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[Biography](#)

[Teaching](#)

[Research](#)

[Recent Publications](#)

Biography

Shauna Brail (shauna.brail@utoronto.ca) is Director and Associate Professor, Teaching Stream, in the Urban Studies Program and the Presidential Advisor on Urban Engagement at the University of Toronto. She holds a BA in Urban Studies / Geography, an MA in Urban Planning and a PhD in Geography. Brail enjoyed a career in management consulting and as a senior policy advisor to the Ontario provincial government following the completion of her PhD, and prior to joining the University of Toronto. She is a Senior Associate in the [Innovation Policy Lab](#) at the Munk School of Global Affairs. As part of her teaching, and through the incorporation of experiential learning initiatives in the Urban Studies Program, she has placed more than 500 UofT undergraduate students in [internships and service learning placements](#) at urban-focused organizations across the city over the past ten years.

Teaching - 2016-2017

INI 437Y: Experiential Learning in Toronto & the GTA (first term)

Research

Professor Brail's research interests lie broadly in the area of economic geography with a focus on the social, cultural and economic changes associated with shifting industrial strengths of cities and with a particular focus on the cultural / creative economy. Her secondary research interests are in the field of pedagogy as it relates to experiential and service learning at the university level. She is a research team member of two SSHRC-funded programs: [Creating Digital Opportunity](#) and the [Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership](#).

Her current research is focused on:

- Disruptive technologies: municipal responses and local economic impacts and opportunities
- Community leadership and engagement in mixed income community revitalization initiatives
- Impacts of service learning and experiential learning on student achievement

Recent Publications:

Leslie, D., Brydges, T. and Brail, S. 2015. Qualifying aesthetic values in the experience economy: the role of independent fashion boutiques in curating slow fashion in *Spatial Dynamics in the Experience Economy*, edited by Lorentzen, A., Schroder, L, and K.T. Larsen. New York: Routledge.

Levkoe, C., Brail, S. and Daniere, A. 2014. Engaged pedagogy and transformative learning in graduate education: a service learning case study. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 44:3, 68-85.

Leslie, D., Hunt, M. and Brail, S. 2014. Attracting and retaining artistic talent in Toronto: Cosmopolitanism, cultural diversity and inclusion. In Grant, J. (ed.) *Seeking Talent for Creative Cities: The Social Dynamics of Innovation*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 59-76.

Leslie, D., Brail, S. and Hunt, M. 2014. Crafting an antidote to Fast Fashion: The Case of Toronto's Independent Fashion Design Sector. *Growth and Change*, 45:1, 222-239.

Brail, S. 2013. Experiencing the city: Urban studies students and service learning. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 37:2, 241-256.

Allahwalla A., Bunce, S., Beagrie, L., Brail, S., Hawthorne, T., Levesque, S., von Mahs, J., and Spotton Visano, B. 2013. Building and sustaining community-university partnerships in marginalized urban areas. *Journal of Geography*, 112:2, 43-57.

Leslie, D. and Brail. S. 2011. The productive role of 'quality of place': a case study of fashion designers in Toronto. *Environment and Planning A*, Vol 43, pp. 2900-2917.