

# Rebekah (Becky) Willson

School of Information Studies  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada  
[rebekah.willson@mcgill.ca](mailto:rebekah.willson@mcgill.ca)  
<http://rebekahwillson.com>

## Education

### Doctor of Philosophy

School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Australia 2016  
Thesis title: *Information in transition: Examining the information behaviour of academics as they transition into university careers*  
Supervisors: Prof Lisa M. Given & Prof Annemaree Lloyd

### Master of Library and Information Studies

School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, Canada 2008  
Research project title: *The effect of misspellings on information retrieval in online public access catalogues*  
Project supervisor: Dr Lisa M. Given

### Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors, Co-operative Work Experience Program)

Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, Canada 2005  
Thesis title: *Real world spelling tests*  
Supervisor: Dr Connie K. Varnhagen

---

## Academic & Research Positions

### School of Information Studies, McGill University

Assistant Professor (August 2019 – Current)

### Department of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde

Deputy Course Director, Information & Library Studies Programme (July 2017 – June 2019)  
Lecturer in Information Science (August 2016 – July 2019)

### Department of Library and Information Studies, University at Buffalo

Adjunct Instructor (August 2015 – December 2015)

**School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University**  
Research Assistant (July 2012 – December 2015)

**Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Alberta**  
Research Assistant (July 2012 – March 2014)

**School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta**  
Research Assistant (September 2007 – August 2008)

---

## **Selected Professional Positions**

**Mount Royal University**  
Assistant Professor & Librarian (August 2009 – June 2012)

**MacEwan University**  
Reference Librarian (August 2008 – May 2009)

**Strathcona County Library**  
Weeding Assistant (May 2007 – August 2007)

**Humanities and Social Sciences Library, University of Alberta**  
Reference Assistant (September 2006 – April 2007)

---

## **Grants**

**Insight Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada** 2021-2023

Project title: Precarity and information marginalization: Exploring how academic casualization complicates workplace information practices

**Role: Primary Investigator**

Requested funding: \$66,661 CAD

**Alliance Grant, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada** 2021-2024

Project title: Defending our cyberspace: AI-powered search engine for cyber threat intelligence

Role: Co-Investigator

Requested funding: \$1,240,275 CAD

<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grants Program, McGill University</b>	2020-2021
Project title: Precarity and progression during a pandemic: Early career academics' experiences during COVID-19	
Role: Primary Investigator	
Funding: \$5,000 CAD	
<b>Paper Presentation Grant (Internal), McGill University</b>	2019
Paper title: Transitions and social interaction: Making sense of self and situation through engagement with others	
Role: Applicant	
Funding granted: \$1500 CAD	
<b>Alberta Rural Development Network, Government of Alberta</b>	2012-2013
Project title: <i>Information Literacy Alberta Assessment Pilot Project</i>	
Project partners: University of Alberta Augustana Campus, MacEwan, University, and Red Deer College	
Funding: \$10,000 CAD	

## **Selected Scholarships, Funding, and Awards:**

### **Competitive Research Scholarships**

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship, Government of Canada (\$20,000 CAD per year for 2 years)	2014-2016
Australian Postgraduate Award International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (APA IPRS), Charles Sturt University (\$24,673 AUD per year for 2.5 years and waived tuition)	2013-2016
Faculty of Education Scholarship, Charles Sturt University (\$23,728 AUD per year for 3 years and waived tuition)	2012-2015
Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master's, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Government of Canada (\$17,500 CAD)	2007-2008
Walter H Johns Graduate Fellowship, University of Alberta (\$4949 CAD)	2007
Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship – Master's, Government of Alberta (\$7000 CAD)	2006

### **Selected Competitive Funding**

School of Information Studies Student Conference Award, Charles Sturt University (\$800 AUD)	2013
--	------

Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Nexen Scholars Program, Mount Royal University (\$1500 CAD)	2010
Graduate Student Scholarship, Government of Alberta (\$2000 CAD)	2008
Mary Louise Imrie Graduate Student Award, Government of Alberta (\$500 CAD)	2008

### **Selected Awards**

James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, Association for Information Science and Technology	2019
New Leaders Program, Association for Information Science and Technology (\$1000 USD)	2016-2018
SIG USE Student Conference Travel Award, Association for Information Science and Technology Special Interest Group Information Needs Seeking and Use (SIG USE) (\$500 USD)	2014
Brundin LIS 503 Prize, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta (\$100 CAD)	2006

## **Research – Publications**

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

**Willson, R.** & Slater, A. (2021). *“If I don’t work on my project, nobody else does”*: Experience of researchers in the UK taking maternity, paternity, adoption, and/or parental leave. Manuscript in preparation.

### **Journal Articles (Refereed)**

**Willson, R.** (2022). *“Bouncing ideas” as a complex information practice: Information seeking, sharing, creation, and cooperation*. Manuscript submitted for publication. *Journal of Documentation*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-03-2021-0047>

Rowley, K. & **Willson, R.** (2022). Scotland’s public libraries are nothing but practical when it comes to deselection. *Library and Information Research*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.29173/lirg795>

- Willson, R.** & Given, L. M. (2020). "I'm in sheer survival mode": Information behaviour and affective experiences of early career academics. *Library and Information Science Research*, 42(2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2020.101014>
- Willson, R.** (2019). Transitions Theory and liminality in information behaviour research: Applying new theories to examine the transition to early career academic. *Journal of Documentation*, 75(4), 838-856. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-12-2018-0207>  
\* *Journal of Documentation Literati Award 2020, Highly Commended Paper*
- Willson, R.** (2018). "Systemic Managerial Constraints": How universities influence the information behaviour of HSS early career academics. *Journal of Documentation*, 74(4), 862-879. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-07-2017-0111>
- Given, L. M., & **Willson, R.** (2018). Information technology and the humanities scholar: Documenting digital research practices. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 69(6), 807-819. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24008>
- Given, L. M., Winkler, D. C., **Willson, R.**, Davidson, C., Danby, S., & Thorpe, K. (2016). Watching young children 'play' with information technology: Everyday life information seeking in the home. *Library & Information Science Research*, 38(4), 344-352. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2016.11.007>
- Given, L. M., Winkler, D. C., **Willson, R.**, Davidson, C., Danby, S., & Thorpe, K. (2016). Parents as co-researchers at home: Using an observational method to document young children's use of technology. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 15(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406915621403>
- Willson, R.**, & Given, L. M. (2014). Student search behaviour in an online public access catalogue: An examination of 'searching mental models' and 'searcher self-concept'. *Information Research*, 19(3). Retrieved from <http://InformationR.net/ir/19-3/paper640.html>
- Willson, R.** (2012). Independent searching during one-shot information literacy instruction sessions: Is it an effective use of time? *Evidence Based Library & Information Practice*, 7(4), 52-67. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18438/B85323>
- Julien, H., Detlor, B., Serenko, A., **Willson, R.**, & Lavalley, M. (2011). Preparing tomorrow's decision makers: Learning environments and outcomes of information literacy instruction in business schools. *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*, 16(4), 348-367. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08963568.2011.605669>
- Detlor, B., Julien, H., **Willson, R.**, Serenko, A., & Lavalley, M. (2011). Learning outcomes of information literacy instruction at business schools. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 62(3), 572-585. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/asi.21474>
- Willson, R.**, & Given, L. M. (2010). The effect of spelling and retrieval system familiarity on search behavior in online public access catalogs: A mixed methods study. *Journal of the American*

*Society for Information Science and Technology*, 61(12), 2461–2476.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/asi.21433>

### **Book Chapters (Refereed)**

Given, L. M. & **Willson, R.** (2015). Collaboration, information seeking, and technology use: A critical examination of humanities scholars' research practices. In P. Hansen, C. Shah, & K. Claus-Peter (Eds.) *Collaborative information seeking: Best practices, new domains and new thoughts* (pp. 139-164). New York: Springer-Verlag.

### **Conference Proceedings (Refereed Papers)**

McKenzie, P. & **Willson, R.** (2019). Transitions and social interaction: Making sense of self and situation through engagement with others. In C. Blake & C. Brown (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology - Information...Anyone, Anywhere, Any Time, Any Way*, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 56(1), 459-462. Melbourne, Australia. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/pra2.47>

Given, L. M., **Willson, R.**, Albrecht, L., & Scott, S. (2016). Information in crisis: Health & technology-related information behaviors of parents in emergency departments. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology - Creating Knowledge, Enhancing Lives through Information & Technology*, the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology. Copenhagen, Denmark. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/pra2.2016.14505301073>

Given, L. M., Kelly, W. & **Willson, R.** (2015). Bracing for impact: The role of information science in supporting societal research impact. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology – Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community*, the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 52(1). St. Louis, USA. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/pra2.2015.145052010048>

Given, L. M., Winkler, D. C., **Willson, R.**, Davidson, C., Danby, S., & Thorpe, K. (2014). Documenting young children's technology use: Observations in the home. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology – Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities*, the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 51(1). Seattle, USA. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/meet.2014.14505101028>

Julien, H., Detlor, B., Serenko, A., **Willson, R.**, & Lavalley, M. (2009). Outcomes of information literacy instruction for undergraduate business students. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology – Thriving on Diversity: Information Opportunities in a Pluralistic World*, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, 46(1). Vancouver, Canada. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/meet.2009.145046026>

**Willson, R., & Given, L. M.** (2008). The effect of misspellings on information retrieval on online public access catalogues. In C. Guastavino & J. Turner (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Canadian Association for Information Science – Information Beyond Borders: LIS Interacting with Other Disciplines, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science*. Vancouver, Canada. Retrieved from [http://www.cais-acsi.ca/proceedings/2008/willson\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cais-acsi.ca/proceedings/2008/willson_2008.pdf)

## Abstracts (Refereed)

**Willson, R. & Julien, H.** (2020). Precarious academics: Information practices and challenges. In R. Chabot, G. Campbell, & L. Brown (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Canadian Association for Information Science – Diverging Trajectories in Information Science, the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science*. Online. [https://www.cais2020.ca/talk/precarious-academics/CAIS2020\\_paper24\\_Willson.pdf](https://www.cais2020.ca/talk/precarious-academics/CAIS2020_paper24_Willson.pdf)

**Willson, R.,** Buchanan, G., Burnett, G., Ellison, N., Erdelez, S., & Twidale, M. (2020). My favorite unreliable source? Information sharing and acquisition through informal networks [Panel Abstract]. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology – Information for a Sustainable World: Addressing Society's Grand Challenges, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 57(1). Online. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.294>

**Willson, R.,** Greyson, D., Gibson, A. N., Bronstein, J. (2020). Pulling back the curtain on conducting social impact research [Panel Abstract]. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology – Information for a Sustainable World: Addressing Society's Grand Challenges, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 57(1). Online. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.427>

**Willson, R.** (2019). Analysing qualitative data: You asked them, now what to do with what they said [Tutorial Abstract]. In *CHIIR '19 Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval*, p. 358-387. Glasgow, UK. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3295750.3298964>

**Willson, R.** (2018). "Bouncing ideas": When participants use this phrase, what do they really mean? [Poster Abstract]. In L. Freund (Ed.), *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology – Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities, the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*. Vancouver, Canada. <https://www.asist.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Final-81st-Annual-Meeting-Proceedings.pdf>

Given, L. M., Hicks, D., Schindel, T.J., & **Willson, R.** (2014). The informing nature of talk and text: Discourse analysis as a research approach in information science [Panel Abstract]. In A. Groves (Ed.), *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology – Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities, the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 51(1). Seattle, USA. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/meet.2014.14505101002>

Cordoviz, M., Fluet, K., McKim, B., **Willson, R.**, McKenzie, M., Klein, J., Blackwelder, M., Tovstiuk, C., Gilbride, S., & Lepatsky, T. (2006). Cough it up – cover it up [Poster Abstract]. *The Canadian Journal of Infection Control*, 21(1), 38.

### **Book Chapters (Non-refereed)**

**Willson, R.** (in press). Identifying and leveraging collegial and institutional supports for impact. In W. Kelly (Ed.) *The impactful academic: being and becoming an impactful researcher throughout your career*. Emerald Publishing.

### **Journal Articles and Editorials (Non-refereed)**

**Willson, R.**, Julien, H., & Burnett, G. (Eds.) (in press). Special issue—Information behavior and information practices theory [Editorial]. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, Special Issue.

**Willson, R.**, Julien, H., & Allen, D. (Eds.) (2021). Retrospective special issue—Information behavior [Editorial]. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, Special Issue. <http://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24557>

**Willson, R.**, Greyson, D., Burnett, G., & Given, L. M. (2016). SIG/USE Research Symposium: Making research matter: Connecting theory and practice. *Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 42(3), 30-32.

Goebel, N., Knoch, J., Thomson, M. E., & **Willson, R.** (2013). Making assessment less scary. *College & Research Libraries News*, 74(1), 28–31.

### **External Reports (Non-refereed)**

**Willson, R.** (2020). *Experience of researchers taking maternity, paternity, adoption, and/or parental leave: Report on qualitative data*. Report for the UK Research Staff Association and Vitae.

Given, L. M., Winkler, D., & **Willson, R.** (2014.) *Qualitative research practice: Implications for the design & implementation of a research impact assessment exercise in Australia*. Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education, Charles Sturt University. <http://lisagiven.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/impact-report.pdf>



## Research – Presentations

### Conference Presentations (Refereed)

Julien, H. **Willson, R.**, Ruthven, I., & Dalmer, N. (2020). Information behaviour and practice research for social impact. Panel presentation at the *Information Seeking in Context (ISIC2020)*. Pretoria, South Africa (Online).

**Willson, R.** (December 2018). Precarity, managerialism, and the shifting of academic work. Paper presented as part of the symposium “Academic Work Across the Career Stages: power and precarity at the ‘micro’ level in everyday academic life” at *the Society for Research in Higher Education - The Changing Shape of Higher Education: Can excellence and inclusion cohabit?* Newport, UK.

**Willson, R.** (October 2017). Information behaviour during transitions and liminal periods: Experiences of inclusion and exclusion. Paper presented at *2017 Association for Information Science and Technology SIG-USE Symposium – Framing Inclusion and Exclusion in Information Behavior Research and Practice*. Washington DC, USA.

**Willson, R.** (June 2017). Information in transition: The social flow of information. Paper presented at *Information: Interactions and Impact (i<sup>3</sup>) 2017*. Aberdeen, UK.

**Willson, R.** (July 2015). Open doors and hallway conversations: Physical proximity and informal social interactions in information gathering during a career transition. Paper presented at the *Research Applications in Information and Library Studies (RAILS11) – Expanding Horizons*. Sydney, Australia.

Given, L., Kelly, W., **Willson, R.**, & Deloire, A. (July 2015). *Expanding information horizons for impact: Exploring information behaviours in wine industry research*. Paper presented at the *Research Applications in Information and Library Studies (RAILS11) – Expanding Horizons*. Sydney, Australia.

Given, L. M. & **Willson, R.** (July 2015). Models For effective research engagement: LIS professionals and scholars working together for success. Paper presented at the *Eighth International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference (EBLIP8) – Evidence and Practice: Working Together*. Brisbane, Australia.

**Willson, R.** (April 2015). The check-in method: Collecting salient experiences over longer periods of time. *14<sup>th</sup> Qualitative Methods Conference - Qualitative Methods: Better Bounded or Boundless?* Melbourne, Australia.

**Willson, R.** (November 2014). Looking at what faculty don't: Using critical discourse analysis to examine university websites. Panel presentation at the *77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology – Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities*. Seattle, USA.

- Willson, R.** (July 2014). "I always have the impression that I'm losing something": The information experiences of early career researchers as they transition in academe. Paper presented at the *Research Applications in Information and Library Studies (RAILS10) – Collaboration & Connection: Linking Research and Practice*. Canberra, Australia.
- Willson, R.** (June 2013). Using Transition Theory in information behaviour research: Addressing change in personal narratives. Paper presented at the *Canadian Association for Information Science – Tales from the Edge: Narrative Voices in Information Research and Practice*. Victoria, Canada.
- Rockwell, G., Sinclair, S., Simpson, J., **Willson, R.**, Chartier, R., Dyrbye, A., & Radzikowska, M. (June 2013). Just what do they do?: On the use of text analysis in the humanities. Panel presented at the *2013 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society For Digital Humanities – @ the Edge*. Victoria, Canada.
- Edwards Thomson, M., Goebel, N., Knoch, J., & **Willson, R.** (May 2012). Aren't we all trying to do the same thing?: Four Alberta post-secondary institutions collaborating to create an information literacy assessment tool. Paper presented at *WILU (Workshop for Instruction in Library Use) – Vigour, Thrift & Resourcefulness*. Edmonton, Canada.
- Willson, R.** (October 2011). Learning to do library research: Scholarship of teaching and learning in one-shot information literacy sessions. Paper presented at the *International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning – Transforming the Academy through the Theory & Practice of SOTL*. Milwaukee, USA.
- Willson, R.** (June 2011). Independent searching during one-shot information literacy instruction sessions: Does it prepare students for research? Paper presented at *EBLIP6 (Evidence Based Library and Information Practice 6) – Valuing Knowledge and Expertise*. Manchester, UK.
- Willson, R.** (June 2011). A library is more than books: Direct instruction and support of scholarly student activities in psychology. Panel presented at the *72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canadian Psychological Association Convention*. Toronto, Canada.
- MacMillan, M., & **Willson, R.** (November 2010). Unconventional classrooms, unconventional methods: Conducting scholarship of teaching and learning research in places you don't expect. Paper presented at *2010 Centennial Symposium on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. Banff, Canada.
- Julien, H., & **Willson, R.** (May 2009). Information literacy learning outcomes: Critical factors in the learning environment. Paper presented at the *Canadian Association for Information Science – Mapping the 21st Century Information Landscape: Borders, Bridges and Byways*. Ottawa, Canada.
- Julien, H., & **Willson, R.** (May 2009). Assessing learning outcomes of information literacy instruction at Canadian business schools. Paper presented at *WILU (Workshop for Instruction in Library Use) – Reflections*. Montreal, Canada.

## Poster Presentations (Refereed)

**Willson, R.** (October 2018). Information and uncertainty: Information activities of short-term teaching and research contract staff. Poster presented at *Information Seeking In Context 2018 (ISIC2018)*. Krakow, Poland.

## Research/Professional Seminars & Presentations (Non-Refereed)

Ogryzko, N., Wissenburg, A., Thompson, J., **Willson, R.**, Sheehan, K., & Elali, L. (September 2021). Whose responsibility is precarity anyway? Panel at *Vitae Connections Week*. Online. [Invited talk]

Heffernan, T., Kelly, W., & **Willson, R.** (2020, November). Missed Collegiality: Making space for community. Panel presentation at *#Whisperfest*. Online. [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (November 2020). Career transitions: Preparing for what comes next. Talk for the ASIS&T McGill Student Chapter, McGill University. Montreal, Canada (Online). [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (September 2020). The challenge of academic transitions: Making sense of new academic roles and preparing for what comes next. Talk for the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria. Pretoria, South Africa (Online). [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (July 2020). Transitioning from doctoral student to academic researcher: Preparing for what comes next. Talk at the Department of Psychology Seminar, McGill University. Montreal, Canada. [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (February 2020). People are not frozen in time: Using Transitions Theory and liminality to examine the experiences of people undergoing change. Talk at the School of Information Studies Departmental Seminar, McGill University. Montreal, Canada. [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (October 2019). Difficult academic transitions: How early career and casual academics make sense of new jobs roles and contexts (and what can be done to help). Presentation to the Swinburne University of Technology. Melbourne, Australia. [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (October 2019). How can PhD researchers prepare for what comes next?: Understanding the doctoral transition. Presentation to La Trobe University. Melbourne, Australia. [Invited talk]

**Willson, R.** (May 2019). "A glimpse of the abyss on the other side": Experiences of transitioning from PhD to early career and preparing for what comes next. Presentation to the University of Derby. Derby, UK. [Invited talk]

- Willson, R.** (September 2018). Transitions: How to support early career academics. Plenary presentation to *Vitae Researcher Development International Conference 2018*. Birmingham, UK. [Invited plenary]
- Willson, R.** (May 2018). Expectations and preparation: The transition from doctoral student to early career academic. Presentation to *Supporting resilience at different academic stages*, Vitae Regional Meeting of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Glasgow, UK. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (April 2018). The experience of early career academics: The influence of governments, universities, and colleagues on academics' work – and what we can do. Presentation to *The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities*, Oxford University. Oxford, UK. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (January 2018). Expectations and affect in the transition from doctoral student to early career academic. Presentation to *Preparing Researchers for an Unknown Future: Cultures, Behaviours & Mindsets*, Vitae event. Birmingham, UK. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (December 2017). What to expect when you're expecting to be an academic – and how to prepare yourself for life after the PhD. Presentation for the Higher Degree by Research students at the *Faculty of Health, Arts and Design*, Swinburne University. Melbourne, Australia. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (December 2017). Figuring out transitions: Using Transitions Theory to examine sense making during times of change. Presentation for the *Faculty of Health, Arts and Design*, Swinburne University. Melbourne, Australia. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (April 2017). Information in transition: Applying Transitions Theory to information behaviour research. Presentation for the *Department of Computer and Information Sciences*, Northumbria University. Newcastle, UK. [Invited talk]
- Willson, R.** (February 2017). The problem with working in the university is the university: "Systemic Managerial Constraints" and working in academe. Presentation at *Educational Futures and Fractures*. Glasgow, UK.
- Willson, R.** (November 2016). The problem with working in the university is the university: "Systemic Managerial Constraints" and working in academe. Presentation at the *Department of Computer & Information Sciences Departmental Seminar*, University of Strathclyde. Glasgow, UK.
- Willson, R.** (October 2013). Focusing on experiences of change: Applying Transitions Theory to information behaviour research. Presentation at *the School of Information Studies Research Seminar Series*, Charles Sturt University. Wagga Wagga, Australia.
- Techentin, C., Evans, S. E., & **Willson, R.** (May 2012). Beyond the textbook: Skill building in our first-year courses. Presentation at the *Mount Royal Faculty Association Spring Retreat*. Kananaskis, Canada.

**Willson, R., & Day, S.** (November 2009). Copyright in Classrooms: Balancing the Rights of Users and Creators. Presentation at the *Grant MacEwan College Professional Development Day*. Edmonton, Canada.

**Willson, R.** (November 2008). The Effect of Misspellings on Information Retrieval on Online Public Access Catalogues. *Presentation to University of Alberta Libraries Staff*, University of Alberta. Edmonton, Canada.

Knoch, J., & **Willson, R.** (November 2008). Boolean and Beyond: Advanced Search Features for Information Retrieval. Presentation at the *Grant MacEwan College Professional Development Day*. Edmonton, Canada.

**Willson, R.** (February 2008). The Effect of Misspellings on Information Retrieval on Online Public Access Catalogues: A Pilot Study. Presentation at the *School of Library and Information Studies Professional Development Day*. Edmonton, Canada.

**Willson, R.** (August 2004). The Administration of Neuropsychological Tests to Older Adults with Mild to Moderate Cognitive Impairment Using Videoconferencing: Implications for Assessing Capacity for Independent Functioning. Presentation to *Alberta Hospital Ponoka Administration and Professional Staff*. Ponoka, Canada.

Goldberg, E., Gorrie, M., Schielke, J., & **Willson, R.** (June 2003). Illegal and immoral use of handicapped parking stalls. *Presentation to Alberta Advisory Committee on Barrier-Free Transportation*. Edmonton, Canada.

## Community Engagement

**Willson, R.** (July 2018). Episode 122: Dr. Rebekah Willson on Grounded Theory [Podcast]. *Research In Action*. Oregon State University Ecampus.  
<https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e122/>

Smith, L., **Willson, R.**, & Jardine, C. (August 2017). Sensible or censorship? Gatekeeping, filtering and access to information in libraries. Presentation at *The House That Heals the Soul exhibit at The Centre for Contemporary Art*. Glasgow, UK.

Smith, L., **Willson, R.**, & Jardine, C. (August 2017). Libraries for All? Libraries, social inequalities and activism in Scotland. Presentation at *The House That Heals the Soul exhibit at The Centre for Contemporary Art*. Glasgow, UK.

**Willson, R.** (May 2015). Inflammatory books: Book burning, censorship, and your right to smut. Presentation at *Nerd Nite Wagga*. Wagga Wagga, Australia.

## **Research – Supervision and Examination**

### **PhD Supervision**

- Owen Stewart-Robertson, School of Information Studies, McGill University (September 2021 – Current)
- Philips Ayeni, School of Information Studies, McGill University (September 2020 – Current)

### **PhD Committee Member**

- Richmond Yeboah, School of Information Studies, McGill University (February 2022 – Current)
- Daniele Menezes Nascimento, School of Information Studies, McGill University (December 2021 – Current)
- Bradley Crocker, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, McGill University (July 2021 – Current)
- Zoey Zhang, School of Information Studies, McGill University (December 2020 – Current)
- Trudi Wright, School of Information Studies, McGill University (September 2020 – Current)
- Lori Podolsky, School of Information Studies, McGill University (April 2020 – Current)
- Robert Ferguson, School of Information Studies, McGill University (March 2020 – Current)
- Jwen Fai Low, School of Information Studies, McGill University (September 2019 – Current)

### **Examiner for PhD Dissertation**

- Courtney Denton Hurlbut, Department of Education and Counselling Psychology, McGill University (Defence March 12, 2021)
  - Internal External Examiner
- Cynthia Kumah, School of Information Studies, McGill University (Defence August 17, 2020)
  - Internal External Examiner
- Elaine Robinson, Department of Computer & Information Science, University of Strathclyde (Viva March 8, 2019)
  - Internal Examiner
- Fathiya Hamed Salim Al Izki, Department of Computer & Information Science, University of Strathclyde, (Viva July 9, 2019)
  - Internal Examiner

### **Masters Research Projects Supervised**

- Alisa Rod, “A Profile of Data Professionals in the Canadian Academic Library Context” School of Information Studies, McGill University (January 2022 – Current)
- Camille Gronan, Untitled project on museum space and user experience, School of Information Studies, McGill University (January 2022 – Current)

- Jessie Hill, “Hashtag Hijack-tivism: Analyzing the Information Warfare Tactics of Grassroots Political Activists on Twitter,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Co-Supervising with Prof. Fung) (January 2021 – Current)
- Michelle Mussuto, “Review of the U15 group of Canadian research universities’ library websites’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed July 2021)
- Allie Thiel, “Diversity in Children’s Books: An Introduction and Practical Guide for SAILS Librarians in Evaluating and Auditing Collections,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed May 2020)
- Katherine Lewis, “Sustainable Digital Access Models in Canada’s Public Libraries,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed May 2020)
- Leah Graham, “What’s Special about Outreach in Special Collections?: Recognizing the Activities that Reach within Academia and Beyond,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed May 2020)
- Michelle Mussuto, “Sustainability vernacular challenges researchers seeking to uncover public library contributions to mitigate climate change: A literature review,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed May 2020)
- Shannon Viola, “Bibliotheca Dactylogrammatum: Understanding Information Behavior of Classicists through an Evaluation of Perseus Digital Library,” School of Information Studies, McGill University (Completed April 2020)
- Eric Milne, “A Survey of Dyslexic Supportive Provision in Scotland's Public Libraries,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed May 2019)
- Rebecca Brown, “Mapping Students’ Use of Campus Space: A Case Study of the Andersonian Library,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Filippa Pirrip, “Contemporary Design trends in Academic Libraries,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Pierluigi Santojanni, “Information Professional: Examining the information behaviour of early career librarians as they make a career,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Kerry Wade, “Information Literacy and Information Literacy Instruction in International School Secondary Libraries: An Exploratory Study,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Juan Talens-Bou, “Understanding the motivations and LIS practical experience of the next generation of LIS postgraduate students in the UK,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Gary Egan, “How is Information Literacy Instruction provided throughout Tertiary Education in Scotland?” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Ailsa Black, “Creative Writing and Post Project Information Literacy in Amateur Writers,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2018)
- Yinyin Xu, “Professional academic librarians’ perception and involvement in continuing professional development – A survey in UK academic libraries,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2017)

- Katie Rowley, “Public Libraries: Thoughts on Deselection,” Department of Computer & Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde (completed August 2017)
- 

## **Teaching Experience**

### **School of Information Studies, McGill University**

GLIS 601 Foundation of Information Studies, School of Information Studies, McGill University (September 2019 – Current)

- Redeveloped and provided instruction for master’s course to focus on professional values, focusing on current issues in the field and professional development and understanding

GLIS 611 Research Principles and Analysis, School of Information Studies, McGill University (January 2020 – April 2021)

- Redeveloped and provided instruction for master’s course to scaffold students to conduct a mixed-methods research study from coming up with an idea to implementation and writing a final report

GLIS 615 Reference & User Services, School of Information Studies, McGill University (January 2022 – Current)

- Redeveloped and provided instruction for master’s course on reference services and collections development, including creating an online subject guide and collection development policy

### **Department of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde**

CS 962 Information, Libraries and Society (February 2017 – March 2019)

- Redeveloped and provided instruction for a post-graduate class on information literacy, library sectors, and professional development

CS 954 Information Retrieval and Access (September 2016 – October 2019)

- Redeveloped and provided instruction for a post-graduate module on reference services

### **Department of Information Science, University at Buffalo**

LIS 518 References Sources and Services (August 2015 – December 2015)

- Provided instruction of an online post-graduate course

### **Teaching Assistant/Marker**

INF 321 Introduction to Research, Charles Sturt University (May 2015 – June 2015)

- Marked research evaluation assignments in an online undergraduate class on research methods



INF 447 Research in Practice, Charles Sturt University (August 2014 – October 2014)

- Marked research evaluation assignments and evidence-based practice proposals in an online graduate class on research methods

PSYCO 104 Introductory Psychology, University of Alberta (September 2005 – December 2005)

- Guest lecture: “Physiological Mechanisms of Behaviour”

### **Information Literacy Instruction**

Mount Royal University (August 2009 – June 2012)

- Developed 22 information literacy instruction sessions
- Taught 162 sessions in many disciplines including Psychology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and General Education (course evaluations for selected classes available on request)

MacEwan University (August 2008 – May 2009)

- Developed 8 information literacy instruction sessions
- Taught 42 sessions in many disciplines including Anthropology, Early Childhood Education, Education, Information Management & Library Technology, and English

---

## **Disciplinary Service Activities**

### **Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS)**

- Vice-President/President-Elect (June 2021 – Current)

### **Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIS&T)**

- Editor (January 2020 – Current)
- Lead Guest Editor, Special Issue on Information Behavior & Information Practices Theory (November 2020 – Current)
- Guest Editor, Retrospective Special Issue on Information Behavior (January 2020 - January 2021)

### **Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)**

- Research Engagement Committee, Chair/Vice-Chair (July 2020 – Current)
- New Leader Award, Jury member (June 2021 – September 2021)
- Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship, Jury member (March 2021 – May 2021)
- James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, Jury member (March 2020 – June 2020)
- Strategic Planning Taskforce, Member (October 2019 – August 2020)
- ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award (March 2019 – May 2019)
- 2018 Student Design Competition, Co-Chair (July 2018 – November 2018)

- Pratt Severn Award, jury member (March 2018 – May 2018)
- Membership Committee, Co-Chair (November 2017 – November 2018)
- 2017 Student Design Competition, Co-Chair (July 2017 – November 2017)
- ASIS&T reviewer for the Beta-Phi-Mu's Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (April – May 2017)
- International Relations Committee, Member (September 2016 – November 2017)

### **Special Interest Group Needs, Seeking, and Use (SIG USE), Association for Science and Technology (ASIS&T)**

- Chair Elect, Chair, Immediate Past Chair (Elected October 2018; October 2018 – Current)
- Co-chair of the 2015 SIG USE Symposium (November 2014 – November 2015)

### **Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)**

- Programme Committee, ALISE Works-in-Progress Posters Co-Chair (2021)
- Nominations Committee, Member (December 2017 – December 2018)

### **Information Seeking In Context Conference (ISIC)**

- Programme Committee, Poster Co-Chair (April 2021 – Current)

### **Journal Reviewing**

- Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIS&T) (2017 – Current)
- Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science (2018 – Current)
- Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (2014 – Current)
- Journal of Librarianship and Information Science (JoLIS) (2019 –2020)

### **Conference Reviewing**

- Canadian Association for Information Science Conference (CAIS) (2021 - Current)
- Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) (2015 – Current)
- ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR) (2021)
- iConference 2019 (2019)

## **Professional Service Activities**

### **Evidence Based Library and Information Practice**

- Co-Chair, EBLIP10: Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland (December 2017 – June 2019)
- Associate Editor (Research Articles) (February 2015 – January 2018)
- Reviewer for articles and evidence summaries (April 2014 – January 2015)

### **Library and Information Research Group, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals**

(October 2016 – July 2018)

- Committee Member, CPD and Events Team

### **Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Mount Royal University**

(May 2011 - November 2011)

- Conference co-chair of the 2011 Centennial Symposium on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

### **NEOS Library Consortium**

(December 2008 – July 2009)

- Communications Committee – Member
- 

## **Institutional and University Service Activities**

### **McGill University**

(August 2019 – Current)

- Equity Community of Practice, Faculty of Arts (March 2021 – Current)
- Co-Chair, School of Information Studies Equity Committee (September 2019 – current)
- Member, Professional Development Advisory Committee, Integrated Program in Neuroscience, McGill University (October 2020 – Current)
- Member, School of Information Studies Curriculum Committee (September 2019 – current)
- Member, Working Group on PhD Program (December 2020 – current)
- School of Information Studies Representative, Humanities & Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee (September 2019 – current)
- Faculty Advisor, McGill Association for Information Science & Technology Student Chapter (September 2019 – current)

### **University of Strathclyde**

(August 2016 – June 2019)

- Postgraduate Research Coordinator – Support and Development (September 2018 – June 2019)
- Member of Faculty Board of Study, Faculty of Science (Appointed October 2017 – June 2018)
- Member of Athena SWAN Committee, Department of Computer and Information Sciences (Appointed February 2017 – June 2019)
- Equality and Diversity Representative, Department of Computer and Information Sciences (Appointed November 2016 – June 2019)

### **Charles Sturt University**

(July 2012 – December 2015)

- Research Advisory Committee, Subcommittee of the Academic Senate – Higher Degree by Research Student Representative (Appointed September 2013 – December 2015)
- Research Management Committee, School of Information Studies – Student Representative (Appointed July 2012 – December 2015)
- School Board, School of Information Studies – Postgraduate Student Representative (Appointed July 2012 – February 2014)
- Communications Committee, School of Information Studies – Student Representative (Appointed July 2012 – February 2014)

### **Mount Royal University**

(August 2009 – June 2012)

- General Faculties Council – Councillor (Elected member 2011– 2013)
- Learning Outcomes Standing Committee, subcommittee of the General Faculties Council– Library Councillor (Elected member 2010–2013)
- Appointments, Tenure and Promotions Committee, subcommittee of the General Faculties Council– Library Councillor (Elected member 2011–2013)
- Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable – Library Representative (Member 2009-2011)
- Scholarship Standing Sub-Committee, Library Faculty Council (Elected chair 2010/2011; elected member 2009/2010 and 2011/2012)
- Assessment Working Group, University Library (Member 2010)
- Open Access Working Group, University Library (Member 2009-2012)

### **MacEwan University**

(September 2008 – May 2009)

- Library Instruction Advisory Committee (Member 2008/2009)

---

## **Professional Memberships**

Association for Information Science & Technology (Member 2014-Present)

Association of Library and Information Science Education (Member 2013-Present)

Canadian Association for Information Science (Member 2009-Present)

---

Updated: March 23, 2022