



**2018 – 2019**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

We honour and acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hən'q'əmin'əm' speaking Musqueam people.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs



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## Director's Statement

What an amazing privilege to lead the team that created UBC's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA). We've come a long way since the launch of the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) in 2015 and the subsequent creation of the SPPGA in July 2017.

We are fortunate to be able to build on UBC's pursuit of excellence in research, learning, and engagement to create an interdisciplinary, collaborative hub that contributes to developing policies and solutions to complex global and local issues.

Part of working collaboratively has been to find ways to respect and engage the various units that make up SPPGA, including building on the strengths of the Liu Institute for Global Issues, and the Institute of Asian Research, as well as the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute, and the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions. It has been about building a strong sense of community.

This means building community not only within the school and within the Faculty of Arts, but importantly with partners across UBC and in the broader community. In this spirit, we created the

SPPGA Partnership Council where we seek advice and engagement from all policy-interested faculty members and students at UBC. We also established the Canadian Policy Schools Network in 2018, an informal network of colleagues who welcome peer learning and advancement of policy initiatives.

Our success will, to a great extent, depend on our capacity to communicate and tell our story of research and policy engagement both locally and globally. As we build our brand, the [sppga.ubc.ca](http://sppga.ubc.ca) website is a cornerstone in our communication and knowledge exchange strategy.

Finally, I want to thank all of my colleagues (students, staff, and faculty) who made my life at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and then at SPPGA such a joy. I am proud of what we accomplished together and can't wait to return from administrative leave to be part of the SPPGA scholarly community as a learner, teacher, and researcher.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Moura Quayle". The script is fluid and cursive.

**MOURA QUAYLE, DIRECTOR PRO TEM**





## Looking Forward

It is a real pleasure to serve as Acting Director of the UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. Until we secure a permanent director, my goal is to keep the school steadily moving forward. We are fortunate to be able to build on the remarkable work of former Director *pro tem*, Moura Quayle, in establishing the school and its professional Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program. I'm excited by all we have planned for the next year and beyond.

We have many ambitious goals for the school, some of which we are already achieving in the first few months of this 2019-2020 academic year. We have held public events, such as a panel on climate change and the federal election as well as a conference on China and the world, and we are finalizing our speakers for the 2020 Phil Lind Initiative series.

In addition to recruiting a new director for the School, we are actively searching for Canada Research Chairs and other positions. We are starting a program of fellowships for policy practitioners, and we have an on-going exchange of visitors and post-doctoral fellows.

As UBC continues to change and transform itself, we too are looking to improve our contributions to the university and to the larger community we serve by leveraging our strengths to address the collective challenges humanity faces--from climate change to migration to the erosion of democracy. The research conducted by our faculty helps to tackle many of these global issues, and the work performed by our staff supports this overall mission.

The school seeks to be a hub of policy debate and innovation for the entire university. To support this aim, we seek to solidify cross-campus connections that will lead to future collaborations in research and learning.

With this in mind, I am honored to be leading SPPGA and I look forward to working with you to make the school an extraordinary place for research, collaboration, and policy engagement in the months and years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Cameron". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a cursive "Cameron".

**MAX CAMERON,  
INCOMING ACTING DIRECTOR**

# SPPGA

## Vision, Mission, & Values

### VISION

The UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) will have a transformative impact on society through learning, research, innovation, and partnerships in public policy and global affairs.

### MISSION

To act as an interdisciplinary, collaborative hub that contributes to developing policies and solutions to complex global and local issues.

### VALUES

#### Excellence

The quality of striving to be and being outstanding in the realm of public policy and global affairs.

#### Integrity

The quality of being honest, ethical and truthful in all activities of SPPGA.

#### Respect

Regard felt or shown towards different people, ideas and actions; an essential value for the positive evolution of SPPGA, given the diversity of people and activities.

#### Academic Freedom

A scholar's freedom to express ideas through respectful discourse and the pursuit of open discussion, without risk of censure – essential in the world of policy, politics and change-making.

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

A diversity of ideas and people, dignity for all, building a culture of respect where words and actions matter, including a shared responsibility for creating a positive and open culture in SPPGA.

#### Accountability

A personal and public value: being responsible for our conduct and actions and delivering upon our respective and reciprocal commitments.

#### Continuous Learning

Preparing students for leadership and a lifetime of success through continuous learning.

#### Global and Local Engagement

With academia, business, government, NGOs and civil society.

#### Research and Creative Activity

That informs our teaching, focuses on discovery and contributes to a sustainable, resilient society.

#### Stewardship of Human, Financial and Physical Resources

That are in our care and management.



## SPPGA Strengths

Global affairs in public policy at SPPGA draws on our strengths in situated knowledge around the world and in connecting science to policy. UBC has particular strengths in situated policy knowledge for Asian societies and the science-policy nexus in sustainability and climate change.

Researchers, policy makers, and aspiring change makers come here to explore local and global issues, find policy solutions, and change the world for the better.

# SPPGA

## At a Glance

**150** EVENTS  
CONVENED, REACHING

**5,000+**  
STUDENTS, FACULTY,  
STAFF, ALUMNI, AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN  
PERSON AND

**20,000+**  
ONLINE AUDIENCE  
MEMBERS VIA  
LIVESTREAMING

**74** MPPGA  
STUDENTS IN  
TWO COHORTS,  
REPRESENTING

**30+**  
NATIONALITIES

**18** FACULTY  
MEMBERS  
CONDUCTING  
RESEARCH AND POLICY  
ENGAGEMENT IN

**25+** COUNTRIES

**364** MEDIA  
MENTIONS IN  
MAJOR VANCOUVER,  
CANADIAN AND GLOBAL  
PUBLICATIONS





*Image: Left to right: Research and advocacy team Grace Acan, Associate Professor Erin Baines, Nancy Apiyo, Ketty Anyeko, and Evelyn Amony documented life histories of women survivors of the war in northern Uganda, leading to the founding of the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN), an association of 900 survivors.*

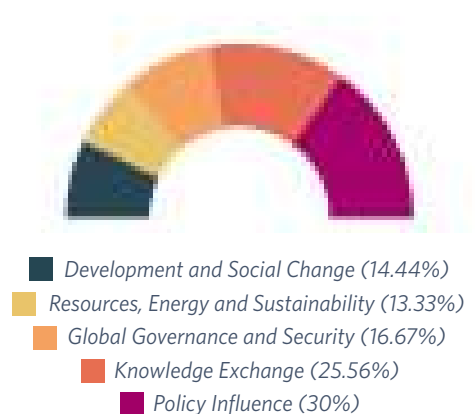
## Research & Impact

SPPGA seeks to make research relevant and accessible to actors and communities beyond the university's traditional borders. We do this by applying our research in interdisciplinary projects both locally and globally, by publishing public resources, and by facilitating opportunities on campus and in the community for knowledge exchange, forging stronger links between research, development and innovation.

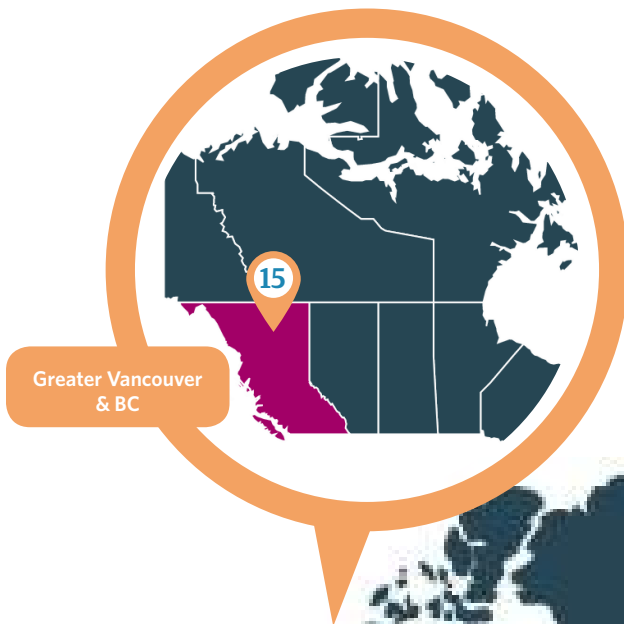
### SPPGA Faculty Snapshot

In 2018-19, SPPGA had 18 core faculty members<sup>1</sup>, as well as numerous faculty associates, fellows and research assistants. With faculty encompassing a wide range of cross-disciplinary backgrounds, the graph, **Research, Engagement and Knowledge Exchange Activities**, illustrates the scope of activities reported over the 2018-19 year. Research projects and research-related activities (e.g. workshops, focus groups) have been categorized across SPPGA's three stream areas: *Development and Social Change*; *Resources, Energy and Sustainability*; and *Global Governance and Security*. Faculty-led public and community engagement activities including trainings, symposia, and lectures are captured as knowledge exchange; and finally, activities where faculty expertise has been directly or indirectly engaged to shape policy processes or outcomes (e.g. briefing decision-makers, experts meetings, external leadership positions, etc.) are exemplified as policy influence.<sup>2</sup>

#### Research, Engagement and Knowledge Exchange Activities







## WHERE WE'RE WORKING

Many SPPGA faculty members are working on issues that are global in nature such as poverty, climate change, human rights, and gender equality. The map below demonstrates the geographic presence of our faculty this past year, highlighting loci of activities in relation to research, knowledge exchange, and community collaborations.



## COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

From community-engaged research to high-level government briefings, SPPGA faculty contribute significantly to building SPPGA's relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders across British Columbia, Canada, and the world. In SPPGA's rich context of collaboration and partnership, 2018-19 activities include work with provincial, federal, and foreign governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, and more (see graph, **Organization Type**).<sup>3</sup>

### Organization Type



## HIGHLIGHTS OF FACULTY-LED PROJECTS

The following section highlights nine key SPPGA faculty-led projects in 2018-19.

1

Transformative  
memory and gender  
in East Africa

2

Mining, democracy,  
and development in  
Mongolia

3

Building capacity for  
policy research in  
Myanmar

4

Partnership and  
knowledge exchange  
in North Korea

5

Nuclear  
disarmament and  
human security in  
South Asia

6

Small-scale farming  
and global food  
security

7

Public insights:  
Canada-China  
relations

8

Post-conflict,  
post-earthquake  
reconstruction in  
Nepal

9

The Phil Lind  
Initiative: America  
and the Climate  
Crisis

**1** Some of the key political struggles of our time concern how and what to remember about mass violence. SPPGA Associate Professor **Erin Baines** and UBC Professor Pilar Riaño-Alcalá are principal investigators of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Development Grant on Transformative Memory. With partners from Indonesia, Uganda, Colombia, and Canada, international exchanges provide partners with the opportunity to engage in relationship and dialogue with a diverse group of memory workers, initiatives, communities, artists, and policy makers involved in historical memory work. The first international exchange, hosted by the Justice and Reconciliation Project, met in [Uganda in 2019](#) to consider: How and why do people forget, deny or remember responsibility for mass violence such as war, genocide, and mass displacement? What actions foster transformative ways of remembering and relating to one another? What are the practices and actions that on the contrary inspire pro status quo memory building process? How do we listen to loss and foster an ethic of responsibility? What futures are imagined and contested?

Professor Baines, who holds the Ivan Head South-North Chair, also supported opportunities for East African researchers and community practitioners to participate in knowledge exchanges on gender and memory in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya.

***Image:** Landscapes that remember: Consey, a community based memory worker, brings participants of the exchange to sites of memory in Atiak, Uganda. It was under this tree she was abducted by Ugandan rebels. Photo by Erin Baines.*



**2** SPPGA Associate Professor **Julian Dierkes** pursued on-going research on democratization and mining governance in Mongolia. He also focused on digital diplomacy. His overarching research questions included: How is Mongolia's democracy continuing to evolve? Can governance structure turn public benefits from resource extraction into sustainable human development? During visits to Ulaanbaatar in August and December 2018, he had offered briefings to six ambassadors and three members of the Mongolian parliament.

Professor Dierkes has also been working with Assistant Professor **Nadja Kunz** (SPPGA; Norman B Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering), UBC Professor Bern Klein (Norman B Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering) and Andre Xavier on a project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build interdisciplinary research and education capacity in Mongolia through a project with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST).

**3** A key element of Myanmar's transition is training for future members of the civilian government, since policy making and implementation were conducted exclusively by the military during the last several decades. Assistant Professor **Kai Ostwald** (SPPGA; Political Science) organized and led the second year of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-funded program entitled "Building Capacity for Policy Research at the Yangon University of Economics."

The program entailed a three-week summer session, co-taught by Professor Ostwald, at the Yangon University of Economics (YUE). This focused on delivering research methods training to faculty members and advanced graduate students. Two executive students from YUE were also welcomed to Vancouver to attend the UBC MPPGA program during the second term of 2018/19. Professor Ostwald worked with the Head of YUE's Economics Department and the Rector of YUE on the potential creation of a new Master of Public Policy program at YUE.



**4** The Canada-DPRK Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP) represents an unprecedented, ground-breaking knowledge sharing program with North Korea. KPP Director and SPPGA Korea Foundation Chair, Associate Professor **Kyung-Ae Park** hosted six North Korean professors for their six-month period of study at UBC. In addition, she organized a visit of North Korean University Presidents/ Vice-Presidents Delegation to UBC, which marked an extremely rare occasion for a group of North Korean educational leaders to visit a foreign university. The significant visit allowed North Korean educational stakeholders to engage with their Canadian counterparts, resulting in deeper collaboration and partnership to advance the KPP's goal of knowledge sharing.



*Image: Professor Navin Ramankutty.  
Photo by Don Erhardt.*

**5** Research conducted by SPPGA Professor **M.V. Ramana**, Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security, focuses on topics related to nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. In the first area, the two main foci of his work have been the new risks resulting from India and Pakistan starting to deploy nuclear armed submarines and the challenges of the command and control of nuclear weapons in India. On nuclear energy, he has been examining prospects for small modular reactors, keeping track of nuclear policy developments in many countries, and continuing to participate in the debate over the potential role of nuclear energy in climate mitigation.

Professor Ramana has engaged with Reaching Critical Will, a programme of the non-profit Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which acted as an MPPGA Global Policy Project client in 2018.

**6** Many claim that smaller farms are more sustainable. Yet, little is known about how the sustainability of farms varies by farm size. A SSHRC-funded project, "The Role of Small Farms in Global Food Security and Sustainability," led by Professor (SPPGA; IRES) and Canada Research Chair on Global Environmental Change and Food Security, **Navin Ramankutty** and his research team examine the role of farm size in food system sustainability, looking at both the socio-economic and ecological drivers and outcomes of variations in farm size. Findings include that smallholders produce about one-third of the world's food, producing disproportionately more food than the land area they occupy. A collaboration between faculty in the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs; the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability; the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems; and Forest Conservation Sciences, ongoing work is examining how resource-use efficiency, environmental outcomes, and farmer profitability vary by farm size.



*Image: Associate Professor Sara Shneiderman speaks at the opening of a Community Library Resource and Learning Centre in Dolakha, Nepal, part of a participatory post-earthquake recovery initiative.*

**7** It has been a turbulent year in Asia Pacific security affairs, geo-politics and, in particular Canada-China relations. SPPGA Professor **Paul Evans** worked with UBC Professor Xiaojun Liu to facilitate a second national opinion poll “Canadian Public Attitudes on China and Canada-China Relations” in February, 2019 as the third in a [series of surveys that began in 2017](#) on Canadian attitudes on China and Canada-China relations. Analytic work around the poll was completed in collaboration with a group of MPPGA students and recent graduates.

The poll examined whether the emotions and calculations generated by the bilateral diplomatic crisis would affect fundamental attitudes about China and Canadian China policy. Results show that favourability about China is dropping but so are attitudes about the United States; despite public anxieties, support for economic ties and functional cooperation with China on global issues remains strong; in identifying priorities for the Canadian government, advancing human rights in China ranked fourth behind trade, global cooperation and protection of Canadian values at home; and finally, that human rights in China were seen as best promoted through deeper trade agreements rather than public comment or economic sanctions.

**8** In 2015, Nepal was struck by its worst natural disaster in several decades — twin earthquakes of 7.9 and 7.3 magnitude left 9,000 people dead, injured 20,000 and destroyed over 600,000 homes. A multi-disciplinary, three-year research partnership entitled “[Expertise, Labour, and Mobility in Nepal’s Post-Conflict, Post-Earthquake Reconstruction: Construction, Finance, and Law as Domains of Social Transformation](#)” is striving to understand and respond to these experiences of political and material upheaval.

This SSHRC Partnership Development Grant-funded project is led by Principal Investigator, Associate Professor **Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology), and Co-Investigators, Professor **Philippe Le Billon** (SPPGA, Geography), and Katharine N. Rankin (University of Toronto, Geography). The project aims to understand the socio-political effects of Nepal’s earthquakes and post-earthquake reconstruction, particularly as they interact with the nation’s changes already underway as a result of the end of the decade-long civil war, the process of federal state restructuring, and the protracted political impasse over the adoption of a new Constitution.



9 In early 2019, SPPGA hosted the fourth series of the [Phil Lind Initiative](#), an annual high profile speaker series made possible by donor and UBC alumnus Phil Lind and led by SPPGA Assistant Professor **Taylor Owen**\*. For our spring 2019 series, SPPGA delivered five events on “America and the Climate Crisis” featuring Robert Bullard, Elizabeth Kolbert, John Kasich, Winona LaDuke, and Bill McKibben. The initiative invites prominent scholars, writers and intellectuals to UBC to share ideas with students, faculty and the broader community on some of the most urgent issues of our time. The series is the only one on campus that allows UBC students to directly engage with high profile speakers in a classroom setting on a regular

basis, within the competitive entry Lind Seminar.

The Phil Lind Initiative began in 2015 with Nobel Prize Laureate Joseph Stiglitz on the theme of “The Politics of Inequality.” Previous series themes include the “US Election Campaign,” “The Trump Impact,” and “The Unravelling of the Global Liberal Order.”

\*SPPGA is grateful for Professor Taylor Owen’s leadership on the Phil Lind Initiative and congratulates him on his new role as Associate Professor at the Max Bell School of Public Policy and holder of the Beaverbrook Chair in Media, Ethics and Communications at McGill University.

***Image:** SPPGA Associate Professor David Boyd interviews Dr. Robert Bullard as part of the Phil Lind Initiative spring 2019 series.*



## NOTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Associate Professor David Boyd is UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Associate Professor **David Boyd** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment related to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment on August 1, 2018. The highlights of this volunteer role have included Professor Boyd presenting his first reports to the UN General Assembly, calling for global recognition of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, co-authored with his predecessor, John Knox. He also presented to the Human Rights Council on air pollution and human rights. Professor Boyd also completed a country mission to Fiji and witnessed the devastating impacts of climate change. In this role, he has made more than 25 in-person and video presentations, participated in more than 50 meetings, recorded countless media hits, and authored or co-authored ten publications.

### Assistant Professor Nadja Kunz Awarded Canada Research Chair in Mine Water Management and Stewardship

Assistant Professor **Nadja Kunz** (SPPGA; Norman B Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering) is one of UBC's newest Chairholders, receiving the prestigious title of Canada Research Chair in Mine Water Management and Stewardship. Professor Kunz is focused on developing models to optimize water use at mine sites and in mining regions. Her long-term goal is to design mining projects that will leave a positive legacy in their host communities and support sustainable water management outcomes, both in Canada and globally. Ultimately, her research supports decision-making by business, government and society.



*Image: Professor Rashid Sumaila*

### Professor Rashid Sumaila Named Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

Professor **Rashid Sumaila** (SPPGA; Institute for Oceans & Fisheries) was named a new Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). The fellowship of the RSC comprises over 2000 Canadian scholars, artists, and scientists, peer-elected as the best in their field. Professor Sumaila is one of the world's most innovative researchers on the future of the oceans, integrating the social, economic and fisheries sciences to build novel pathways towards sustainable fisheries. His work has challenged today's approaches to marine governance, generating exciting new ways of thinking about our relationship to the marine biosphere, such as protecting the high seas as a "fish bank" for the world and using "intergeneration discount rates" for natural resource projects.

### Professor Brian Job Awarded Foreign Minister's Commendation

SPPGA Faculty Associate, Professor **Brian Job** (Political Science) received a 2018 Foreign Minister's Commendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He was awarded the Commendation for the work he has pursued with Japanese colleagues on the issue of security and cooperation between Canada and Japan over many years.

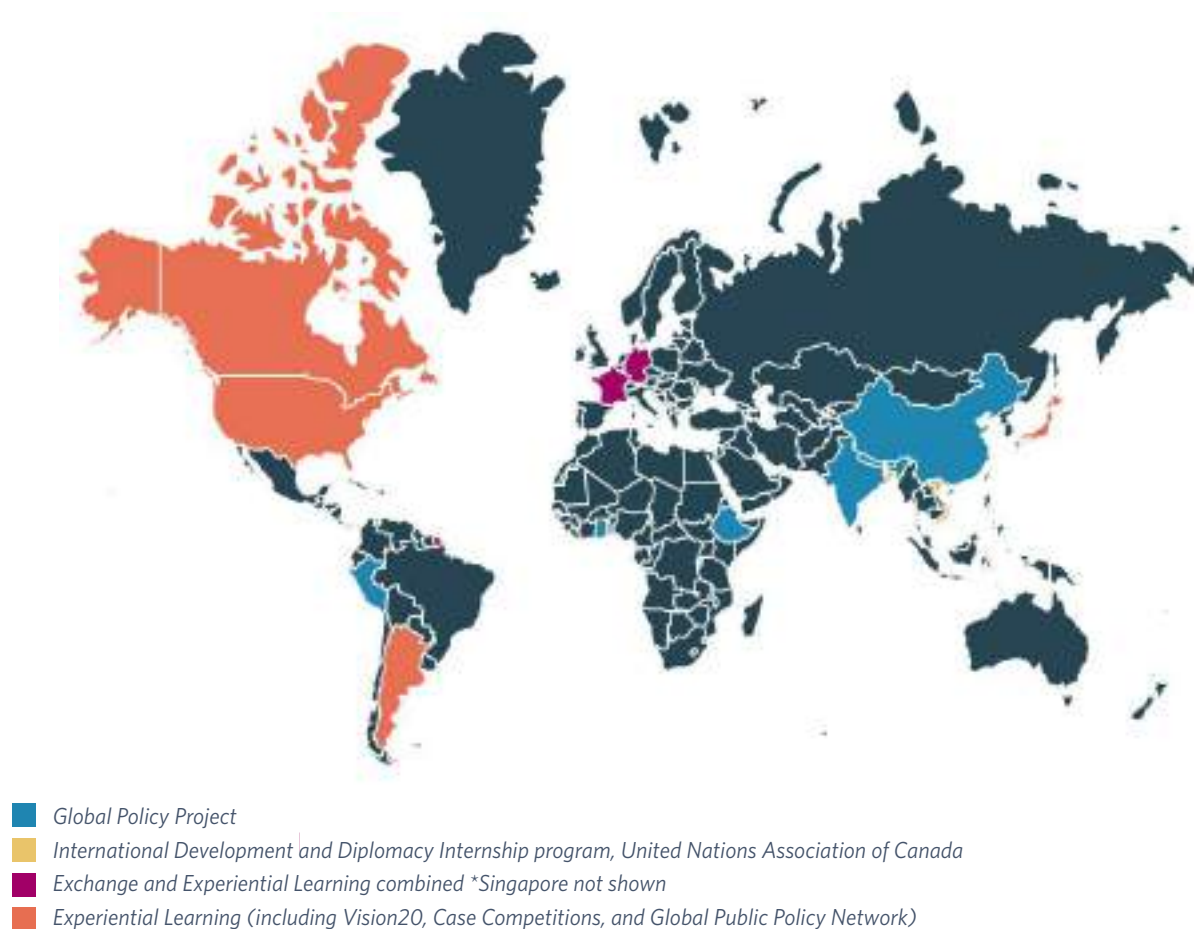
# The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) Program

2018-2019 marked the fourth year of the professional [Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs \(MPPGA\) program](#) and the graduation of a third cohort of incredible alumni. The program is supported by Graduate Director **Shashi Enarth** and a team of staff members. Launched in 2015, the program prepares the next generation of global change makers by equipping them with the critical knowledge, skills and experience required to respond effectively to the challenges of today and the future.

The core courses students take in the first year of the program create a foundation of policy analysis skills, from which students can launch into their area of specialization, through one of three streams in their second year: **Development and Social Change; Resources, Energy, and Sustainability; and Global Governance and Security.**

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

This map displays experiential learning opportunities engaged in by MPPGA students, including the Global Policy Project, the United Nations Association of Canada's International Development and Diplomacy Internship program, the Exchange program, and periodic travel such as Vision20, case competitions, and meeting with the Global Public Policy Network.



# MPPGA by the Numbers

## PROGRAM OF STUDY OF MOST RECENT DEGREE

### 2017 and 2018 Cohorts

Arts and Social Sciences	11	General Studies	2
Asian Studies	1	Global / International Development	4
Business	2	International Relations	7
Economics	6	Languages	1
Engineering	1	Law and Legal Studies	2
English / Communication / Journalism	4	Political Science	21
Environmental Studies	4	Public Administration / Affairs	3
		Science	3

### Student Enrolment 2015 - 2019



**30+**  
COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED  
ACROSS THE  
COHORTS

## COHORT AGE DISTRIBUTION

### 2017



### 2018



**75%** female enrolment in 2017

**56%** female enrolment in 2018

**11** CO-OP  
PLACEMENTS IN  
2017

**14** CO-OP  
PLACEMENTS IN  
2018





*Image: MPPGA student Sebastian Jarrin Grijalba.*

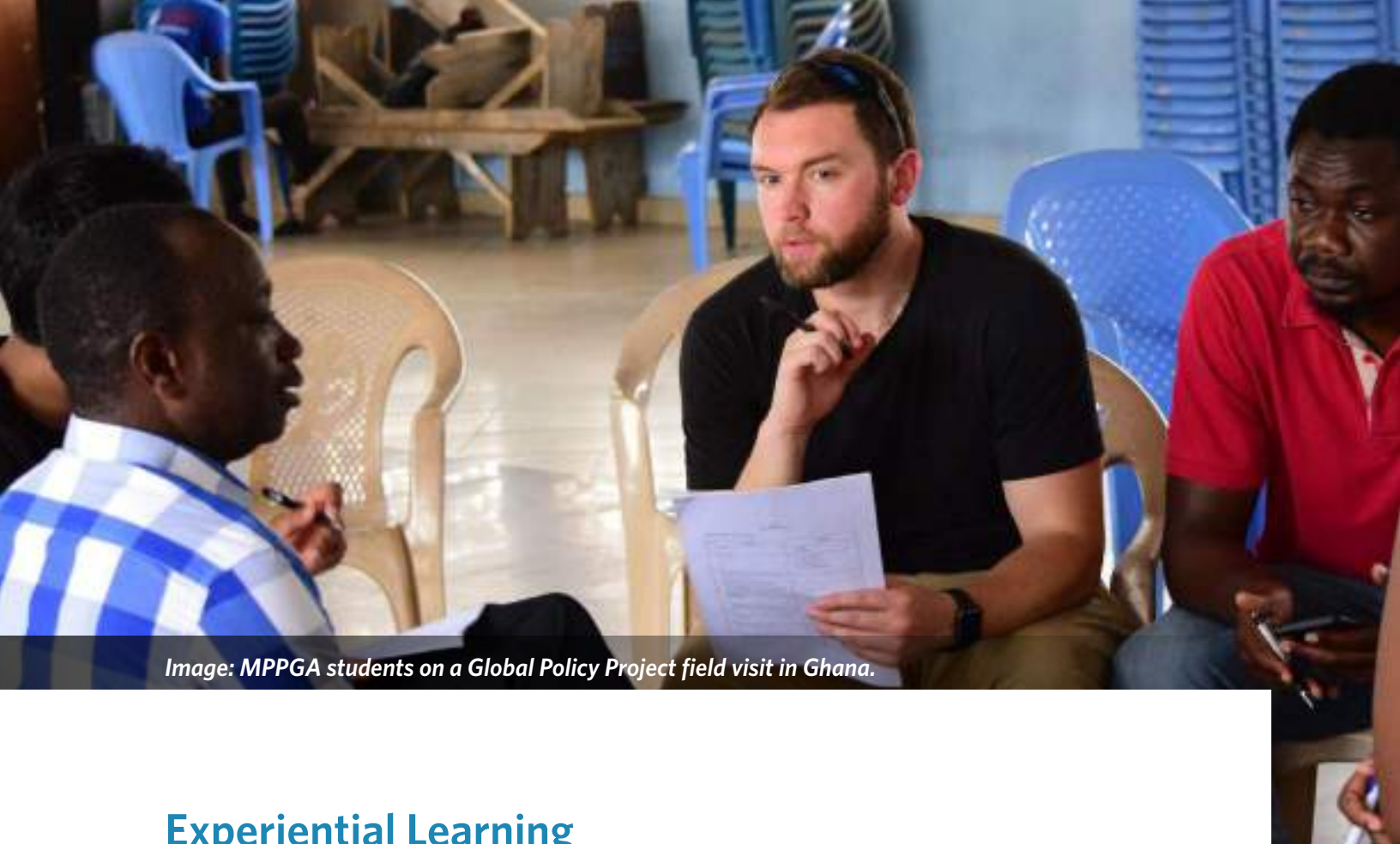
## MPPGA Career Development

The MPPGA integrates a strong focus on actively supporting students in their professional development. A highlight of co-curricular career-oriented programming is MPPGA's annual Job Search Skills for the Policy Professions conference. The conference includes a full line-up of skills workshops and networking practice with policy professionals, followed by a reception where students can apply their newly honed skills. Our 2019 conference was a great success with over 20 professionals interacting with our students. Further exciting developments include the expansion of our cooperation with the United Nations Association of Canada to include summer work positions starting in 2019 and the addition of a new staff position directly supporting MPPGA Co-op and career education.

### MPPGA Curriculum Refresh Project

A key focus of MPPGA this year has been the curriculum refresh. The MPPGA Curriculum Committee chaired by Professor **George Hoberg**, engaged with staff, faculty, current and prospective students, alumni, and employers to identify areas for improvement and innovation. These curriculum changes are pending UBC Senate approval.

One key element that emerged was the importance of career development for students and soft skills for employers. To tackle this, we have created two new core courses on professional skills and leadership, with an anticipated roll-out for September 2020. We have also strengthened core offerings on research design and methods, added in an optional advanced quantitative analysis course, and taken a new integrative approach to our economics courses.



*Image: MPPGA students on a Global Policy Project field visit in Ghana.*

## Experiential Learning

Among the many diverse learning opportunities offered to MPPGA students outside the classroom, a few key highlights include the following:

### GLOBAL POLICY PROJECT (GP<sup>2</sup>)

The Global Policy Project (GP<sup>2</sup>) provides unique opportunities for MPPGA students to engage directly with policy makers and civil society on a real-world policy challenge. GP<sup>2</sup> is the MPPGA's second year capstone course, and focuses on applied research through a combination of design studio sessions and intensive stakeholder engagement. Student groups of four to five are paired with client organizations – government, international organizations, or civil society – across diverse contexts to tackle a specific policy challenge, and provide evidence-based policy solutions and recommendations to their client. Students learn skills in areas such as team collaboration, conflict resolution in a policy environment, policy research design, strategic design, and a variety of field research techniques. All teams produce a report that they provide to their client and present their recommendations at a final symposium.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In 2018, 25 MPPGA students participated in an international GP<sup>2</sup> with clients in India, Nepal, Ethiopia, Peru, and Ghana:

- INDIA, Gujarat Rural Roads, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- NEPAL, Health Services for At-risk Communities, Creating Possibilities (CP)
- PERU, Towards Equitable and Sustainable Integrated Water Resource Management Policies, The National Water Authority (ANA), Government of Peru
- ETHIOPIA, Equity and Sustainability in Mining Operations in Ethiopia, Supporting the Ministry of Mines in Ethiopia (SUMM)
- GHANA, Community Resistance Index - Developing Tools of Measurement, Free the Slaves (FTS)

13 students worked with domestic clients in the Lower Mainland and Alberta:

- Balancing the Equation: Reconciling B.C.'s LNG Export to China with its Climate Targets, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Energy for BC
- The Future of Oil Sands Workers in Alberta, Alberta Federation of Labour
- Greening Vancouver's Fleets, City of Vancouver

### World's Challenge Challenge

One of our MPPGA students was part of a team that created an innovative intervention designed to reduce pollution caused by traditional biomass-burning stoves—an issue that affects three billion people every year and leads to over four million premature deaths annually, according to the World Health Organization. The team won the UBC competition and went on to compete at the Global Finals at Western University.

### NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation

Four MPPGA students participated in the NASPAA-Batten Simulation Competition in Austin, Texas, for a simulation focused on Global Migration Challenges.

### Vision20 Fellows

MPPGA students participated in multiple opportunities as Vision20 Fellows where they contributed to global summits, undertook research for the V20, co-wrote papers, and published op-eds related to this work. These opportunities were led by SPPGA Faculty Associate, Professor **Yves Tiberghien** (UBC Political Science).

### Global Public Policy Network Conference

Two MPPGA students were hosted as guest delegates and UBC SPPGA representatives at the annual Global Public Policy Network Conference, held in Singapore in early March.





*Image: SPPGA Professor George Hoberg with MPPGA Class of 2018.*

## Alumni Spotlights - Class of 2018

**MPPGA alumni embody important voices in the policy making landscape, both locally and globally. Alumni are making their mark in an array of policy roles in diverse sectors around the world.**

Building on his Co-op term as a Junior Policy Analyst in the Strategic Policy Branch at Global Affairs Canada, **Nathan Seef** was accepted post-graduation to Natural Resources Canada's Policy Analyst Recruitment and Development Program. This accelerated development program for Master's and Ph.D. graduates offers participants continuous support and opportunities for professional development along with the opportunity to tackle meaningful issues through rotational placements in two different NRCan sectors.

**Sarah Froese** served as President of the MPPGA Student Association during her second year in the program. Post-graduation, she honed her research and collaboration skills by working on resource governance and energy policy research projects with the Liu Institute for Global Issues. She is now applying those skills in her role as

a Policy Analyst at the BC Assembly of First Nations, supporting their mission of advocating for the implementation of Indigenous Title and Rights, and treaty rights.

As part of our partnership with the United Nations Association of Canada (UNAC), **Hyun Ju Lee** was selected as a winner of the MPPGA Young Professional award. Winners of this award are selected based on their academic achievements, their readiness to work abroad, and their expertise related to roles in the UNAC International Development and Diplomacy Internship program. With this award, she launched her career as a Junior Professional Consultant at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh.

Hear more about Ju's experience in her SPPGA interview on the [SPPGA YouTube channel](#).



## Convening, Learning, & Engagement

**As an interdisciplinary, collaborative hub that contributes to developing policies and solutions to complex global and local issues, the SPPGA seeks to make our research relevant and accessible, beyond the university's traditional borders.**

Our programs and initiatives seek to generate new knowledge, raise awareness of pressing issues, create space for dialogue among academics, government, industry, and community members, and facilitate experiential, problem-focused learning for our students.

Our institutes and research centres serve as important conveners in learning and engagement. Through a robust programme of events and activities, SPPGA employs various formats of community engagement to generate new knowledge, raise awareness of pressing issues, and create space for interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue, while facilitating experiential learning for our students. Many of these activities and events are led by SPPGA faculty, and we often collaborate with community partners. These activities help our school strengthen engagement with both campus partners and external stakeholders, contributing to the fabric of teaching, learning and research that is UBC.





*"I gained practical knowledge and skills about the workings of government, thanks to the amazing IFL instructors, mentors, and the hands-on nature of the curriculum. This exposure also opened my eyes to the impact of legislation and policy decisions in advancing the welfare of communities."*

*- Rhoda Philip, IFL 2018 Participant*

*Image: IFL participant Rhoda Philip at Vancouver City Hall.*

## INSTITUTE FOR FUTURE LEGISLATORS

The Institute for Future Legislators (IFL), hosted by the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI), provides intensive hands-on mentoring and training for anyone who seeks the experience and knowledge necessary to make a difference—whether at the local, provincial, or federal level. Legislators play a critical role in addressing the most pressing issues we face today, but too often they arrive unprepared for the demands of office. The IFL prepares participants to not only know what to expect from the job, but to serve with integrity.

In 2018, 42 participants from diverse disciplinary and professional backgrounds, including MPPGA students, completed the IFL program by first attending weekend sessions at UBC and at Vancouver City Hall before traveling to Victoria for a parliamentary simulation. Practitioners who have been involved in the program include Andrea Reimer, George Abbott, Dawn Black, Larry Campbell, Ujjal Dosanjh, Mike Harcourt, Joy MacPhail, Preston Manning, Anne McLellan, Chuck Strahl, and Carole Taylor.

This year marked the beginning of expanding this program to other sites in Canada. Faculty and staff from Ryerson University traveled to Vancouver to observe and help lead the program after which they signed a Memorandum of Understanding to partner in hosting an IFL at Ryerson in 2019.

## WOMEN IN HOUSE PROGRAM

The UBC Women in House (WiH) Program is an innovative and practical program hosted by SPPGA that is aimed at promoting a greater level of female representation in the Canadian government. Participating female and female-identified students are paired with a Member of Parliament or Senator and spend a day directly observing political procedures, learning about gender equity, and engaging in mentorship and networking with Canadian political leaders.

Previously established at other Canadian universities, 2019 was the inaugural WiH Program at UBC through which ten students, including two MPPGA students, went to Ottawa for two days.

*Image: UBC Women in House Program participants and politicians in Ottawa, Canada.*





*Image: Musqueam Elder Larry Grant*

## REFUGEE & MIGRATION WORKING GROUP

As part of a four-year long partnership, representatives from MOSAIC, Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture, AMSSA, Options Community Services Society, Vancouver Immigration Partnership with the City of Vancouver, alongside SPPGA, UBC International Student Development office (including WUSC students), and the UBC Migration Research Excellence Cluster have been convening regularly as part of a working group with the aim of informing public discourse around refugees and migration. The group hosted a day-long forum on October 27, 2018 entitled, “The Unique Lived Experiences of Refugees in Metro Vancouver,” to highlight the contributions to our communities made by newcomers with disabilities and those from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex communities.

## INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The importance of building meaningful and lasting relationships with Musqueam cannot be underestimated. In this spirit, we acknowledge the ancestral lands at the start of each of our public events. We also worked closely with Elder Larry Grant and Vanessa Campbell from the Musqueam First Nations who bestowed the name, *xʷθəθiqəṭəm* (Place of Many Trees), upon the Liu Institute’s multipurpose space in 2018. We invite you to listen to the audio file to learn the pronunciation on our [SPPGA Facilities page](#).

Assistant Professor **Nadja Kunz** is contributing as a faculty mentor to the [Tene Mehodihi program](#) organized by and for youth of the Tahltan Nation of the far northwest interior of BC, where she has led water-monitoring activities with participating high school students. She has subsequently participated in discussions with Tahltan contacts regarding other potential educational initiatives in collaboration with UBC, focused on bridging Indigenous knowledge and western science.



# Our Workshops and Speaker Series



## POLICY IN PRACTICE SERIES

SPPGA's Policy in Practice series convenes public events around timely and immediate issues related to public policy and global affairs. Our speakers include both academics and policy practitioners who present their insights and engage in dialogue with our students, faculty, and broader community.

Experts and policy makers hosted as part of this series in 2018 include Stewart Patrick, Director of the International Institutions and Global Governance Program, Council on Foreign Relations; British High Commissioner, Susan Le Jeune d'Allegre; MP Jonathan Wilkinson; and former Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson.

As part of his effort to advance federal law and policy on plastic pollution, Associate Professor **David Boyd** organized a pair of well-received "Policy in Practice" panels: "A National Plastics Pollution Strategy for Canada" and "Environmental Impacts of Plastics and Initial Policies for their Control" hosted at SPPGA.



## WOMEN IN POLICY

Our Women in Policy series provides a space for students to engage in dialogue with female policy leaders, and also bring men into the conversation, so they can understand the barriers that women face in the policymaking world and find a way to contribute to eliminating those barriers.

In November 2018, SPPGA hosted an all-female Consul General panel on how Foreign Ministries promote gender equality globally. This dynamic discussion was followed by a more intimate career-focused roundtable by the Consul Generals for MPPGA students.

## DOC TALKS @ SPPGA

Doc Talks @ SPPGA is a new series providing a platform for newly defended UBC PhDs to share their research, and what potential impacts and implications it could have. The first SPPGA Doc talk was hosted in spring 2019, featuring Dr. Eric Merkley on the limitations of expert influence on public opinion, Dr. Marcelo Bravo on knowledge mobilization (KMb), and Dr. Shenaz Shahban on how Canadian federal policy can improve psychological well-being for citizens.

## THE SPLANE LECTURE IN SOCIAL POLICY

The annual Splane Lecture in Social Policy is a long-standing series organized through collaboration between the SPPGA, the UBC School of Social Work, and the Vancouver branch of the United Nations Association of Canada. In 2018 we hosted a sold out lecture delivered by former London School of Economics professor Dr. David Piachaud on the topic of "Poverty, Basic Income, and Social Policy," in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. In March 2019, Tzeporah Berman, a well-known Canadian environmental activist, campaigner and writer, joined us for a talk on Canada's climate plan.

## THE UBC FUTURE OF FOOD GLOBAL DIALOGUE SERIES

The [UBC Future of Food Global Dialogue Series](#) is a campus-wide initiative bringing together food security and sustainability experts from across the university and North America to regularly engage the UBC community and the public through a series of five to six dialogues per year on topics such as climate change, food security, biodiversity, social justice, culture, and policy. The series has been jointly convened by SPPGA, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, and UBC Sustainability.

Our fall 2018 event, "Economic democracy, food justice and human rights," featured the latest works of three prominent food security experts, Dr. Annette Desmarais, Dr. Andy Fisher, and Dr. Graham Riches.

## ASIA-RELATED EVENTS

### Asia Now Forum: Meng, Huawei, and Sino-Canadian Relations

The Asia Now Forum is a MPPGA student-led initiative, an element of the Asian Specialization Pilot Project at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. As part of this initiative, students organized a well-attended roundtable held on January 25, 2019 with professors Paul Evans (SPPGA), Wenran Jiang, Pitman Potter, and Yves Tiberghien as presenters. The discussion focused on the American request for the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, CFO of the Chinese tech company Huawei, which put Canada in a difficult place. Had Canada rejected the request, it was widely believed that this would have harmed Canada's relationship with the US. By accepting the request, Canada enraged China.

The regional research centres and programs of the Institute of Asian Research regularly host events on Asia Pacific policy matters, local, regional and global issues, culture and history throughout the year. Please find below only a sampling of their events.

The Lobby Gallery exhibition, *Belonging, Transformation, and Ethnographic Predicaments in Nepal's Himalaya*, was on display between February and April, 2019. It was co-sponsored by the [Himalaya Program](#), Institute of Asian Research. The photographs are a collection of work pertaining to social, environmental, political, and economic transformation among Himalayan communities in Mustang, Nepal.

The [Greater Central Asia Initiative](#) hosted a discussion on Afghanistan's democratic journey over the last 15 years with presentations by UBC and SFU scholars and policymakers.

The [Centre for Korean Research](#) hosted Dr. Nan Kim, Associate Professor in the Department of History at UW-Milwaukee, for a talk on reclaiming the traumatic past in public memory. Dr. Kim explored ongoing historical debates and developments in memory politics highlighted by the 70-year milestone since



**Image:** The Lobby Gallery exhibition, *Belonging, Transformation, and Ethnographic Predicaments in Nepal's Himalaya*, was on display between Feb. 1 – Apr. 30, 2019. It was co-sponsored by the Himalaya Program, Institute of Asian Research.

the 1948 Jeju Uprising, while also tracing past efforts that brought suppressed Jeju 4.3 historical memory into greater public awareness during recent decades.

The [Centre for Japanese Research](#) hosted a talk by Yumi Sugihara Yoshida, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Policy Management in Keio University, Japan, on promoting positive attitudes for linguistic and cultural diversity in higher education in Japan.

The [Centre for India and South Asia Research](#) hosted a talk by Liu Scholar Sameer Shah to critically explore the political-ecology of water and water infrastructures in the making of "drought free" villages in rural areas of Maharashtra (India).

The [Centre for Chinese Research](#) explored what changes China wants from the existing international order and what strategies it has adopted to bring about those changes in a talk by Dr. Songying Fang, Associate Professor of Political Science at Rice University, U.S. She explored how the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative may fit into a coherent strategy.

The [Centre for Southeast Asia Research](#) hosted a panel discussion on Southeast Asia's ascendance onto the global stage. With a selection of expert panellists on the region that included Professor **Paul Evans**, the discussion explored the economic, political and developmental landscape of Southeast Asia.

# SPPGA Institutes & Centres

SPPGA's three institutes, one centre, and five affiliated Asian research centres serve as catalysts for research and engagement with the policy community around the world. We also are joined by strong UBC partners that contribute to SPPGA's research, teaching, and learning through shared course offerings, joint faculty appointments, and research collaborations.

## LIU INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ISSUES

Founded in 1998, the Liu Institute for Global Issues is an interdisciplinary research hub for emerging global issues that strives to catalyze innovative thinking and positive change by bridging the gap between academics and practitioners and turning research into action. The Liu Institute is led by Director and Professor **M.V. Ramana** (Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security).

Two notable programs through which the Liu Institute contributes to student learning and community engagement on global issues are the [Liu Scholars Program](#) and Lobby Gallery Exhibitions.

The Liu Scholars program brings together exceptional UBC PhD students to support cross-disciplinary activities which engage and disseminate public policy and global affairs dimensions of their work. Liu Scholars are integrated into the network of faculty, research,

and community engagement activities that exists within the school.

[The Liu Lobby Gallery](#) fosters alternative and artistic forms of research dissemination through critical artistic expression, enabling a space for creative dialogue about global issues. It also seeks to build communication among students, faculty, researchers and the Vancouver public through the exhibition of innovative, engaging, and responsible art work.

The Liu Institute is named after Dr. Jieh Jow ("JJ") Liou, a distinguished international businessman, political figure and philanthropist, whose generous contributions through the Liu Foundation played an instrumental role in the research hub's creation.

**Image:** *The Lobby Gallery exhibition, The Colours of Food Security, facilitated by Professor Navin Ramankutty, Postdoctoral Fellow, Zia Mehrabi, and their Land Use and Global Environment (LUGE) research group, was on display from February 22 – March 31, 2018.*



## THE INSTITUTE OF ASIAN RESEARCH

The [Institute of Asian Research \(IAR\)](#), led by Director and Professor **Timothy Cheek** (SPPGA; History), is the focal point on Asia policy and current affairs at UBC, as well as for interdisciplinary scholarship on modern and pre-modern Asia. Since its founding in 1978, the IAR has served as the premier Asia-focused research institute and think tank in Canada, and remains an active hub for research, teaching, policy support, and community engagement.

Home to five interdisciplinary, regionally-focused research centres: the **Centre for Chinese Research; Centre for India and South Asia Research; Centre for Japanese Research; Centre for Korean Research, and Centre for Southeast Asia Research**, IAR aims to build knowledge and networks that support deep understanding and effective action on a wide range of domestic, regional, and global issues centered on Asia, through five key activities:

- Research, including individual and collaborative pursuits, and the publication of Pacific Affairs
- Teaching, including the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program
- Network-building across the University and with partners around the world
- Community interaction with Greater Vancouver's numerous Asian communities through regular public events
- Policy engagement with communities in Canada, the United States, and the Asia Pacific region

Among a robust offering of events, activities and programs supported by the IAR, notable initiatives which focus on policy issues in specific Asian contexts include the **UBC Himalaya Program**, jointly supported by IAR and the Faculty of Arts, and led by Associate Professors **Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology), **Tsering Shakya** (SPPGA; Asian Studies); as well as the **Greater Central Asia Initiative** and the **Program on Inner Asia**.

## THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS (CSDI)

The [Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions \(CSDI\)](#) supports publicly engaged research, teaching and knowledge-sharing on democratic practices and institutions, with a focus on citizen engagement and participation, constitutional governance, and transitional regimes. Led by Director **Max Cameron** [July 2011 – June 2019], Professor of Political Science and former SPPGA Faculty Associate, the Centre works with government and nongovernmental organizations and brings together scholars, public officials, and students from diverse backgrounds and a wide range of academic disciplines.

Through its programs, such as the summer [Institute for Future Legislators](#), CSDI promotes excellence in research and teaching, brings together scholars, public officials, and students from diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines, and works with governmental and non-governmental organizations.





*Image: Zakia, a graduate student from the University of Dar es Salaam, interviews a villager in Naligu, Mtwara region, Tanzania. Photo by Vinay Kamat.*

## CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CIRDI)

In the six years since its founding, [CIRDI](#) has become a respected hub of expertise on natural resource governance, gender equality and sustainable development. Under the present leadership of Chief Executive Officer **Elaine Pura**, CIRDI amplifies SPPGA's and UBC's global footprint and policy impact through applied research, experiential learning, technical excellence, and respectful partnerships.

CIRDI scales the impact of SPPGA-generated policy ideas towards achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by connecting end user governments and communities with faculty experts in order to share knowledge, data, and methods for sustainable, transparent, and accountable resource governance. Thematic issues addressed via CIRDI projects are public administration reform, integrated resource management, and artisanal and small-scale mining.

CIRDI has a global network of over 200 partners in 42 countries, including 56 government agencies and 40 academic institutions. This reach enables SPPGA faculty and students to

engage in real-world, real-time policy decision-making. CIRDI's team has also delivered technical presentations to policymakers at the World Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, Global Environmental Facility, Organization of American States, Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative, and Global Affairs Canada.

Cumulative accomplishments by CIRDI in advancing sustainable natural resource governance include:

- 20 projects completed in 22 countries
- Masters Programs launched in Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Peru to enhance capacity for sustainable resource governance
- 200+ academic papers, reports, and analyses supporting knowledge mobilization
- 40+ students employed and engaged through co-op and Work Learn, and GAA and GRA positions
- 4,000 stakeholders trained on related issues, with 2,000+ government staff reporting increased access to information on leading sustainability practices
- 13 resource sector policies/policy frameworks developed with support from CIRDI

# Acknowledgements

The success of SPPGA has relied on the expertise, support, and friendship of individuals and entities within the broader UBC community and beyond. With the aim to become a thriving campus- and community-wide policy hub, the **SPPGA Partnership Council** was created to provide a unique and important space for strategic reflection and guidance, comprising representatives from UBC's Department of Political Science, the Vancouver School of Economics, the Graduate School of Journalism, the Allard School of Law, the School of Population and Public Health, the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, the School of Community and Regional Planning, Sauder School of Business, the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering, the Faculty of Applied Science, the Department of Educational Studies, and the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

SPPGA is immensely grateful to members of the Partnership Council and others who have been instrumental to our vision, mission, and activities thus far. We look ahead with great excitement to possibilities for further cross-campus collaboration and opportunities to work together to tackle the world's most pressing policy challenges.

SPPGA is also thankful for the support of the [Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability \(IRES\)](#), led by Director and Professor **Milind Kandlikar** (on sabbatical during the 2018-2019 reporting year). IRES supported the founding of the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program, and continues to contribute to SPPGA's mission in research, teaching, and learning through shared course offerings, joint faculty appointments, and research collaborations.

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Numbers highlighted in this section were synthesized from 15 of 18 individual annual reports from SPPGA faculty. Many of our core faculty are cross-appointed with other UBC departments. Please see [sppga.ubc.ca](http://sppga.ubc.ca) for detailed faculty profiles.

<sup>2</sup> Data collected through interviews and 2018-19 faculty annual reports. Activities were coded iteratively into key research areas, policy influence, and public engagement functions of the school. Numbers reported are conservative, based on available data. Numbers do not reflect faculty on sabbatical for the 2018/19 Academic year, nor faculty associates who are not appointed at SPPGA.

<sup>3</sup> This snapshot employs a broad characterization of ‘working with’, including but not limited to providing expert advice or high-level briefs, research partnerships, community-based collaborations, academic engagement (e.g. teaching, conference participation), and advocacy.



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