

# ***Doctoral Education and the Workings of Canadian Graduate Schools: A Differentiated Tier within Canadian Universities Facing the Challenges of Tension-Driven Functions***

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## Canadian PhD: Short Historical Background

- Canadian Universities: A First Part of 19th Century Creature
- Canadian PhDs: Beginning of 20th Century
  - University of Toronto 1897
  - McGill University 1906



## Canadian Graduate Studies at a Glance

	Total Graduate Studies Enrolments	PhD Enrolments	Grades
1920	423	NA	24
1945	2870	NA	104
1950	4559	NA	202
1960	6518	NA	306
1970	40141	11677	1625
1980	61258	12700	1780
1990	84730	22335	2640
1995	96605	27305	3791
1999	99875	26465	3960
2003	121393	32006	3861

## PhD Concentration within Canadian Universities

- 48/92 Universities with at least a Few PhD Enrolments

- More than 50%      **Enrolments**      **Grades**  
6 Univs                      6 Univs

- More than 66%      **Enrolments**      **Grades**  
12 Univs                      10 Univs

- More than 75%      **Enrolments**      **Grades**  
14 Univs                      14 Univs

- Not New: w/in Urban Areas/Metropolis Cluster

- Impact of G-10, G-13 Canadian Universities Group



## Graduate Studies: Differentiated Tier w/in North American Universities

- **Modern University Model: Unity of Research and Teaching**
  - Graduate Departments Universities: Division of Work between Undergraduate/Graduate Studies
  - Emergence of the Graduate School



# Graduate Schools w/in North American Universities

## ■ Structural Innovation w/in Academia

### ➤ Dual Role Matrix Functions

- *Promote Institutional Priorities; Leadership; Vigil Function for Graduate Studies*
- *Coordinate Standards of Excellence, Quality Control Function*

## ■ Strategic Asset for USA Higher Education and S&T Systems



## **Graduate Schools: Differentiated Tier w/in Canadian Universities**

- On 14 Univs (75% Cdn PhD Enrolments/Grades): 12 Graduate Schools
- Canadian Graduate Schools: Low Variation of Functions



## Workings of Canadian Graduate Schools

- **Most Frequent Functions (11 or 12 Graduate Schools):**
  - Disciplinary Graduate Program Creations/Modifications
  - Disciplinary Graduate Program Reviews
  - Approval of Graduate Students Record Components
  - Nomination of Masters'/PhD Dissertation Juries
  - Graduate Students Funding Policies and Programs
- **A Proviso: in Few Univs Exclusion of some Professional/Continuing Education Graduate Program**





## Workings of Canadian Graduate Schools *(cont.)*

- **Frequent Functions (50/75% of Cdn Graduate Schools)**
  - Final Decision on Graduate Students Admissions
  - Specific Roles for Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
  - Graduate Degrees Recommendations to Senate
  - Post-Doctoral Fellows Policies and Services
  - Approval of Faculty Membership for Graduate Studies



## Graduate Studies Governance Structure

- **With a Dean as Academic Leader**
  - 4/12 Dean and Vice-Principal
- **With a Council and Standing Committees of Faculty Members**
  - Academic Program Creations/Modifications/Reviews
  - Student Funding
  - Etc.
- **Graduate Schools**
  - Central, Top Office: Asset for Representation Tasks
  - Full-standing Faculty: Proactive on Strategic Academic Terrain



# Graduate Schools: A World of Continuous Tensions

- **Perennial Presence in a Tension-Driven World**
- **Graduate Studies w/in Graduate Departments Faculties**
  - No High Quality Graduate Studies w/out Basic Units' Entrepreneurship/Leadership
- **Graduate Schools' Tension-Driven Functions**
  - Oversee/Promote Priorities; Vigil Function Challenges
  - Enhance Standards of Excellence; Quality Control



## Graduate Schools: Continuous Assessment Drift

- Graduate Schools' Relevancy, Role at Stake
- Beyond Centralisation/Decentralisation Model
- Constant Renewed Equilibrium between Administrative Levels
  - A Fertile Environment to Up-date Graduate Schools' Dual Role Matrix Functions



## Graduate Studies Priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- **Socially Distributed Knowledge Production Demanding Context**
- **Differentiated Graduate Studies Tier's Challenges w/in Academic Terrain**
  - Reshape the PhD
    - *More Breath and Diversification in Skills*
    - *More Interdisciplinary Work*
    - *Study Experience Open to Non-Academia Outcomes*
    - *Mobility through Extended Partnerships*



## Graduate Studies Priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century *(cont.)*

- **Differentiated Graduate Studies Tier's Challenges w/in Academic Terrain *(cont.)***
  - Diversify Graduate Studies
    - *More Fast-Tracking w/in Research Training Trajectory (PhD)*
    - *More Terminal Masters' Degrees (Advanced Specialized and Professional Trainings)*
    - *Implementation of Graduate Continuing Education Programs*
  - Encourage Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs
    - *Impact of Research Challenges in a Socially Distributed Knowledge Production System*

