



2021 – 2022

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 **hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm̓** speaking Musqueam people.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

Table of Contents

Director's Statement	03
SPPGA at a Glance	04
Our Commitment to Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	05
RESEARCH AND IMPACT	06
Interdisciplinary Expertise	06
Collaboration and Partnerships	07
Faculty Spotlights	08
Major Publications	15
Media Mentions and Op-Eds - Spotlight on Ukraine	16
NOTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS	17
Staff Spotlight	17
New Faculty	17
Promotions and Appointments	18
Awards	19
Funding	20
THE MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM	21
MPPGA by the Numbers	22
The Global Policy Project	23
Student Publications	23
Other Experiential Learning	24
CONVENING, LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT	26
Fellowships	26
Speaker Series and Events	27
SPPGA Institutes, Centres, and Programs	30
Acknowledgements	41

Director's Statement

This past year has seen challenging times. We are experiencing overlapping crises of a pandemic, the effects of climate change, the dismantling of democracies, war in Europe, along with continuing inequality and injustice. The School of Public Policy and Global Affairs faculty and fellows tackle many of these issues head-on, through their research, their public engagement, and their teaching.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty posed by COVID-19, we continued to move the School forward by embarking on SPPGA's first strategic plan. Faculty and staff engaged in a number of consultations with key advisors at UBC, as well as internal discussions related to UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan, in order to build upon our unique strengths and foster a collective vision that reinforces our role as a driver of positive change. This past year, we welcomed Professors **Hugh Gusterson** and **Maxwell Cameron**, bringing our numbers to 26 core faculty members who pursue interdisciplinary scholarship in over thirty countries and in areas as diverse as the right to a healthy environment, the dangers of disinformation online, and the impact of China's trade policies on global development.

Our professional degree program, the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs, continues to train the next generation of global change makers by providing them with a strong foundation in policy-making processes at both the domestic and global levels, connections to practitioners, as well as experiential, client-centred learning. Congratulations to our sixth graduating MPPGA class, a profound accomplishment considering that their first year was entirely online. They will now



join our growing cohort of alumni who are employed in influential policy roles in governments, non-profits, and businesses around the world. I'd like to thank Graduate Program Director **George Hoberg** who expertly guided our program and students through a variety of challenges and successes.

I'd also like to thank our staff for their dedication and skills. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge **Tamara Baldwin**, who has worked tirelessly in the role of acting Assistant Director while also continuing her Directorship of UBC's Office of Regional and International Community Engagement.

SPPGA continued with a number of initiatives throughout the year, such as panel discussions led by our Practitioner Fellow **Natasha Thambirajah**, the Institute for Future Legislators led by the Centre of the Study of Democratic Institutions, the Liu Scholars program organized by the Liu Institute for Global Issues, as well as the high profile Phil Lind Initiative on the theme of *The Future of Media*. These were key to engaging with the wider UBC and Vancouver communities, and with the ongoing use of Zoom, participants further afield continued to join the discussions.

As our school continues to grow, so does our reach and our influence on shaping public policy around the world. We look forward to engaging with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Allison MacFarlane'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

ALLISON MACFARLANE, DIRECTOR



26

faculty members
including **13 named
chairs** and **2 UN
Representatives**

37

countries in which
faculty members
are conducting
research and
policy engagement

200+

books, journal
articles, book
chapters, and reports
by faculty members

SPPGA AT A GLANCE

400+

media mentions
and op-eds in
news outlets
around the world

8

Postdoctoral and
Practitioner Fellows

96

virtual, in-person,
and hybrid events
convened

6,000+

event attendees
including students,
alumni, faculty, staff,
and community
members

20

staff positions

98

students in the
Master of Public Policy
and Global Affairs
(MPPGA) program

150

MPPGA alumni

OUR COMMITMENT TO

Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

As a policy school that is the home to future leaders and policymakers across the globe, SPPGA acknowledges systemic and intersecting forms of oppression in the academy and society at large. We commit to upholding both the UBC commitment to a [respectful environment](#) for all and to lead change processes within our school.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

SPPGA's faculty-led [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Committee](#) is working towards fostering an accessible, inclusive, equitable, and respectful environment and a healthy and welcoming place of teaching, learning, scholarship, policy, and community engagement.

This past year, the committee's first Chair and Faculty Representative, **Prof. Erin Baines**, led the committee in developing a reporting mechanism as well as a comprehensive set of seven actions to advance UBC's Inclusion Action Plan and UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan, in alignment with recommendations from the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force. The committee also built relationships across campus, presented wellness awareness and resources to faculty, and regularly shared events, training, and workshop opportunities with the SPPGA community.

Early in 2022, **Prof. Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology) joined as EDI Chair to continue the committee's important work. As one of her first actions, she invited faculty and staff to participate in a focus group discussion with fellow community members to share ideas about how best to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations into SPPGA's hiring practices.

REDI (Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Collective

The [REDI \(Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion\)](#) volunteer collective of graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff focused on holding open and progressive conversations and developing and sharing resources. REDI members met bi-weekly

throughout the year to share ideas and advance work around racial and gender equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility through a variety of working groups.

The Intersectionality working group hosted a workshop titled "Interlocking Systems of Power: How to Apply Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis to Policy Formulation and Evaluation" with speaker Michelle Buchholz to increase the school's understanding of intersectionality-based policy analysis.

REDI's Indigenous Strategic Plan working group organized four discussion sessions with members of the SPPGA community guided by the self-assessment toolkit for the implementation of UBC's [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#). This process was then folded into SPPGA's strategic planning process with further faculty and staff discussion sessions.

REDI's newer Accessibility and Wellness working group supports the wellbeing of MPPGA students, staff, and faculty as well as advocates for improved accessibility to the spaces where our community works and learns. Some of their projects this past year included setting up students for success via orientation, implementing gender neutral washroom signage, and implementing a wellbeing survey led by the MPPGA Student Association.

Director's Fund for REDI in the Classroom

Beyond the EDI Committee and REDI's work, the SPPGA's annual Director's Fund for REDI in the classroom supports REDI activities in MPPGA courses. This past year, SPPGA funded ten applications for a total of \$5,150 in funding. As an example, **Prof. Sheryl Lightfoot** (SPPGA; Political Science) invited Kristen Carpenter (Cherokee) former Chair, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People to speak with students about UN efforts on repatriation of human remains and ceremonial objects. In another instance, **Prof. Veena Sriram** introduced multimedia case studies with a focus on grassroots activism in policy. We look forward to continuing these critical discussions and implementing important changes across SPPGA.

RESEARCH AND IMPACT

SPPGA reflects UBC's strategic goals of creating and mobilizing knowledge and advancing coordinated action across the university and with community for positive impact globally.

Interdisciplinary Expertise

SPPGA expanded to 26 faculty members this past year, strengthening our interdisciplinary community of scholars striving towards positive change through research, policy engagement, and teaching.

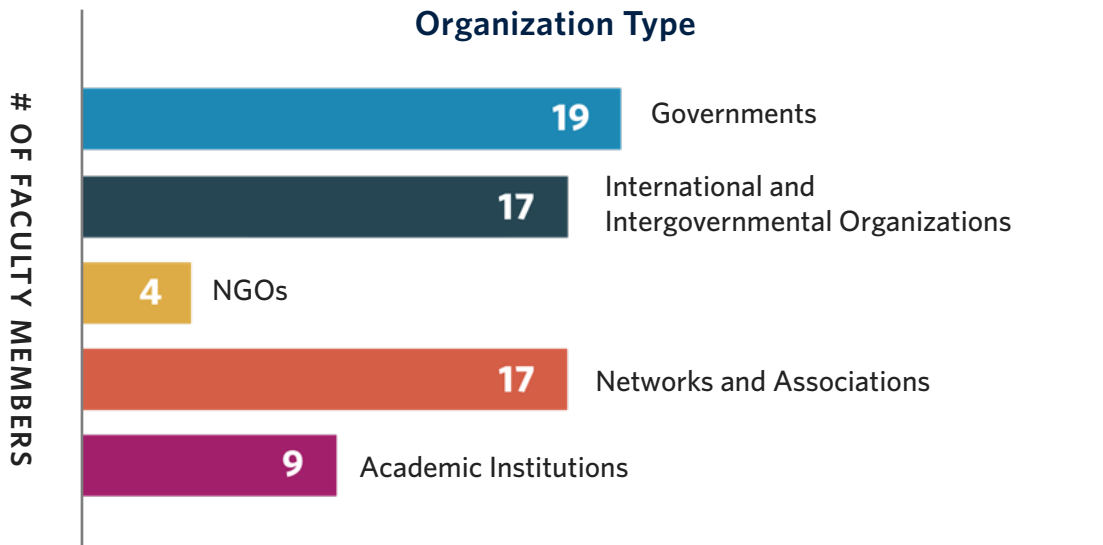
SPPGA faculty members seek to create and mobilize knowledge for impact in a number of ways: by publishing scholarly research and reports, engaging in media appearances, consulting with governments, sharing expertise to inform policy decisions in high level stakeholder discussions, and hosting dialogues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

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

- Science and technology policy, e.g. nuclear risks; addressing climate change through fossil fuel supply constraint; land systems for sustainability; improving small-scale fishers' livelihoods; energy transitions
- Asia policy, e.g. Canada-China relations; China's trade policy; 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; landslide risk and disaster governance in the Himalayan region, democratization and political development in Mongolia
- Global governance and democracy, e.g. platform governance; the threats of disinformation; international trade, comparative politics (Latin America)
- Security and development, e.g. women, peace, and security; transformative memory; gender data; food security
- Global Indigenous politics, e.g. decolonizing settler states, enabling Indigenous peoples to approve and regulate mining activities on their lands
- Global health, e.g. COVID-19 in South Asia; equitable policy on vaccine equity

Collaboration and Partnerships

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 26 faculty members in the graph, **Organization Type**, below:



Where We Are Working

SPPGA faculty members perform work over a truly diverse geographic range as shown on the map below, with research and engagement in such areas as resource governance, Indigenous policy, and climate change, not only in Canada but around the world.



Faculty Spotlights



Above: Prof. Veena Sriram

Global Health

COVID-19 Response in South Asia

Prof. Veena Sriram (SPPGA; School of Population and Public Health) initiated a series of research projects addressing key aspects of global health policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects focused on global health worker protests (supported by MPPGA students **Hari Narayanan** and **Chloe Andres**) and the response to COVID-19 at the sub-national level in India (supported by MPPGA students **Utkarsh Khare** and Hari Narayanan). In total, Dr. Sriram authored eight papers in top-tier global health journals, such as *BMJ Global Health*, *Human Resources for Health*, and *BMC Health Services Research*.

Over the past year, Prof. Sriram addressed several policy areas related to global health, including the response to COVID-19 in South Asia, specifically India. The target audiences for her policy engagement were decision makers at local, national and global levels, civil society networks and the general public. She leveraged her understanding of health policy processes in order to advance efficiency, transparency and inclusivity in policymaking, with the larger goals of equity and improved health

status. She engaged with academics through scholarly articles and with policy makers and the public through policy reports and the mainstream media. She also built partnerships with knowledge users and expanded involvement in global health networks.

Prof. Sriram advocated strongly within Canada for a coordinated response to the crisis with COVID-19 in South Asia and published op-eds and a commentary with colleagues from different South Asian countries on the need for more coordination across the region, as well as a more coordinated approach to COVID-19 in South Asia from the Canadian government. Dr. Sriram co-authored the op-ed, “[Canada can’t stand by while India’s medical system collapses](#),” in *The Globe and Mail*, which advocated for support from Canada to address India’s dire COVID-19 crisis, such as medical supplies, especially oxygen and ventilators. Prof. Sriram was also quoted in *Forbes* on how Canada can support India and how to develop a “post-crisis” allyship at all levels to foster an equitable recovery across the world.

Gender (In)equality

Research Network on Women, Peace, and Security

Prof. Erin Baines, Ivan Head South-North IDRC Chair, alongside Prof. Jennifer Welsh (McGill) and Prof. Yolande Bouka (Queens), co-founded a nationwide [Research Network on Women, Peace, and Security \(RN-WPS\)](#). As co-Directors on this MINDS Canada funded-network, they aim to advance research-activist-policy collaboration on emerging thematic areas relevant to Canadian and global security challenges from a gender and intersectional perspective.

The thematic priorities of RN-WPS include: future security challenges, gender and climate change, and Canada's defence relations. Through collaboration in policy research and exchange, they seek to influence the next iteration of Canada's policy on WPS and the next generation of scholarship, placing Canadian researchers on the global stage.

In its inaugural year, the network has grown membership from 40 to 100 individuals, recruited and mentored a Youth Advisory Board, developed a process to feed into the policy review of Canada's National Action Plan on WPS, held a Policy Roundtable on Canada's Defence Policy, and organized the first annual symposium on Women, Peace and Security, which included Global Affairs Canada attendees and presenters.



Above: Prof. Erin Baines

Policy Engagement with UN Women and the International Labour Organization

The work of **Prof. Tara Cookson**, Canada Research Chair in Gender, Development, and Global Public Policy, addresses issues of gender inequality in development contexts, with a specific focus on data generation for hard-to-measure policy issues, such as unpaid care and access to quality social protection. In the past year, she focused on leveraging collaborations with highly influential policy actors in the gender and development field, including UN Women's Research and Data and Economic Empowerment sections.

With UN Women, Prof. Cookson has conducted original research on the extent to which national governments consider gender equality in the design of their national social protection systems. The research was published in a research brief and a research report (published by UN Women and

UNICEF). On the basis of this research, she has acted as UN Women's formal advisor to country offices around the world on the design of social protection responses to COVID-19.

Prof. Cookson developed a particularly fruitful relationship with UN Women's West and Central Africa offices, through which she advised on the development of a new line of work on national care policies to recover from COVID-19. When she sees policy change, such as the adoption of new institutional metrics to measure impact on gender equality at UN Women, she sees the impact of her efforts. UN Women and other development actors continue to engage with Prof. Cookson for further research and technical and strategic advising because they also value the benefits of this type of collaboration.

Complex Issues in Asia

Democratization Initiative in Myanmar

Prof. Kai Ostwald (SPPGA; Political Science), Director, Institute of Asian Research, was engaged in numerous formal and informal conversations with Global Affairs Canada on both political and development interventions related to the coup and on-going crises in Myanmar. With universities in Myanmar closed due to the coup, Prof. Ostwald organized and led a pilot online training program for Burmese graduate students and researchers, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) as part of the on-going [UBC Myanmar Initiative](#).

The program aimed to provide continuing education to students and democracy advocates in Myanmar. The young

researchers involved shared that they were deeply concerned about being isolated from the global research community due to the coup, and continue to see a role for research in democratizing Myanmar.

The program comprised ten modules covering foundations of democratization and development, taught over both synchronous meetings and asynchronous recordings. The 25 participants of this pilot program were fully funded; an additional 20 graduate students received scholarships to advance their studies. The program covered topics such as civil-military relations, federalism, transitional justice, social movements, global governance, and constitutional reform, among others.

Sajag-Nepal (Preparedness and Planning for the Mountain Hazard Risk Chain in Nepal)

The primary policy issue that **Prof. Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology) addressed this past year is Nepal's post-earthquake reconstruction and its lessons for disaster preparedness. She achieved impact through ongoing participation in four collaborative research grants, one

of which is "[Sajag-Nepal \(Preparedness and Planning for the Mountain Hazard Risk Chain in Nepal\)](#)", a £3.5 million partnership project from the UK Research and Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund based at Durham University, in which she is a co-investigator.



Sajag-Nepal provided regular virtual opportunities for Prof. Shneiderman to present research-based policy briefings to relevant actors during monthly project meetings, where participants included representatives of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the United Nations Development Programme, The Red Cross, the Government of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Agency, and others.

Prof. Shneiderman also remotely supervised four research associates based at Social Science Baha, who conducted district-level fieldwork about disaster governance and community preparedness for landslides and floods. Team members had opportunities to meet and brief members of the UNDP Climate Promise team, as well as federal, provincial, and municipal officials involved in Nepal's Disaster Management Bill implementation. She also worked closely with the research associates to develop research design, interpret data, and prepare briefing materials.

China's Economic and Trade Policies

Prof. Kristen Hopewell, Canada Research Chair in Global Policy, focused her policy engagement activities on a number of complex issues. Related to China, her work touched upon the US-China trade conflict, China's economic and trade policy, and Canada-US economic relations.

In Canada, Prof. Hopewell advised Global Affairs Canada on China's trade policies and the impact of its rise on the multilateral trading system. She also gave an invited presentation to Canada's Defense and Security Foresight Group on regional economic and trade order in the Asia-Pacific, and gave lectures to senior public servants in the Canada School of Public Service on China's economic and industrial policy.

Internationally over the past year, Prof. Hopewell provided a briefing for the US State Department on US-China economic competition, mega-regional trade agreements, and China's trade policy. She also provided evidence to the UK House of Lords International Relations and Defence Committee Inquiry into the UK's security and trade relationship with China. Her research was cited by a number of international policy communities, including the Shanghai Institute for International Studies and Chatham House.

Prof. Hopewell contributed to informing public debate on a diverse array of economic and trade policy issues, including China's trade policies, by publishing eight articles in leading media and policy outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *Nikkei Asia*, and *The Globe and Mail*. Media coverage of her work on US-China trade conflict, Canada-US relations, Canada-China economic relations, and other topics appeared in *USA Today*, *Bloomberg News*, *South China Morning Post*, and *Canadian Press*.



Above: Prof. Kristen Hopewell

Platform Governance

Online Hate and Platform Governance

Prof. Heidi Tworek (SPPGA; History), Canada Research Chair in History and Policy of Health Communications, continued to pursue research and policy engagement on a range of issues such as online hate and platform governance. This work led to her engagement at the provincial, federal, and international levels and with civil society. At the policymaker level, the BC Office of the Human Rights Commission awarded Prof. Tworek a contract to write a report examining online hate during the pandemic as part of their investigation into this issue.

In fall 2021, Prof. Tworek was appointed as one of 12 expert panel members to the Canadian Council of Academies' project on "Public Safety in the Digital Age." This project was commissioned by Public Safety Canada and will result in a peer-reviewed 120-page report in 2023. In March 2022, she was appointed as one of 12 members of an [Expert Advisory Group on Online Safety](#) for the Heritage Ministry in Canada to advise on an online safety bill; her work will shape how Canada regulates online platforms.

Prof. Tworek continued her engagement with global regulation of platforms through conferences with policymakers and her monthly column at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), as well as a testimony to CIGI's international civil servant network and publications on transparency in platform governance. This work has directly affected the transparency provisions of the EU's Digital Services Act and the hope is it will similarly influence bills elsewhere.

Prof. Tworek's work on platform governance also extends into international civil society. She continued to chair Digital Action, an NGO that aims to strengthen democratic rights in a digital age. Under her guidance, Digital Action has secured two achievements: it coordinated the People vs. Big Tech campaign comprised of over 100 organizations across Europe to influence the EU's Digital Services Act and implemented a quieter campaign on prisoner of war videos being shown on social media during the war in Ukraine. Digital Action raised the issue with Twitter, and prompted them to announce a change to their policy - the first time that Twitter mentioned the Geneva Conventions in their communications or policy work.





Environmental and Human Rights Concerns

The Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Prof. David Boyd (SPPGA; Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) continued in his role as United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment. Prof. Boyd contributed to a decades-long campaign that culminated with the UN recognizing that everyone has the right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The resolution was adopted by the Human Rights Council on October 8, 2021. This was an historic landmark in the evolution of international human rights.

In Prof. Boyd's role, he advocated through reports, speeches, lobbying and supporting civil society. He made two trips to Geneva last fall to meet with ambassadors, participate in public events, and support the core group of States (Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland) in the negotiations. Courts have already begun referring to the resolution (ex. Constitutional Court of Costa Rica banning a neonicotinoid pesticide, Constitutional Court of Ecuador prohibiting mining in forests designated for protection).

More recently, Prof. Boyd turned his attention to securing a resolution from the UN General Assembly recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which will complement the resolution from the Human Rights Council. A handful of States, including Russia, the United Kingdom, and Australia continue to oppose recognition of the right to a healthy environment in various forums.

Related to this work, Prof. Boyd published the UN report, "[The Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment: Non-toxic Environments](#)", and comprehensive annexes on global sacrifice zones and good practices. Additionally, he co-authored with McKenna Hadley-Burke, "[Sacrifice Zones: Fifty of the most polluted places on Earth](#)" to showcase how six months after the UN recognized this important human right, the environment is far from healthy for millions of the world's most vulnerable people. Prof. Boyd describes "sacrifice zones" as areas where the air, water and soil are so extremely polluted from toxic chemicals that respiratory diseases, cancer, lead poisoning, and a host of other health issues have become the norm for people living nearby.



Climate Change and Fossil Fuel Supply Constraint



Above: Prof. Philippe Le Billon

Prof. Philippe Le Billon (SPPGA; Geography) focused on several policy issues related to the environment-development-security nexus, one of which is climate change and fossil fuel supply constraint.

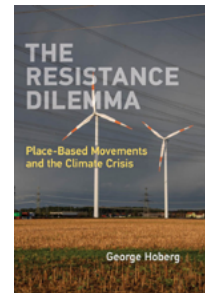
Prof. Le Billon presented his research findings and discussions with officials from the Government of Denmark and the International Institute for Sustainable Development regarding the strategy of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance initiative. He also participated in the Leave Fossil Fuels Underground Consortium, a global network bringing together researchers, activists, and policy-makers.

Prof. Le Billon held discussions with Global Affairs Canada representatives on the creation of the NATO Climate Security Center of Excellence as well as government activities with regard to international cooperation towards a managed decline in fossil fuel production. He also held discussions with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to inform a policy paper on Indigenous Peoples and climate risk/security.

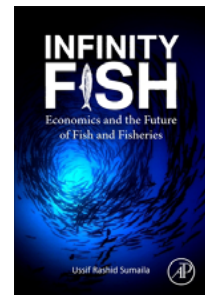
In this area of work, Prof. Le Billon published "[Climate Extractivism: Avoiding The Pitfalls of Extraction-Based Decarbonization](#)" in *Poplar & Ivy* which explored how climate politics can move beyond extractivist logics and practices. He also co-authored "[Climate negotiations take tentative steps to phase out fossil fuel production](#)" in *Policy Options*, which examined why climate meetings need to discuss fossil fuels, and why incentives are needed to accelerate its decline.

Major Publications

Prof. George Hoberg published a book, *The Resistance Dilemma: Place-Based Movements and the Climate Crisis*, which explores whether organized resistance to new fossil fuel infrastructure is an effective way of promoting climate action, if it might inadvertently feed resistance to the development of renewable energy infrastructure, and more innovative processes of decision-making would encourage the acceptance of clean energy systems. SPPGA held a [book launch](#) which featured an enriching discussion between Prof. Hoberg and Tzeporah Berman, International Program Director of Stand.Earth.



Prof. Rashid Sumaila (SPPGA; Institute of Oceans and Fisheries) published *Infinity Fish: Economics and the Future of Fish and Fisheries*, a book that serves as a practical and science-based reference that demonstrates how to value the benefits from restored marine ecosystems to sustain ocean and fishery resources for years to come. Prof. Sumaila explains the economic benefits of restoring ecosystems that have been overexploited and how to maintain fisheries in a level that's sustainable. SPPGA held a [book launch](#) to delve into the book and explore ways to pursue systematic change in the fisheries sector and preserve marine resources.



Prof. Timothy Cheek (SPPGA; History), Louis Cha Chair in Chinese Research, co-edited the book, [The Chinese Communist Party: A Century in Ten Lives](#). Ten engaging personal histories introduce readers to what it was like to live in and with the Chinese Communist Party.

The report, [“Ten Facts about Land Systems for Sustainability”](#), is a call to action for policymakers seeking sustainable and equitable solutions to urgent global challenges from 50 co-authors, including **Prof. Navin Ramankutty** (SPPGA; Institute for Resources Environment and Sustainability).

Prof. Matias Margulis (SPPGA; Land and Food Systems) published a journal article, [“Intervention by International Organizations in Regime Complexes”](#) in the *Review of International Organizations* which drew on analysis of case studies in food security. The article makes a significant contribution to theories of international organizations and represents

research into a new field of scholarship for Dr. Margulis – theories of agency of international organizations.

Related to Myanmar’s democratization and the February 2021 coup, **Prof. Kai Ostwald** co-authored two chapters with Kyaw Yin Hlaing: [“Introduction: Myanmar’s Transition Stalled – From Opening to Coup”](#) and [“Myanmar’s Pro-Democracy Movement”](#), first published in *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* and then republished as a print mini-book by Kyoto University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Co-edited by Prof. Ostwald, the issue was unique in that it was the first (and remains only one of very few) academic analyses of Myanmar’s coup to have contributions written by researchers in the country. All issues are open access and are translated into Burmese, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Tagalog, making them highly accessible to researchers, students, and government officials across Asia.



Media Mentions and Op-Eds

SPOTLIGHT ON UKRAINE

As the Russian-Ukrainian conflict began and continued to evolve, various SPPGA experts [commented in the media](#) on topics such as nuclear risks, digital technologies, energy security, food prices, China, and Mongolia.

Director and **Prof. Allison Macfarlane** commented in an article by *The Washington Post*, “IAEA Finds Normal Radioactivity at Chernobyl on Disaster’s Anniversary.” Prof. Macfarlane also appeared in a story by *WIRED*, “The Nuclear Reactors of the Future Have a Russia Problem” and was mentioned in Al Jazeera in “Is a nuclear disaster likely in Ukraine?”

Related to nuclear energy, **Prof. M. V. Ramana** was mentioned in *Global News* in the piece, “Behind Russia’s attacks on Ukraine’s nuclear power plants,” and was featured in *The Tyee*’s “Russia’s war: Use of nukes ‘extremely unlikely’.”

Prof. Hugh Gusterson (SPPGA; Anthropology) wrote an op-ed in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* titled “Ukraine and the post-Cold War world,” arguing that the way forward requires the leading powers to be more self-aware about ways in which their own actions may then license others to pursue their own exceptionalist actions.

Prof. Paul Evans appeared in an interview with *CBC News*, “After Biden and Xi speak, U.S. warns China could face sanctions if it aids Russian invasion.”

Prof. Julian Dierkes was quoted in *Reuters*, *Kathmandu Post*, and *Financial Post* in a story titled, “Mongolia’s East-West balancing act buffeted by Russian invasion of Ukraine.”

Prof. Philippe Le Billon authored a *Policy Options* article, “Putin’s war on Ukraine dictates new priorities for energy security,” while **Prof. George Hoberg** was featured in *National Observer*’s “Environment minister rebukes claims Canadian oil and gas can fix Europe’s energy insecurity.” **Prof. Matias Margulis** was featured in an article by the *Vancouver Sun*, “\$5 peppers and \$40 steaks: Why food prices are up and tips to bring bills down.”

Prof. Heidi Tworek co-authored an article in *The Conversation* titled “The Russian invasion shows how digital technologies have become involved in all aspects of war.” She was also mentioned in the *National Post*, *Vancouver Sun*, and other outlets in the story, “Lies, damn lies and propaganda wars: Russia’s ‘other’ campaign.”

Notable Announcements

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tamara Baldwin, Director of the Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE) and acting SPPGA Assistant Director was awarded the prestigious [2021 President's Service Award for Excellence](#). Tamara is an outstanding and compassionate leader who, in her roles as a director, educator, peer, and mentor, fosters ethical, equitable and community-centred engagement.

Andrea Reynolds, Manager of Student Academic Services, received the [2021 UBC President's Staff Award for Wellbeing](#). Andrea has a long history of providing outstanding and collaborative leadership in the area of wellbeing with staff, faculty, and students at SPPGA.

SPPGA welcomed staff members **Krista Knechtle** in the role of Graduate Program Manager and **Reiza Gabriel** in the role of Communications and Events Assistant.

New Faculty

SPPGA welcomed [Prof. Maxwell A. Cameron](#) to SPPGA as of July 1, 2021. Jointly appointed with Political Science, he is no stranger to SPPGA as former Acting Director of the school and former Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions. Prof. Cameron specializes in comparative politics (Latin America), constitutionalism, democracy, and political economy. He is the author or editor of a dozen academic books as well as over fifty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

SPPGA also welcomed [Prof. Hugh Gusterson](#) as a new faculty member. Prof. Gusterson is jointly appointed with SPPGA and Anthropology and specializes in the interdisciplinary study of the conditions under which particular bodies of knowledge are formed and deployed, with special attention to the science of war, the military, and nuclear weapons.



NEW ADJUNCT FACULTY, FACULTY ASSOCIATES, FELLOWS, AND VISITING SCHOLARS

Natasha Thambirajah, Practitioner Fellow; Director, Digital Health Policy, Ministry of Health

Vina Nadjibulla, Adjunct Prof; international security and peacebuilding specialist

Lindsay Cole, Adjunct Prof. (SPPGA; Department of Educational Studies); SSHRC-funded “Transforming Cities from Within” research team member

Julia Gabriele Harten, Faculty Associate; Assistant Professor at UBC’s School of Community and Regional Planning

Genevieve LeBaron, Visiting Professor

Gil Barros, Visiting Professor

Claudia Ituarte-Lima, Visiting Scholar

Zoe Braden, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Jessica DiCarlo, Chevalier Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Transportation and Development in China at the Institute of Asian Research

Hanna Karg, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ketty Anyeko, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Research Network on Women, Peace and Security

Chris Tenove, Postdoctoral Research Fellow and instructor for PPGA 509: Communicating Policy

Yuki Ohsawa, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Japanese Research at the Institute of Asian Research

Wahid Palash, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Markku Lehtonen, Visiting Researcher

Megan Dias, Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Promotions and Appointments

Prof. Kai Ostwald was promoted to Associate Professor at SPPGA and the Dept. of Political Science. On July 1, 2021, Prof. Ostwald was appointed as [Director of the Institute of Asian Research](#) (IAR) to continue developing the IAR as a world-renowned research hub for Asia-related policy and current affairs.

Political Science **Prof. Yves Tiberghien** (SPPGA Faculty Associate) was appointed the [Konwakai Chair in Japanese Research](#) at the IAR. As research chair, Prof. Tiberghien’s core publications this past year focused

on COVID policy in Japan and East Asia, including “[The East Asian Covid-19 Paradox](#)” and “[The paradox of China-India relations](#).” Prof. Tiberghien also gave a number of invited presentations, including “The Covid Situation in Japan-Updates and Lessons” at the Brookings Institution.

In January 2022, **Prof. Heidi Tworek** was appointed [Tier 2 Canada Research Chair](#) in History and Policy of Health Communications. She is examining the history and policy of international health communications, particularly during epidemics.

The Council of Canadian Academies appointed Prof. **Tworek** as a member to their newly formed [Expert Panel on Public Safety in the Digital Age](#) to examine leading practices that could help address risks to public safety while respecting human rights and privacy.

Prof. Tara Cookson was appointed [Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Gender, Development, and Global Public Policy](#). She is exploring the “gender data revolution” — a shift in development policy that puts gender data at the heart of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof. Sheryl Lightfoot (SPPGA; Political Science), Canada Research Chair of Global Indigenous Rights and Politics, was elected as a member of the [College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists](#) by the Royal Society of Canada.

Prof. Rashid Sumaila and PhD student **Temitope Onifade** (Co-Chair, Liu Institute Network for Africa) were selected as UBC delegates to attend the 26th [UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP26\)](#) – an international convening of nations to discuss what actions are needed to address climate change and to negotiate global and national emissions reductions. MPPGA alumna **Denby McDonnell** also participated on behalf of her employer, Ecotrust Canada.

Awards

Prof. Rashid Sumaila received the prestigious [SSHRC 2021 Impact Award](#) for his work as Scientific Director of the OceanCanada Partnership, a SSHRC-funded research initiative. The outstanding qualities of Prof. Sumaila’s research, the importance and impact of his work, and his commitment to promoting the outcomes of his research to the public and policymakers have merited his winning the 2021 Impact Award. OceanCanada is a national research network that integrates expertise from academics, community stakeholders, and the private and public sectors to fill an existing knowledge gap and to offer a new avenue for data sharing, cross-fertilization of ideas, co-creation of knowledge and collaborative building of research and governance capacity from coast to coast to coast.

The German Studies Association named **Prof. Heidi Tworek** the 2021 inaugural winner of the David Barclay Book Prize for *News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945*.

Prof. Maxwell Cameron received the [LASA Guillermo O’Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship 2022](#), which honours Guillermo O’Donnell’s legacy of path-breaking contributions to the study of democracy in Latin America.



Above: Prof. Rashid Sumaila

Funding

Three SPPGA faculty members were awarded funding as a part of [the Insight Development Grants \(Feb. 2021\) and Partnership Engage Grants \(June 2021\)](#) competitions offered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). **Prof. Tara Cookson** was awarded an Insight Grant for “‘Doing’ gender and development with data and digital technology” and **Prof. Kristen Hopewell** for “Industrial Policy in the Age of Globalization.” **Prof. Heidi Tworek** was awarded a Partnership Engage Grant for “Understanding and Responding to Online Harassment of Health Communicators.”

In July 2021, profs. **Philippe Le Billon** and **Rashid Sumaila** (“Fishy crimes: Partnering to improve small-scale fishers livelihoods”), **Sheryl Lightfoot** (“Decolonizing Settler States: Unravelling Systemic Blockages to Indigenous Rights in State Institutions and Civil Society”), and **Kristen Hopewell** (“Contemporary Conflicts in the Politics and Governance of International Trade”) received SSHRC funding through [Partnership Development and Insight Grants](#) for their respective projects.

Six faculty members also received funding through the [2022/23 Research Excellence Clusters](#) initiative. **Profs. Allison Macfarlane** and **Nadja Kunz** (SPPGA; Mining Engineering) are part of The

Future Minerals Working Group; **Prof. Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology) is co-lead on the Disaster Resilience Research Network; **Prof. M. V. Ramana** is part of the Climate Justice Partnerships; and **Prof. Rashid Sumaila** is part of the Cluster for Microplastics.

Prof. Heidi Tworek was awarded [New Frontiers in Research Fund](#) from the Government of Canada for her project on “Mobilizing a Network of Health Communicators to Investigate and Respond to Online Abuse.” This project was a response to a special call for innovative approaches to research in the pandemic context.

Prof. Tworek also received funding for her “[Communicable Disease: An Interdisciplinary History](#)” project from the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s John R. Evans Leaders Fund. She is recognized as an outstanding leader engaged in research that is innovative, high quality, and meets international standards.

Co-Investigator **Veena Sriram** and colleagues were awarded funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for research on the “Upstream determinants of effective COVID-19 response: learning from comparisons across Canada’s provinces.”



THE MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

The professional Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) program provides a foundation of knowledge, skills, and networks through coursework, workshops, career development, and experiential learning to prepare students to be effective policymakers in addressing pressing and complex policy issues.

For the second year, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged our MPPGA students, faculty, and staff to exhibit their incredible resiliency and creativity through their learning, teaching, and policy engagement.

Throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, our faculty offered interactive hybrid learning and engagement opportunities to maximize health and safety, and minimize learning loss through periods of isolation. Led by Graduate Program Director **Prof. George Hoberg**, the MPPGA community embraced opportunities to engage in new and traditional ways with the greatest policy challenges facing our time.

MPPGA BY THE NUMBERS

98

MPPGA students in two cohorts
representing **20 nationalities**

67 % domestic
students

33 % international
students



65 % female

35 % male

38 courses
taught by

29 faculty
members

150

MPPGA alumni

296

MAAPPS alumni*

**The Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Policy Studies
(MAAPPS) preceded the MPPGA program.*

35

co-op and work
integrated learning
placements

9

Global Policy
Projects (GP²) with
virtual fieldwork in
12 countries





Above (left to right): Jamal Khamis, Samira Hosseina, Dariel Filwood, Priya Rai, and Annie Law at the GP² symposium.

The Global Policy Project

In 2021-2022, our students worked with nine different clients in their Global Policy Projects (GP²) conducting virtual fieldwork in 12 different countries. One section of the Global Policy Project course was led by **Prof. Julian Dierkes** while the other was led by **Adjunct Prof. of Practice Andrea Reimer**. GP² Learning Coordinator **Corrin Bulmer** (MPPGA alumni '17) coordinated client relations, team management support, and logistics for all teams and led the annual symposium.

To prioritize public health and maintain client participation, this year's GP² symposium was held in a fully hybrid format in spring 2022. Over one hundred people, including clients of all nine projects, joined virtually, with members of the SPPGA community joining in person in our presentation or screening rooms.

Visit all projects in the [Global Policy Project Catalogue](#).

Student Publications

Many of our students published short articles related to their Global Policy Projects on topics such as health policy implementation in Asia, the prevention of the recruitment of child soldiers, and activating the Mongolian diaspora.

Benedetta Beltramo, Soumya Kolluru, Lisa Slager, and Lindsey Wall published a report, "[A Comparative Analysis of One Health Policies in Asia: Opportunities for Application in British Columbia](#)," through the One Health Commission exploring the implementation of One Health policies in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangladesh, and Thailand.

Wilson Dargbeh, Moysal Sana, Kshitij Sharan, and Will Shelling published an article, "[Recruiting Child Soldiers: Too Many Approaches and Too Little Success](#)," on

the challenges of collaboration among UN peacekeepers, NGOs and CSOs in complex emergencies to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers. The article was published with the Royal Alberta United Services Institute (RAUSI).

Anoushka Chandarana, Anthony Coopson, Jemimah Ogundele, and Hari Narayan wrote in The Diplomat about the challenges overseas Mongolians face to vote in key elections and the implications this has for democracy: "[The Hurdles Facing Mongolia's Overseas Voters](#)".

Other Experiential Learning

Case Competition

MPPGA students placed the highest ever for our program when they brought home bronze at the 11th Annual National Public Administration Case Competition held on February 26, 2022 by the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration (CAPPA). In this year's competition, teams worked on the case study, *A Wicked Problem: Rough Sleeping in Cities*. The team, consisting of MPPGA students **Clara Renault, Darby Walton, Nicolas Côté, Oliver Boucher, and Rutu Patel**, were selected by SPPGA to represent UBC at a national level with the help of their coach, **Prof. Tara Cookson**.

Persevering through setbacks and a temporary return to virtual learning, the team impressed their coach and the judges with their strategic and creative thinking about challenging policy problems, as well as their commitment to working well as a supportive and professional team.



Above (left to right): Darby Walton, Nicolas Côté, Rutu Patel, Clara Renault, and Oliver Boucher

MPPGA Students Participate in Research Network on Women, Peace and Security Symposium

MPPGA students **Samantha El-Ghazal, Nicole Johnston, Panthea Pourmalek, Genevieve Varelas** and **Nellie Kamau** are graduate members of the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security, co-directed by **Prof. Erin Baines**.

Samantha, Nicole, and Panthea, who are also part of the Network's Youth Advisory Board, participated in the Network's first annual Symposium in Montreal focused on "[Revisiting and Re-imagining WPS: 20 Years Later.](#)"

"The RN-WPS Youth Advisory Board had the opportunity to host a panel discussion to highlight the importance of youth inclusion in the field of WPS. I also had the privilege of moderating a panel on future defense challenges in Canada, along with academics and policy professionals from across the WPS discipline in Canada. This was a great opportunity to bridge theory and practice. It was especially enriching to learn from and with women experts in a field that is traditionally dominated by men."

- Samantha El-Ghazal, MPPGA student



Above (left to right): Panthea Pourmalek, Nicole Johnston, and Samantha El-Ghazal

Co-op and Career Development

The MPPGA program provides work term opportunities to all MPPGA students. In addition to positions offered through the robust Arts Co-op Program, students have gained meaningful, professional experience through UBC's Work Learn program, the UBC Sustainability Scholars program, and research assistantships with SPPGA faculty members.

MPPGA's Co-op & Career Services Manager **Kerry Ross** continued to support our students' career journeys through one-on-one coaching, document review, bringing in new co-op opportunities, arranging other work terms such as Research Assistant roles, organizing information sessions with the Government of Canada and the World Bank, as well as offering other training. She also continued to build relationships with employers to encourage them to hire MPPGA students through direct engagement and on LinkedIn.

SPPGA held the annual "Job Search Skills for the Policy Professions," a multi-day virtual conference to educate and support MPPGA first year students with their job search. Topics included: building your application, resume and cover letter writing, and interview best practices. In collaboration with other Arts units, SPPGA invited a keynote speaker on the "Impostor Syndrome" to provide insight on the topic and encourage students along their career development journey.

Last year, 22 students secured an Arts Co-op work term, the largest cohort of MPPGA students in the program's history. 177 co-op job postings were shared with students from a variety of employers. Throughout the summer and fall of 2021, these students worked in a variety of policy roles with Global Affairs Canada, Department of National Defence, Crown-Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health, and more, honing essential skills and gaining new connections with policymakers.

ALUMNI CAREERS SPOTLIGHT

Esther Ocheni ('21) is working as a Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst for the First Nations Education Steering Committee. She is proud to be part of an organization that holds the province accountable and demands policies that not only attempt to undo the harm but provide First Nations with the tools for success and to advance quality education for all First Nations as they define it.

Atieh Yekta ('18) is a current PhD Student in the Faculty of Medicine where she focuses on the intersection of technology, occupational science, and migration. In 2021 she was awarded a WorkSafeBC Research Training Award. As a recipient, Atieh is supported to foster the development of occupational health and safety research expertise in B.C.

Following his graduation, **Kingsley Eze** ('21) was hired as a Senior Consultant in the Climate Change and Sustainability Practice at Ernst & Young (EY). His role primarily involves working with businesses and governments to align their strategies and help them meet their environmental, social and governance goals.

"I am proud of this work because to make the monumental social change needed, all stakeholders (public, private, and civil society) must play their part. My work at EY allows me to contribute to efforts that range from decarbonization and climate change-related efforts to ESG strategies. The policy impact of this role is the ability to support stakeholders in identifying and understanding the pathways required for sustainability policies, regulations, and disclosures across sectors."

- Kingsley Eze, Senior Consultant, EY

CONVENING, LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT

SPPGA strives to create an inclusive space for interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue among students, academics, government, industry, nonprofits, and community on public policy and current affairs. To achieve these goals, we host a range of initiatives, programs, and public events at SPPGA and within our institutes and centres. This past year, our virtual and hybrid activities helped engage new audiences and enhance our reputation as a leading school of public policy and global affairs in Canada.

Fellowships

SPPGA Practitioner Fellowship

In the spirit of facilitating knowledge exchange, strengthening community ties, and building an ethos of practice into our professional graduate programs, SPPGA's Practitioner Fellowship program hosts several practitioners in residence for periods of four to eight months. Practitioner Fellows are professionals with leadership experience in public policy, international development, global affairs and/or government, across a variety of issue areas and sectors. Fellows pursue student and community engagement, research and collaboration, as well as teaching and learning, returning to the workplace with new expertise to inform their work.

Our 2022 Practitioner Fellow **Natasha Thambirajah** engaged regularly with MPPGA students as a guest speaker in various courses and drop-in sessions. Natasha also organized two high profile, public events and shared her expertise. "[The Relevancy of Public Policy in a Digital Age](#)" explored the role of policy in the oversight and regulation of technology in an era of increasing socio-political polarization, a clear mandate for Indigenous reconciliation in B.C., and rising economic pressures on communities and households. Natasha was joined by SPPGA's Practitioner alumna, Jessica Wood Si Sityaawks (Associate Deputy Minister, Declaration Act Secretariat, Province of BC) and SPPGA Prof. of Practice **Andrea Reimer**, along with moderator **Chris Tenove**.

Speaker Series and Events

The Phil Lind Initiative

The Phil Lind Initiative is a high profile, annual speaker series and graduate course made possible by a generous gift from UBC alumnus Philip Lind. The initiative invites leading thinkers and authors from the U.S. to share their insights on the pressing issues of our time. Since 2015, we've reached over 16,000 attendees to engage with speakers such as Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, author Ta-Nehisi Coates, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Elizabeth Kolbert, Harvard political philosopher Michael Sandel, and former National Security Advisor to the Obama Administration, Susan Rice.

The 2022 [*Future of Media series*](#) explored the future of media including how to restore trust, navigate the digital age, and, above all, reshape the media landscape to better society. Public events held virtually and at UBC Vancouver featured leading journalists and authors Douglas Rushkoff, Soledad O'Brien, Kara Swisher, and Ed Yong. In all, there were 300 in-person attendees and 600 livestream attendees. Find video recordings of past events on the [Phil Lind Initiative website](#).

Below: Speaker Soledad O'Brien (left) speaks with moderator Charmaine de Silva (right).



The Policy Salon

The 2021 Policy Salon, [*Shaping the Post-COVID World*](#), emceed by **Prof. Veena Sriram** acknowledged the precarious situation that we remain in globally with respect to COVID-19, while also considering how key lessons can be applied to overcoming other global challenges such as climate change. 119 virtual attendees engaged with our panelists on “Lessons from Climate Change Action and COVID-19” which included key insights from Prof. Kelley Lee (Simon Fraser University), **Prof. David Boyd**, and Dr. Sandeep Pai (Senior Research Lead, Center for Strategic and International Studies), as well as from moderator **Prof. Heidi Tworek**.



Above: Honourable Robert Rae

The Honourable Robert Rae in Conversation with the SPPGA: Reshaping the Multilateral Order

Organized and moderated by **Prof. Paul Evans**, HSBC Chair in Asian Research, the Honourable Robert Rae shared his insights on Canada’s role in renewing multilateralism and the future of multilateral institutions in a post-COVID world at this [*high profile event*](#). SPPGA’s two UN representatives, **Profs. Sheryl Lightfoot** (North American member on the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and **David Boyd** (UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment) joined the conversation to pose their respective questions around the gap between Canada’s positive international reputation about Indigenous human rights advancement and the reality on the ground, as well as the interrelationship between the environment, climate change, and human rights and Canada’s role in voting on this matter at the UN General Assembly.

A Policy with a Vision for Self-Determined Development for Indigenous Peoples Globally

SPPGA hosted Luis Felipe Duchicela, Senior Advisor for Indigenous Peoples’ Issues, USAID, in conversation with MPPGA Sessional Instructor **Grace Jaramillo** on the launch of the USAID Policy for Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [*The lecture*](#) explored the central tenets of this policy and how it represents a pivotal change in international engagement cooperation with Indigenous peoples. Guests also experienced a traditional acknowledgement and remarks by Musqueam Elder Larry Grant, Adjunct Professor with UBC’s First Nations and Endangered Languages Program.

Decolonizing Global Health

The Graduate Program in Science and Technology Studies joined SPPGA to host a panel event on “Decolonizing Global Health.” **Prof. Veena Sriram** moderated the event that featured three panelists: Eugene Richardson (Professor, Harvard University), Farah Shroff (Associate, UBC School of Population and Public Health), and **Raquel Baldwinson** (Liu Scholar and UBC doctoral candidate), each of whom discussed a distinct approach to decolonizing global health. Drawing on his book, *Epidemic Illusions: On the Coloniality of Global Public Health*, Dr. Richardson, asserted that public health practices play an essential role in perpetuating a range of global inequities. Raquel Baldwinson argued that the ordinary ways in which we talk about “global health” tend to work against decolonization efforts. Dr. Shroff advocated for an epistemic shift in global health praxis, focusing on the imperative for anti-racist decolonial approaches to well-being.



Above: Dr. Eugene Richardson, Dr. Farah Shroff, Dr. Raquel Baldwinson, and Dr. Veena Sriram

Policy in Practice: Q&A with The Honourable David Eby

MPPGA students **Moysal Sana** and **Joshua Codd** were discussants in a [virtual Q&A event with the Honourable David Eby](#), Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Point Grey. The rich discussion focused on many questions, including which policies from the First Nations justice strategy have been implemented to decrease the overall representation of Indigenous people in our criminal justice system, and how we can address the housing crisis outside of supply in the long term.

After the Verdict: Dominic Ongwen & the Many Sides of Justice

Hosted by the Transitional Justice Project, in collaboration with the Transformative Memory Project at UBC and the Justice and Reconciliation Project, Uganda, this virtual [public symposium](#) highlighted a wide diversity of views on the International Criminal Court’s sentencing of Dominic Ongwen for war crimes and crimes against humanity in northern Uganda. The event was co-moderated by **Prof. Erin Baines**, Prof. Kamari Clarke (University of Toronto), and Isaac Okwir Odiya (Program Coordinator, the Justice and Reconciliation Project).

Nuclear Power and Climate Change: Can Small Modular Reactors Deliver?

SPPGA partnered with the UBC Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability to host a [virtual discussion](#) on nuclear energy and small modular reactors, with a focus on their status in Canada, and the climate vulnerability of nuclear plants. The presentations drew upon the [2021 World Nuclear Industry Status Report](#)

and included Mycle Schneider (Convening Lead Author of the World Nuclear Industry Status Reports), Ali Ahmad (Research Fellow, Project on Managing the Atom and International Security Program, Harvard Kennedy School), and **Prof. M. V. Ramana**, with moderation provided by SPPGA Director **Allison Macfarlane**.

Institutes, Centres, and Programs

Our SPPGA institutes and centres make SPPGA stronger as a whole. Each offers unique and interdisciplinary expertise, enriching programs, and knowledge exchange opportunities on pressing public policy issues, the Asia Pacific, the health of democratic systems, and international community engagement. As important conveners in engagement and learning, our units and programs create a dynamic environment that encourages collaboration and an evidenced-based, local to global perspective.

Liu Institute for Global Issues

The [Liu Institute for Global Issues](#), as a founding unit of SPPGA, aims to carry out interdisciplinary research that addresses academic and public debates about global issues and inform policy decisions, as well as to be a space to convene public events, workshops and conferences to discuss these. It was founded with a specific definition of a global issue as one that

cannot be solved by any single country and requires many of them, possibly all of them, to come together to address the issue; examples include the climate crisis and nuclear weapons proliferation. The Liu Institute has always welcomed students and interested members of the public to participate in its events.





Above (left to right): Liu Scholars Raphael Deberdt, Karen Wong, Zana Mody, Khadija Anjum

LIU SCHOLARS

The Liu Institute welcomed **Raphael Deberdt**, **Karen Wong**, **Zana Mody**, and **Khadija Anjum** as our [2022 Liu Scholars](#). All four are exceptional PhD students at UBC who pursued projects on the following themes this past year: sustainable food systems; climate crisis politics; global health; online communication; and energy transitions. The projects were carried out in collaboration with, or under the mentorship of, one or more core faculty members at SPPGA, fostering a close collaboration between Liu Scholars and our faculty members.

SIMONS AWARD IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY

Seven UBC students, including three MPPGA students **Nicole Johnston**, **Moysal Sana**, and **Melissa Hollobon**, were selected by the Liu Institute for the [2021 Simons Award in Nuclear Disarmament and Global Security](#), funded by an endowment provided by The Simons Foundation. The recipients pursued research on topics broadly related to nuclear disarmament, including nuclear energy, and global security. Past award recipients have authored multiple publications and op-eds that may be found on the [SPPGA website](#).

OLAV SLAYMAKER SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENT

Two UBC graduate students, **Perna Gupta** and **Alice Guimaraes**, were awarded the [2022 Olav Slaymaker Scholarship in Environment](#), endowed by The Simons Foundation. Perna is studying what makes for the acceptance or

rejection of nuclear energy in India and Alice is studying the mitigation and management of water risks in mining in Canada and Indonesia, both supervised by SPPGA faculty members.

THE LIU INSTITUTE NETWORK FOR AFRICA

[The Liu Institute Network for Africa \(LINA\)](#) is one of several student-led research networks that supports multidisciplinary research on global issues affecting Africa, and African issues affecting the world and aims to shape global policy.

LINA hosted a variety of events and facilitated dialogues, including collaborating with the Collective for Gender+ in Research at ORICE to host the African Women's Leadership Series. As the third installment in the series, we celebrated African women leading on climate justice with an event, "[Advancing Climate Justice and Humanitarian Action: Celebrating African Women's Leadership](#)," featuring Prof. Okorodudu-Fubara, one of the founding mothers of environmental justice research and education in Africa, and Ms. Joyce Msuya, a UN leader who has worked to advance climate justice in global policy and Africa. These climate champions shared their journeys, challenges, and advice to emerging young female climate leaders. Welcome remarks were provided by MPPGA student **Nellie Kamau** and the event was moderated by environmental justice leader Ms. Elsabé Boshoff.



The Institute of Asian Research

Under the leadership of Director and **Prof. Kai Ostwald** and supported by **Yoko Nagao**, IAR Project Manager, the [Institute of Asian Research \(IAR\)](#) continued to act as a focal point for Asia-related policy and current affairs as well as interdisciplinary scholarship on contemporary Asia at UBC. As part of a recent strategic review, the IAR was recognized as an important wing within SPPGA, reflecting the school's strengths in Asia policy, placing a stronger emphasis on policy-relevant research and policy advice while continuing to include the humanities and community engagement as part of the IAR's activities.

The IAR is home to major initiatives including the Himalaya Program, the Xinjiang Documentation Project, the Program on Inner Asia, the well-known scholarly journal *Pacific Affairs*, and five regional research centres. Through regular collaboration, IAR directors enhanced understanding of and relations with Asia through collaboration, research, student development, and engagement with Asian communities and organizations.

Two new initiatives were successfully implemented in 2021/22 to support the IAR's renewed vision and mission.

IAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

The [IAR Fellows Program](#) was established to bring together UBC graduate students with an interest in advancing research that addresses a broad range of issues – particularly those with relevance to policy or global affairs – and is based on engagement with and deep knowledge of contemporary Asia.

55 IAR Fellows were selected for the 2021/22 academic year and represented 17 different units from across campus. Fellows were connected to an IAR regional centre or program and met regularly to exchange perspectives on current developments in their region of focus, as well as provide mutual support for their research and publishing. The IAR Fellows program has strengthened community vibrance and facilitated intellectual exchange across disciplines. The program will continue in the academic year ahead.

THE IAR RESEARCH SHORTS

The IAR Research Shorts is a series of video interviews that showcases recent publications and research outputs from the IAR research community; it strives to highlight the policy significance of these works to a broad audience. Individuals interviewed come from a diverse range of disciplines, such as CJR Director and Political Science **Prof. Yves Tiberghien** (on “The East Asian Covid-19 Paradox”), Allard School of Law Prof. Wei Cui (on “The Administrative Foundations of the Chinese Fiscal State”), **Prof. Kristen Hopewell** (on “The Untold Victims of China’s Trade Policies”), and **Sara Shneiderman** (on “Collapsing Distance: Recognition, Relation, and the Power of Naming in Ethnographic Research”).

IAR EVENTS

A major event hosted by the IAR this past year involved Ambassador Jorge Heine, Research Professor, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University on his new book, “[Active Non-Alignment: An IR Doctrine for This New Century](#).” Discussants **Prof. Paul Evans** and Jeff Reeves, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, addressed the topic from American and Canadian interests and potential reactions, moderated by MPPGA Sessional Instructor **Grace Jaramillo**. The event was co-hosted by the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

THE XINJIANG DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

The [Xinjiang Documentation Project](#) is housed at the IAR and at the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies and the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University. Co-led by Dr. Guldana Salimjan (SFU) and **Prof. Timothy Cheek**, the Xinjiang Documentation Project supports 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.

Students, faculty, and members of the public joined the IAR event, “Speaking From the Heart: Translating Xinjiang’s Diverse Voices,” which focused on the importance of empathy and connection in translation. The panel of translators, scholars, and activists shared their thoughts on the current crisis in Xinjiang. Several original publications were also produced by the research team.

MPPGA alum **Remy Hellstern** wrote *Examining the 2015 World Bank’s Xinjiang Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project*, which examined how part of a World Bank loan to five vocational schools throughout Xinjiang to encourage ethnic minorities to enroll may have gone instead to traditional school as well as re-education centers.

UBC Himalaya Program

[The Himalaya Program](#) Co-leads profs. **Tsering Shakya** (SPPGA; Asian Studies), **Sara Shneiderman** (SPPGA; Anthropology), **Mark Turin** (Anthropology; Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies), and Ratna K. Shrestha (Vancouver School of Economics) have established UBC as the centre of Himalayan studies in Canada and North America, building on faculty expertise and student experience to create a transdisciplinary hub for sharing scholarly insights about the Himalayan region.

The program offered Tibetan and Nepali community-engaged language programs during the summer months. In summer term 1, 2021, these were delivered online in collaboration with the Department of Asian Studies as NEPL 390 and TIBT 390. Profs. Shneiderman and Shakya served as course coordinators to supervise the language instructors. [The courses](#) were delivered

successfully, with strong enrolment and appreciation from community partners. These courses are seen as a model for community-engaged language learning and culturally immersive experiential education at home.

Prof. Shneiderman received UBC Senate approval for a new course, ANTH 309A, “Ethnography of the Himalaya: Diversity and Development,” the culmination of a multi-year curricular development and consultation process via the UBC Himalaya Program.

Co-leads welcomed Assistant Professor Pasang Yangjee Sherpa to the Himalaya Program Steering Committee in January 2022. She is jointly appointed as Assistant Professor in Asian Studies and the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies.

HIMALAYA PROGRAM EVENTS SERIES

The [Himalaya Program Events Series](#), funded by the IAR and co-sponsors across campus, hosted five online events, several of which were policy relevant. One featured IAR Fellows in a graduate student roundtable, “Reconnecting to the Himalaya: Connection and Conflict.” Drawing on a wide range of perspectives from Anthropology, Journalism, and Environmental Studies, students from the Himalayan region reflected on their experience of knowledge acquisition and their changing positionalities in Western academia.

MAKING MARKETS AND VALUING NATURES IN A HIMALAYAN ‘FRONTIER’

Another well-attended virtual event, [Making Markets and Valuing Natures in a Himalayan ‘Frontier’](#), was led by Postdoctoral Fellow **Elsie Lewison**. The discussion explored how the agricultural policies and projects of overlapping authorities intersect and come into conflict in Nepal’s Jumla district. Highlighting limitations in both market-based conservation strategies and depoliticized narratives of environmental stewardship, the talk also considered emergent alternative visions for agrarian development and ‘food sovereignty’ in the region.

The Centre for Chinese Research (CCR)

Led by Director **Timothy Cheek**, [the Centre for Chinese Research \(CCR\)](#) continued to serve as UBC's hub for academic research on China and the Chinese-speaking world by maintaining an active program of public events, sponsoring academic conferences and seminars, and disseminating related research.

The CCR's annual symposium, "[Seeing Like an Empire: Chinese Political Thought and Practice in Changing Times](#)," covered a wide range of periods and topics from the Late Imperial Period to Xi Jinping. The four talks in the series saw hundreds of registrants who, alongside the speakers, explored how China's political past influences China today, to the future of what it could become.

In addition, the CCR also organized three book talks, three movie screenings (and Q&A), two roundtables, seventeen lectures and seminars, and six discussions. These included a public lecture by **Jessica DiCarlo**, Chevalier Postdoctoral Fellow in Transportation and Development in China at the IAR, titled "[Beyond Debt-Trapping: Encompassing Accumulation, Infrastructure, and China's Spatiotemporal Fix](#)." Jessica explored the logics of Chinese capital through the financing of the Laos-China Railway and engaged in discussion with MPPGA students **Edi Qereshniku** and **Jemimah Ogundele**, moderated by **Prof. Kristen Hopewell**.

The CCR also hosted an online roundtable, "[After Meng Wanzhou: Roundtable on Canada/US-China Relations](#)," moderated by IAR Director **Kai Ostwald**, that featured thought-provoking discussions from China studies and public policy specialists.

Prof. Kristen Hopewell focused on the implications on Canada-US-China relations of the high profile Meng Wanzhou case.

In addition, the CCR co-sponsored a UBC Hong Kong Studies Initiative event and supports the student group, Hua Dialogue, in its mission to promote conversation among UBC's Sinophone students.

The Centre for India and South Asia Research (CISAR)

Guided by Director **M.V. Ramana**, [the Centre for India and South Asia Research \(CISAR\)](#) continued promoting interdisciplinary research related to South Asia and disseminating knowledge through virtual seminars and conferences, bringing together faculty, research associates, graduate and undergraduate students, and the public with an interest in South Asia.

As examples of their public outreach, the CISAR organized "[The Deoliwallahs and Questions of Citizenship](#)," an online book talk to explore a page in Indian history wrapped in prejudice and fear when, starting in 1962, India imprisoned around 3,000 Chinese-Indians in a camp in Rajasthan, because at a time of war with China, these people "looked Chinese." The event featured Joy Ma, co-author of *The Deoliwallahs* and one of a handful of children born in the Deoli internment camp, authors Dilip D'Souza and Kwai Li, and **Prof. Tsering Shakya**.

Later in the year, the CISAR hosted an engaging [virtual conversation](#) between author and policy maker Sam Pitroda and UBC profs. Sujatha Ramdorai and M.V. Ramana on Pitroda's new book, *Redesign the World: A Global Call to Action*. His book is about reshaping the world to meet the future challenges of our planet and our people.

The Centre for Japanese Research (CJR)

Led by Director **Yves Tiberghien**, the Konwakai Chair in Japanese Research, [the Centre for Japanese Research \(CJR\)](#) held an exciting year hosting ten events which covered a wide range of issues such as regional politics, history, global governance, and critical issues while opening the forum to diverse speakers and attendees. They also innovated this past year with a series of events that were student-led (ex. "[Hope for the Future: Youth in Asia](#)") as well as focused on climate change politics, in partnership with the International Relations Student Association.

The CJR continued hosting high profile events such as the three-part series, "[Negotiating at the Brink: How Does the World Solve the Climate Crisis](#)," which addressed global climate governance, moderated by Political Science Prof. Tiberghien. These panel series featured not only academics but also young activists, NGO leaders, as well as Indigenous community leaders from around the world. "[Global Consequences of the U.S.'s Withdrawal in Afghanistan: Japanese and Canadian Views in a Comparative Context](#)" featured Canadian senator Marilou McPhedran, Fawzia Koofi, a former legislator in Afghanistan, along with the top UN expert on Afghanistan from Japan. The CJR also co-hosted three events with the Centre for Korean Research and the Centre for Southeast Asian Research that showcased the region's interconnectedness. Many events reached over 150 registered guests from around the world.

The CJR's in-person event was the first open house since the pandemic and included various representatives from diplomatic, government, academic, business, and NGO sectors along with a dozen MPPGA students, IAR Fellows

associated with CJR, and other UBC students. This event re-established the links between the UBC community, the wider Japanese Canadian community, and the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver.

The Center for Southeast Asia Research (CSEAR)

Led by Director Committee members **Isabel Chew**, **Constant Courtin**, **Salihin Subhan**, and **Nila Utami**, [the Center for Southeast Asia Research \(CSEAR\)](#) organized five brownbag sessions, giving the opportunity for IAR Fellows to share their research. The topics ranged from considering Southeast Asia through decolonized and feminist research (led by Elaina Nguyen) to the near complete legal blackout in the region for refugees (led by Atreyi Bhattacharjee).

CSEAR organized the 35th [Biennial Conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies](#) in October 2021 that featured over 50 panel discussions covering a wide variety of topics. This included two keynote speeches, one keynote roundtable, a Myanmar mini-conference, five roundtables, more than thirty panel discussions, and two workshops. Although the conference was held online, it was well-attended, with each panel averaging between twenty to thirty participants.

CSEAR organized a number of impactful events, including "Contentious Identities in Southeast Asia" with 90 online participants. The pandemic and other events in countries like Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia have either exposed or worsened relations between the dominant central group and local minority groups, thus the organizers sought to discuss the state of dominant-minority relations in post-pandemic Southeast Asia.

CSEAR also co-hosted “[Japan and Korea in Southeast Asia: Roles, Influences, and Interests](#)” with CKR and CJR featuring speakers Dr. Nobuhiro Aizawa (Kyushu University), Dr. Yongwook Ryu (NUS) and Dr. Soo Yeon Kim (NUS), led by Prof. Paul Evans, on the roles, influences, and interests of Japan and Korea in Southeast Asia.

The Centre for Korean Research (CKR)

Led by Director **Dr. Jeehye Kim**, [the Centre for Korean Research \(CKR\)](#) held a number of engaging [seminars](#) with invited speakers. They began the year with Dr. Erin Aeran Chung’s (Johns Hopkins University) talk on “Korean Diasporic Citizenship: Two Tales of Political Incorporation in Japan and the United States,” during which she discussed how national states and societies come to define specific populations as foreign, and how this racialization process affects political claims-making.

The CKR also hosted Mr. Ankit Panda (Carnegie Empowerment for International Peace) on the ongoing trends in North Korea’s nuclear force modernization and their significance for security in the region, followed by discussion with **Prof. M. V. Ramana**, moderated by CJR Director and Political Science **Prof. Yves Tiberghien**.

The CKR’s brownbag series was well attended and featured eight discussions led by IAR Fellows such as Jihyun Shin on “Commercializing the Poor: A Gendered Analysis of a Prime-Time Radio Show in 1960s South Korea” and Christina Song on “Countering the Status Quo: the Role of Civil Society in Immigration Policy.”



The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions

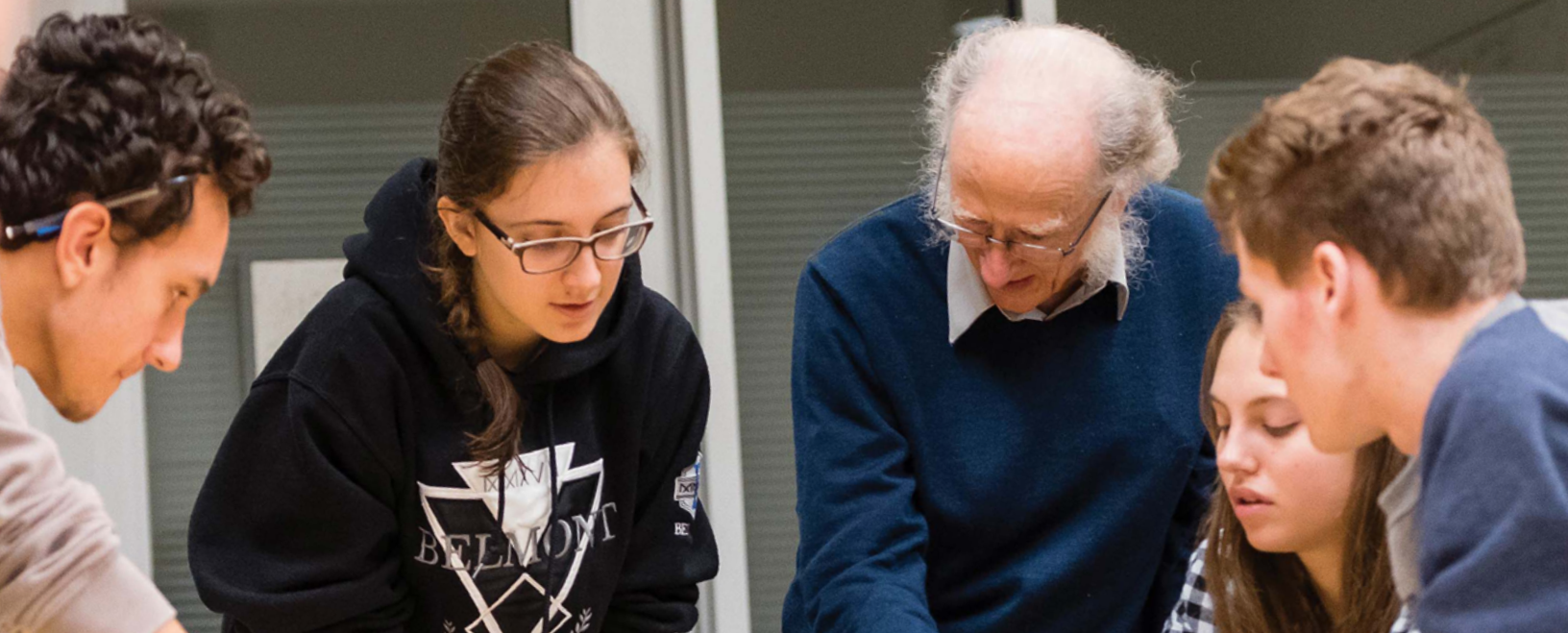
Led by Director and Associate Prof. of Political Science **Gerald Baier** and Project Manager **Rebecca Monnerat**, [the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions \(CSDI\)](#) hosted the innovative Institute for Future Legislators, published reports, and convened public events to engage on aspects of the democratic process.

CSDI delivered a fully virtual [2021 Institute for Future Legislators \(IFL\)](#), a program that annually provides intensive hands-on mentoring and training for a diverse body of future lawmakers. Led by UBC faculty and practitioners from all partisan stripes, participants engaged in discrete exercises and a program-long simulation which culminated in a weekend legislative session. Each participant represented a constituency, was assigned to roles in political parties and committees, and drafted legislation on salient issues. Participants learned about legislative life, parliamentary relationships, political ethics and judgement, gender in politics, constituency communications and service

and also practiced how to work with other people to achieve compromise and outcomes.

Moderated by Prof. Baier, CSDI hosted a high profile webinar series, "[Canada's 2021 Federal Election](#)," to bring UBC faculty panelists together to comment on campaign issues and dynamics and evaluate the results. In the first [virtual panel](#), panelists discussed the science behind this year's climate emergencies, campaign promises as they relate to climate, and things to watch for in the run-up to the election. "[Policy Promises, Candidates, and Challenges](#)" focused on policy issues, candidate diversity, and the challenges posed for a range of actors by holding a snap election. In "[Post-Election Analysis](#)," Prof. Kathryn Harrison, Postdoctoral Fellow **Chris Tenove**, and Prof. Emeritus Richard Johnston explored campaign dynamics, the result of the federal election, and the impact it will have on Canada's pressing policy issues.





The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement

The [Office of Regional and International Community Engagement \(ORICE\)](#), led by Director **Tamara Baldwin** and supported by Advisor **Mulalo Sadike** and Program Coordinator **Christina Fung**, continued to provide opportunities for students and faculty to engage in community-based projects centered on local and global issues through an interdisciplinary, experiential approach. A focus on interdisciplinary experiential education offers students the opportunity to contend with the complexity of community development. Below are various activity highlights.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND DATA JUSTICE RESOURCE GUIDE

For the past two years, the Collective for Gender+ in Research at ORICE offered a co-curricular research project, “Community-Based Research and Data Justice Resource Guide.” This guide has been written by 26 students through 6 cohorts and has been a great example of research and writing collaboration. [The guide](#) introduces and develops the concept of ‘data justice’ for community organizations that already work with data or are looking to work on data-based projects, and explores dismantling power structures and privilege through definitions, examples, reflexivity, and critical thinking.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH PROJECT

Through the Human Rights Collective at ORICE, students were offered the opportunity to engage in the “Academic Freedom and Human Rights Research Project,” which was offered in collaboration with [Scholars at Risk \(SAR\)](#) and SAR Canada. Students engaged in a comparative analysis of academic freedom policies at Canadian institutions. Students drew from faculty collective agreements, freedom of expression, academic freedom policies, harassment and discrimination policies, and student rights policies to analyze four dimensions of comparison. The [student research](#) was subsequently presented to SAR International, SAR Canada and at the SAR Canada Advocacy Days.

COURSE-BASED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In collaboration with Dr. Katherine Lyon, ORICE supported the inclusion of community-based experiential learning into SOCI 382: Qualitative Methods. In this course, students examined the different traditions of qualitative sociological inquiry and the associated methodological features used to study the interpretive practices and meanings in the everyday lives of individuals. Student teams, worked directly with community-based organizations to understand a research question that the organization would like to explore and developed a customized research toolkit in response. Through iterative meetings with a project lead from the organization, students came to understand how qualitative methods can be used in the everyday work of community-based organizations.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE AND SECURITY

ORICE came together with the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation, the UBC Simon K.Y. Lee Global Lounge, and Amnesty International for an interactive roundtable discussion for International Development Week 2022. The [virtual event](#) featured experts working around the world to uplift and advance women's voices, leadership and priorities in moments of instability, conflict, extremism, and crisis.

2022 SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ORICE hosted the 2022 Symposium on Global Community Engagement on the theme "[Contested Spaces, Contested Impact](#)." Students, community members and faculty presented in 8 concurrent sessions on their community-engaged scholarship, exploring questions arising from community-university collaborations such as physical and psychological questions of belonging, safety, and power. The keynote talk was given by Dr. Sasha Costanza-Chock who discussed the principles of design justice and how it can transform community-engaged scholarship.

Acknowledgements

We wish to honour the Musqueam people on whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories we study, work, convene, and live at UBC Vancouver.

As a school, we acknowledge the tremendous leadership and contributions by **Tamara Baldwin** over the past two years as our acting Assistant Director. Tamara's commitment and dedication to strategic planning, her support of faculty, staff, and students, and her initiative on the Practitioner Fellows program all while maintaining her role as Director of ORICE is appreciated.

We are grateful to **Prof. Timothy Cheek** for his leadership as Director of the Institute of Asian Research (IAR) from July 2018 to June 2021. Under his guidance, the IAR continued to grow in stature with major initiatives such as the Himalaya Program, the Xinjiang Documentation Project, and the ongoing research and convening work of the IAR's five regional research centres.

SPPGA is thankful for the on-going guidance at the Director's Table by **Prof. Milind Kandlikar** who maintained his Directorship of the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) in the Faculty of Science. 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.

Prof. Moura Quayle, founding Director of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (2017-2019) continued in her role as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Academic Affairs for the University. Moura supports excellence in graduate and undergraduate education and is helping transform UBC's learning environment to match the needs of our current student body to be more interdisciplinary, strategic, and collaborative.

We are thankful for the ongoing support from and collaboration with the Faculty of Arts Dean's office, Arts ISIT, the Arts Development and Alumni Engagement team, UBC Media Relations, UBC Brand and Marketing, alumni UBC, Arts Co-op, UBC Studios, and various departments. We also wish to thank the Simons Foundation and our donors for supporting our school. We are grateful to engage with a range of policy practitioners on their expertise and with Global Policy Project clients on student projects. We also give thanks to our various event partners and attendees for joining us in person and virtually this past year.



Image: UBC Rose Garden



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