



2019 – 2020

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'qəmin'əm' speaking Musqueam people.



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



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Director's Statement



As the Acting Director of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, I could not be more impressed by the students, staff, and faculty for their efforts in making 2019-20 a successful year in the face of unprecedented difficulties. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and prioritizing everyone's health and safety, we moved our courses online, shifted to remote work, canceled major events, and closed our two buildings, all in the space of a week. And we did so cooperatively, as part of a larger system that included the Faculty of Arts, the University, and the Province.

As a microcosm of the world, our academic community is finding ways to address the impacts of climate change and the blight of racism and violence. We offered the "Thinking While Black" series on racial violence with the Phil Lind Initiative. With our SPPGA Community Fund, we sponsored activities such as an art exhibition with members of the Tahltan Nation. We have also started a Fellowship in the Practice of Policy, welcoming in Andrea Reimer who has set a high bar by mentoring and teaching students, helping create a certificate program, and engaging in collaborations across campus.

Our faculty, many of whom share cross-appointments with other UBC units, are at the forefront of global policy issues like assessing the Canada-China relationship, tracking the risks of nuclear energy, encouraging sustainable fishing practices, and advocating for Indigenous rights.

A faculty-wide participatory process resulted in the identification of major research themes for development, such as engagement with China, food security, and Indigenous governance. We also made considerable progress in preparation for future fundraising campaigns. A focus on Asia is part of what makes SPPGA distinctive, and the adoption of an Asia concentration in our Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program reflects this recognition. Professor Timothy Cheek, as Director of the Institute of Asian Research (IAR), has undertaken a major process of rethinking the vision and governance of the IAR.

We have hired new faculty! It has been a delight to bring on board Professors Kristen Hopewell and Matias Margulis. We have also conducted two Canada Research Chair searches, one in the area of global health policy and the other in the area of gender and development. Above all, we will be delighted to welcome our new Director, Allison Macfarlane.

SPPGA is blessed to have extraordinarily talented and devoted staff. I also want to thank Shashi Enarth for his contributions as MPPGA Graduate Program Director and welcome Professor George Hoberg as our new Graduate Director. I wish to acknowledge the role of our MPPGA students. They have shown their sense of solidarity by creating an emergency fund in the face of COVID-19 and they have been extraordinarily collaborative in our Contingency Planning Task Force. Our students are the lifeblood of SPPGA, and they give cause for optimism about the future.

If we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that sometimes adversity brings us together and that we are stronger working together. I am excited to see what unfolds at SPPGA in the upcoming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Cameron".

MAX CAMERON, ACTING DIRECTOR

Looking Forward



The 2019-2020 year has been a difficult one for many of us in the academic world. Faculty and staff have had to manage the shift to online teaching and operations and students have had to deal with online learning and the sudden absence of their peer community. SPPGA has risen to the challenge thoughtfully with the excellent leadership of Professor Max Cameron as Acting Director. I am looking forward to working with SPPGA's impressive faculty, staff, and students in the coming years and facing these and other challenges together as we continue to increase the strong reputation of SPPGA and the MPPGA program in Canada and abroad.

The coronavirus pandemic has starkly displayed the value of good public policy. Countries with clear health and safety policies have been able to control the virus whereas countries without clear policy have not. Now more than ever is the research, training, and outreach done by the SPPGA community needed and valued.

Our own work, as faculty and staff, and the teaching we provide to the next generation of policy leaders, our students, is essential in creating a fair, equitable, and thriving world for future generations. And one of the challenges we must face in 2020-2021 and beyond is that of racial justice. Under SPPGA leadership, the conversations have already begun. We will see these ideas put into action in the coming year.

I look forward to getting to know the entire SPPGA community in the coming year and working with everyone to develop a strategic vision for the SPPGA going forward. We will work to continue to fill new faculty positions in areas of needed coverage; we will work to support new and exciting research; we will work to establish strong linkages around campus; we will strengthen student opportunities in the MPPGA program and work to increase the program size; we will make SPPGA a home not just to faculty, staff, and students, but to policymakers themselves, so that our work can have real impact. Overall, we will make SPPGA an exciting hub of research and outreach to the larger policy community.

I look forward to embarking on this journey together with the SPPGA community and am very excited about the wealth of possibilities for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Allison MacFarlane".

**ALLISON MACFARLANE,
INCOMING DIRECTOR**



SPPGA Vision & Strengths

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.

Global affairs and 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, as well as human security.

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

With three institutes, six centres, and a community engagement office, SPPGA is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary hub for innovation, research, learning, and collaboration around the world. Learn more about our [Core Partners](#) and [Partners](#) on our website.

Image: MPPGA Program Manager Julia Park and MPPGA alumnus Ali Bajwa walk together near the Liu Institute for Global Issues.

SPPGA at a Glance

20 FACULTY
MEMBERS
CONDUCTING
RESEARCH
AND POLICY
ENGAGEMENT IN

25+ COUNTRIES

77 MPPGA
STUDENTS IN TWO
COHORTS,
REPRESENTING

24
NATIONALITIES

99 REFEREED

AND **73**
NON-REFEREED
PUBLICATIONS

200 + MEDIA
MENTIONS IN
MAJOR VANCOUVER,
CANADIAN
AND GLOBAL
PUBLICATIONS

136 EVENTS
CONVENED, REACHING

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

20,000+
ONLINE AUDIENCE
MEMBERS VIA
LIVESTREAMING



Policy in Action: Spotlight on Urgent Global Issues

Thinking While Black - The Phil Lind Initiative

In early 2020, SPPGA hosted the sixth series of the [Phil Lind Initiative](#), an annual high profile speaker series made possible by donor and UBC alumnus Phil Lind. SPPGA delivered events with Claudia Rankine, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Roxane Gay on the theme of Thinking While Black, which was designed by a committee of UBC scholars. The final two events, with Ibram X. Kendi and Jesmyn Ward, were postponed until fall 2020 due to COVID-19. The series invited us to consider Blackness as both a culture and a mode of thinking. “Thinking While Black” explored the structures of race in North America and highlighted the seemingly disconnected forms of racial violence that hide in plain sight.

This initiative 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 seminar.

In honour of Black History Month and reflecting on the Thinking While Black series, MPPGA student Joshua Diemert hosted two classmates on the [Policy Roundtable podcast](#). Esther Ocheni and Edwin Edou compared their time spent on three continents and provided recommendations to UBC on how to give Black students the best campus experience.

Image: Ta-Nehisi Coates in conversation with Professor Sara Ghebremusse in the Chan Centre Concert Hall.



Global Climate Strike and Climate Change Dialogues

In September 2019, millions of people worldwide left their schools and workplaces to demand that the climate crisis be acted on as an emergency. SPPGA supported the Global Climate Strike by suspending classes on September 27, joining the UBC event and broader march, and issuing a [statement on the climate emergency](#). At SPPGA, we recognize the need for a drastic shift in public policy to combat the growing threat of climate change.

We held weekly discussions, open to the SPPGA community, to establish a series of climate actions for the school. Through these conversations, we explored how individual and collective change can lead to a reduction in our carbon footprint with the aim of a better global climate future. The discussion resulted in the SPPGA Climate Action Plan that will guide the school's climate actions moving forward.

We commit to not only reducing the carbon footprint of our own activities, but also to fostering proactive research, teaching, and engagement to help British Columbia, Canada, and the world find a just path to meet the goal of the Paris Agreement global warming limit.

The MPPGA Program's COVID-19 Response

When the university shifted from in-person instruction to emergency online teaching over one weekend in March 2020, both instructors and students found themselves in an unfamiliar environment and one that demanded quick action. SPPGA struck a contingency planning taskforce comprised of faculty, students, and staff to discuss planning for the multiple possible scenarios they would face over the summer and into fall.

We shifted funds from other projects to support research assistantships for our students as employers were facing too much uncertainty to hire students. The program and the MPPGA Student Association also came together to launch an emergency support fund to provide additional relief for our students facing financial difficulty.

Image: MPPGA students at the 2019 Climate Strike in Vancouver.



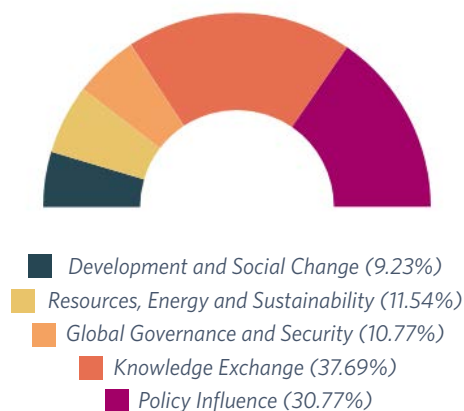
Research & Impact

We seek to ensure our research is relevant and accessible to communities beyond the university's traditional borders. We do this by engaging with governments, non-profit organizations, and community groups in our research, by applying our research in interdisciplinary projects both locally and globally, by publishing resources, and by facilitating opportunities on campus and in the community for knowledge dissemination and exchange. By doing so, we aim to forge stronger links between research, development, and innovation.

SPPGA FACULTY SNAPSHOT

In 2019-20, SPPGA had 20 core faculty members¹, as well as numerous faculty associates, fellows, and research assistants. Our faculty encompass cross-disciplinary backgrounds with a broad range of policy engagement, research, and knowledge exchange activities 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 presentations, trainings, symposia, and lectures, are reflected as knowledge exchange. As well, policy influence captures 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).

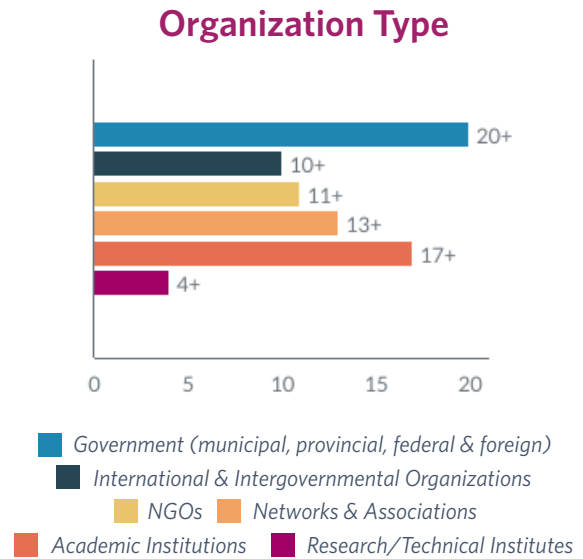
Research, Engagement and Knowledge Exchange Activities



The graphic above highlights the scope and diversity of activities our faculty have reported over the 2019-20 year.²

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

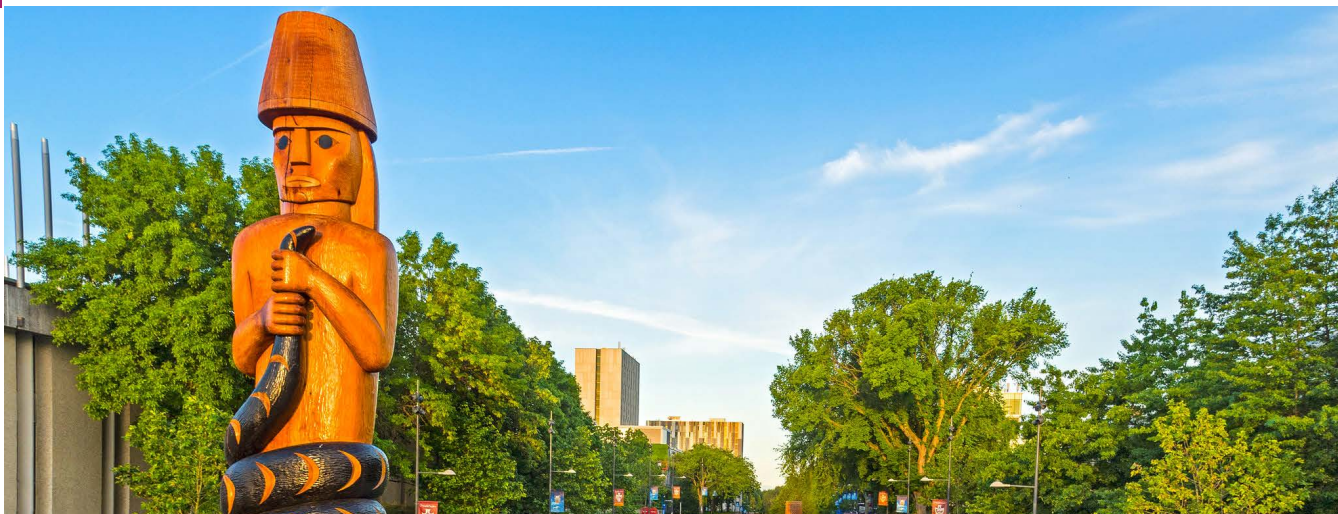
From engagement with women in Uganda to scholars in Myanmar to United Nations briefings, faculty members contribute to building SPPGA's relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders across British Columbia, Canada, and the globe. In our rich context of collaboration and partnership, activities included work with various levels of governments, both in Canada and internationally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, and others (see **graph, Organization Type**)³:



WHERE WE ARE WORKING

Various SPPGA faculty members are working on issues that are truly global in nature, such as the impacts of climate change, human rights issues, resource governance, and Indigenous policy. The corresponding map demonstrates the geographic presence of SPPGA faculty this past year, highlighting loci of activities in relation to research, knowledge exchange, and community collaborations.





Highlights of Faculty-led Projects

The following section profiles major SPPGA faculty-led projects in 2019-2020. SPPGA faculty members pursue research that is interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, crossing the boundaries of both humanities and the sciences. Many of our scholars work together on projects, or with other units at UBC and with community organizations. Their work reflects local issues that concern Canadians as well as citizens in regions around the world, from China to Colombia.

Indigenous Human Rights

In 2019, the B.C. government passed legislation on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act to implement the UN Declaration, which the Truth and Reconciliation Commission confirms as the framework for reconciliation. This past year also saw the failure of similar legislation federally. Together with partners in the Canadian Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Canada Research Chair (CRC) of Global Indigenous Rights and Politics Professor **Sheryl Lightfoot** (SPPGA; Political Science; First Nations and Indigenous Studies), participated in meetings in Ottawa, Vancouver, and Victoria to develop both pieces of legislation. As a result of this activity, she was an invited guest at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia when legislation was tabled in October.

Prof. Lightfoot takes up complex questions of Indigenous human rights and how those rights are being claimed, negotiated, and implemented in global and national spaces. She progressed

through the third year of her existing SSHRC grant, “Complex Sovereignties: Theory and Practice of Indigenous Self-Determination in Settler States and the International System,” together with Professor David MacDonald of Guelph University. The project examines assertive, creative, and innovative practices of Indigenous self-determination in multi-national, cross-border, and global contexts.

Prof. Lightfoot secured a SSHRC Connections Grant which was used to co-organize an international symposium on Indigenous Peoples and Borders, held at Columbia University. Furthermore, as a part of her CRC, she secured UBC Strategic Funds, organized an international seminar, and facilitated dialogue on the topic of repatriation of Indigenous cultural property and human remains, in support of the work of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at UBC. The findings will support the development of international UN standards for repatriation.

Image: *The Musqueam s̓n̓i:łqəy̓ qeqəṇ (double-headed serpent post), carved by Brent Sparrow at UBC’s Vancouver campus.*

Regulating Plastic Pollution

The issue of plastic pollution is pervasive and complex. Plastic is everywhere, from our oceans to urban parks to farmers' fields. Plastic poses a threat not only to marine life as well as land-based animals, but to humans as well. Microscopic plastic particles have been detected in drinking water, food, and in the air we breathe. Scientists are scrambling to understand plastic's impacts, and new research is published weekly. However, what we do know is that this is a global problem that urgently demands global solutions.

In June 2019, Professor **David Boyd** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) contributed to the Government of Canada's decision to comprehensively regulate plastic pollution. With colleague Usman Valiante, a senior policy analyst, they helped the federal government to pivot away from a plan to announce a major scientific study on plastic pollution. Instead, Canada announced a plan, based on their advice, to meet or beat the world-leading plastic pollution policies of the European Union. This announcement committed to supporting the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's development of an action plan to implement the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste. Prof. Boyd and Valiante are continuing to provide advice on the effective implementation of Canada's commitments.

Globally, Prof. Boyd continued in his role as UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and has been a leading force to identify and advocate for impactful solutions, both in Canada and internationally. He presented reports to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (clean air) and the UN General Assembly in New York (safe climate) and has actively supported the progress being made towards a United Nations resolution recognizing the universal human right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Image: Professor David Boyd.



Canada-China Tensions

The past year has seen a widening rift in the Canada-China relationship, characterized by concern about two Canadians arbitrarily detained in China, intense media attention and negative commentary, and increasing anxieties about Chinese domestic and international behaviour on issues related to Xinjiang and Hong Kong. In the work of Professor **Paul Evans**, he examined these tensions in his collaborative research, media outreach, workshops and presentations, and policy briefings, many of which occurred in Ottawa.

As part of a project with Public Safety Canada, Prof. Evans organized two China symposia for intelligence and security officials from eleven different agencies and departments. This was the foundation for meetings including senior officials, Members of Parliament, Senators, staffers, researchers, and others in media and consulting. The major topics covered included the Huawei file and the impact on Canada of the US-China confrontation. This was reflected in Prof. Evans' testimony before the Special Parliamentary Committee on Canada-China Relations in February 2020 and a variety of speeches and media comments throughout the year.

Working with Xiaojun Li and Pascale Massot, Prof. Evans continued the national opinion surveys on Canada-China matters, which were widely

circulated in Ottawa policy circles. The [October 2019 survey](#) probed views on a wide range of perceptions, beliefs, and policy preference and found that public attitudes were surprisingly stable and generally supportive of continued contact at multiple levels with China, despite significant worries and uncertainties about China and a lack of trust in the United States.

In September 2019, the Centre for Chinese Research held a two-day workshop, “China Choices”, co-convened by Professors **Timothy Cheek** and **Paul Evans** to discuss contemporary political development in China and its subsequent impact on global governance. The workshop generated an informed discussion of the dynamics of the current situation and options for government, universities and civil society, in collaboration with partners from Canada, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and the University of California at Berkeley. Profs. Cheek and Evans then released a report entitled, [China Choices: Recalibrating Engagement in a Turbulent Era, Canadian and Australian Views](#).

Gender, Memory, and Justice in the Aftermaths of Mass Violence

Landmark UN Security Council Resolution 2467 recognizes for the first time children born of sexual violence and exploitation in settings of conflict as a particular victim group and strengthens survivor-led approaches to justice. It celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the historic Women, Peace and Security agenda which recognized gendered dimensions of armed conflict, setting a new global agenda. Professor **Erin Baines**, Ivan Head South-North IDRC Chair, has spearheaded a policy series exploring new directions in the WPS agenda. As part of a SSHRC Insight Development grant, she explored the potential role that fathers and paternal relatives may play in assuming responsibility for the well-being of children ‘born of war’. Prof. Baines and SPPGA research associate Camile Oliveira reflected on this in a [Chatham House podcast](#) and an [International Affairs article](#).

SPPGA is a partner and Prof. Baines a co-applicant in the [Conjugal Slavery in War](#) (CSiW) SSHRC

Partnership Grant, which documents cases of so-called forced marriage in conflict situations, places this data in historical context, and explores the impact of international prosecutions. The CSiW partnership, building on long-term relationships between SPPGA and community based survivor associations in Uganda, contributed to an exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights titled “[Ododo Wa: Stories of Girls in War](#).” The exhibit traces the journey of two women from Uganda – Evelyn Amony and Grace Acan – who were abducted and held captive for years by a rebel group, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). After their ordeal, Evelyn and Grace discovered the power of using their voices to find healing and seek justice for women who survived captivity with the LRA.

A second focus area for Prof. Baines is to develop a framework to understand what makes memory in the aftermaths of violence transformative. Together with Dr. Pilar Riaño-Alcalá, a professor at UBC’s Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice Institute, Prof. Baines is the co-principal investigator of a SSHRC Partnership Development grant on [Transformative Memory](#). During the reporting period, they co-created two five-day international knowledge exchanges in Uganda and Colombia with artists, academics, and activists from Canada, Indonesia, Peru, and northern Ireland, and in public events and artistic exhibits brought participants, community based groups, social movement leaders, policy makers, and museum curators into conversation.

Image: Evelyn (L), Grace (M) and Erin (R) at the launch of Ododo Wa at the CMHR. Credit: Erin Baines.





DEEPENING COLLABORATIONS

Extrajudicial Detention in Xinjiang

Currently, over one million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic Muslim peoples are detained in what Chinese authorities have termed 're-education camps' in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Northwest China (PRC). [The Xinjiang Documentation Project](#) offers a chronological documentation of reports on the ongoing troubling events in Xinjiang and collects, preserves, assesses and makes available documentary information on the extrajudicial detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other peoples in the region. This multi-disciplinary research project is founded and co-directed by Professor **Timothy Cheek** (SPPGA; History), Director of the Institute of Asian Research, and Guldana Salimjan at Simon Fraser University.

The project further aims to integrate research methods from the social sciences, humanities, and other disciplines for the documentation and analysis of the on-ground situation. Contributors to the project have included MPPGA alumni Ali Bajwa and Sean Wu, as well as MPPGA student Michael Law.

***Image:** Prof. Shneiderman describing the project to community members at a school in Dhading district, Nepal. January 2020.*

Post-Disaster Reconstruction in Nepal

Five years after major earthquakes hit Nepal in 2015, a transdisciplinary research partnership is documenting communities' experience of post-earthquake reconstruction. Professors **Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology) and **Philippe Le Billon** (SPPGA; Geography), along with colleagues in Nepal, Denmark, and elsewhere in Canada, are exploring how social transformation occurs in relation to shifting labour markets and conditions of high mobility in places where post-conflict and post-disaster processes intersect. In the third year of their SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, "[Expertise, Labour and Mobility in Nepal's Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster Reconstruction](#)", key activities included a final workshop, fieldwork for which Prof. Shneiderman traveled to Nepal; the launch of a new working paper series hosted by research partner Social Science Baha in Kathmandu, and other publications. These activities led to further policy engagements in Nepal, with a range of organizations.

Prof. Shneiderman organized a [workshop and roundtable discussion](#) in Vancouver that brought findings from their Nepal-based research into conversation with scholars and practitioners focused on disaster preparedness here and in other global contexts. Together, these sessions generated media interest, and led to additional collaborations with colleagues in engineering, planning, and earth sciences, including through the newly funded UBC/UW Cascadia Research Mobility grant.

Environmental and Land Defenders

Professor **Philippe Le Billon** (SPPGA; Geography) co-led and participated in a series of meetings and workshops with environmental and human rights organizations seeking to support environmental and land defenders on the protection of physical integrity rights among environmental activists and rural community leaders. These initiatives with researchers and policymakers were held in Brazil, Ecuador, and culminated in Switzerland as part of the Geneva Road Map to Protect Environmental Defenders during the UN Human Rights Council meeting in February 2020. The events brought together two UN Special Rapporteurs, the head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the mayor of Geneva.

As Principal Investigator (PI) of a SSHRC Insight-funded five-year project on this area, Prof. Le Billon's main audience has been policy makers and defenders organizations.

Fisheries Databases & Science Policy Advocacy

Ensuring healthy oceans is critical to feeding our planet now and into the future. Professor **Rashid Sumaila** (SPPGA; Institute of Oceans & Fisheries), Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Ocean and Fisheries Economics, spends much of his time conducting research on and encouraging sustainable fishing practices and ending harmful fisheries subsidies.

As Research Director of the SSHRC funded OceanCanada Partnership, a national research network, Prof. Sumaila continued to build large-scale national and global socio-economic databases such as ex-vessel fish prices, fishing subsidies, the cost of fishing, and fishing jobs. These databases are now part of the oceans and fisheries data infrastructure that are used to conduct scholarly work not only by UBC researchers but also colleagues from around the world. He completed a major update on the UBC Fisheries Economics Research Unit's fisheries

subsidies database, which is used by many country ambassadors and negotiators at the World Trade Organization, and disseminated the paper globally – in every continent except Antarctica.



Above: Prof. Rashid Sumaila with MPPGA alumnus Raphael Roman and Co-op & Career Services Manager Kerry Ross.
Next page: Radioactive material area.

Partnership and Knowledge Exchange in North Korea

The Canada-DPRK Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP) represents a vehicle to engender academic exchanges and human capacity building in North Korea with its power of knowledge

sharing. As KPP Director and Korea Foundation Chair, Professor **Kyung-Ae Park** hosted six North Korean professors for their six-month period of study at UBC in 2019. In response to a rising interest of environmental protection in North Korea, KPP brought scholars specializing in



environmental studies to UBC in 2019 – a first for the program.

In addition, Prof. Park organized two workshops in North Korea with North Korean scholars and policy experts. She also delivered several presentations and conducted extensive policy consultations and briefings on both current North Korean affairs and KPP activities with its key stakeholders across Canada, the US, North Korea, South Korea, China, Brazil, and the UN.

Nuclear Energy and the Risks of War

Research and writing conducted by Professor **M.V. Ramana**, Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security and the Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues, focuses on the risks related to nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. A major focus has been critically assessing small modular reactor (SMR) proposals, especially in Canada. He has been closely involved with civil society groups in evaluating these proposals, including with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, and was invited to brief the leader of the Green Party in Ontario in March on the problems with SMRs and nuclear energy in general.

Agriculture and Global Environmental Change

Two pressing global issues include climate change and sustainable food systems. Within

this intersection, Professor **Navin Ramankutty** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) and Canada Research Chair on Global Environmental Change and Food Security, has focused on agriculture as one of the major drivers of global environmental change, implicated in climate change, biodiversity loss, and degradation of water resources.

Prof. Ramankutty's research group, Land Use and Global Environment (LUGE) Research Group, which is comprised of UBC research associates and doctoral students, is helping develop an "Adaptation Atlas" to map smallholder exposure and vulnerability to climate change and potential adaptation options. This work, led by the Gates Foundation, is a follow-up from a report of the Global Commission on Adaptation. LUGE has also been developing an online platform, 'AgEvidence', to provide policymakers with easy access to global case study data on the effectiveness of various interventions in agricultural systems.

Building Capacity for Policy Research in Myanmar

Post-transition Myanmar is in critical need of training future members of its civilian government. Professor **Kai Ostwald** (SPPGA; Political Science) is leading a program that is the first of its kind in the country to build capacity for policy research among faculty members and advanced graduate students at Yangon University of Economics (YUE). As part of the third year of

the International Development Research Centre-funded program, Prof. Ostwald also invited two executive students from YUE to attend the UBC MPPGA. Additionally, he worked with the Head of YUE's Economics Department and the Rector of YUE on a curriculum plan for a new Masters of Public Policy program at YUE. It will be the first program of its kind in the country and is urgently needed.

Parallel to the YUE program, Prof. Ostwald led training sessions focused on building research capacity to two non-governmental organizations that are involved in the peace process and gender equality in Myanmar. He received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant to move into new research that focuses on drivers of conflict in Myanmar.

NOTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPPGA Welcomed Faculty Members

To begin the New Year, SPPGA welcomed Professor **Kristen Hopewell**, Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Global Policy, as well as Professor **Matias Margulis**, who is jointly appointed with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, to our academic community. Both professors look forward to working with MPPGA students and colleagues and to sharing their academic expertise and professional experiences.

Kristen Hopewell specializes in international trade, global governance, industrial policy and development, with a focus on emerging powers and has published extensively in both academic journals and policy-oriented venues. Prior to entering academia, she worked as a trade official for the Canadian government and as an investment banker for Morgan Stanley.

Matias Margulis' research and teaching interests are in global governance, development, human

rights, international law, and food policy. Matias has extensive professional experience in the field of international policymaking and is a former Canadian representative to the World Trade Organization, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Andrea Reimer, SPPGA's First Policy Practitioner Fellow

Andrea Reimer is the first Policy Practitioner Fellow to join SPPGA. During her decade on Vancouver City Council, Andrea initiated a number of initiatives, including the City of Vancouver's award-winning effort to be the Greenest City on earth and Vancouver's nationally significant municipal framework for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. She has been a strong public voice in Vancouver and the metro region, with a focus on working with residents to build green, reconciled, engaged communities and making government easy for the public to access. Recently, she returned from Harvard where she had a year in residence after being awarded a

Image: Andrea Reimer and Prof. Gerald Baier speak to MPPGA students.



prestigious Loeb Fellowship in recognition of her achievements in civic leadership.

As a Policy Practitioner Fellow, Andrea has given various talks to the UBC community, is helping to expand the work of CSDI's Institute of Future Legislators, and is partnering with UBC's Centre for Community Engaged Learning to establish a Democracy Lab. In early 2020, Andrea launched an 'Ask Me Anything' initiative, inviting the community into discussions about power and practice, and the practical challenges of policy-making.

The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement Joined SPPGA

The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE), led by Director **Tamara Baldwin**, has joined the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs as a partner of the school. ORICE has a university-wide mandate, and is committed to addressing complex social and ecological challenges in collaboration with an impressive network of community partners in Canada and around the world.

ORICE has specialized knowledge and a robust track record in experiential learning pedagogy and facilitation, with a core mandate of delivering cross-disciplinary academic and co-curricular programming, such as the International Service Learning (ISL) Program, regionally-based community engagement, and UBC courses that bring community partners and their current areas of focus into the classroom.

Professor Julian Dierkes and Team Awarded Public Outreach Award

Professor **Julian Dierkes**, Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research, and his team have been awarded the 2019 Public Outreach Award by the Central Eurasian Studies Society for their comprehensive blog on current Mongolian affairs, [Mongolia Focus](#). The Public Outreach Award recognizes exceptional work that

makes knowledge of Central Eurasia accessible to a broad audience, and makes impactful contributions to this field of study.

Mongolia Focus provides current news, information, and analyses related to Mongolia and aims to make this content available and accessible for both academic and public audiences. The blog also features academic research results that are reformulated for the broader audience, as well as special posts from guest authors.

Professor Maxwell Cameron Received Distinguished Fellow Award by CALACS

Maxwell Cameron, SPPGA Acting Director and Professor of Political Science, was selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Fellow Award for 2020 by The Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS). This distinction is conferred to members and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to CALACS and whose actions have contributed to furthering its vision and mission. Prof. Cameron is recognized for a long list of critical texts that have been influential in shaping scholarship in political science in Canada. He has also served as an advisor to the Organization of American States and founded the "Andean Democracy Research Network" to monitor and report on the state of democracy in the region.

Professor David Boyd Recognized as Global Champion for Escazu Agreement

David Boyd, Professor and UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, was recognized as a "Global Champion for Escazu Agreement" by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. As a globally important treaty for the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, it guarantees the right to a healthy environment and provides citizens with all the tools they need to enjoy that right.



Policy in Action: Spotlight on Indigenous Policy & Engagement

Leadership by Professor Sheryl Lightfoot

As a part of her role as Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs, Professor **Sheryl Lightfoot** (SPPGA; Political Science; First Nations and Indigenous Studies) led the team, which included MPPGA alumnus Alex Ash, that developed the renewed [UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan](#). This year, they have engaged in deep and broad consultation, with more than 2500 Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty, staff, students across both campuses, university leadership, alumni, and Indigenous community partners participating. Under her leadership, UBC will be the first university in the world to launch a strategic plan to implement the UN Declaration.

Prof. Lightfoot has developed a new course,

“Global Indigenous Rights, Politics and Policy,” to be offered by SPPGA in the 2020 Winter session. The course considers global, regional and domestic issues for implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including historical, political, legal and policy aspects.

Collaboration with the Tahltan Nation

Professor Nadja Kunz (SPPGA; Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering), Canada Research Chair in Mine Water Management and Stewardship, continued her contributions as a faculty mentor for the [Tene Mehodihi program](#) organized by and for youth of the Tahltan Nation, where she led water-monitoring activities with high school students. Tene Mehodihi is a land-

based education program started and led by Tahltan Youth to prepare future generations to thrive by revitalization of cultural practices and combining traditional and scientific knowledge.

[Our Ancestors' Trail](#) opened as an exhibit in the Lobby Gallery at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and at the Museum of Anthropology in February 2020. The project showcased artwork and archeological work that occurred as part of the Tene Mehodihi program and reflected collaboration between Tahltan youth, artists, scientists, educators, cultural practitioners, Elders, and allies who support and teach youth to learn and realize Tahltan ways of knowing. The work also reflects the contributions by Prof. Kunz, who jointly applied for SPPGA Community Funds in collaboration with Prof. Candis Callison (Graduate School of Journalism and the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies; Tahltan scholar) to host this exhibit. The exhibit was also supported by Liu Scholar and Lobby Gallery curator Jeff O'Brien, and was made possible by further financial and in-kind contributions from various UBC units and community partners. Professors Callison and Kunz were also recently awarded a SSHRC Connection grant to support a closing public event, including a panel that will situate Tene Mehodihi amongst other land-based education programs.

Previous page: Artwork from *Our Ancestors' Trail* exhibition.

Below: *Our Ancestors' Trail* exhibition opening, Liu Lobby Gallery.



Collaboration with the First Nation Fisheries Council of BC

CRC Professor **Rashid Sumaila** (SPPGA; Institute of Oceans & Fisheries) continues his collaboration with the First Nation Fisheries Council of BC (FNFC), led by Deana Machin, to develop a marine ecosystem valuation approach that will account for the many important values to First Nations that conventional economic approaches are unable to capture.

Looking to the Future - SPPGA Commitment

At SPPGA, faculty and staff commit to pursuing the following actions in the area of Indigenous Policy and Engagement:

- Following the recommendations as outlined in the UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan, which will officially launch in September 2020;
- Supporting UBC's Indigenous research, learning and engagement, providing a space that promotes inclusion, respect and accountability;
- Based upon SPPGA's proposal on Indigenous Governance submitted to the UBC President's Academic Excellence Initiative:
 - Work with Professor Sheryl Lightfoot on a set of courses with a global approach, that includes feminist perspectives, and is designed jointly with the UBC Allard School of Law on Indigenous policy;
 - Continue the discussions around faculty hiring to expand SPPGA's expertise on local and global Indigenous policy;
 - Partner with Indigenous communities on and off campus to address the legacy of colonialism and to co-develop knowledge, programming, and relationships. This includes deepening our engagement with xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), upon whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory we study and work.

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs Program

The MPPGA program supports students in developing the critical knowledge, skills, and experience required to respond effectively to the challenges of today and the future. The 2019-2020 academic year saw many exciting developments for the [MPPGA program](#) along with the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In February 2020, the UBC Senate approved the following changes to the MPPGA curriculum: two new core courses on professional skills and leadership; strengthened core offerings on research design and methods; and, a new integrative approach to our economics courses. These courses will be launched in fall 2020.

In mid-March, 2020, the MPPGA program made an immediate shift to online teaching in response to the pandemic. Our students and faculty are experiencing policy implementation first-hand during what is proving to be one of the biggest policy challenges of our time.



ALUMNI RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In this ever-changing environment, the foundational policy analysis skills our students are learning will be vital as they move into the workforce to tackle these complex issues. Many of our alumni are already working in the field on COVID-related issues:

[Kiran Alwani](#) ('17) is working at Natural Resources Canada, looking at how various countries across the world are responding to the ongoing crisis, and

what lessons we can learn from responses to the previous economic crisis.

[Adrianna Spyker](#) ('19) is working for the Fraser Health Authority, liaising with multiple-stakeholders by providing information and support for decision-making and operation in addition to identifying and connecting missing-links or gaps, particularly during the COVID-19 response.

[Aboozar Ahmadi](#) ('19), at the Policy Group at the Canadian Department of National Defence, has been focused on providing policy advice to the

Minister of National Defence and other senior defence officials to support the Defence Team's efforts as part of the Whole-of-Government response to COVID-19.

These alumni and others are working towards positive change to meet an unprecedented health crisis that has growing impacts on society and the global economy.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

MPPGA student [Cassandra Jeffery](#) and Professor **Timothy Cheek** co-wrote an article that highlighted the continued socio-political strain between China and Hong Kong that affects the Chinese diaspora in Canada. While the polarization of ideologies is causing divisive conflicts within the community – in addition to tensions sparked by the recent COVID-19 pandemic – their research points to promising solutions to the current unrest. This piece was a follow-up to Jeffery's [four-part series](#), based on a series of interviews she conducted.

MPPGA student [Emily Enright](#) co-wrote [an article](#) with Professor Ramana where they argued that as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty falls apart due to a lack of US and Russian participation, Canada should do its part to avert the unravelling of global arms control.

The Global Policy Project Mongolia team published an article in [The Diplomat](#) on how Mongolian youth view democracy and how that impacts youth civic engagement, a result of their fieldwork in Ulaanbaatar's Nalaikh District and findings from their youth engagement study.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The MPPGA integrates on-going support for students in their professional and career development. A highlight of co-curricular career-oriented programming is MPPGA's annual

[“Job Search Skills for the Policy Professions”](#)

conference and reception. The 2020 conference met its twin goals of equipping first year students with the skills and confidence necessary to conduct an effective, strategic job search for summer employment and beyond as well as providing a networking space for all students to interact with policy professionals and practice newly honed skills.

Students participated in a number of workshops over the course of the year, learning how to leverage informational interviews, build their networks with LinkedIn, and advance their presentation skills for a future career as policy professionals. Second year students participated in a “High Performance Team Member” workshop, in which they learned more about teamwork, collaboration, and how to succeed together on a project.

The program provides work term opportunities to *all* MPPGA students in the summer between their academic years. In addition to positions offered through the robust Co-op program, students have gained meaningful, professional experience through United Nations Association of Canada Internships, UBC's Work Learn program, the UBC Sustainability Scholars program, and research assistantships.

Student Dinoba Kirupa interned with UNICEF in Nepal and Cassandra Jeffery with the United Nations Development Programme in Cambodia. These opportunities were facilitated by the MPPGA program's partnership with the [United Nations Association of Canada](#), part of a three-year agreement to send up to four first year MPPGA student interns to participate in the United Nations Association of Canada International Development and Diplomacy Internship program during their first summer. Students work as Junior Professional Consultants with a UN agency in locations around the world.

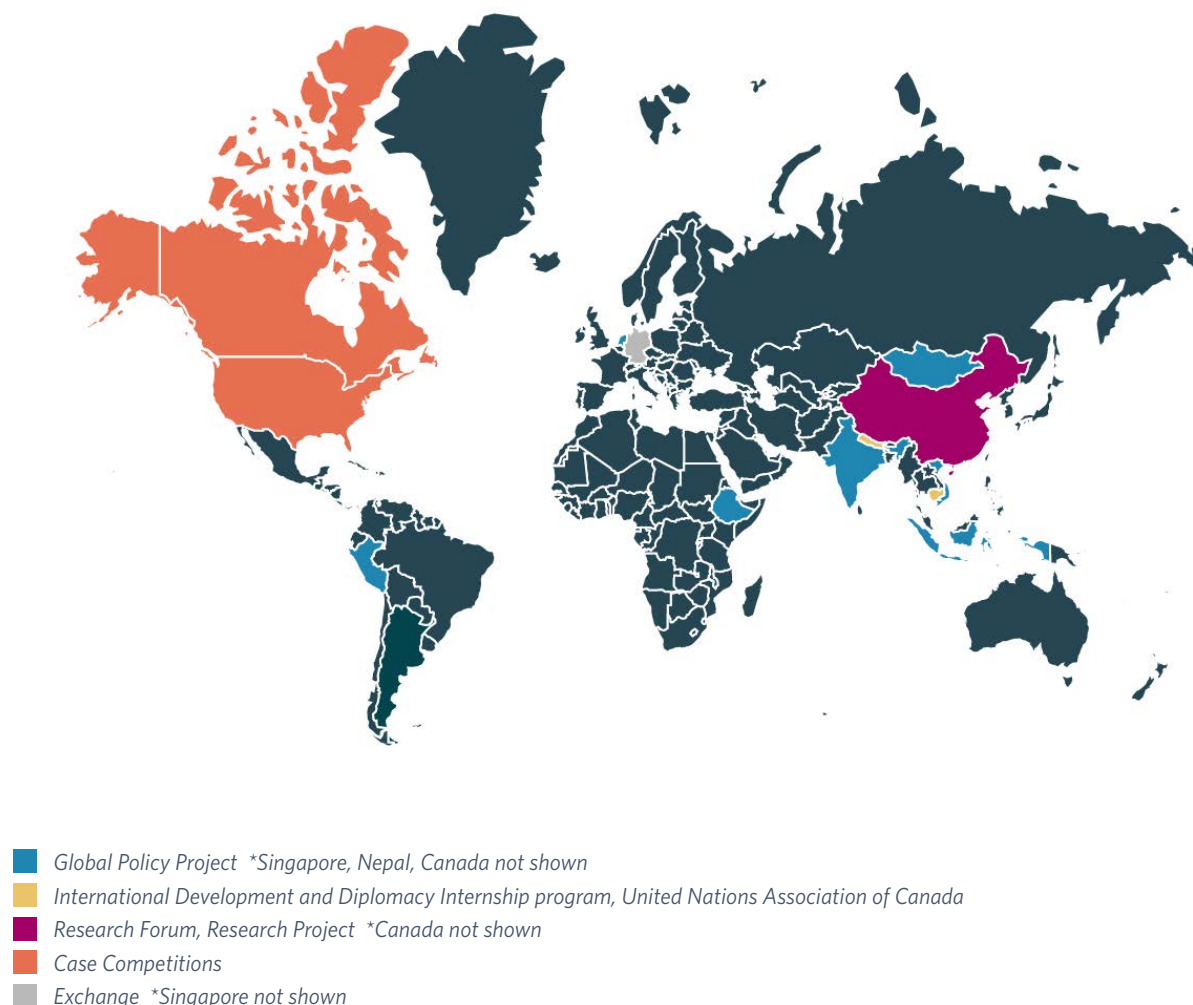
Previous page: *MPPGA students Solomon Atta, Guilherme Rosales, and Andrés Peñaloza in class.*

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

MPPGA students enjoy many varied learning opportunities beyond the classroom, including field visits, workshops, case competitions, and other hands-on activities that help shape them as global change makers.

Students participated in the annual NASPAA-Batten Simulation Competition. In 2019, the competition was focused on issues of forced migration and refugees in a day-long event that allowed students to test their skills on real-world data. The 2020 competition was based on running a simulation of a city as a team of five, with each team member playing the role of a city commissioner in charge of wellbeing, transportation, health, infrastructure, or as the mayor. Students learned new policy vocabulary and gained major insights into public policy decision-making.

MPPGA students also competed in the 9th Annual CAPP National Public Administration Case Competition in Quebec City focused on the housing affordability crisis in Canada. The team consulted with local housing experts at UBC, including SPPGA Policy Practitioner Fellow **Andrea Reimer**, to explore a wide range of policy options. The students were coached by SPPGA Professor **George Hoberg**, who provided practice cases and feedback to prepare the team for the competition.





MPPGA students in Nepal for their GP².

Global Policy Project (GP²)

This year saw eight MPPGA student teams undertake their [Global Policy Projects](#) with clients and fieldwork across eleven countries.

In 2019-2020, MPPGA students addressed policy issues with GP² clients in the following regions:

MONGOLIA, *Strategies for Increasing Youth Civic Engagement in Nalaikh*, District Governor's Office of Nalaikh - Division of Family, Youth, and Child Development

NEPAL, *Barriers to Effective Teaching and Education in Nepal*, Open Learning Exchange Nepal

NEW YORK and THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS, *Redefining Policy and Practice: Unraveling Definitions of Sexual Violence through a Survivor-Centered Approach*, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

INDIA, *Expanding Water Harvesting Practices in Rajasthan, India through Strategic Policy Advocacy*, Gram Gaurav Sansthan (GGS) and Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS)

ETHIOPIA, *A Roadmap for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment in Ethiopia's Mining Sector*, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, part of the Supporting the Ministry of Mines (SUMM) Project with the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute

PERU, *Enhancing Gender Equity in Water Resource Management in Peru*, Autoridad Nacional de Agua (National Water Authority of Peru)

SINGAPORE, VIETNAM, INDONESIA, *Strengthening the Canada-ASEAN Connection: Business Mobility*, Canada-ASEAN Business Council

CANADA, *Applying an Equity Lens to the City of Vancouver's Climate Emergency Response Plan*, City of Vancouver - Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department

MPPGA BY THE NUMBERS

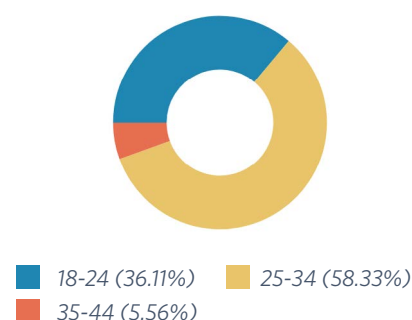
2018 & 2019 COHORTS

Program of Study of Most Recent Degree

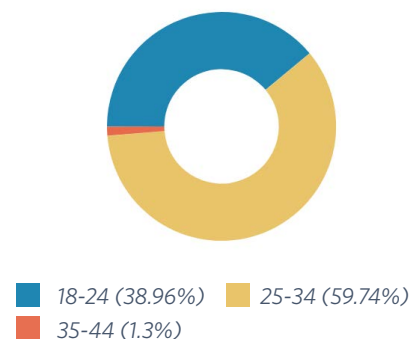
Program of Study	Total
Business	6
Economics	5
English / Communication / Journalism	3
Environmental Studies	4
Global / International Development	4
Health	1
History	1
Humanities and Social Sciences	12
International Relations	9
Law	5
Political Science	20
Public Affairs	2
Sciences	3
Social Work	1

Cohort Age Distribution

2018



2019



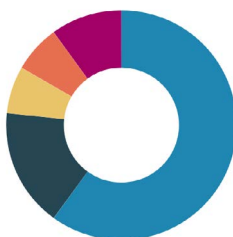
Enrolment in 2019



56%
female in 2018

65%
female in 2019

2019 Student Summer Jobs



■ Co-op (60%)
 ■ Research Assistant (16.67%)
 ■ Sustainability Scholar (6.67%)
 ■ Work Learn (10%)
 ■ UNAC (6.67%)

Alumni Careers (2015 - 2017 Cohorts)



■ NGO (20%)
 ■ Academic (18.18%)
 ■ Government (30.91%)
 ■ Private (27.27%)
 ■ Think Tank (3.64%)



Mount Fuji, Japan.

Policy in Action: Spotlight on Asia Policy

The Canada-China Relations Forum

MPPGA students organized a [Canada-China Relations Forum](#); part of a student-led “Asia Now Forum” in November 2019. The forum explored how Canada should navigate the increasingly complex Canada-US-China relationship following the detention of Meng Wanzhou, the Chief Financial Officer of Chinese company Huawei. The presenters included Professor **Brian Job**, Professor of Political Science and SPPGA Faculty Associate, Professor **Yves Tiberghien**, Professor of Political Science and SPPGA Faculty Associate, other academics from UBC and across Canada, and **Stephen McGurk**, SPPGA Senior Fellow and former Vice President, Program and Partnership Branch at the International Development Research Centre.

Japan’s Leadership in the Liberal International Order Workshop

A two-day workshop titled “[Japan’s Leadership](#)

[in the Liberal International Order](#)” was hosted by the UBC Centre for Japanese Research (CJR) at the Institute of Asian Research and led by CJR Co-Director and SPPGA Faculty Associate, **Yves Tiberghien**, in January 2020. Since 2016, Japan has shown remarkable leadership in trade, global finance and economics, and the environment, has helped to stabilize relations with China, and initiated strategic engagement with India and ASEAN. The workshop explored the history of Japanese global leadership, its significance to current global trade leadership, and the potential for Japan-Canada relations, such as over reform of the World Trade Organization. The workshop included keynote remarks by His Excellency Ambassador Kawamura Yasuhisa, remarks by SPPGA Honorary Professor **Joseph Caron** (former Ambassador to Japan), and was conducted with academics from other leading universities and think tanks in Canada, Japan, and the United States. CJR is leading a joint publication with seven partners as a result of the workshop.



Convening, Learning & Engagement

SPPGA's programs and initiatives generate new knowledge, raise awareness of pressing issues, create space for interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue among students, academics, government, industry, non-profit organizations, 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 program of events and activities, SPPGA employs various formats of engagement such as workshops, panels, dialogues, and symposia. Many of these activities and events are led by SPPGA faculty, and we often collaborate equally 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.

Image: SPPGA Policy Practitioner Fellow Andrea Reimer meets with Institute for Future Legislators participants.



Women in House

SPPGA hosted the second annual [Women in House program](#), an innovative and practical program aimed at promoting a greater level of female representation in Canada's parliament. The program includes a series of seminars, and culminates with pairing female and female-identified students for a full day with a Member of Parliament or Senator so that students can directly observe political procedures, learn about gender equity, and engage in mentorship and networking with Canadian political leaders.

MPPGA students Esther Ocheni, Nabila Farid, and Victoria Ker participated in this year's program alongside seven other UBC students in March 2020 in Ottawa.

Image: 2019 Women in House participants. **Photo Credit:** Richard Lawrence Photography.

Initiatives Led by the Institute of Asian Research

The [Institute of Asian Research \(IAR\)](#) is the focal point on Asia policy and current affairs at UBC, as well as for interdisciplinary scholarship on modern and pre-modern Asia. The IAR is home to multiple programs and five interdisciplinary, regionally-focused research centres: the Centre for Chinese Research; The Centre for India and South Asia Research; the Centre for Japanese

Research; the Centre for Korean Research, and The Centre for Southeast Asia Research.

The 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 its research, teaching, network-building, community interaction with Greater Vancouver's numerous Asian communities through regular public events, and policy engagement with communities around the world.

The UBC Himalaya Program

From April 2019-March 2020, the UBC Himalaya Program sponsored or co-sponsored nine public events. These spanned a wide range of themes, including post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal; the Tibetan culture of language and letters; and the politics of language contact, sacred geography, and environmental development across the Himalayan region. These activities were guided by a Steering Committee of faculty members, staff and students at UBC including two SPPGA faculty members: Professor **Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology) is the Himalaya Program Research & Outreach Coordinator; Professor **Tsering Shakya** (SPPGA; Department of Asian Studies) and Canada Research Chair in Religion and Contemporary Society in Asia is the Himalaya Program Speaker Series & Language Program Coordinator as well

as Himalaya Program Tibetan Community Liaison.

In May 2019, two-week summer intensive Nepali and Tibetan language courses were offered in a unique community-engaged framework in partnership with the Nepal Cultural Society of BC and the Tibetan Cultural Society of BC. These courses blend language learning with community engagement, and have been supported by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, the Centre for Community Engaged Learning, and Go Global as part of the process towards offering them as 300-level courses in the Department of Asian Studies, which took place for the first time in May 2020. Through this initiative, the Himalaya Program is developing a model for “study abroad at home” through close engagement with community partners in BC. UBC undergraduates and graduate students have played key roles in developing both the public event series and the community-engaged language courses.

The Centre for India and South Asia Research

The Centre for India and South Asia (CISAR), hosted 39 events over the course of 2019-20, covering a diverse range of disciplines and South Asian national contexts. The activities ranged from celebrating the literary and performance traditions of South Asia through the “Mehfil: Music, Text, and Performance of South Asia” series at UBC’s Green College, which was co-convened by CISAR Director and Professor of Asian Studies **Anne Murphy** and SPPGA Prof. **M.V. Ramana**, to critical examinations of the ways contemporary histories are linked to the representation of the past, through collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Histories Research Cluster, led by Prof. Murphy.

The latter initiative allowed CISAR to address urgent contemporary political developments in India, in a series of events that included a presentation on contemporary anti-Muslim violence by Jawaharlal Nehru University graduate student Heba Ahmed; two talks on the history and current status of the Kashmir region in India; a day-long event with talks and films on patterns of political violence in India from 1984 to today;

a screening of Anand Patwardhan’s newest film, “Reason”; and two “Teach-Ins” involving SPPGA faculty members, journalists and others discussing and commenting on the protests and unrest in India following its new Citizenship Amendment Act. The act, together with a nationwide verification process to identify “illegal migrants,” can threaten the citizenship rights of millions of Indian Muslims and spur more violence towards them.

The Centre for Chinese Research

Over the year, the Centre for Chinese Research (CCR) hosted 21 public events. Under the guidance of Director and Professor **Timothy Cheek**, these events covered a diverse range of topics, including tensions from the US-China Trade War, the environmental development across China, and Chinese Opera Diplomacy in the late 1960s.

CCR also hosted seven visiting scholars throughout the year such as Christian Sorace (Colorado College) who discussed affective governance in the People’s Republic of China and Cao Yin (Tsinghua University) on “The Return of Chen Ching Lin: A Chinese Deserter in the British Raj, 1943-1946”. In addition, the CCR also co-sponsored events with the Hong Kong Studies Initiative and Hua Dialogue. In October 2019, Prof. Cheek participated in a forum hosted by Hua Dialogue on the US-China trade war.

The Centre for Korean Research

The Centre for Korean Research (CKR) held ten research talks in 2019 and 2020 that reflected topics as diverse as “Korean Webtoons’ Transmedia Storytelling,” “Reflections on Providing Humanitarian Aid in North Korea and Other Authoritarian Settings,” and “Nationalism and Shared Democratic Identity.”

CKR, led by Director **Ross King**, Department Head & Professor, Korean Language & Literature, supported various graduate students and faculty research projects and offered both competitive

funding for short-term faculty projects and bursaries for UBC graduate students to study Advanced Academic Korean. CKR also hosted eight visiting scholars throughout the year.

The Centre for Southeast Asia Research

The Centre for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR) hosted a series of public events over the 2019/20 academic year that addressed critical and often policy-relevant topics from around the Southeast Asia region. These included a roundtable on democratization in Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore; a seminar by world renowned experts on urban development; and research talks on such topics as economic development in Myanmar, the role of Overseas Filipino Workers in politics, development initiatives in Cambodia, and ethnic politics across the region, among several others. These were well attended by UBC students, the broader community, and the Vancouver-based ASEAN consulates.

CSEAR, under the guidance of Director **Kai Ostwald**, also continued efforts to support UBC's student body and strengthen ties to the broader community. CSEAR continued its Southeast Asia Graduate Student Network, which supports research that focuses on the region by UBC PhD and MA students. This included brownbag discussions and a professionalization session. CSEAR also worked closely with the six ASEAN undergraduate student associations, co-sponsoring their annual event. Finally, CSEAR supported a number of visiting scholars, including from Myanmar and Japan, who shared their expertise around campus during their stays.

Initiatives Led by the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions

The Institute for Future Legislators

The Institute for Future Legislators (IFL), a flagship program 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.

CSDI, under the leadership of Acting Director **Gerald Baier**, Professor of Political Science, delivered its seventh annual IFL in the summer of 2019 with 35 participants, 46 per cent of whom were women. The program included a new half-day session running **Andrea Reimer's** Power Game, a simulation on municipal politics that aims to give participants a practical understanding of power and influence. Additional simulations, like the "Minister's Inbox" exercises, were run early in the program in an effort to introduce participants to role-playing and to the challenges of making difficult decisions while balancing different issues and interests. Together with reflective exercises, practitioner 'master-classes' and the team building of simulations, participants gain a rounded sense of what it's like to serve as a legislator in Canada. The IFL team continues to test and develop its curriculum and pedagogy and experiment with its approaches to training future leaders.

[A video explainer on the IFL was produced in 2019.](#)

IFL Ryerson University

For the first time, the CSDI partnered with another university to deliver the IFL program outside of British Columbia. Ryerson University's Faculty of Arts and CSDI co-delivered the [Institute for Future Legislators, Ryerson \(IFL-R\)](#) in May and June of 2019 in Toronto and Ottawa, Ontario with 36 participants, the majority of whom were women. UBC CSDI staff provided training to conveners and support staff for the Ryerson Institute and co-led many of the sessions, including facilitating the parliamentary simulation in the temporary Senate chambers in Ottawa.

IFL Research

With the lead authorship by SPPGA Acting Director, Professor **Max Cameron**, a team of facilitators and graduate students wrote a paper summarizing some of the findings from research conducted with the 2018 cohort of the IFL. The team presented their findings at the Association for Moral Education Conference in Seattle on November 8, 2019. The paper, entitled “Partisanship and Political Learning: Lessons from Training Politicians” is now under peer review.



Image: Students at the 2019 Institute for Future Legislators.

Leaders' Debate Commission

CSDI provided academic support to the federal Leaders' Debate Commission. For the first time, a federal government entity was charged with ensuring that a nationally televised debate of party leaders was broadcast during the federal election. Past debates were arranged by broadcaster consortiums after long negotiations

with the federal political parties. CSDI's Postdoctoral Fellow, Spencer McKay, worked closely with the Commission to situate its work in a comparative context and to give the commission some of the reflective capacity to look back on its work and receive constructive feedback from stakeholders and experts. He authored a paper entitled, “Canada's Leaders' Debates in Comparative Perspective”, included as an appendix in the [commission's final report](#). This work culminated in a post-election workshop convened by CSDI and the Commission in Ottawa in January 2020.

Initiatives Led by the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute

In 2019-2020, the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute (CIRDI), under the leadership of CEO **Elaine Pura**, continued to work on a variety of training programs, knowledge mobilization, and knowledge exchange activities with partners in Canada, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, and more, with a goal to align policy, research and practice for leading natural resource governance and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Gender Focus

A major highlight was the release of [CIRDI's institutional Gender Equality Strategy](#) on International Women's Day. Since 2018, CIRDI has been in the process of articulating its institutional strategy on advancing gender equality in natural resource governance. The Gender Equality Strategy was peer-reviewed by over 100 stakeholders including academia, civil society, and government through three dialogues held in Vancouver, Ottawa and Washington, D.C. The goal of this strategy is to lay out their vision of how gender transformative policies, tools and approaches for sustainable natural resource governance can generate lasting and inclusive benefits for all in the context of CIRDI's programming, research and partnerships.



Image: Gender strategy. Credit: CIRDI.

Project Work

The 2019/20 reporting year marked the fourth year of CIRDI's [Supporting the Ministry of Mines \(SUMM\)](#) project in Ethiopia. The ultimate objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity and organizational management of Ethiopia's Ministry of Mining and Petroleum (MoMP). The SUMM Team works closely with the MoMP and the Geological Survey of Ethiopia to improve policies, practices, and capacity to attract more interest and investment in the sector, formalize Artisanal and Small-scale Mining, define environmental and social performance requirements and ensure the country benefits fully and equitably from their natural resources.

CIRDI has also been working closely with the Government of Ecuador through the Vice Ministry of Mines on developing a long-term gender-inclusive education and training program for small-scale miners. This past year, CIRDI supported the government's goal of formalizing and professionalizing its artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) sector to maximize its benefits while addressing the environmental and social challenges associated with the sector.

CIRDI's [TransMAPE-Ecuador project](#) ("Education for the Transformation of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining"), published in January 2020, was integral to its ASM Program Strategy,

which aims to educate, organize, and formalize. The TransMAPE project focused primarily on socially and environmentally responsible and economically efficient mining practices. TransMAPE adopted the concept of social learning to help respond to the realities of ASGM in the country. Using this learning model, the CIRDI team emphasized the importance of non-hierarchical relationships, collaboration and trust in the learning process, while mutually exploring ASGM-related issues with diverse stakeholders.

SPPGA WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKER SERIES

Policy in Practice

SPPGA's Policy in Practice series convenes public events around timely and immediate

POLICY IN PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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.

Below is a sample of experts and policy makers hosted as part of our 2019-2020 series:

- Karen Mahon Carrington on the role of hope in the climate era;
- Pascal Lamy, President of the Paris Peace Forum and former Director-General of the World Trade Organization on the future of globalization;
- Katie Gibbs, Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy, on the current state of science integrity and science policy in Canada;
- Erin Hunt, Program Manager at Mines Action Canada, on Canada's current disarmament positions; and,
- Qi Wang, Director of the Policy Community Partnership Office, on the shifting policy paradigm and what skills and mindsets are needed to do great policy work.



Image: Pascal Lamy, President of the Paris Peace Forum, speaks at "Is Globalization Doomed?"

Women in Policy

SPPGA's 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.

We held an exclusive event for MPPGA students to discuss microaggressions in the workplace, sexism in global institutions, and how to deal with the challenges that arise as a result. Our featured panelists included UK Consul-General, Nicole Davison, US Consulate-General and Public Affairs Officer Kathey-Lee Galvin, and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Margaret Rudolf.



Partnership Events

Youth Civic Engagement

Together with the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) and Cobalt Strategy Group, we hosted a Millennial Urban Leadership panel at UBC Robson Square featuring Vancouver City Councillors Michael Wiebe (Green), Rebecca Bligh (NPA), and Melissa De Genova (NPA) along with community activist and human rights educator, Brandon Yan, moderated by UBC Professor of Political Science, Gerald Baier. The audience, who were mainly under 30, enjoyed a lively discussion to reflect on the major municipal issues facing Vancouver, as well as the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in fostering a welcoming, safe, and vibrant city for everyone.

Canadian Federal Election

In the lead-up to the Canadian federal election on October 21, 2019, CSDI partnered with SPPGA and the Department of Political Science to host a Federal Leaders' Debate Watching Party, complete with Debate Bingo with prizes and a subsequent panel of UBC experts. We also co-hosted "Women in Politics: The Road to Equal Representation", a discussion with academics and elected officials on women's representation in Canada in two aspects: electoral politics and the field of Political Science in academia. We hosted a final panel discussion of UBC scholars to answer attendees' remaining questions about the Canadian Federal Election and the key issues that matter most to voters.

COVID-19

In March 2020, SPPGA collaborated with the UBC School of Population and Public Health to host a panel with local experts on "COVID-19: Contextualizing the Scientific, Political, Societal and Economic Impact." The panel was moderated by Professor **Peter Klein**, Executive Director of the Global Reporting Centre, journalist, and SPPGA Faculty Associate.

Acknowledgements

Professor Moura Quayle, Former SPPGA Director *Pro Tem*

We wish to acknowledge the tireless work of Professor **Moura Quayle**, our former Director *pro tem* at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs whose term ended in July 2019. Moura launched the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) in 2015, alongside Professor Yves Tiberghien, and led on the creation of UBC's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) in 2017.

We were fortunate to benefit from Moura's excellence in strategic design thinking, management, and engagement to create a truly collaborative and interdisciplinary hub that contributes to developing policies and solutions to complex global and local issues. Moura ensured that we leveraged the strengths of our core partners and partner units. For her, it was about building a strong sense of community, not only at SPPGA but across UBC and with our external partners. On behalf of our community, we wish to thank Moura for her vision and her tremendous efforts – we're proud of what we've accomplished together thus far.

MPPGA Graduate Program Director Shashi Enarth

SPPGA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Shashi Enarth** for his continuous dedication to the MPPGA program and for his undying advocacy for our students over the last four years. Shashi joined the MPPGA program in 2016 to serve as one of the mentors for the first delivery of the Global Policy Project (GP²) course. He brought his extensive experience with a mix of academia, policy research, advocacy, and grassroots level development work with vulnerable communities from many Asian and African countries to his role. In 2017, he started as Graduate Program Director and took on leadership of partnerships and course delivery for GP². He has been instrumental in the development of the program, bringing a policy practitioner lens and a strong focus on student success. As of July 1st, 2020, Shashi will be returning to his work in development and we wish him all the best in his new adventures.

Reaching Across Disciplines

With the aim to become a thriving campus and community-wide hub on policy and global affairs, the SPPGA Partnership Council was created to provide a critical 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. The Partnership Council met in May 2019 to review the goals of the council, timelines, MPPGA curriculum, and a discussion about cross-campus policy connections and other opportunities for SPPGA.

SPPGA is thankful for the support of the [Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability \(IRES\)](#), led by Director and Professor **Milind Kandlikar**. IRES is a problem-focused and curiosity-driven interdisciplinary research and graduate teaching institute in the Faculty of Science. IRES is a partner

unit in the MPPGA program, and shares three faculty appointments jointly with SPPGA. The past academic year was a successful one for IRES. The Resources, Environment and Sustainability (RES) program graduated 14 students and IRES continued to be a research powerhouse in 2019 with faculty collectively co-authoring 85 papers in various journals and holding grants in excess of \$3 million.

Final Thanks

SPPGA is deeply thankful to our UBC partners, policy practitioners, donors, and the Faculty of Arts Dean's office who have supported us with their expertise and guidance throughout the year. Together, we'll continue to cross disciplinary boundaries on research and knowledge exchange and we look ahead with great excitement to possibilities for further cross-campus collaboration to tackle the world's most pressing policy challenges.

Endnotes

¹ Numbers highlighted in this section were synthesized from 17 of 20 individual annual reports from SPPGA faculty. Two of the 17 individual reports represent new hires that began in 2020. Many of our core faculty are cross-appointed with other UBC departments. Please see sppga.ubc.ca for detailed faculty profiles.

² Data collected through interviews and 2019-20 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 2019/20 academic year, nor faculty associates who are not appointed at SPPGA.

³ 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 collaboration, academic engagement (e.g. teaching, conference participation), advocacy work etc.

Image on Cover: MPPGA students Israa Nouredine and Chengkun Lv discuss with other students.

Image on first page: SPPGA staff members sit in the C.K. Choi lounge.

Image below: "[Reconciliation Pole at Dawn](#)", created by Haida master carver, Tidanusuu (Edenshaw) James Hart; photo by Hover Collective / UBC Brand & Marketing, all rights reserved.





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