

# RESEARCH SEMINAR



**December 10, 12:00pm -  
12:45pm**

**Virtual: Zoom**



**Scott Walsworth**

Associate Professor  
Human Resources and  
Organizational Behaviour

## Determinants of Research Productivity During the Pandemic: Empirical Evidence from Canada and Australia

Scott Walsworth, University of Saskatchewan  
Johanna Weststar, Western University

**Abstract:** A survey conducted in 14 universities across Canada and Australia administered during the spring and summer of 2020 canvassed faculty about the transition to work from home. While productivity decreased across the 2,500 researchers surveyed, important differences exist. The halls of academia abound with anecdotal accounts suggesting that compared to their male counterparts, female academics assumed a disproportionate degree of domestic responsibility as the pandemic caused schools, daycares, and eldercare facilities to shut down. Indeed, the results point to a steeper reduction in productivity for women; however, the greatest reduction is associated with primary caregivers, regardless of gender, although women are much more likely to play this role. Interestingly, the age or the number of dependents are not important determinants of research productivity. The results suggest that the inherent flexibility enjoyed by academics is potentially a spurious benefit for academics with significant domestic duties, which may be especially problematic for women working from home. The implications for understanding 'covid narratives' in tenure and promotion case files are considered.

**TOGETHER**



### Contact us

25 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A7 Canada  
Tel: (306) 966-4785

Website: [edwards.usask.ca/research](https://edwards.usask.ca/research)  
Email: [research@edwards.usask.ca](mailto:research@edwards.usask.ca)

