spectrum of disciplines and scholarly and lived experiences, the Centre will develop communities of practice among members of the Centre's community including faculty, students and community partners.*
- ▶ **Knowledge Mobilization:** *The Centre will share knowledge from current and past activities widely, in multiple and accessible formats, reaching diverse audiences. We will work with partners inside and outside the University to regularly assess and evaluate our relationships and the effectiveness of our knowledge translation and sharing.*



2. What actions will help us achieve these goals?

Research Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What do we want our research activities to be like? ▶ How will we identify and respond to research needs and priorities of those we work with? ▶ What actions will help support our research goals?
Student Engagement and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What do we want student engagement and development at and with the Centre to be like? What do we want our relationships with students to be like? ▶ How will we identify, create, and connect with opportunities that respond to student needs and priorities? ▶ What actions will help support our goals for student engagement and development?
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What do we want our relationships with community partners to be like? ▶ How will we identify and respond to the needs and priorities of our community partners? ▶ What actions will help support our goals for our relationships with community partners?
Communities of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How do we want to extend and strengthen our knowledge and experiences across disciplines and communities? ▶ How will we identify and respond to the needs and priorities of our community? ▶ What actions will help support our goals for our communities of practice?
Knowledge Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How will we share and mobilize knowledge? ▶ How will we ensure our knowledge mobilization strategies are accessible? ▶ Who are our key audiences? How will we identify and respond to our diverse audiences' needs and priorities for knowledge mobilization? ▶ What actions will help support our goals for knowledge mobilization?

3. What additional knowledge, skills, or resources will we require to achieve our strategic goals?

4. How will we track our progress in manageable ways?



Thank you for your contributions and feedback on Part 3 of our strategic plan reviewal process! If you wish to provide your feedback in writing, we encourage you to fill out the Session surveys, available on the Live Work Well Research Centre website. Or, you can send us an email at liveworkwell@uoguelph.ca