



CDRS Collaborative Digital
Research Space

2022-23 Annual Report

utm.utoronto.ca/cdrs/



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Vision and Mission Statement

Updated and Approved March 2023

The Collaborative Digital Research Space (CDRS) is a core research facility that supports collaborative and innovative humanities, arts, and social science research at UTM.

Our vision is:

To cultivate creative, innovative, and digital research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences through collaboration, exchange, and experimentation.

Our mission is:

- To foster an accessible, ethical, and supportive research community for collaborative and/or digital research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences (HASS).
- To support collaborative and/or digital humanities, arts, and social sciences (HASS) research undertaken by faculty members; postdoctoral fellows; graduate students, and advanced undergraduates.
- To cultivate ground-breaking interdisciplinary research with diverse outputs, including both traditional projects such as journal articles and monographs but also emerging forms, such as research creation, digital projects, videos, datasets, podcasts, data visualization, prototypes, digital 3D modeling, and others.
- To staff CDRS with a full-time Senior Research Associate in Collaborative and Digital Research, who will collaborate with researchers, departments, and others to foster innovative collaborative and/or digital research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences (HASS).
- To create regular research programming that supports the research endeavors of our community, including writing sessions, research spotlights, lectures, training workshops, etc.
- To support current and future efforts in the areas of ethical data, including data collection, data management, and open data.
- To provide and maintains physical and digital space for collaborative and/or digital research for HASS scholars.
- To establish and maintains collaborative and digital research equipment for the research community, including video and audio equipment; computers; scanners, etc.
- To collaborate with the UTM library, I&ITS, departments, and other units to create integrated, non-siloed programming and support for collaborative and/or digital HASS research at the UTM campus.

Year at a Glance

May 2022

- 10th & 11th: UTM Media Camp (co-organized with UTM Comms)

September 2022

- New signage installed at CDRS

October 2022

- Annual faculty call for funding closed
- UTM International Birchbark workshop hosted at CDRS (event organized by Alexandra Gillespie and Tee Duke)

November 2022

- Hired new permanent CDRS SRA (Dr. Elisa Tersigni)

December 2022

- 12-14: Writing Bootcamp (organized and hosted by CDRS)

January 2023

- Hired new interim SRA (Tia Sager) to replace Elisa Tersigni during her leave
- Implemented weekly co-writing schedule 3 days/week
- Hosted Research Spotlight on AI Writing Tools (Chat GPT)
- Hosted an Open House at CDRS to welcome UTM Faculty, Researchers and Staff
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Mondays 1:30-4pm (convenor: grad student Arun Jacob)
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Tuesdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Thursdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)
- Hosted a Craftivist Session (convenor: Professor Anna Korteweg, Sociology)

February 2023

- 21 & 22: Hosted a Reading Week Writing Retreat (Feb 21 & 22)
- Finalized new CDRS Vision & Mission Statement
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Mondays 1:30-4pm (convenor: grad student Arun Jacob)
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Tuesdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)

Year at a Glance

February 2023 continued

- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Thursdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)
- Hosted a Craftivist Session (convenor: Professor Anna Korteweg, Sociology)

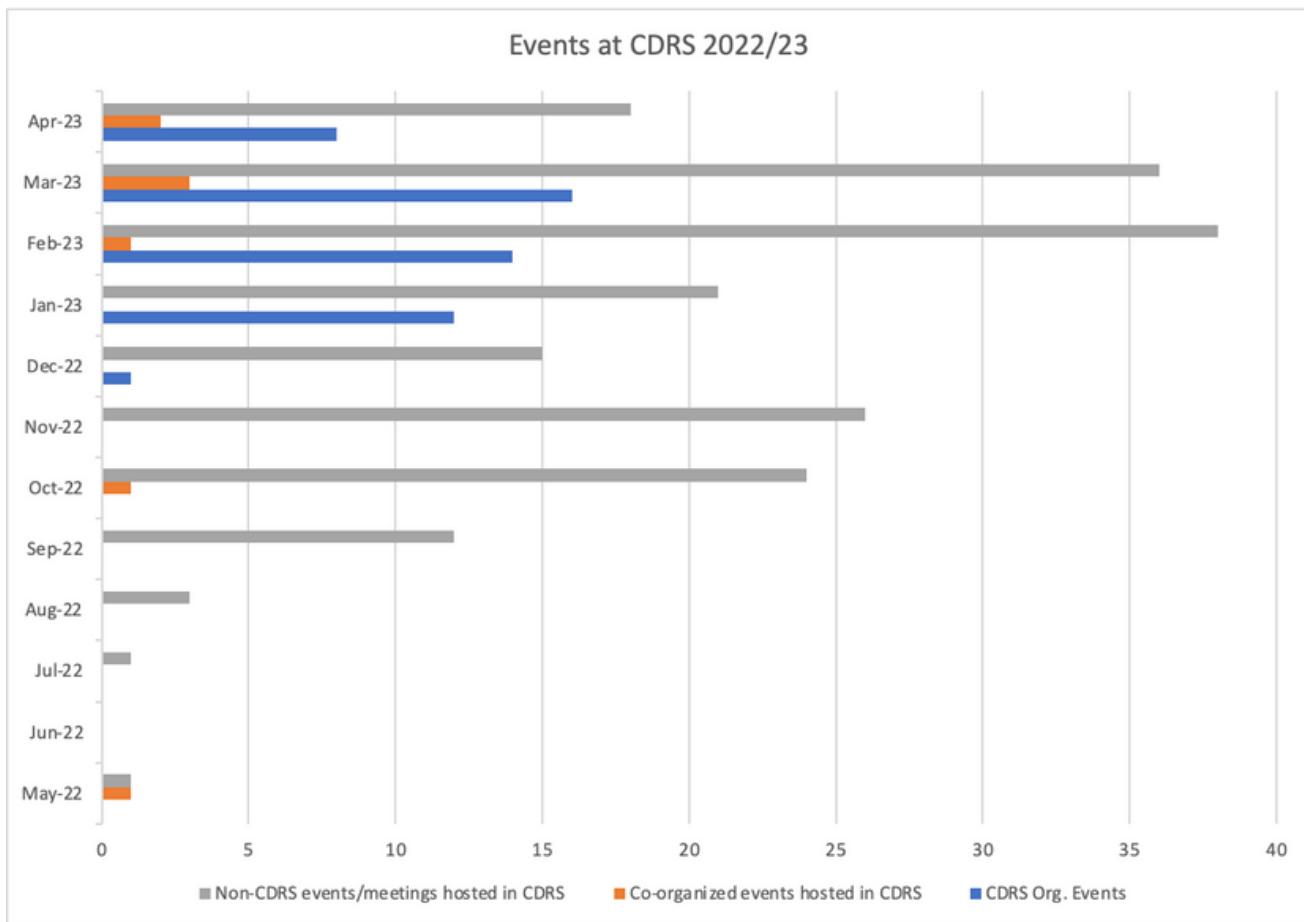
March 2023

- Collaborated with the JHI to host a JHI-UTM Annual seminar
- Hosted soft opening and artist talk for the inaugural CDRS Artist-in-Residence program (curated by Jerry Flores and Elizabeth Parke)
- Hosted Bo Ruberg Game Studies Play-Along, organized by Larry Switzky
- Organized Research Spotlight on the Metaverse with Bree McEwan, Karina Vold and Michael Nixon
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Mondays 1:30-4pm (convenor: grad student Arun Jacob)
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Tuesdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)
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April 2023

- Hosted three-day Spring Writing Retreat (April 17-19)
- Participated as Stakeholder for Digital Librarian new hire at UTM Library
- Received funding from Vice-Dean of Students to host two international PhD Research Assistants in 2023/24
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Mondays 1:30-4pm (convenor: grad student Arun Jacob)
- Hosted weekly co-writing sessions on Tuesdays 9am-12pm (convenor: SRA Tia Sager)
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Year at a Glance



CDRS Operations 2022/23

CDRS day-to-day operations are managed by the Senior Research Associate, and governed by a Steering Committee which meets quarterly.

CDRS Steering Committee 2022/23

- Elspeth Brown, Professor, History and UTM Associate VP Research- Strategic Initiatives
- Anna Korteweg, Professor, Sociology
- Derek Denis, Assistant Professor, Language Studies
- Elisa Tersigni (SRA) November-December 2022
- Tia Sager (SRA) January-April 2023

In 2022/23, the CDRS Steering Committee met quarterly and helped to transition the new SRAs (Elisa Tersigni followed by Tia Sager) into their new roles. The Steering Committee's goal for this year was to come up with a new Vision and Mission Statement, which was drafted in February 2023, and approved in March 2023 by the OVPR. The new Vision and Mission Statement encompasses the growing nature CDRS' mandate, and the focus on all humanities and social sciences departments at UTM and across the three campuses.

Governance & Financial Structures

The Collaborative Digital Research Space is a core research facility at the University of Toronto, Mississauga under the umbrella of core research facilities overseen by the Office of the Vice Principal of Research (OVPR). The Senior Research Associate at CDRS reports to the Associate Vice Principal, Research-Facilities, and works closely with the CDRS Steering Committee to manage day-to-day operations. The CDRS SRA works with closely with the Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI)-funded Critical Digital Humanities Initiative (CDHI), and the Black Research Network (BRN). CDRS' mandate is to support Humanities and Social Science research and programming through the OVPR such as the UTM/Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) Annual Seminar, the SSHRC Summer Cohort Program, and the First Book Manuscript Workshop. CDRS also manages a yearly budget that is used to fund faculty research projects, programming, and in future, working groups. The CDRS physical space was established by six departments: Historical Studies, English & Drama, Political Science, Language Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology, and CDRS' mandate this year has expanded to encompass all Humanities, Arts, and Social Science research at UTM.

CDRS Leadership



Josh Milstein,
UTM Associate VP Research-
Facilities



Anna Korteweg,
Professor, Sociology & CDRS
Steering Committee



Derek Denis,
Assistant Professor, Language
Studies & CDRS Steering
Committee



Elspeth Brown,
UTM Associate VP Research-
Strategic Initiatives & CDRS
Steering Committee

CDRS Senior Research Associates and Fellow, 2022/23



Elizabeth Parke,
Senior Research Associate, CDRS
(2019-September 2022)



Elisa Tersigni,
Senior Research Associate, CDRS
(Since November 2022, on leave)



Tia Sager,
Senior Research Associate, CDRS
Jan 2023-Jan 2024



Arun Jacob,
CDRS Grad Fellow, 2023

Staffing Changes

In 2022/23, there have been a number of staffing changes at CDRS. Dr. Elizabeth Parke, who was Senior Research Associate at CDRS since 2019, started a new position within the University of Toronto in September 2022. In November 2022, Dr. Elisa Tersigni was hired to replace her permanently. Dr. Tersigni is currently on a yearlong leave, and in the meantime, Tia Sager has been hired to replace her since January 2023 until Dr. Tersigni returns in January 2024.

From January-April 2023, CDRS hired a Grad Fellow, Arun Jacob, to run co-writing sessions on Monday afternoons in the space. CDRS will be hiring two more graduate assistants with the generous help of funding from the Vice-Dean Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.

Expanding our Mandate

CDRS was founded through the generous support of six core departments at UTM: Historical Studies, English & Drama, Political Science, Language Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology. Our mandate has traditionally focused on faculty research from these six departments, which remain our core focus. This year, however, we have decided to expand our mandate to include other collaborative research in the humanities, social sciences, and arts. We have encouraged collaborations with institutes such as ISUP (Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy), and departments including: ICCIT, Anthropology, and Visual Studies. CDRS has also expanded to support graduate and undergraduate research as part of its portfolio, and goals for the upcoming year will include supporting graduate and undergraduate research and collaboration with faculty at UTM and across the three campuses.

6 CORE DEPARTMENTS

9 DEPARTMENTS

3 INSTITUTES

2 ISIs

Growing CDRS Communications

In 2022/23, CDRS developed and amplified its communications strategy. Prompted by the return to in person activities in full as of September 2022, new possibilities for collaboration and participation have arisen and the need to communicate effectively and consistently has increased. CDRS has created a new strategic communications plan to disseminate news about programming, upcoming events, initiatives, and information to faculty and researchers throughout the university. As a result, we have seen increased participation in events and increased engagement with the space.



WEBSITE UPDATES

- Calendar of Events
- New programming
- Vision and Mission Statement



NEWSLETTER

449

SUBSCRIBERS

57.9%

OPEN RATE



YOUTUBE

2

VIDEOS

180

VIEWS

In February 2023, CDRS launched a new Mailchimp newsletter with the help of Tanya Rohrmoser, Communications Officer at the OVPR-UTM. CDRS has been sending a monthly newsletter written by the SRA, which highlights upcoming CDRS organized and co-sponsored events, as well as tri-campus research initiatives and funding opportunities. The goal of the newsletter is to make core members in the social sciences, arts, and humanities aware of upcoming events and programming, as well as to amplify the information conveyed by existing newsletters, such as the OVPR and CDHI newsletters. The target audience consists of faculty members, researchers, postdocs, and graduate students from the nine departments that fall under CDRS' mandate.

CDRS call for funding

2022-2023

Four interdisciplinary research teams from four divisions received grants totalling \$15,000.00. This funding was given in support of the following projects:

- **Dr. Lorenza Bennardo** (Department of Classics, UTSG): "Impoverished Aesthetics: New Approaches to Marginality in Latin Literature"
- **Dr. Jerry Flores, Dr. Elizabeth Parke, and Huíchu Kuákari** (Sociology, UTM): "Broadening access to the Kaxúmbekua (way of life): Saving P'urhépecha culture across English speaking countries"
- **Dr. Evans-Tokaryk and the ISUP Research Committee** (ISUP, UTM): "Reimagining the University Classroom: Advancing the Study of University Pedagogy in Technology-Enhanced Learning Environments"
- **Dr. Alison Smith** (Political Science, UTM): "Five events addressing the housing crisis in Canada"

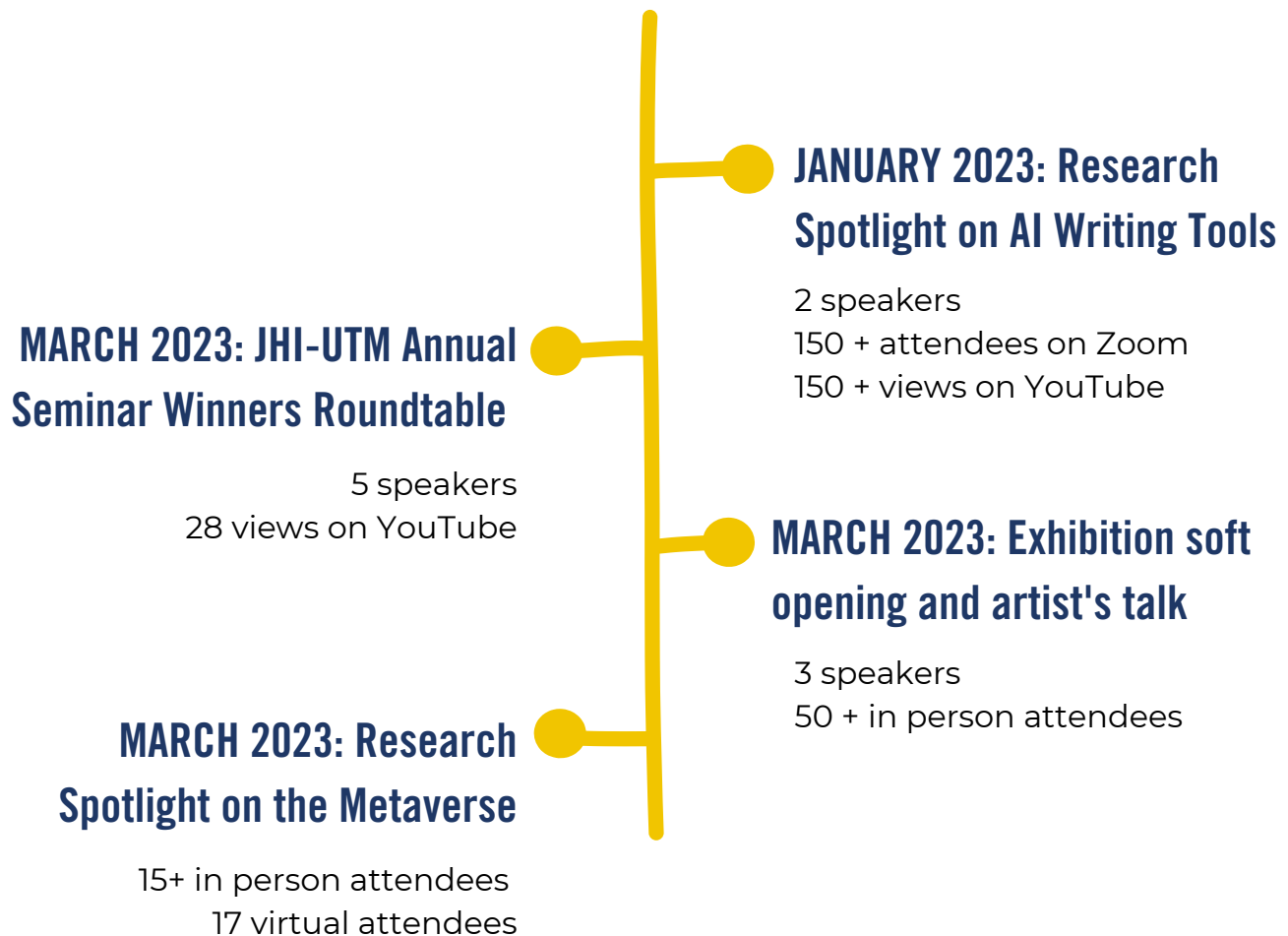


Soft opening and artist's talk for Broadening access to the Kaxúmbekua (way of life): Saving P'urhépecha culture across English speaking countries" on March 3, 2023 at CDRS.

Events organized by CDRS

AMPLIFYING RESEARCH

CDRS has organized several research amplification opportunities for scholars in 2022/23. One of our marquee initiatives are Research Spotlights, which are hour-long talks that take place either virtually or in a hybrid format (at MN3230 and on Zoom), where researchers are invited to discuss their research in relation to a particular theme. Researchers present their own research projects in a lightning-style format for 10 minutes each, followed by a discussion of the theme and questions from the audience. The main goal of this event series is to be generative for the speakers and participants. Additionally, it supports CDRS' mandate to build and sustain trans-disciplinary research connections at UTM.



WRITING SUPPORTS

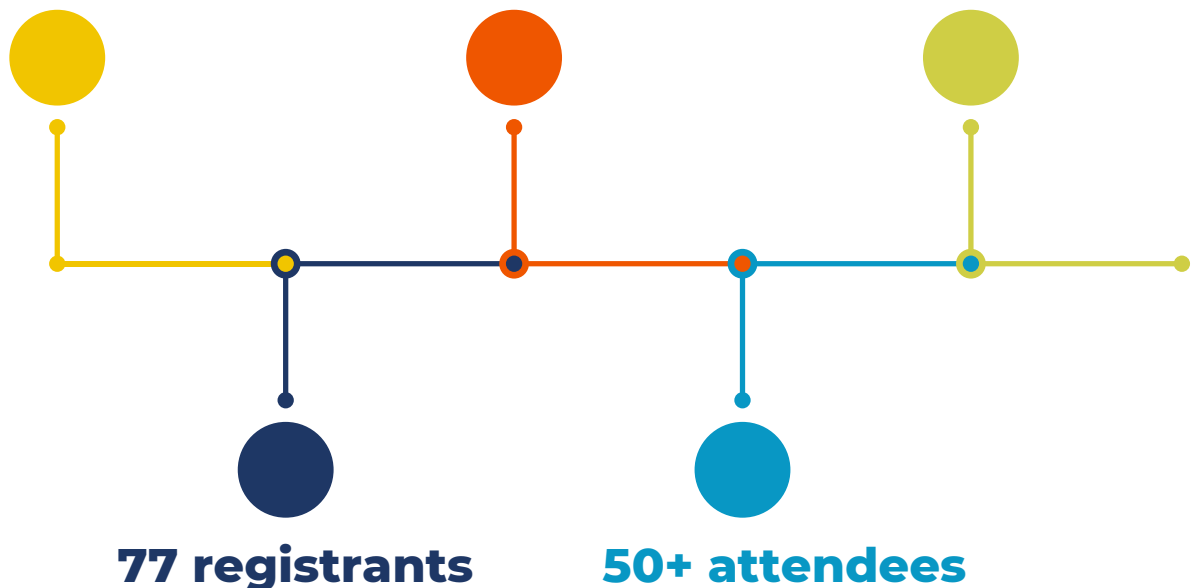
We have been running weekly in person co-writing sessions three times a week since January 2023, as well as hosting three Writing Retreats for faculty, researchers, postdocs and graduate students. We have received positive feedback from faculty members, postdocs, and grad students that have filled out our post-event surveys and many would like to see this initiative continue.

From Sept. 2022- Apr. 2023, we have organized:

40 Co-Writing Sessions

3 Writing Retreats

8 full writing days



"It was extremely well thought-out and organized. The writing durations, the space with great views and multiple seating options, and the food was perfect for a writing retreat. I also enjoyed the yoga session during the tea break."

Anonymous feedback from the February Writing Retreat

Co-sponsored Initiatives

In addition to organizing our marquee events, CDRS is involved in collaborative programming with members from its core departments, ISIs, and funding recipients. In addition to financial support, CDRS provides in-kind event support through the use of the space and the time and resources of the SRA.

Undergraduate Podcast "Gettin' Historical With It"

- Student-led project by Nihal Naqvi
- In-kind space and SRA support

First Book Manuscript Workshop (OVPR)

- In-kind space and SRA support

Call for Funding In-Kind Support

- Research funding, in-kind space and SRA organizational support

Game Studies @ UTM

- Event organization
- Game Studies Steering Committee membership and in-kind SRA support

Critical Digital Humanities Initiative (CDHI)

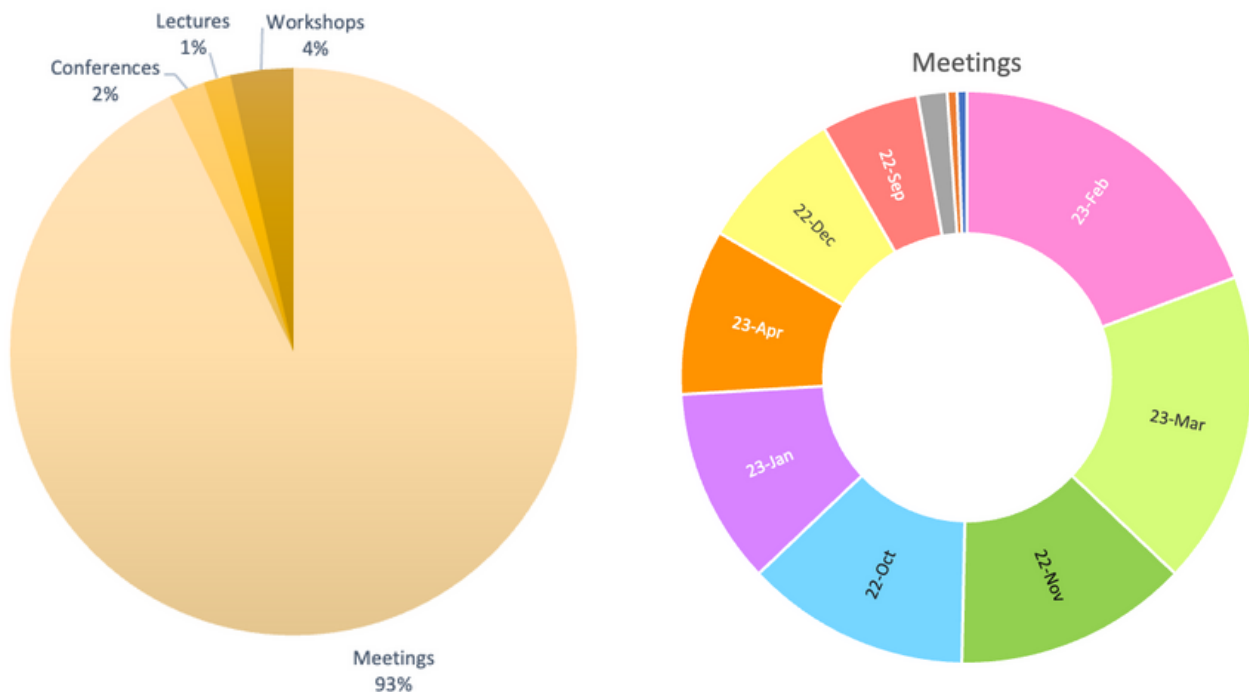
- Hosting Lightning Lunches and Praxis Workshops
- 20% SRA in-kind support

Media Camp 2022

- Co-organized with UTM Comms and the Office of the Vice President and Principal of UTM

Events held at CDRS 2022/23

From May 2022- April 2023, a total of 195 UTM faculty and departmental events were held in CDRS. 93% of these consisted of meetings between faculty members, researchers, postdocs, and graduate students. Many of these meetings made use of the hybrid videoconferencing technology at CDRS to communicate with faculty and students in other countries such as the UK, India, China, Mexico, Australia, and many more. The largest number of meetings took place in February and March 2023, indicating that these were the busiest months at CDRS with events occurring every day. In addition to research meetings, four conferences and seven workshops took place at CDRS, with numerous other lectures, job talks, and networking events. The space was used at an unprecedented rate in Winter 2023, perhaps as the result of a return to full in person events after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Looking ahead to 2023/24

In 2023/24 our goals include building on the success of existing initiatives as well as the creation of new programming and funding opportunities.

GOALS

- Implementation of monthly marquee programming consisting of a monthly Research Spotlight, Research Workshop, Scholar's Cafe, and co-writing groups.
- Creation of new structured writing supports and workshops around publishing articles, manuscripts, book proposals, and conference abstracts at both the faculty level and graduate student level
- Collaborative workshops with the UTM Library that engage with digital scholarship and research methods
- Collaboration with the Sustainability Office at UTM on new events and programming
- Collaboration with the JHI on writing supports and programming at UTM
- Collaboration with CRIS on writing initiatives at UTM
- Creation of CDRS Research Clusters (2-3/year) (\$2000/group) for the support of monthly meetings and knowledge mobilization project (website, podcast, conference, colloquium, guest speaker, research exchange) with the possibility of more funding if required
- Creation of a new standalone "CDRS Artist-in-Residence/Exhibition" fund to support a new yearly or bi-yearly exhibition in the space (up to \$5000)
- Purchasing of podcasting equipment and other tools as needed for PI research projects conducted in partnership with CDRS
- Opening of the CDRS Lab Space (MN3231) through a schedule that offers faculty members and their graduate students the opportunity to meet and use the equipment in the lab for their research projects
- Creation of a 'filming corner' at CDRS for interviews, reels, and faculty + student research features (in collaboration with the OVPR)