2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA School of Public Policy and Global Affairs 뼒똨낓**톎**멽픑쟳큟꼤웈쒏쿾쁥죑컖뿉롎딇닅졠쿻졠쿻렮퐄폟킕

We honour and acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the **həndəminəm** speaking Musqueam people.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In my first year as Director, I am proud of our School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) faculty, staff, and students for their exceptional flexibility, commitment, and efforts in making the past year a success, despite the uncertainty and challenges we faced in a global pandemic. We pulled together when it counted and continued forward with much of our intended activity.

In line with UBC's strategic plan, SPPGA continued to pursue excellence in research, learning, and engagement to foster global citizenship and advance a sustainable and equitable society. We drew on our interdisciplinary approach and strengths in situated knowledge and in connecting science and technology to policy to analyze and recommend solutions to some of the most urgent issues facing the world today.

During the past year, we welcomed Assistant Professors Tara Cookson and Veena Sriram, graduated our fifth class in the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) program, shifted to a completely virtual mode of teaching, and convened 115 entirely virtual and public events on a wide array of topics.

Our 24 SPPGA faculty members are at the forefront of global policy issues, such as navigating the future of nuclear energy, advocating for Indigenous rights, improving governance of the COVID-19 response, and proposing solutions to improving food security with minimal environmental footprint. The focus on Asia by numerous SPPGA faculty members, and supported by the expertise of the Institute of Asian Research and its Centres, is also an asset that sets us apart and provides the school its unique outlook on global issues. I would like to thank SPPGA faculty for successfully adopting an entirely new model of teaching and participating in endless Zoom meetings.

I also want to acknowledge our wonderful staff for their hard work and support during this past year. Our staff are often concealed behind the scenes, but without their



contributions and expertise much of the activity at the school would not have materialized.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging the students themselves, who worked tirelessly through their online courses; our second year students demonstrated particular resilience by succeeding in virtual Global Policy Project fieldwork. Finally, I wish to share a heartfelt congratulations to our MPPGA Class of 2021!

As a response to racial violence and systemic racism and oppression, our students led on establishing REDI (Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), a collective of graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff at SPPGA that fosters open and constructive conversations to build a more equitable and inclusive school. This work complements SPPGA's first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee, established to foster an accessible, inclusive, equitable, and respectful environment. I look forward to SPPGA continuing this important work.

I am thrilled to lead the school's growth as we continue to produce world class research, engage on complex issues, convene events, and teach the next generation of global change makers. Learn more about joining our community!

Allison Macfarlane, Director

30+

countries in which faculty members are conducting research and policy engagement



SPPGA AT

A GLANCE



Canada Research Chairs





300+

24

faculty members

media mentions and op-eds in major news outlets





164

books, journal articles, book chapters, and reports



115

virtual events convened, reaching

11,000+

students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members



SPPGA embodies UBC's strategic goals of leading globally in research excellence, discovery, and scholarship. Our faculty strive to ensure their work is relevant and accessible to communities by engaging respectfully in projects with governments, non-profit organizations, and community groups in research and collaboration. As SPPGA's reputation and reach grow, so does our potential to make an impact on policymaking globally.

SPPGA Faculty Snapshot

This past year, SPPGA faculty expanded to 24 members, which has allowed the school to increase its range of policy engagement, research, and knowledge exchange activities. Our faculty's interdisciplinary backgrounds and strengths helped inform some of the key issues related to the pandemic, such as vaccine hesitancy.

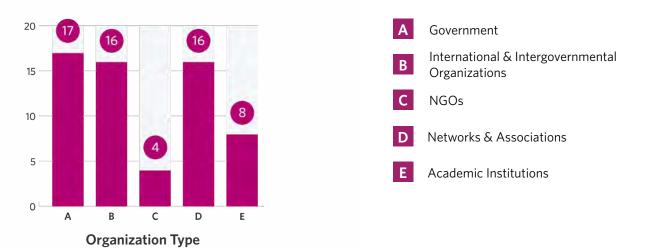
SPPGA faculty members seek to create and mobilize knowledge for impact in a number of ways: by publishing research and reports, engaging with the media, influencing policy decisions in high level stakeholder discussions, and hosting dialogues and trainings with community.

SPPGA faculty members' expertise spans a wide variety of fields and topic areas, including but not limited to:

- Asia policy, e.g. Canada-China relations, Tibet-China relations, extrajudicial detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Northwestern China; governance in Myanmar, Mongolia, North Korea, Malaysia, and Indonesia; issues affecting the Himalayan region including Nepal's postconflict, post-disaster reconstruction
- Science/technology policy, e.g. climate change, resources, energy and energy transitions, nuclear energy, water use in mining, global sustainability, food security, ocean governance and fisheries
- » Global governance and democracy, e.g. disinformation, international trade
- Security and development, e.g. transformative memory, gender-based violence, gender data
- » Global Indigenous politics, e.g. Indigenous peoples' rights
- » Global health, e.g. health communications

Collaboration & Partnership

From communication about COVID-19 vaccines to United Nations briefings to maintaining the health of the ocean's fish stocks, SPPGA faculty members collaborate with various levels of government, non-governmental organizations, academia, international entities, and community-based networks on research and policy engagement, both in Canada and internationally. Learn more about the multiple collaborations and partnership activities of our 24 faculty members in the graph, *Organization Type*, below:



Where We Are Working

SPPGA faculty represent a truly diverse geographical range of work being performed, as shown on the map below, with research and engagement in such areas as Indigenous policy, resource governance, and climate change, not only in British Columbia and Canada, but around the world and on every continent as noted in the *World Map* graphic below.



SPOTLIGHT ON COVID-19

Democratic Health Communications during COVID-19: A RAPID Response

Many democracies were already struggling with distrust before the pandemic hit: antivaccination activism, conspiracy theories, sinking faith in institutions, populism, rising inequality, the erosion of local journalism, and more. Public health depends on policymakers, elected officials, and citizens recognizing the value of clear, consistent, compassionate, and contextual communications during a time of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions published a major report, "Democratic Health Communications during Covid-19: A Rapid Response," by Associate Prof. Heidi Tworek (SPPGA; History), Ian Beacock, and MPPGA alum Eseohe Ojo, which lays out a framework for how to communicate during a public health emergency in ways that strengthen democratic norms and processes rather than undermining them.

The report draws on recommendations from in-depth studies of nine jurisdictions and two provinces on five continents: Senegal, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, and Canada (including British Columbia and Ontario). The report also proposes five broad RAPID response principles that can underpin any democratic public health communications strategy. They are called RAPID principles, because rapidity is an essential element of an effective response: "**R**ely on



Autonomy, Not Orders; **A**ttend to Values, Emotions, and Stories, **P**ull in Citizens and Civil Society, **I**nstitutionalize Communications, and Describe It **D**emocratically." The authors argue that democratic health communication narratives need to incorporate more than just facts; sharing values and emotions helps build trust among populations and makes health information reliable, which is of vital importance in a rapidly changing pandemic situation.

The report led to panel appearances and briefings by Dr. Tworek with Canadian agencies and international think tanks. The report was also cited prominently in research and policy briefs, including from the Royal Society of Canada, Health Canada advisory panel, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, and publications like *Nature Medicine*. The report's release attracted major international media coverage: SPPGA compiled 32 media mentions over the course of seven months, which included commentary and op-eds by Dr. Tworek in the New York Times, CNN, Maclean's, The Globe and Mail, First Policy Response, New Republic, the Vancouver Sun and the CBC as well as TV and radio appearances on the CBC, Global News, and CKNW, to name a few.



Governance of the COVID-19 Response

Health care workers have always played a valued role in society, but their position became elevated during the COVID-19 pandemic due to their crucial role in treatment, as well as prevention. Noting this shift in public support, Assistant Prof. **Veena Sriram** (SPPGA; School of Population and Public Health) alongside collaborators at UBC and other universities, explored whether decision-makers had modified their approach in engaging with health worker associations during the pandemic. They asked: Does the current position of frontline workers change and possibly improve their ability to advocate for changes in policy? How have policy demands or approaches to lobbying changed? As Dr. Sriram explained, health worker associations are one piece in a larger puzzle of governance within health systems across the world. She worked alongside her collaborators to understand how these pieces fit together and how this can be done while keeping equity and inclusivity as the main objectives.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, Dr. Sriram worked with professors Peter Berman (SPPH) and **Max Cameron** (Political Science; CSDI) on governance of the COVID-19 response in British Columbia and across Canada. Their case study, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, explored the institutional, organizational, political and governance factors influencing the COVID-19 response in British Columbia. Dr. Sriram moderated a UBC-organized panel at Consortium of Universities for Global Health titled "Understanding the Role of Governmental Context in Strengthening Public Health Response to COVID-19" to share early findings from B.C. When complete, the results are intended to inform decision makers and contribute to post-pandemic reform within the province and nationally.

In addition, Dr. Sriram continued to collaborate with Johns Hopkins University on a study examining the private sector response to COVID-19 in two Indian states – Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi. In particular, she led on the role of provider associations in New Delhi in engaging with policymakers around policy issues such as price setting for services and clinical guidelines. Dr. Sriram also built partnerships with organizations and networks based in low- and middleincome countries.



Gender Equality in Government Response to and Recovery from the Pandemic

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that it is imperative to take the specific and urgent needs of women into account, in order to not only provide an effective health care response but to also address soaring rates of gender-based violence. This "shadow pandemic" spread around the globe as public health orders meant to stop the spread of the virus confined women to the home where many were increasingly exposed to domestic abuse. Assistant Prof. **Tara Cookson**'s program of policy research that she has undertaken since the onset of COVID-19 has focused on gender equality in government response to and recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Cookson has addressed this issue primarily through three avenues.

First, as the Principal Investigator, Prof. Cookson pursued research on the gender-responsiveness of national social protection systems, in collaboration with UN Women's Research and Data Section and the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Social Protection Unit. The target audiences for this research included UN Women and ILO country offices, UN Member State governments, and policy researchers.

Secondly, Prof. Cookson provided evidence-based, strategic advising to UN Women's seven regional offices on gender-responsive social protection measures, including summaries of the emerging evidence base and policy recommendations based upon this.

Finally, Dr. Cookson's scholar-activist research project, "*Cosas de Mujeres*" (Women's Stuff), funded by Global Affairs Canada and USAID on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, is a mobile platform that generates data on gender-based violence and access to social protection in the context both of the COVID-19 health crisis and the ongoing Venezuelan humanitarian crisis. This data collection is important since gaining relevant data on issues such as domestic violence has been particularly challenging during the pandemic since researchers cannot collect data through techniques such as a household survey. As an example of output, the data collected through *Cosas de Mujeres* informed the design of workshops with local police in the Colombian cities of Cúcuta and Cartagena to sensitize them to the increase in intimate-partner violence under COVID-19 lockdowns and facilitate more appropriate reporting mechanisms.

In addition to a <u>scholarly publication</u> in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, the team that Dr. Cookson led on this project produced policy briefs based on the data they generated, published in both Spanish and English, and they held regular webinars to share the evidence with the Colombian regional and national government, international aid organizations, and local service providers.



The Economic Implications of COVID-19

The pandemic brought with severe and continuing economic implications globally, which was a key area for policy engagement by Associate Prof. **Kristen Hopewell**, Canada Research Chair in Global Policy. She has contributed to informing public debate by publishing five articles in leading media outlets on a range of economic and trade policy issues, such as an **op-ed** in *The Globe and Mail* on the need for increased foreign aid amid the COVID crisis to avert a worldwide public health and economic cataclysm. Dr. Hopewell suggested that it is imperative for rich countries like Canada to aid the world's most vulnerable populations; in fact, it is Canada's moral obligation to do so as the health and safety of the world is in Canadians' direct interest.

As the crisis unfolded, countries around the world have faced severe shortages of personal protective equipment, medicine, and other critical supplies. With co-author MPPGA alum **Joshua Tafel**, Prof. Hopewell published **an article** on the need to prevent trade restrictions during COVID-19 to prevent shortages and ensure adequate supply of medical goods. They found that export restrictions hurt the countries that implement them, as well as their trading partners, by preventing deliveries of medical supplies and medicines, which can disrupt health planning. Restrictions also reduce the domestic availability of medical supplies while simultaneously promoting panic-buying, hoarding, and speculation. Ultimately, they argued that the use of export restrictions is damaging to global health systems - and ultimately undermines efforts to combat COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPPGA FACULTY

Engagement with China

China continued to dominate headlines and draw SPPGA faculty members' attention this past year. Prof. **Paul Evans**, HSBC Chair in Asian Research, organized and participated in a number of virtual events involving academics and officials with special attention to the new challenges that Canadian universities are facing in their



Above: Professor Paul Evans

interactions with China. He testified before three parliamentary committees and was active in media commentary, public presentations, private consultations with officials in Ottawa and Victoria, and think tanks in the US and China on broader China policy matters. Although the 2020 meeting in Myanmar was postponed because of COVID-19, Prof. Evans remained active in his role as a Canadian member of the ASEAN Regional Forum's Experts and Eminent Persons group.

SPPGA compiled <u>55 media mentions</u> featuring Prof. Evans, half of them including in *The New York Times* and *Reuters US, India, and UK*, focused on Meng Wanzhou's extradition, the detainment of the two Canadian Michaels in China, and the potential for political fallout.

Much of Prof. **Timothy Cheek**'s recent policy work has focused on consultation on China with Canadian government agencies, mainly with Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. These include small group consultations and education-oriented webinars. Dr. Cheek, who is the Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research, also conducted extensive public engagement on China that involved giving background to journalists and speaking to civil society groups. This past year, he supported and presented to the Canada China Forum, a national network for Canadians under 35 committed to the Canada-China relationship, founded and led by MPPGA alum **Darren Touch**.

Associate Prof. **Tsering Shakya**'s policy relevant work and impact has been mainly focused on China's policy on Tibet and ethnic and religious minority groups. As an expert on the region and issues and the Canada Research Chair in Religion and Contemporary Society in Asia, Dr. Shakya has been regularly consulted by governments and NGOs. In October 2020, the Canadian Ambassador in Canada led a Canadian delegation to Tibet where Prof. Shakya provided a briefing on Tibet's current economic and social situation that cannot be gleaned from public sources. He was able to provide detailed information on key personalities in the region and their importance, which led the Embassy staff to inform him that the Canadian delegation was very well informed of the situation in Tibet compared to other foreign embassies. Prof. Shakya was also invited to give evidence on the parliamentary hearing on China convened by the Special Committee on Canada-China Relations.

Dr. Shakya has written on Tibetans in India and Nepal for human rights and refugee organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. As well, refugee organizations for asylum claimants from China regularly solicit his expert opinion on persecution based on religious beliefs and ethnic identity.



Governance in Mongolia

Mongolia has seen remarkable economic progress in the last 30 years, however, the country's economic growth has not always been steady. A major output of research and policy work on Mongolia by Associate Prof. **Julian Dierkes**, the Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research, was a chapter he co-authored for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) titled "**The Business Climate: Institutions and Governance**" in **Mongolia's** *Economic Prospects - Resource Rich and Landlocked Between Two Giants*. In the chapter, the authors outline how political change in the country has been generally peaceful and due to this, Mongolia ranks highly on indexes of political freedom. This represents the type of policy advice Prof. Dierkes provides in many formal and informal settings. The chapter was part of a country study that will be used by the ADB to shape their five-year country strategy for Mongolia, with an impact on lending to Mongolia that will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars and that will also shape Mongolian government action.

The chapter's focus was on governance, an area that Prof. Dierkes continued to pay particular attention to in the context of elections, party formation and popular involvement in politics. His policy activities focused on Mongolian policy-makers themselves have been curtailed by the lack of opportunity to travel this past year, however Prof. Dierkes continued to interact with many levels of the Mongolian government but also with several of the embassies in Mongolia.

Knowledge Sharing and Partnership with North Korea

Associate Prof. and the Korea Foundation Chair **Kyung-Ae Park** leads the Canada-DPRK Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP) at UBC. This past year, she conducted extensive policy engagements through invited presentations, briefings, and consultations involving stakeholders across Canada, the US, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore on mainly three policy issues: North Korea's 8th Party Congress and an analysis of its implications for Pyongyang's domestic economy and foreign relations, especially its policy towards the US and South Korea; how "Knowledge Diplomacy" can advance North Korea's foreign policy agenda and promote trust-building between Pyongyang and the outside world; and the immediate benefit that the KPP provides in building intellectual capital and mutual understanding with North Korea through knowledge sharing.

Prof. Park conducted extensive policy engagements with high-level officials from different governments, including Ministers and Parliament members, Presidential secretaries, and heads of local governments, as well as UN representatives and heads of diplomatic, business, media, and academic communities. These engagements resulted in new funding support for the KPP, which was offered with the conviction that its initiatives would have an immense impact on peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The KPP was cited by media outlets as the best conduit for academic diplomacy, being a "unique scholarly enterprise" and a program "expanding the definition of diplomacy."

Environmental Land Defenders, Ocean Governance and Crimes at Sea

Between 2002 and 2019, over two thousand people were killed in 57 countries for defending their lands and the environment. Prof. **Philippe Le Billon** (SPPGA; Geography) has focused on environmental and land defenders in his research and policy engagement this past year. Following several articles, Dr. Le Billon coedited with Dr. Mary Menton a major volume "Environmental Defenders: Deadly Struggles for Life and Territory" (Routledge, 2021), as well as a three volume 'Policy Matters' report with CEESP/IUCN to be published for the World Conservation Congress in September 2021. The edited volume explains who these environmental defenders are, what threats they face, and what can be done to support and protect them.

A second focus of Dr. Le Billon has been on ocean governance and crimes at sea. He co-wrote an extensive policy report and associated academic papers on fisheries-related offences at the global level. This covered three main issues: including global patterns of offences, identification of major offenders (vessels and companies), and impacts of adjacency on offenses (proximity to fishing grounds, e.g. through foreign vessels being re-registered as local ones).

In parallel, Dr. Le Billon has been working on the risks associated with the 'criminalization' of small-scale fishers, this has involved co-authoring a policy piece for *Fish and Fisheries*. To prepare for more policy work in this domain, Prof. Le Billon also secured funding for a Partnership Development Grant involving three policy-focused organizations (Oceana, EcoTrust Canada, and the Environmental Justice Foundation) to collaboratively work with community organizations in Colombia, Philippines, and Sierra Leone.



Transforming Water Usage in the Mining Sector

With many of the world's large mines operating in areas of water scarcity, competition for water has become a frequent source of tension between mining companies and other water users, including the local community. Assistant Prof. **Nadja Kunz** (SPPGA; Norman B Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering), Canada Research Chair in Mine Water Management and Stewardship, seeks to revolutionize the way that the mining sector uses and interacts with water systems to minimize the associated social and environmental impacts.

Over the past year, Prof. Kunz presented at a range of industry and policy fora. Highlights included being an invited keynote speaker at the 10th Dialogue on Water organized by the German Development Institute, and the Virtual Forum on Water and Mining in Mexico organized by Mexico's Environment Ministry and the Mexican Institute of Water Technology. A number of Prof. Kunz's research projects are completed in partnership with industry, and much of that work involves building models and decision-making frameworks to better quantify water-related risks and ultimately incentivize changes at the mine-site level. This year, Prof. Kunz was awarded major funding for new projects jointly funded by industry and NSERC/ Mitacs to further expand her productive research team.

Prof. Kunz took on a leadership role as the Water Stewardship Theme leader for the Bradshaw Research Initiative for Minerals and Mining (BRIMM), which brings together 14 academics across eight departments at UBC to establish new interdisciplinary research projects. In December 2020, she led the organization of and co-facilitated a water and mining workshop which convened 40 representatives across industry, government, First Nations, and academia as part of strategic planning activities for BRIMM and the UBC Future Waters cluster. The event was effective in establishing connections with policy makers within the provincial government of BC, and federally with Natural Resources Canada. In future work, Prof. Kunz and her collaborators aim to inform changes in legislation, regulations, and guidelines.



The Role of Smaller Farms in Global Food Security and Sustainability

More than 80% of the world's farms are small, and smallholders are also among the poorest populations. Many development initiatives, including Sustainable Development Goal 2.3, work with smallholders with the goal of increasing their productivity and incomes. Advocates also claim that smaller farms are more environmentally sustainable, and therefore argue for land

redistribution policies. Prof. **Navin Ramankutty** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability), who is the Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and Food Security, engaged in significant policy-relevant work that represented the culmination of his Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight grant project on the role of smaller farms in global food security and sustainability.

Prof. Ramankutty co-published a study in Nature Sustainability, "Higher yields and more biodiversity on smaller farms," that synthesized the last 50 years of research on this topic and showed that smaller farms have higher yields and higher crop and non-crop biodiversity. They also found that smaller farms have similar greenhouse gas emissions as larger farms and are just as resource-use efficient and profitable. While the inverse size-yield relationship has been well known and studied for a long time, the other findings were new and surprising. Their findings suggest that supporting smallholder agriculture would be a triple-win: supporting development, production, and environmental goals at the same time.

In addition to the main journal article, Prof. Ramankutty also wrote a 'behind the scenes' story, "<u>Are</u> <u>small farms better?</u>" for the Springer Nature Sustainability Community forum, appealing to many online readers.



Canada's Food Price Report

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted food prices due to border and facility closures, shifting consumer demand and unemployment, as well as changes in production, manufacturing, distribution and retailing practices. Assistant Prof. **Matias Margulis** (SPPGA; Faculty of Land and Food Systems), who is engaged in policy work and research on world food security, international food and agriculture policy, and international trade policy, was part of a team at UBC that contributed to Canada's **Food Price Report 2021**. This major policy report for public and government audiences predicted that annual food expenditure in 2021 could go up by as much as \$695 compared to last year, impacted by COVID-19. The report also outlined key policy challenges to Canada's food and agriculture sectors.

Prof. Margulis also advised Global Affairs Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the Government of Canada's participation at the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit and submitted a written policy brief for the Standing Committee on International Trade of the Parliament of Canada on the subject of WTO reform.

Human Rights Depend on Access to Safe and Sufficient Water

Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity are critical elements of the right to a healthy environment, as Associate Prof. David **Boyd** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) illustrates in his research and his continued role as UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the



SEVEN STEP PROCESS FOR **STATES TO EMPLOY A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO WATER**

- 1. State-of-the-water assessment 2. Legal mapping and strengthening 3. Develop / revise water plans to
- incorporate a rights-based approach
- 4. Implement water-related plans and enforce laws, regulations and standards
- 5. Evaluate progress
- 6. Build capacity
- 7. Inform, engage and empower the public

environment. Dr. Boyd is committed to upholding human rights obligations related to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment globally. Boyd presented a report virtually to the General Assembly in New York called "Human Rights Depend on a Healthy Biosphere," discussing the devastating effects of COVID-19 and the global biodiversity crisis on the enjoyment of human rights, and the crucial role of human rights in catalyzing action to safeguard nature.

Dr. Boyd also produced a report, "The Global Water Crisis and Human Rights: Water Pollution, Water Scarcity and Water-related Disasters," which he presented virtually to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. He describes safe and sufficient water as a critical component to the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The report outlines the causes and consequences of the global water crisis, examining the negative impacts of water pollution, water scarcity, and water-related disasters and their disproportionate effects upon marginalized populations. The Special Rapporteur provides a seven-step process for States to employ a rights-based approach to water governance as well as recommendations for actions.

Transformative Memory Digital Archive

Memories of political violence are often conceptualized as a documentation of, and challenge to, silenced pasts. Associate Prof. Erin Baines (Ivan Head S-N IDRC Chair), in a long-standing collaboration with Prof. Pilar Riaño-Alcalá (Social Justice Institute), moved into the second year of their Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Development grant on **Transformative Memory: An International Network**. The network recently launched a **Digital Archive** in partnership with the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC to foster virtual exchanges



to explore what makes memory transformative on relationships and the senses of responsibility we hold to each other in the wake of political violence.

Led by eight partners, Transformative Memory involves an international network of scholars, policy practitioners, artists, and students from Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Northern Ireland, Peru and Uganda who seek to reconsider memory as a generative force to challenge oppressive presents and reimagine ways of being together through reciprocal, emplaced and digital knowledge exchanges. Their work builds on more than 12 years of exchange amongst the collaborators in roundtables, workshops, research-creation, an art exhibit, and two international knowledge exchanges in Northern Uganda in 2019 and **Colombia** in 2020 (view the video).

NOTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPPGA welcomed new members to our academic community and celebrated multiple high-level appointments and awards this past year.



Above: Associate Prof. Sheryl Lightfoot

Faculty Appointments and Awards

Sheryl Lightfoot Appointed to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Associate Prof. **Sheryl Lightfoot** (SPPGA; Political Science; First Nations and Indigenous Studies) was appointed as the North American member on the <u>UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous</u> <u>Peoples (EMRIP)</u>. As one of the world's experts in global Indigenous politics and Canada Research Chair of Global Indigenous Rights and Politics, she specializes in complex questions of Indigenous people's rights and how those rights are being claimed and negotiated in various political spaces. SPPGA compiled <u>seven media mentions</u> related to Dr. Lightfoot's EMRIP appointment, including in the *Globe and Mail* and *Global News*.

As an example of Dr. Lightfoot's policy work, she was invited to provide witness testimony on federal Bill C-15 to both the House of Commons and the Senate in Canada. Bill C-15 is the federal government's response to calls to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a framework for reconciliation in Canada. At the time of this report's publication, the bill received **Royal Assent** and has now become law.

In September 2020, UBC launched an Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) and by doing so, became the first university in North America to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As the plan's lead, Dr. Lightfoot describes the ISP as containing high-level principles and action steps that aim to give traction to movement in a number of areas across the university. MPPGA alum **Alex Ash** works as UBC's Indigenous Strategic Planning Manager, playing a central role in project management and policy development to help implement the steps and ideas laid out in the ISP.

Moura Quayle Appointed UBC Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Prof. **Moura Quayle** was appointed as <u>Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic Affairs</u> at UBC for a five-year term commencing August 1, 2020. Prof. Quayle brings to the role a wealth of administrative and leadership experience, having honed her leadership skills in other previous roles as the founding Director of SPPGA, former Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues, and former Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Navin Ramankutty Awarded the Wihuri International Prize

Prof. **Navin Ramankutty** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) was awarded the <u>Wihuri International Prize</u> in recognition of his long-standing work on sustainable global food systems and his outstanding scientific track record, highlighting the urgency for solutions to the ways we produce food for the growing number of people on our planet. As Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and Food Security, Dr. Ramankutty's research uses global data and models to understand how humans use and modify the Earth's land surface for agriculture, to evaluate resulting global environmental consequences, and to explore solutions to the problem of improving food security with a minimal environmental footprint.



Kristen Hopewell Awarded SSHRC Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Global Policy and Wilson China Fellowship

Associate Prof. **Kristen Hopewell** was awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council <u>Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Global Policy</u> at SPPGA. Dr. Hopewell is analyzing critical contemporary changes in global trade politics and governance and aims to better understand how states are responding to growing trade conflicts.

Dr. Hopewell was also selected to be a 2021 non-resident <u>Wilson China Fellow</u>. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, the fellowship is intended to support the next generation of research on China's impact on Asia and the U.S., as well as its impact on peace and security issues, by producing new and original pieces of research. Dr. Hopewell's work, inclusive of the US-China trade conflict and Canada-China relations, was featured in a number of media interviews and coverage such as *The Globe and Mail, Financial Post, the CBC, The Toronto Star*, and *Bloomberg News*.



Rashid Sumaila Appointed University Killam Professor

Prof. **Rashid Sumaila** (SPPGA; Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries) was appointed <u>University Killam Professor</u>, the highest honour that UBC can confer on a faculty member, recognizing his work as an outstanding, interdisciplinary researcher, teacher, colleague, and advocate for the protection of oceans, coasts, and the many communities that depend on them. Dr. Sumaila, the Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Ocean and Fisheries Economics at UBC, is a leading scholar of ocean and fisheries economics. His work has focused on the well-being and sustainability of coastal communities and ecosystems and challenges today's approaches to marine governance, generating innovative ways of thinking about our relationship to the marine biosphere such as conserving the high seas as a "fish bank" for the world.

Julian Dierkes Elected President of the Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies

Prof. Julian Dierkes, Associate Dean, Funding at UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, was elected <u>President of the Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies</u>, an organization founded in 1974 whose purpose is to promote the effective pursuit of graduate studies at Western Canadian Universities.



David Boyd Received the CISDL International Legal Specialist Award

Associate Prof. **David Boyd** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) received the CISDL International Legal Specialist Award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions of recipients to key topics in international law that contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including climate change, human rights, biodiversity, trade and investment, peace, justice and governance, natural resources, and health.

Heidi Tworek Received the 2020 Ralph Gomory Prize

Associate Prof. **Heidi Tworek** (SPPGA; History) was the recipient of the <u>2020 Ralph Gomory Prize</u> for her book, *News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945* (Harvard University Press, 2019). The book charts how Germans fought to regulate information at home and used the innovation of wireless technology to magnify their power abroad. The Ralph Gomory Prize recognizes historical work on the effects of business enterprises on the economic conditions of the countries in which they operate.

Paul Evans Appointed HSBC Chair in Asian Research

On January 1, 2021, Prof. **Paul Evans** was appointed as <u>HSBC Chair in Asian Research</u>. This two-year appointment is designed to enhance the policy engagement work of the Institute of Asian Research and SPPGA on Asia policy, promote better collaboration with Asian institutions and counterparts, and extend and deepen the school's connections with Canadian policy communities, particularly the federal government and the BC provincial government. The appointment also provides an opportunity for closer collaboration with students and faculty at the School in extending their connections with decision makers in Ottawa and Victoria.

New Faculty & Postdoctoral Members

To begin the New Year, SPPGA welcomed two faculty members, **Tara Cookson**, Assistant Professor of Gender, Development, and Global Public Policy and **Veena Sriram**, Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy, who is jointly appointed with the UBC School of Population and Public Health.

Dr. Cookson employs ethnographic and quantitative methods to study how power operates in development policy, with a focus on gender data, social protection, and care work. Her approach to public scholarship integrates academic research, practice-oriented publications, and direct engagement with international policy processes.

Dr. Sriram's research seeks to understand the role of power and politics within health policy processes in low- and middle-income countries, with a particular focus on health workforce policy and health sector governance. She draws upon theory and methodologies from the social sciences in conducting her research, and has a particular focus on qualitative approaches.

In fall of 2020, SPPGA also welcomed several Postdoctoral Fellows. <u>Vincent lalenti</u> is a MacArthur Foundation-funded Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with SPPGA Director **Allison Macfarlane**. He is an anthropologist who studies the cultures of nuclear waste experts in Finland and the United States.

<u>Sara Nelson</u> joined SPPGA as a Simons Postdoctoral Fellow working with Prof. **Ramana**, Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global, and Human Security, and has been examining the geography and political economy of the nuclear industry.

Elsie Lewison, who is working with Prof. **Sara Shneiderman**, is pursuing postdoctoral research to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping agricultural governance strategies in the Himalayan region, with particular focus on policies related to organic agriculture and domestic market development. 19

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

UBC

AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS THE MASSER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS GLOBAL AFFAIRS BROGRAMS

The professional <u>Master of Public Policy</u> and <u>Global Affairs (MPPGA) program</u> supports students in developing the critical knowledge, skills, and experience required to respond effectively to the challenges of today and the future.

Like most universities across the country and around the world, the MPPGA program was conducted online during the 2020-2021 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this, faculty, staff, and students drew on their creativity and perseverance to implement and adapt to new teaching strategies and ways of connecting and engaging with the policy world.

Prof. **George Hoberg** started full-time in the role of Graduate Program Director in July 2020 and led the program through these challenges. Our graduating class experienced disruption to the status quo on a global scale during the 20-months of their degree: From the fight for racial equity to the challenges of the global pandemic, MPPGA students were immersed in these policy challenges, advocating for change and showing immense adaptability throughout it all.

Alumni Spotlight

The MPPGA Alumni Advisory Board (MPPGA AAB) was established in early 2020 to strengthen the MPPGA alumni network. Its current initiatives are focused on organizing alumni socials, providing guidance to the MPPGA Student Association, and forming professional mentorships. The AAB is currently active on LinkedIn in sharing events and workshops, as well as on Slack for more active community-building and engagement.

Ravina Anand ('20) was recognized as one of Canada's top 50 entrepreneurs, academics and executives for her leadership as Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of the Female Laboratory of Innovation Knowledge (FLIK), an online apprenticeship portal connecting womxn entrepreneurs and business owners with female talent. Key learnings from Ravina's Global Policy Project research mission to New York, Geneva, and The Hague contributed to her multidisciplinary approach in solving problems and to her understanding of the significant challenges that women encounter globally.

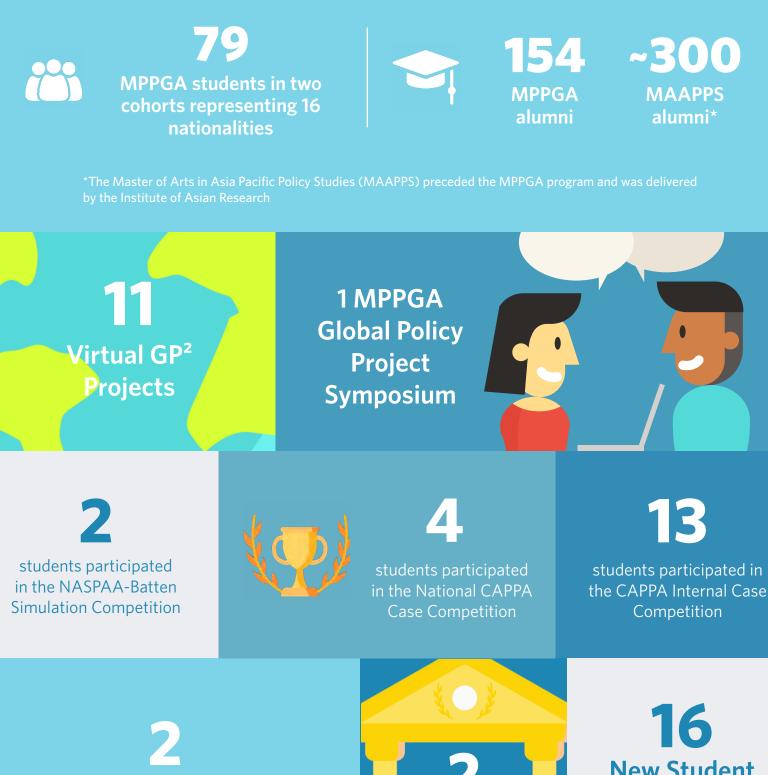
<u>Chiamaka Mogo</u> ('19) is working in many different roles all connected to promoting better socio-economic outcomes, especially for communities that have been marginalized. She is a Board Director with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the Founder and President of the Board of the Initiative for Inclusive Dialogue in Nigeria, and the Executive Secretary and a Board Member of the African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative.

Alfonso Hernandez ('19) is working as a Public Management Consultant, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile. His work informs public officials on good public management practices that aim to improve how governments invest in public infrastructure. This is critical at a time when many public budgets have been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"MPPGA influenced how I can contribute to my work today, throughout what I learned in the courses, from my classmates, conversations with professors, and the working experiences I had while studying at UBC. I learned to incorporate approaches for sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, gender-based analysis, and climate change resiliency and adaptation."

- Alfonso Hernandez

MPPGA BY THE NUMBERS



Co-op Training Events for MPPGA students

Town Halls

New Student Orientation Activities



New Courses

This past year, we offered the first Indigenous policy course in SPPGA, titled "Global Indigenous Rights, Politics and Policy," taught by Prof. Sheryl Lightfoot. 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.

Research and Publications

MPPGA students put their policy communications skills to work and published a wide-variety of pieces on the MPPGA student blog, <u>The</u> <u>Pub</u>. Topics range from <u>financing sustainable</u> <u>development goals</u>, to <u>measuring vulnerability to</u> <u>modern slavery in 2021</u> and <u>using the wisdom of</u> <u>crowds to improve intelligence forecasts</u>.

Student **David Markwei** crafted a deeply personal **photo essay** for the *CBC* on "generational consciousness and the experiences of Black millennials living in British Columbia." His story aimed to highlight Black voices and stories that have traditionally been marginalized in the media industry.

Various student teams published on insights they gained from their Global Policy Projects this past year. **Nabila Farid**, **Boyd Hayes**, **Riya Sikhell** published <u>an article</u> with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada on Nepal's challenges in delivering education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As another example, **Victoria Ker**, **Erica Steele**, **Stephen Patenaude**, and **Brayden Pelham** addressed the need for proactive strategies for adapting to climate change in Canada, particularly in supporting rural Indigenous communities with the lowest capacity to cover costs of disruption, in <u>this piece</u> for the *National Observer*.

Global Policy Project

MPPGA students continued to benefit from 'outside' of the classroom experiences provided by the program, including the <u>Global Policy</u> <u>Project (GP²)</u> supervised by Prof. Julian Dierkes and Adjunct Professor of Practice Andrea Reimer, with MPPGA alum Corrin Bulmer coordinating. The range of policy research achieved by students during their projects through the shift to virtual fieldwork was commendable. Teams worked with their clients to suggest alternative forms of engagement (e.g. virtual focus groups in Nepal) and select the most relevant deliverables (e.g. developing a database on Indian government schemes) given the constraints of the pandemic.

Although this year's MPPGA Global Policy Project Symposium was held virtually, attendance was at a record high with over 120 participants including clients, prospective clients, first year MPPGA students, faculty, and staff from across UBC. The success of our projects was made possible by the resiliency and flexibility of the MPPGA graduating class, who exemplified the traits that GP² encourages.

For the first time, GP² projects included partnerships with three Indigenous clients: Nisga'a Village of Laxgalts'ap, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and Tu'dese'cho Wholistic Indigenous Leadership Development (TWILD) Society. These research partnerships were guided by collaboratively developed research agreements to ensure that ownership of Indigenous knowledge remained with the nations and to ensure the building of respectful research partnerships. During these GP² projects, students consolidated research and knowledge, and discussed project details with Indigenous government staff, council members, and community members to produce deliverables relevant to the each client's policy challenge.



In 2020-21, MPPGA students addressed policy issues with eleven GP² clients on the following themes:

Development in South Asia

- Disparity and Disconnection: Impacts of COVID-19 on Education in Nepal - Open Learning Exchange, Nepal
- A Farmer Assistance Scheme Database: Agriculture, Solar and Food Processing in India – SELCO Foundation, India
- » Advancing Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade between ASEAN and Canada - Canadian ASEAN Business Council, Singapore

Indigenous Partnerships

» Village of Laxgalts'ap Assessment of Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Strategies - Nisga'a Village Government of *Laxgalts'ap*

- Contributing to a Safe Land based Education Program for the Tahltan Community - Tū'desē'cho Wholistic Indigenous Leadership Development Society
- Climate Action Strategy: Coordinating Action on Squamish Nation Territory – Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)

21st Century Governance

- Opportunities to Decolonize 'The Vancouver Plan' – Department of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability, City of Vancouver
- Prioritizing Threats and Allocating Resources: Applying Lessons from Four Sectors to Inform National

Security Priorities – Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Ottawa

Strategies for Strengthening Relations Between the Canadian Armed Forces and Civil Society Organizations – Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security, Ottawa

Refugees and Internally Displaced People

- Impact of Climate Change on Sexual and Gender Based Violence on Internally Displaced Persons in Haiti – Global Justice Centre, New York
- Refugee Resettlement: Exploring Barriers to Success for New Vermonters - State of Vermont - Office of the Lieutenant Governor



CONVENING LEARNING, & ENGAGEMENT

SPPGA strives to exchange knowledge, raise awareness of pressing issues, and foster an inclusive space for interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue among students, academics, government, industry, nonprofits, and community. To achieve our goals, we host a number of initiatives, programs, and events on public policy and global affairs. This past year, our activities helped our school strengthen engagement with both campus and community partners, contributing to the fabric of teaching, learning, and research at UBC.

Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In recognition of the existence of systemic inequalities and discrimination in higher education, SPPGA's newly established **Equity**, **Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** faculty committee is committed to fostering an accessible, inclusive, equitable, and respectful environment and a healthy and welcoming place of teaching, learning, scholarship, policy, and community engagement at SPPGA. The EDI Committee is working towards a comprehensive action plan to align with and advance UBC's Inclusion Action Plan, the Indigenous Strategic Plan and in accordance with forthcoming recommendations of the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force.

The graduate students started their own committee dedicated to these issues. **REDI** (Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) is an open collective of graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff at SPPGA that fosters open and progressive conversations to build a more equitable and inclusive school. REDI seeks to allocate resources and provide solutions to problems highlighted by the SPPGA community. REDI met regularly throughout the year to share ideas and advance the work, including cooperating with SPPGA's EDI Committee and the Indigenous Strategic Plan working group, diversifying guest speakers and readings in



the MPPGA curriculum, hosting events, and conducting surveys to assess communal sentiments. A group of REDI members along with other faculty, staff, and students began a self-assessment study to reflect and discuss our role at UBC within the context of Indigenous engagement and help situate SPPGA in relation to the Indigenous Strategic Plan's goals and actions.

SPPGA established a Director's fund for REDI in the classroom, an annual fund that faculty members can apply to in order to host workshops, invite and compensate speakers, or hire a Research Assistant to design learning activities or revise syllabi to advance EDI goals. The fund supported a school-wide workshop on intersectionality run by Bakau Consulting that was co-hosted by REDI and the MPPGA Student Association.

Broadly, students, staff, and faculty from across the school have gathered for learning and discussion both formally, such as implicit bias and power sessions for faculty and staff facilitated by Adjunct Professor of Practice **Andrea Reimer**, and informally as members of our community. We look forward to continuing these critical discussions and implementing changes across SPPGA.

Workshops and Speaker Series

SPPGA organizes public events around timely and urgent issues related to public policy and global affairs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, SPPGA turned to the virtual world, hosting 115 keynotes, panels, dialogues, receptions, and symposia, reaching an even more global roster of speakers and a broader audience.

The Phil Lind Initiative

The Phil Lind Initiative is an annual dialogue series and competitive entry graduate course hosted by SPPGA and made possible by a generous gift from UBC alumnus Philip Lind. The initiative's mandate is to invite prominent US scholars, writers, and intellectuals to UBC to share ideas with students, faculty, and the wider community on some of the most urgent issues of our time.

This past fall, SPPGA hosted three virtual events as part of the continuing "<u>Thinking While</u> <u>Black</u>" series, featuring prominent authors Jesmyn Ward and Ibram X. Kendi. Around 1,200 students, alumni, faculty and community joined each webinar as the speakers and moderators examined how forms of racial violence persist, how we can deepen our understanding of our relations to blackness, and how to be an active anti-racist.

In Term 2, SPPGA also held the five-part virtual "<u>The Anti-Democratic Turn</u>" series, which addressed emerging fault lines in the

democratic process and how we can protect the integrity of our democracies in an era marked by authoritarian resurgence and nativist backlash. Prominent Phil Lind Initiative speakers included authors and professors Michael Sandel, Charles Blow, Anne Applebaum, Timothy Snyder, and Danielle Allen. As one example of the discussions, Dr. Sandel, a political philosopher and Harvard University professor, outlined the renewal of the dignity of work, the reign of technocratic merit in current society, as well as what it takes to build a culture of public trust, and engaged in over twenty audience questions. Where permission was granted, we uploaded video recordings of the events to share the events with a broader audience.

Below: Michael Sandel speaks in the The Phil Lind Initiative series, The Anti-Democratic Turn.



SPPGA Policy Salon

SPPGA collaborated with the UBC School of Population and Public Health to bring in their faculty expertise and connections to host the virtual 2020 SPPGA Policy Salon, which focused on "The Importance of Good Governance in the COVID-19 Era, from the Local to the Global." One **discussion** included reflections from Indigenous public health physicians, Dr. Behn Smith and Dr. Waters, on B.C.'s commitment to a new relationship with Indigenous peoples, including the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and challenges with implementation during the pandemic. The unprecedented measures enacted during COVID-19 have illuminated tensions between mainstream policy and legislation and Indigenous peoples' inherent rights.



Matriarch Illuminations

SPPGA Policy Practitioner Fellow **Jessica Wood** *Si Sityaawks* invited students, staff, faculty, and community members to pour themselves a cup of tea and sit around the virtual table to listen as she and matriarch guests explored how policy, matriarchy, Indigenous wisdom and leadership, and Adawx (laws) may guide us all towards a just and fair society in her five-part virtual dialogue series, <u>Matriarch Illuminations</u>. The series received great interest from students, faculty, and others, with 411 attendees across the series.

Partnership Events

We have often partnered with other UBC units and community groups to host events, such as a robust virtual dialogue between Wes Jackson, one of the founders of the sustainable agriculture movement, author Robert Jensen, as well as UBC professors **Ramana** and Hannah Wittman (Land & Food Systems), co-sponsored by the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, and UBC Sustainability.

The Richard B. Splane Lecture in Social Policy is an annual partnership event between SPPGA, the UN Association of Canada - Greater Vancouver, and the School of Social Work on various dimensions of social policy. In 2021, we featured <u>a talk</u> by Seth Klein, Director of Strategy of the Climate Emergency Unit, on mobilizing Canada for the climate emergency, engaging with 156 attendees.

SPPGA partnered twice with UBC Reads Sustainability on the campus-wide Climate Justice Webinar Series to bring prominent speakers to engage with UBC audiences. The first featured Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and environment, culture, and human rights advocate, on "The Right to Be Cold," exploring the parallels between safeguarding the Arctic and the survival of Inuit culture. The second event, co-moderated by Prof. Ramana, featured acclaimed Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh on "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the **Unthinkable**," in which Ghosh argued that the extreme nature of today's climate events make them peculiarly resistant to contemporary modes of thinking and imagining.



AMA with Andrea Reimer

SPPGA Adjunct Professor of Practice **Andrea Reimer** continued hosting her weekly **Twitter AMA** on policy and power, and engaged in collaborations across campus. As she commented: "Being able to be a resource through things like an "Ask Me Anything" initiative provides moments of intellectual collision that can develop in ways that more formal structures cannot accommodate." Andrea hosted twenty guests over the course of the year, including Linda Solomon, Editor-in-Chief of Canada's National Observer; Adriana Laurent, Co-founder of Climate Hub; Niki Sharma, MLA, Vancouver-Hastings; and Rabi Karmacharya, Executive Director, OLE Nepal.

MPPGA Student Leadership

A student-led event, "<u>After Coup: The Civil</u> <u>Disobedience Movement in Myanmar</u>," explored civil disobedience on the ground in Myanmar, and the international community's ability to respond, following a military coup on February 17, 2021. The discussions, moderated by MPPGA student **Joshua Diemert,** featured a UBC PhD candidate and a legal advisor with the Global Justice Center.





Initiatives Led by SPPGA Institutes and Centres

SPPGA's institutes and research centres serve as important conveners in learning and engagement, working to exchange dialogue on pressing global issues and facilitate experiential, problem-focused learning for our students. Speakers included academics, policy practitioners, Indigenous and community leaders, and authors who presented their insights and engaged in dialogue with our students, faculty, and broader community.

The Institute of Asian Research

The Institute of Asian Research (IAR), under the leadership of Director **Timothy Cheek**, continued to support a scholarly publication, *Pacific Affairs*, and major initiatives such as the <u>Himalaya Program</u>, the <u>Xinjiang</u> <u>Documentation Project</u>, and

the Program on Inner Asia

that focus on specific Asian regions and policy issues. The IAR is also home to five regional research centres, with which the Institute frequently collaborates on Asia Pacific policy events and initiatives: <u>the Centre for</u> <u>Chinese Research (CCR), the</u> <u>Centre for India and South</u> <u>Asia Research (CISAR), the</u> <u>Centre for Japanese Research</u> (CJR), the Centre for Korean <u>Research (CKR)</u>, and <u>the Centre</u> <u>for Southeast Asia Research</u> (CSEAR).

A major event hosted by the IAR, in collaboration with Prof. **Erin Baines** and student Yunji Hwang, "<u>Hush... It's All in the</u> <u>Past": Exploring the Silenced</u> <u>Narratives around Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in</u>

Asia," focused on war and violence against women in Asia. By exploring different examples of "sexual violence" in Asia presented by three different panelists, the webinar generated an informed discussion on how to understand and respond to "sexual violence" perpetrated by the state across Asia. In addition, in honour of the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women Security, panelists discussed the limits of current global governance in addressing the issue of conflict-related "sexual violence".

Pacific Affairs

Located in the IAR since 1997, Pacific Affairs is a peerreviewed, independent, and interdisciplinary scholarly journal that is published quarterly. The journal focuses on important current political, economic, and social issues throughout Asia and the Pacific. Pacific Affairs published four volumes this past year, covering topics ranging from renegotiating social risks in the People's Republic of China and Japan to the case of Pacific Studies in China to Singapore's pandemic election.

The Xinjiang Documentation Project

The Xinjiang Documentation Project, led by Prof. Timothy Cheek and IAR Honorary Research Associate Dr. Guldana Salimjan at Simon Fraser University, garnered a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connection grant to support the expansion of its core work of collecting, assessing, preserving and making available documentary information on the troubling developments in China's NW region of Xinjiang.

UBC Himalaya Program

UBC is now a focal point for Himalayan Studies in Canada and North America due to the active and vibrant **UBC Himalaya Program**, led by Associate Profs. Sara Shneiderman (SPPGA; Anthropology) and **Tsering** Shakya, alongside Prof. Mark Turin (Anthropology; Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies) and Prof. Ratna K. Shrestha (Vancouver School of Economics). In this past year, the program has offered regular online seminars and graduate student roundtable discussions, and Profs. Shneiderman and Shakya co-coordinated Tibetan and Nepali community-engaged language learning courses during the summer months in collaboration with the Department of Asian Studies.

In November 2020, the program hosted a virtual roundtable, "<u>Himalayan Research in the</u>

Time of COVID-19: Views

from Canada", that featured a panel of graduate students and emerging scholars across different disciplines and institutions in Canada. Panelists explored the ongoing experience of what it is like to conduct research about the Himalayan region during a time of sheltering-in-place. The event was moderated by SPPGA SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow **Elsie Lewison** and Dagmar Schwerk, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Asian Studies.

The UBC Himalaya Program also hosted a virtual roundtable discussion with the Tibetan-Canadian community to reflect on how they have responded with care to the pandemic one year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. The meeting demonstrated how the pandemic had

Below: Associate Professor Tsering Shakya

disproportionately impacted minority groups, and galvanized community organizations.

Centre for Chinese Research (CCR)

Led by Acting Director Timothy Cheek, CCR and SPPGA cosponsored a book launch for Dr. Kristen Hopewell on her new book, Clash of Powers: US-China Rivalry in Global Trade Governance (Cambridge University Press). The book represents the culmination of Dr. Hopewell's major five-year research project sponsored by the UK Economic and Social Research Council and the Global Research Challenges Fund. It explores the impact of China's rise on the global trading system, and the growing battle between the US and China over the rules of international trade.

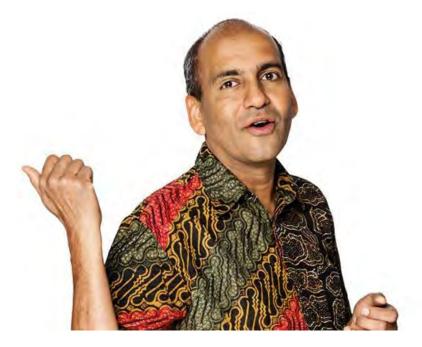


Centre for India and South Asia Research (CISAR)

Guided by Acting Director M.V. Ramana, CISAR organized several webinars, including "Pakistan's Ever-changing Geopolitical Winds: China's Belt & Road Initiative in Historical Context," which explored the historical context of China's Belt & Road Initiative in Pakistan. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of China's Belt & Road Initiative, will usher in more than US\$60 billion of investment into Pakistan. An engaging discussion took place between scholars from Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad and Prof. Ramana as moderator.

Centre for Japanese Research (CJR)

CJR Director **Yves Tiberghien** (Political Science) led a collaboration with the University of Tokyo on a major webinar, "Ten Years after Fukushima: Commemoration and Lessons for the Future," to commemorate the anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster and discuss lessons for nuclear safety. The event was moderated by Prof. Tiberghien and featured various Japanese and UBC scholars, including nuclear energy experts Dr. Allison Macfarlane (SPPGA Director) and Dr. Ramana.



Above: Professor Ramana

Center for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR)

Prof. Kai Ostwald (SPPGA; Political Science) led CSEAR's work as Director this past year, organizing numerous policyrelevant events. CSEAR held a roundtable on social and alternative media in Southeast Asia with scholars in Australia and a freelance journalist based in Singapore. 50 participants asked the speakers questions after learning more about the situation. Several other activities focused on how insights from Southeast Asia could inform policy discussions in North America. For example, one focused on the Affirmative Action programs in Malaysia and South Africa (the most expansive in the world) and what lessons they offer to addressing systemic inequalities in Canada and the US. Dr. Ostwald also focused on providing extra support via workshops and discussion sessions to UBC graduate

students whose research plans on or in Southeast Asia were disrupted by the pandemic.

Centre for Korean Research (CKR)

Prof. Ross King (Asian Studies) continued as Director of CKR, organizing various research and events on the study of Korea, and supporting the Korearelated research activities of UBC graduate students and faculty members. One of the online events traced the origins of environmental issues in the late nineteenth century, when Chosŏn Korea joined transnational, top-down drives to modernize its agriculture. The presentation called for spatially reconceptualizing "environmental problems" and shifting our focus from industrialization in cities to agriculture and the rural in reading the environment and writing a critical environmental history of Korea.

The Liu Institute for Global Issues

Led by Director **M.V. Ramana**, the Liu Institute for Global Issues is an interdisciplinary research hub that aspires to influence academic and public debates about global issues, inform policy decisions, and become an important source of ideas, education, information and perspectives.

Liu Scholars

The Liu Institute piloted a new model for the Liu Scholars program with UBC Ph.D. students carrying out work on one of two themes. The themes chosen for the year were *Energy transitions and Climate change and Global China: Challenges and Opportunities.* We were thrilled to welcome Mrinmoy Chakraborty, Oludolapo Makinde, Sun Ryung Park, and Bassam Javed as our <u>2021-22 Liu Scholars</u>. They are pursuing their projects in collaboration with, or under the mentorship of, one or more SPPGA faculty members.

We also congratulated <u>Liu Scholar Tebogo Thandie Leepile</u>, the first place winner of this year's UBC Three Minute Thesis competition #UBC3MT for her thesis titled "MyData_ MyVoice: Prevalence of Anemia among San Women and Young Children in Rural Botswana." Tebby is a UBC PhD candidate in Integrated Studies in Land and Food Systems and Co-chair of the Liu Institute Network for Africa (LINA).

Liu Institute Network for Africa

The Liu Institute Network for Africa (LINA) is one of several student-led research networks that supports interdisciplinary and collaborative exchange on pressing global issues. LINA supports multidisciplinary research on global issues affecting Africa, and African issues affecting the world and aims to shape global policy. The network hosted a variety of events and facilitated dialogues, including a four-part COVID-19 and Africa Webinar Series that highlighted African responses to COVID-19 across different sectors.

LINA also collaborated with the <u>Collective for Gender+ in</u> <u>Research</u>, part of the Office for Regional and International Community Engagement, to host the African Women's Leadership Series where the community came together to celebrate African women's outstanding contributions and examine the prevailing challenges that still require intensified investments for change to empower women. Panelists at the first webinar shared their journeys and current work on improving health, gender equality, and women's role in Africa's development agenda.





The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Led by Acting Director Prof. **Gerald Baier** (Political Science), the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) hosts the innovative Institute for Future Legislators and several major projects, publishes regular reports, and convenes public events to engage on aspects of the democratic process.

Programs

Institute for Future Legislators: 2020 Virtual Series

The Institute for Future Legislators (IFL) provides intensive hands-on mentoring and training for anyone who seeks the experience and knowledge necessary to make a difference in Canadian politics — whether at the local, provincial, or federal level. As the pandemic unfolded, the



importance of having strong legislators who can make difficult decisions for the health and welfare of their communities became even more vital. The CSDI partnered with the Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University to co-present a free virtual IFL series that exposed attendees to a repository of seasoned political practitioners who shared their insights, experience and expertise on effective leadership, democracy, communications, and engagement and what it means during a global crisis. Watch this video for more on the IFL program.

Projects

Participedia

The Centre's major research project, **Participedia**, has been led by Mark Warren (Merilees Chair; Political Science) since its founding in 2015. **Participedia was awarded a \$2.5m Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)** to expand its reach and impact. The project is now housed within McMaster's Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice and is led by principal investigator Bonny Ibhawoh (Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights). Participedia is an open-access crowdsourcing platform which serves as a global resource for participatory democracy. It is the largest database of its kind. Participedia's primary goals are to map the developing sphere of participatory democratic innovations; explain why they are developing as they are; assess their contributions to democracy and good governance; and transfer this knowledge back into practice. Watch how Participedia highlights democratic innovations in uncertain times.

How Can the Debates Commission Contribute to Canadian Democracy?

Over the last year, the CSDI provided research capacity and advice to Canada's Leaders' Debates Commission. In addition to commissioned research on the academic literature around debates and consultation with stakeholders, the CSDI organized a workshop that brought together experts to discuss the Commission's experience in 2019. Read a <u>blog post</u> by Research Associate **Spencer McKay** as he looked ahead to the future of the Commission.

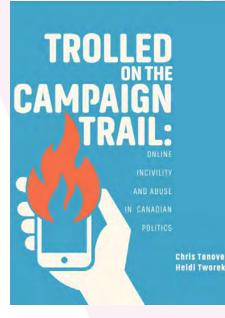


Publications

Trolled on the Campaign Trail: Online Incivility and Abuse in Canadian Politics

In October 2020, the CSDI published a report by authors **Heidi Tworek** and Chris Tenove. Social media are crucial for contemporary election campaigns. While online interactions during campaigns can be positive and productive, candidates also face insults, threats, hate speech, and other forms of incivility. The report examines incivility on social media in the 2019 federal election campaign and beyond. It draws on an analysis of over one million tweets directed at candidates in the 2019 campaign, and on interviews with candidates, campaign staff, and elected officials. **Download the full report**.

The report's release led to a virtual panel event with Dr. Tworek and Chris Tenove who joined federal Members of Parliament Charlie Angus, Iqra Khalid and Bob Zimmer for "<u>Online Harm: Protecting Canadian</u> <u>Democracy in the Age of Social Media</u>." The report also earned substantial interest from Canadian media, with <u>commentary and</u> <u>interviews</u> in the *Globe and Mail*, the *CBC*, *iPolitics*, and others.





Events

British Columbia's 2020 Snap Election

The B.C. government called for a snap election in the fall of 2020. Candidates of every political stripe cobbled together campaigns at a time when voters were concerned with issues related to the pandemic, the worsening overdose crisis, affordable housing, climate change, indigenous rights, health care and the economy, among others. The CSDI examined how these issues square

with party platforms, what campaigning and <u>voting</u> look like in a pandemic, as well as the results of the election and its consequences for politics in British Columbia, and the party and electoral systems of the province. These <u>pre- and post-election events</u> were hosted in partnership with UBC Political Science.

2020 U.S. Presidential Election Series

The CSDI held a <u>five-part webinar series</u> on the U.S. Presidential election that explored the issues and dynamics driving the most bitterly contested and consequential race in recent years. The series looked at legal questions that dominated the days and weeks after the election, the election's impact on global politics, the pandemic, and what we can expect as we headed into 2021. <u>Watch the series</u>, which was hosted in partnership with UBC Political Science.



The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement

The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE), led by Director Tamara Baldwin, engages students, staff, faculty, and community partners through an interdisciplinary, community-based and experiential approach. This past year, ORICE developed partnerships that cut across particular academic activity and continued to foster long-standing collaborations in India, Kenya, and other countries. ORICE has also pursued various curricular collaborations, from organizing guest lectures and course assignments that brought students together with community organizations to respond to disciplinary relevant questions and issues, to teaching courses, such as "Wicked Problems in Global Community Development."

ORICE equally engaged in co-curricular collaborations, with a seven-week **SDG Praxis Institute**, delivered in partnership with the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) where students presented to government on the theme, "Shock, System Change and Agency." The Institute focused on the transformational potential of the Sustainable Development Goals at the nexus of theory and action. Both Associate Prof. **David Boyd** and Policy Practitioner Fellow **Jessica Wood** guest lectured amongst other academic and community leaders.

ORICE has several collectives including <u>Gender+ In Research</u>, which works to promote a community for rich dialogue in which gender and other identity intersections, including race, class, sexuality, and ability, are considered when conducting community-engaged research. Currently, one project within the Collective focuses on capacity building and providing the tools researchers need to utilize a gender+ lens and is supported by Assistant Prof. **Tara Cookson** and four Graduate Research Assistants.

This past year, ORICE pursed extensive public engagement with 700 participants, exchanging discussion and knowledge with 29 community members on various virtual panels and partnering with UBC Climate Hub, the Global Lounge, and other units.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Professor Max Cameron, Former Acting Director, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

We wish to acknowledge the dedicated work of <u>Max Cameron</u>, Prof. of Political Science and Director on leave of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions, who held the role of Acting SPPGA Director from July 2019 to July 2020. During this time, Prof. Cameron steered the school through the onset of the COVID-19 lockdowns in March 2020 and we acknowledge his tremendous efforts and expertise.

SPPGA Policy Practitioner Fellow, Jessica Wood Si Sityaawks

During her time as a SPPGA Policy Practitioner Fellow, Jessica Wood Si Sityaawks focused on building meaningful connections of people and ideas through dialogue. She discussed some of the next big questions that accompany the growing movements to implement the UN Declaration in different jurisdictions and sectors with Indigenous leaders and allies. We thank Jessica for her engagement with SPPGA and wish her well as she continues to lead British Columbia's cross-ministry work to adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (The Declaration).

Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability

SPPGA is especially thankful for the on-going support of the **Institute for Resources**, **Environment and Sustainability (IRES)**, led by Director and Prof. **Milind Kandlikar**. IRES is a problem-focused and curiosity-driven interdisciplinary research and graduate teaching institute in the Faculty of Science. IRES shares three faculty appointments with SPPGA and faculty have been involved in numerous MPPGA courses and SPPGA speaker series. Profs. Kandlikar and Peter Berman (SPPH) ran a new course, SPPH 581, engaging students in comparative case studies in Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Nicaragua, and Iowa (U.S.) on responses to the pandemic.

Final Thanks

We are grateful to the Faculty of Arts Dean's office, Arts ISIT, the Arts Development and Alumni Engagement team, UBC Media Relations, other UBC partners as well as policy practitioners, alumni, and donors who have supported us with their expertise and guidance throughout this challenging year. We look ahead with great excitement to possibilities for further cross-campus collaboration and policy engagement to tackle some of the world's most urgent issues.



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