

EXPLORING SOCIAL INNOVATION @ U OF T

June 27, 2016

Hart House, University of Toronto

TOP QUESTIONS

1. How can we be bold as we create pathways to social innovation at the University?
2. What is the difference between social innovation and social entrepreneurship?
3. Which are the champion units at the University that can come together so we can put social innovation to work?
4. How do we support a culture where we are thinking about both the intended and unintended consequences?
5. How can we better include all students in this conversation?

This exclusive event brought together a select group of students, faculty members, staff and external partners of the UofT community who will become catalysts for individual and collective commitment to social change from UofT.

Together these 60 people explored what social innovation is and could be at the University of Toronto. This is a Snapshot from the day's facilitated conversations.



RIC YOUNG

Compels us to Go Deep

U of T Alumni, distinguished visiting professor at Ryerson University and a pioneer in the field of social innovation.

Our keynote, Ric Young, challenged participants to start with questions and not ideas. He asked us to draw on the strengths of the university as we explore two questions: How do we go deep with social innovation on campus? How do we think about changing change? His challenges helped inform the rest of the day's conversations.

►► MONEY VS GOOD

There is a tension between making money and doing good. Social innovations can create monetary value or they can create social value. There was a perception that it is easier to privilege monetary value but there is opportunity for both. Social innovation misses the point when it focuses too much on making money versus changing lives.

“ I've seen a spark with students when they see that they can invest in good or assess a business model on new criteria and dimensions. ”

►► MEASURING IMPACT

We need to find ways of improving how we measure impact. As a research institute, the University of Toronto is well positioned to take a leading role on developing knowledge and expertise pertaining to social innovation. Around campus people are already working on measuring impact. Our task is to amplify and develop the work that already exists on campus.

Event Sponsors University of Toronto International Health Program, The Agency, an initiative of the Institute for Global Health Equity & Innovation and Banting & Best Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, SGS Innovation in Graduate Professional Development Fund, Centre for Learning, Social Economy & Work, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

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▶▶ PEDAGOGY

What kind of pedagogy develops capacities for addressing some of the world's toughest challenges? What types of social investigation leads to social innovation?

Enclaves of people are already working on developing educational approaches for the 21st century. There is considerable potential for a working group focused on developing pedagogical approaches to generating social innovation.

“ Student centered social innovation is about getting the right resources including programming, mentorship, funding to the student social innovators. ”

▶▶ CULTURE & CAPACITY

Participants sought to foster a culture of innovation at UofT, a culture of play, experimentation, and making mistakes.

There was strong support for a space, both physical and online where the U of T community can go for additional knowledge, develop networks with other individuals with connected interests, and gain access to capital for their projects. Consideration should be given to serve all campuses so more students can participate.

Where do we need to build capacity and shift resources to go deep with social innovation? Can UofT take a collective approach towards building an infrastructure that can support social innovation on campus. We do not need whole new programs, but we do need to leverage the existing activities on campus.

▶▶ STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Let's help students see themselves as capable agents of change. Can we connect social innovation with their passions and pursuits?

Let's engage more students with opportunities and encourage different disciplines to team up together. There are pockets where enthusiastic young people innovate. Can we create a central meeting place, a creative space where these students can meet?

“ Students need to understand how change happens and how power operates to support change. ”

Next...
**LET'S BE BOLD
SOCIAL INNOVATION
@ U OF T**

November 21, 2016
Hart House, University of Toronto

Conversation facilitators Aisha Bukhari, Allyson Hewitt, Blake Poland, Gurveer Bains, Hima Batavia, Humayun Ahmed, Jesse Han, Joanna Reynolds, Kayvan Vind, Leeat Weinstock, Neel Joshi, Paul Nagpal, Shauna Brail, Sherida Ryan, Sophia Glisch

Conference Team Alex Jadad, Andrew Do, Ann Armstrong, Ashita Mohapatra, Cindy Ross Pedersen, Daniela Trecapelli, Deneille Walters, Derakhshan Qurban Ali, Ellena Andoniou, Cynthia Goh, Hazem Danny Nakib, Henry Ssali, Jenny Gatov, Kay Tyson Dam, Keita Demming, Lana Kovacevic, Nikki Sigurdson, Paula Paunic, Quinn Underwood, Rossini Yue, Tamsyn Riddle, Trillium Chang, Ushnish Sengupta