

Research Assistantship Opportunity

Faculty of Education

Professor Nombuso Dlamini

November 2024 - April 2025: \$35/hour PhD (280 hours); \$45/hour Recent PhD (220 hours)

I am looking for a recent PhD (less than 1 year) or PhD student for a research assistantship for the period of November 2024 – April 2025. The RA is linked to a project, *Exploring Connections between Black Youth Civic Participation & Identity*. The project, which also includes York's Godfred Boateng and Tannaz Zargarian from the University of Fraser Valley, is funded by the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council. (<https://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2023/10/26/aspire-4york-researchers-receive-federal-funding-for-knowledge-mobilization-projects>). This project involves a workshop and two webinars on the access and management of data on the contributions of Black people to Canada. While mobilizing knowledge and building data capacity use and management, our project also showcases diverse Canadian studies that are led by Black scholars and focus on Black youth. By so doing these activities will highlight the overall theme of Black history month, which is to celebrate and disseminate Black people's historical and current contributions to Canada's diversity and nation building.

Black youth activism and participation in social movements has been one of the most defining features of civic life in the past decade. Since 2020, this activism has become more pronounced with the eruption of international actions such as the Black Lives Matter movement for racial justice in the wake of George Floyd's murder, several of Black-led anti-police movements, followed by a recognition of deepening racialized economic and social inequalities accompanying the Covid19 pandemic. Young Black activists in Canada, and in the City of Toronto, specifically, have been at the forefront of numerous social movements that have made their way onto our screens and every social media platform. But despite the passion and drive of countless young people to make a positive difference in civil society, many lack the skills needed to identify and manage the massive repositories of research knowledge and data that are central to governance decision-making. Without such knowledge and skills, Black youth risk remaining one of the most underrepresented groups at all jurisdictional levels. This is also particularly true for those from ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups, who are disproportionately affected by some of the world's toughest challenges, including unemployment, environmental degradation, violent conflict, displacement, and insufficient access to education. Our project responds to these challenges with two intersecting goals: i) to deepen research knowledge about Black youth's civic lives and their desires to engage in various forms of governance activity, while ii) supporting the development of data collection and reuse, as well as organization and management skills among Black youth workers, stakeholders and students who are keen to effect progressive change in their own communities and beyond. With knowledge and the right skills, youth can play a crucial role in ensuring that political structures work for everyone.

The assistantship is mainly for a multi-faceted activity for data mobilization, and for literature review and write-up of findings. Details will be discussed at the start of the assignment.

To apply, please send a brief statement of your interest and a resume to ndlamini@yorku.ca by **Friday, November 1**. It helps if your plan of study (PhD) or research interests overlap with the core theme of this project. While we assume to spread the available hours across the six months of the duration of the RA, some flexibility in when those hours will be used is required. The winter break will be recognized. Payment will occur in six instalments at the end of each month between November and April.