



2022 - 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

The UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA)

is dedicated to building an equitable, just, and sustainable world by catalyzing positive policy change through interdisciplinary research and global focus.

Grounded in **integrity, innovation, and hope** for the future, SPPGA strives to address urgent local and global challenges.



Director's Statement

As I reflect on the past year, I continue to be inspired by our energetic and creative faculty, students, and staff here at UBC's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. While it is impossible to ignore the profound challenges that have defined our times—from the scars of the pandemic to the advancing climate emergency to near-constant war around the world—our commitment to fostering positive policy change has never been stronger. Guided by a new strategic plan that will take us into 2028, we cultivate hope for the future in our experiential learning and policy-engaged research on global challenges.

Our faculty and researchers are thought leaders who continue to push the envelope on pressing topics including sustainable energy and resource governance, environment and climate change, global Indigenous policy and politics, democracy, global governance and security, as well as global health policy and international trade relations. In addition to research and learning, we tackle policy challenges in collaboration with a range of stakeholders from community members in remote areas to businesses and industry, and from local and municipal governance to various national and international governing bodies.

SPPGA's collective strength is due to the unique individuals who invigorate our community with fresh perspectives. This year we welcomed Juliet Lu, Assistant Professor in Environmental Governance and Business, whose political ecology lens to land politics and emphasis on constructively engaging China have enriched policy debates at UBC and beyond. Robyn Leuty joined us as Assistant Director, successfully steering our hard-working team of staff and leading important outreach and strategic partnership work. We also bid farewell to foundational member of the SPPGA community, Professor Paul Evans, retiring after 24 years at UBC. We are extraordinarily grateful for his leadership, camaraderie, and dedication.

Our flagship Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program graduated its seventh cohort in the spring of 2023. Equipped with skills in theoretical and applied dimensions of policymaking,

our graduates join a growing community of MPPGA alumni effecting positive change as policy analysts and advisors in various government departments as well as government relations managers and consultants in the private and not-for-profit sectors.

Bridging the divide between academia and real-world policy-making, SPPGA stands at the forefront of fostering interdisciplinary research with a global perspective. Together, we remain dedicated to building a more equitable, just and sustainable world.

Allison Macfarlane, Director
UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs



SPPGA

UBC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Director: Allison Macfarlane

◆ MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS (MPPGA)

Graduate Program Director: M. V. Ramana

◆ THE LIU INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ISSUES

Director: Kristen Hopewell

◆ PACIFIC AFFAIRS JOURNAL

Editor: Hyung-Gu Lynn

◆ THE OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ORICE)

Director: Tamara Baldwin

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

Director: Heidi Tworek

◆ INSTITUTE OF ASIAN RESEARCH (IAR)

Director: Kai Ostwald

◆ THE CENTRE FOR CHINESE RESEARCH (CCR)

Co-Directors: Timothy Cheek, Kristen Hopewell

◆ THE CENTRE FOR INDIA AND SOUTH ASIAN RESEARCH (CISAR)

Director: Priti Narayan

◆ THE CENTRE FOR JAPANESE RESEARCH (CJR)

Director: Yves Tiberghien

◆ THE CENTRE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA RESEARCH (CSEAR)

Co-Directors: Nila Ayu Utami, Constant Courtin

◆ THE CENTRE FOR KOREAN RESEARCH (CKR)

Director: Jeehye Kim

◆ THE HIMALAYA PROGRAM

Co-Directors: Tsering Shakya, Sara Shneiderman

27 Faculty Members including
13 Named Chairs and
2 UN Representatives

23 Full Time Staff Members

14 Honorary and Affiliate
Faculty Members

52 IAR Fellows across
15 different UBC departments

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

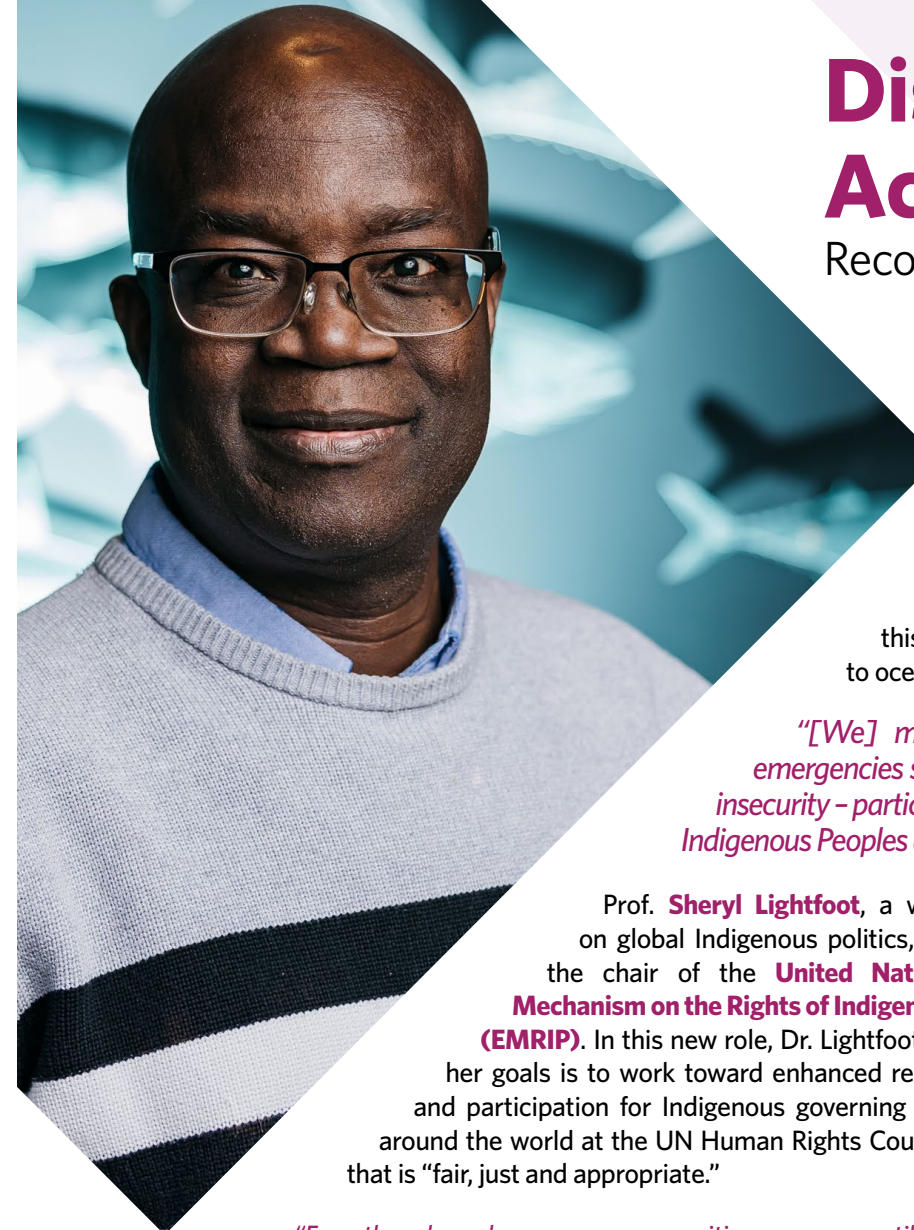
7 Postdoctoral and
Practitioner Fellows

3 Visiting Faculty and
Scholars

5 Liu Scholars

Distinguished Achievements

Recognizing Our Exceptional Faculty



Fisheries economist Prof. **Rashid Sumaila** has been awarded the prestigious **2023 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement** alongside marine biologist Dr. Daniel Pauly. Often referred to as the “Nobel Prize for the Environment,” this award acknowledges their remarkable contributions to ocean conservation.

“[We] must move faster. Overfishing increases global emergencies such as climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity – particularly for already vulnerable communities, such as Indigenous Peoples and populations in the Global South.”

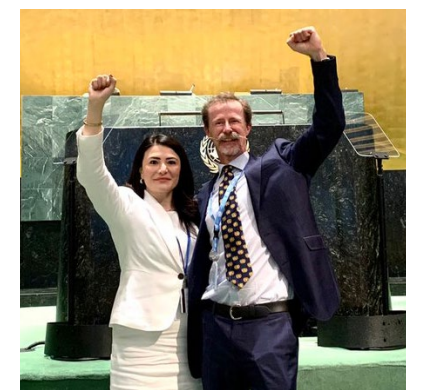
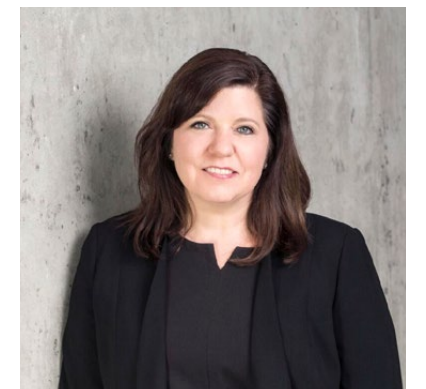
– Rashid Sumaila

Prof. **Sheryl Lightfoot**, a world expert on global Indigenous politics, was named the chair of the **United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**. In this new role, Dr. Lightfoot says one of her goals is to work toward enhanced representation and participation for Indigenous governing bodies from around the world at the UN Human Rights Council in a way that is “fair, just and appropriate.”

“Even though we have seen some positive moves, we still have a long way to go. This sort of systems change—seeking inclusion and justice for people who have been so marginalized for so long—is incredibly hard, but at the end of the day, we do this work with purpose and a lot of pride, with the knowledge that we continue the work of those who came before us.”

– Sheryl Lightfoot

As **UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment**, Assoc. Prof. **David Boyd** advanced the recognition and implementation of the human right to a healthy, clean, and sustainable environment through 120 different speaking engagements around the globe. At universities and legal associations, at UN agencies and other international organizations, as well as at national governing bodies in Canada and beyond, David championed environmental rights and engaged in ways to constitutionalize these rights. He was invited to address everything from challenges to implementation and implications for industries to the linkages between environmental rights and the rights of women, children, Indigenous and other groups.





Influencing Policy

SPPGA faculty remain at the forefront of contemporary policy dialogues across education, global health, international trade, environmental issues, and democracy

As keynote speakers, panelists, moderators, and presenters, our faculty members influenced policy discussions across academia, governments, international institutions, and industries. Noteworthy invitations included appearances at the US Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, ministries in Peru and Mongolia, the Canadian Senate, and global think tanks such as ISEAS and the Canadian International Council. Their insights also resonated in esteemed universities from Tokyo to Toronto, while collaborations with international organizations like the World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank further cemented their global policy impact.

Assoc. Prof. **Heidi Tworek** shaped policy discourse on online harm and legislation, polarization and hate speech in Canada, and disinformation in the digital realm through dialogues held by Public Policy Forum, Canadian Association of International Development Professionals, Canada School of Public Service, and the University of Toronto as well Queen's and Western University. Continuing her work on health policy communication, she moderated a roundtable for international policy-makers tackling the issue of state-sponsored disinformation as a part of Global Affairs Canada's commitment to the US-led Global Action Plan to End COVID-19.

Asst. Prof. **Tara Cookson** generated new data on the use of national social protection systems to reduce poverty and promote gender equality in countries around the world. Her research examined whether governments address inequalities like gender-based violence and time spent on unpaid care in their strategic plans to meet Sustainable Development Goal 1.3- 'Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all.' Tara's commitment to connecting research and action took her from events hosted by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Canada to a UN Women Expert Group Meeting in October 2023 called to inform the UN Secretary General's forthcoming World Survey. Tara was invited to present evidence on what works, and what needs to change, for social protection systems to reach the poorest and most vulnerable.

A leading voice on international trade policies, Prof. **Kristen Hopewell** spoke about China's role in the multilateral trading system and the global economic order at the US State Department's Foreign Service Institute and the Canada School of Public Service. She briefed the US House Intelligence Committee staff on China's agricultural trade policies, and, closer to home, she collaborated with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on challenges facing global trade. Weighing in on trade and development opportunities for Canada in the Indo-Pacific, Kristen furthered Global Affairs Canada's emerging strategy for the region in a policy briefing.

Fueling Discovery

SPPGA faculty have secured over 3.5 million dollars in funding for new research

Asst. Prof. **Veena Sriram**'s work on global health policy earned her four new competitive research grants this year. She is the latest of our faculty members to win a Canada Research Chair. She received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant to expand her research on health worker protests in the wake of COVID-19. She secured CIHR Planning and Project grants to build capacity for public health leadership and decision-making and to explore the impact of emergency care workforce policy on health equity. As a part of the Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Catalyst Grant, Veena presented at meeting with the Chief Public Health Officer and senior staff of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Assoc. Prof. **Kai Ostwald**'s work on democratization in Myanmar and ongoing collaboration with the International Development Research Centre and Global Affairs Canada led to the launch of the second phase of IDRC's Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar initiative. With just over \$1 million in new funding, Kai is set to continue online training for early career civil society leaders from Myanmar, conduct and support research on democratization in Myanmar, bring promising early career leaders from Myanmar to Canada for graduate programs and postdoctoral positions, and facilitate placement of Burmese researchers into research institutions in Southeast Asia.

Prof. **Milind Kandlikar** and his collaborators won the UBC Community Learning Advancement Fund's Award of Achievement in Climate Action Planning. Through in-depth consultations with stakeholders including city governments, provincial agencies, and private sector firms, Milind and his team are using this award to develop a certificate program aimed at helping local and municipal governments build in-house capacity to develop and execute climate action plans.



GLOBAL IMPACT

Research Without Borders



Prof. **Rashid Sumaila** continued his advocacy for healthy oceans with a trip to the Gambia to deliver a keynote address and moderated workshops for the West Africa-China Cooperation focusing on safer and more sustainable fishing methods.

"For the Gambia, the impacts on the lives and livelihoods of citizens as well as the marine ecosystems of the country are huge."

- Rashid Sumaila



Addressing the impact of war and displacement on women with disabilities, Assoc. Prof. **Erin Baines** and MPPGA student **Liliane Umuhiza** worked alongside a Ugandan research team in May 2023 using arts based methods. Through artistic body mapping and interviews, their research explored the struggles and resilience of these women while providing policy recommendations for future support and inclusion.

"I like to describe my personality as a garden that flourishes and continues to grow no matter the environment, providing nourishment to all her surroundings."

- Florence, Participant

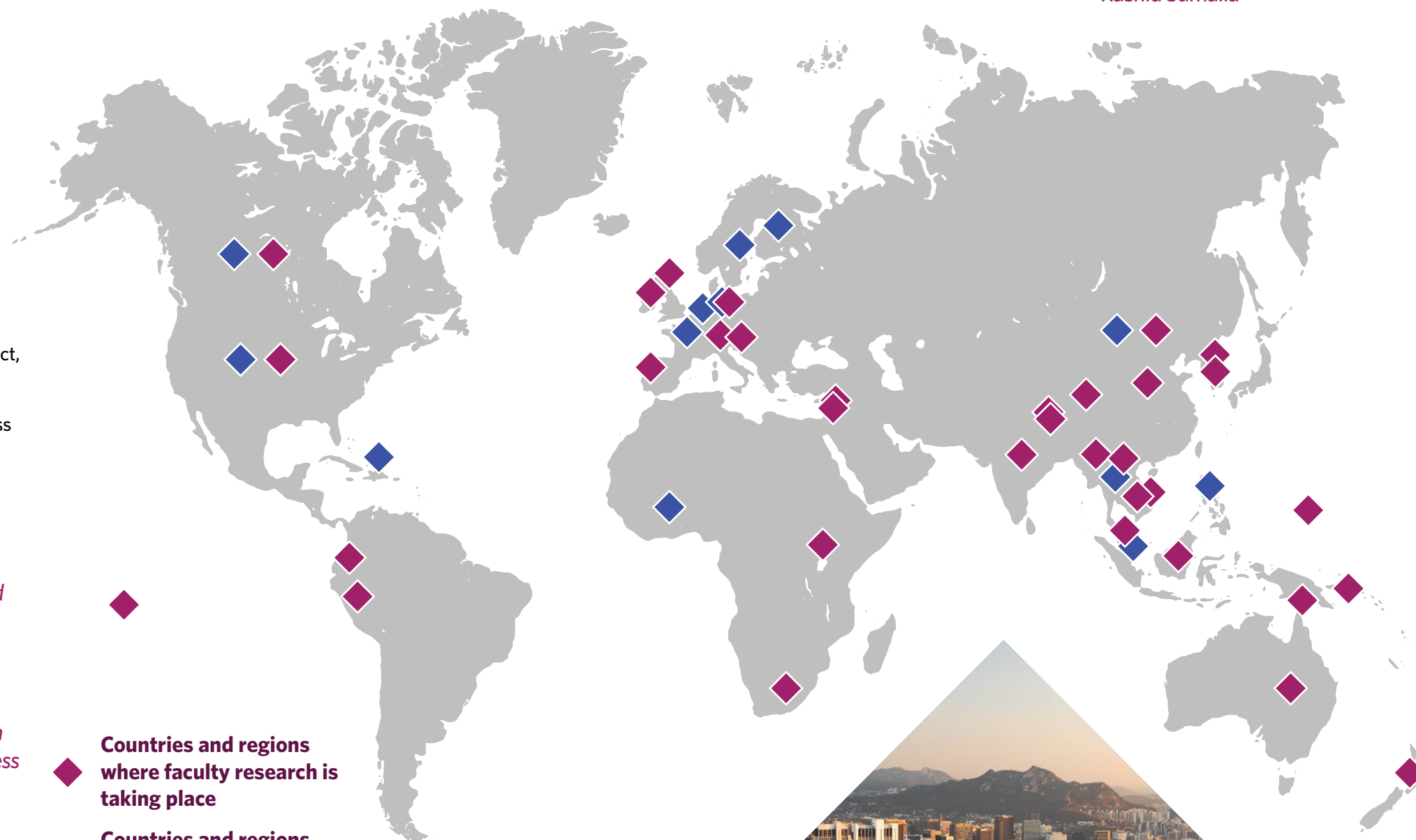
Eight years post-earthquake, the ELMNR project (Expertise, Labour, and Mobility in Nepal's Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster Reconstruction) led by Assoc. Prof. **Sara Shneiderman** resulted in a final set of open access policy briefs and working papers. Her work in the region continues with Sajag-Nepal—a partnership to improve preparedness for the mountain hazard chain in Nepal.

"The goal is to try to understand people's experience of risk and resettlement from a holistic perspective, bringing together technical knowledge with Indigenous knowledge to inform policy around better preparedness for what is going on in Nepal."

- Sara Shneiderman

◆ Countries and regions where faculty research is taking place

◆ Countries and regions where student GP² research is taking place



Transformative Policy Education

Educating Leaders of Tomorrow

The **Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA)** is a two-year, full-time degree where students are trained in the theoretical and applied dimensions of policy making. The MPPGA program equips students with the knowledge, skills, and networks to become effective policymakers, capable of addressing urgent and complex global challenges.

MPPGA

MPPGA Alumni Careers

MPPGA graduates develop skills and perspectives that lead to a wide range of successful careers across sectors and issue areas.

"Taking this program was the best decision I ever made and has gotten me through doors that would have been more challenging to access without the program as a foundation and faculty and staff backing me."

- Jemimah Ogundele, Class of 2022.
Policy Advisor, Mitacs.

GP² : Mobilizing Ideas into Action

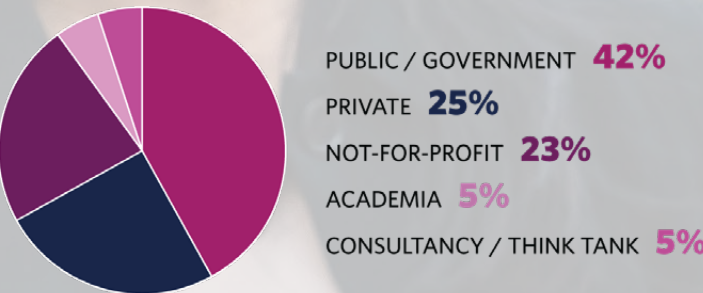
Our students take part in the **Global Policy Project (GP²)**, a capstone course that utilizes the power of experiential learning and hands-on projects to drive real change.

Each year, the GP² program prepares our graduates to influence policy and effect positive change to create a more equitable world. In the 2022-23 academic year, MPPGA students worked on 14 different projects that covered topics including: responding to climate misinformation in Vancouver; understanding national security threats enabled by AI; and child marriage and early unions in Latin America. Engaging in policy research and tackling real-world issues, fieldwork took place across 13 different countries and engaged clients such as Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), Global Affairs Canada, Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security (DCOE), and UNICEF.

"GP² has been successful in giving a taste of the real-world experience. In fact, it was very similar to my consulting experience in my home country, India. Navigating the expectations of different stakeholders with varying needs has certainly been insightful. It has been the highlight of my work in the final term... (f)rom classroom discussions to internal team meetings, from guest speaker sessions to feedback assessments, from practice presentations to client meet-ups, it has certainly been an enriching experience."

- Kritika Kukreja, Class of 2023

Careers by Industry



103 MPPGA students in
2 cohorts representing
24 nationalities

54% Domestic Students
46% International Students

14 Global Policy Projects across
13 different countries

48 Courses taught by
35 Faculty members

193 MPPGA Alumni
296 MAAPPS Alumni

PUBLICATIONS

Through critical examinations, expert opinions and peer-reviewed publications, our faculty bridge the gap between scholarly rigor and real-world relevance

140+ Books, journal articles, book chapters, and reports by faculty members

375+ Media mentions and op-eds in news outlets around the world

Prof. **Maxwell Cameron** and Dr. **Grace Jaramillo**'s edited volume *Challenges to Democracy in the Andes: Strongmen, Broken Constitutions, and Regimes in Crisis* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2022) draws on case studies of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela to offer rich insights into challenges to democracy such as executive aggrandizement.



In *North Korea's Foreign Policy: The Kim Jong-un Regime in a Hostile World*. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2023), Assoc. Prof. **Kyung-Ae Park** and Scott Snyder compile a comprehensive range of scholarship on North Korea's foreign policy in the last decade under the Kim Jong-un regime. The volume has quickly earned recognition and praise from former American diplomats to the region.

Assoc. Prof. **Heidi Tworek**'s dedication to conveying scholarly insights to policymakers and wider audiences shines in her co-edited essay series "The Four Domains of Platform Governance." Published by the Centre for International Governance Innovation, this series, awarded the Best Service Article for Consumers at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards 2022, provides thought-provoking perspectives on a crucial contemporary policy issue.



A compelling addition to the Emerging Frontiers in the Global Economy series at Stanford University Press, *Shadow Negotiators: How the UN Shapes the Rules of World Trade for Food Security* (2023) by Assoc. Prof. **Matias Margulis** is the first book to demonstrate that UN organizations have intervened to influence the discourse, agenda, and outcomes of international trade lawmaking at the World Trade Organization.

Prof. **Kristen Hopewell**'s astute analysis of the role of emerging powers in international trade negotiations in her article "Heroes of the developing world? Emerging powers in WTO agriculture negotiations and dispute settlement" published in *Journal of Peasant Studies* won her the International Studies Association West's Best Article Award.

The Resistance Dilemma, a captivating blow-by-blow account of four recent pipeline battles that dominated Canadian media over the last decade, earned Prof. **George Hoberg** the 2022 Donald Smiley Prize.

Prof. **Navin Ramankutty** (SPPGA, IRES) tackles the critically important topic of transformative change in food system sustainability in his *PLoS Biology* article "Both technological innovations and cultural change are key to a sustainability transition." In it, he underscores the importance of embracing traditional and Indigenous ideas of respect, responsibility, sufficiency and reciprocity alongside technological innovations.

Spotlight on Nuclear Energy

SPPGA's highly sought-after faculty expertise in the trending topics of **nuclear energy, waste management and weapons resulted in hundreds of media mentions over the last year in outlets around the world** including *CBC, Reuters, The Globe and Mail, Financial Post* and more.

Prof. **Allison Macfarlane** provided critical commentary on nuclear waste management and disposal, publishing the opinion piece "Nuclear Waste Is Piling Up. Does the U.S. Have a Plan?" in *Scientific American* and "Final countdown to site selection for Canada's nuclear waste geologic repository" in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* with SPPGA Postdoctoral Research Fellow **Zoe Braden**. She provided expert opinion on topics including Fukushima wastewater, the adoption of new small modular reactors and the dangers unaddressed reactor waste.



Prof. **Hugh Gusterson**, jointly appointed with the Department of Anthropology, provided reflections and academic insight for numerous media outlets into the Second World War nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the wake of renewed widespread interest fueled by the release of Hollywood blockbuster *Oppenheimer*. His article "A tale of two suspects: 'Oppenheimer' versus 'A Compassionate Spy'" appeared in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.



Prof. **M.V. Ramana**, the Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security, extensively examined the environmental, social, and economic risks associated with nuclear energy in numerous publications including his widely-shared article in *The Wire* "Clean Energy or Weapons? What the 'Breakthrough' in Nuclear Fusion Really Means." He gave commentary and context to the challenges of nuclear disarmament and the costs of using nuclear energy to combat the climate crisis.



MEDIA

As lauded experts in their respective fields, many SPPGA faculty members have also launched and maintain their own platforms across various mediums to share their thoughts, opinions and expertise with the larger community. Assoc. Prof. **Julian Dierkes** continues to regularly author blog posts on his **Mongolia Focus** blog which over twelve years has solidly established itself as a highly respected source of analysis for issues relating to contemporary Mongolia and has garnered over half of a million page views. Asst. Prof. **Juliet Lu** co-hosts **The Belt and Road Podcast** with Erik Myxter-lino which covers the latest news, research and analysis of China's growing presence in the developing world.

Featured on the cover of *Canadian Institute of Mining (CIM) Magazine* "Names to Know" issue, Asst. Prof. **Nadja Kunz** reflects on her career journey in mine water management and stewardship.

"I always knew that I wanted to work on improving the environmental and sustainability performance within industrial systems."

- Nadja Kunz

Prof. **Philippe Le Billion** and CBC journalist Chris Arsenault took a deep dive into the issue of illegal fishing in the Galapagos, producing an in-depth feature on Ecuador's use of Canadian satellite and sensing technology, which highlighted the impact of new technologies and explored ways to curb illegal fishing. Their coverage of the issue earned them the 2023 Kevin Tester Award for Marine Journalism.

Institute of Asian Research (IAR) Fellows are UBC graduate students with a deep knowledge of Asia. This year the **IAR Publication Awards** acknowledged five scholars (Sun Ryung Park, Elena Gordillo Fuertes, Charlotte Bull, Bolormaa Purevjav and Adiya Baratova) who published articles on topics including South Korea's green energy transition, air pollution in Mongolia, and water storage in the Gobi desert.



EVENTS

Convening for Change

Shaping discourse with events that foster dialogue and exchange

110+ Virtual, in-person, and hybrid events

7500+ Event attendees including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members

Every year, **SPPGA** hosts a wide range of events that foster dialogue among students, academics, government, industry, nonprofits and the broader community that speak to contemporary issues related to public policy and global affairs. Through keynotes, panels, symposia and more, SPPGA plays a convening role with **topics of relevance that shape and advance our collective knowledge.**

The ninth annual **Phil Lind Initiative (Un)Civil Discourse** tackled growing divisiveness and political polarization in the United States with five compelling speaker events in the spring of 2023 at UBC's Frederic Wood Theatre. Diverse perspectives on topics including algorithmic discrimination, the rise of autocracy, free speech, and more were discussed by author and journalist **Masha Gessen**, linguistics scholar and writer **John McWhorter**, MacArthur Genius **Safiya Noble**, Pulitzer Prize-winning supreme court correspondent **Linda Greenhouse**, and social psychologist **Jonathan Haidt**. Since 2015, this high profile speaker series has brought more than 40 prominent US scholars, writers and intellectuals to UBC.

"Amazing to watch Dr. Safiya Noble talk about her incredible work to address systemic inequalities. Thanks SPPGA!"

- Shirley, Audience Member (2023)

The African Women's Leadership series, a collaboration between the **Liu Institute Network for Africa (LINA)**, **Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE)**, and the Gender+ Collective, featured a talk with the first female president of Mauritius Dr. **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** about her extraordinary life as an academic and political leader (Nov 25, 2022).

On Feb 13, 2023 SPPGA hosted UK Minister for the Americas and Caribbean, **David Rutley**, for a talk about Canada's recently launched Indo-Pacific strategy. The panel, moderated by British Consul General **Thomas Codrington**, included President and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation **Jeff Nankivell** and SPPGA professors **Timothy Cheek** and **Juliet Lu**.

"Heavy Metal," a new interdisciplinary course jointly listed by SPPGA, the Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences, Peter A. Allard School of Law, and the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering, was the winner of The Killam Connection competition. The inaugural course, instructed by Asst. Prof. **Nadja Kunz**, comprised of 22 students from 4 faculties and included several public lectures including **Sheri Meyerhoffer** with the talk Reflections from the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise on Jan 25, 2023.

The **Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)** hosted Facebook whistleblower **Frances Haugen** on May 30, 2023 for "Online Safety in a Dangerous World"—an engaging conversation on misinformation, the impacts of social media on young people and how to regulate the online world for safety rather than profit. Over the 2022-23 academic year, **Liu Lobby Gallery** hosted an array of artists who showcased photography, documentary film, textiles and tapestry related to research by Liu scholars and other members of the SPPGA academic community.



Gateway to the Asia Pacific

Interdisciplinary scholarship, research and events under the Institute of Asian Research (IAR)

The **Himalaya Program** hosted a film screening of *Ningwasum* alongside a Q&A with director Subash Thebe Limbu on October 19, 2022. Artfully exploring themes of time, memory, and belonging through science fiction, the film presented the Indigenous Yakhung community from eastern Nepal in a futuristic storyline addressing colonization and cultural erasure.

On November 30, 2022 the **Centre for Chinese Research (CCR)** and Green College presented Asst. Prof. **Juliet Lu** for the talk “Partner or Predator? China and the Global Land Grab”—an interrogation of how the simplistic representations of China’s global land investments obscure more important but context-contingent characteristics of Chinese capital and the territorial implications for the places where it invests.

Dr. **Benjamin Young** from Virginia Commonwealth University gave a talk on “A Revolutionary State: What is North Korea’s End Goal?” (December 5, 2022) focused on examining the legal revisions under Kim Jong Un and look at the strategic outlook for conflict on the Korean peninsula. Hosted by the **Centre for Korean Research (CKR)**, it featured discussant Assoc. Prof. and Director of KPP Dr. **Kyung-Ae Park**.

A group of Pacific Island knowledge keepers gave a talk at the Liu Institute for Global Issues on Feb 2, 2023—speaking on their deep knowledge of the ocean as it pertains to biodiversity, food security, climate change, navigation, and more. Spearheaded by **Konwakai Chair Yves Tiberghien** and the **Centre for Japanese Research (CJR)**, this sold-out event also involved the Institute for Oceans and Fisheries and the Department of Political Science among others.

“The ocean is who we are”
- Lolobeyong Benito, Pacific Island knowledge keeper

The **Centre for India and South Asia Research (CISAR)** continued important advocacy and dialogue about caste-based discrimination with events including “The Trauma of Caste” with author and activist **Thenmozhi Soundararaja** (March 2, 2023) as well as an academic symposium associated with **Dr. Ambedkar Equality Day** in April 2023 hosted with the Chetna Association of Canada and the Ambedkarite International Coordination Society.

On March 24, theatre artist and IAR Fellow in the **Centre for Southeast Asian Research (CSEAR)** **Allen Baylosis** presented a thought-provoking and deeply personal performance titled “Balik, Bayan, Box.” This intimate performance artfully interrogated the nature of remittance in the Filipino diaspora.



Knowledge-sharing: Where Academia meets Community

Initiatives that bridge the gap between academia and industry, and between scholars and the broader community

Communicating Policy

Between February and May of 2023, the **Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)** conducted the **Policy Communications Workshop Series** geared towards UBC students, faculty, and staff. Focused on creating policy change by effectively communicating research to stakeholders, each of the following six hybrid workshops were conducted separately for a ‘sciences’ audience, and a ‘humanities and social sciences’ audience: Introduction to Policy Communications, Policy Briefs, Policy Reports, Op-eds for Policy, Social Media Strategy for Policy, and Communications Strategy for Policy. This initiative was supported by the Knowledge Exchange Unit, VPRI.

(De)Mystifying Gender+ in Research

The Gender+ in Research Collaborative from the **Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE)** hosted a seven-week workshop series in January of 2023 for students to explore gender+ research. Guided by guest speakers and scholars, this interdisciplinary and intersectional program explored the foundations of gender+, intersectionality, positionality, and research processes while fostering a sense of community.

Learning from Practitioner Fellows

A cohort of **SPPGA Practitioner Fellows** brought valuable real-world policy expertise into the classrooms through dozens of guest lectures, student workshops and other initiatives. This included Policy Practitioner **Binoy Mascarenhas**—an urban planner, economist and former Head of Urban Transport at the India office of the World Resources Institute—working with faculty member **Veena Sriram** and the students in her MPPGA course PPGA 505: *Domestic and Global Policy Process* to develop a simulation exercise on road safety in India.

REDI in the Classroom

SPPGA continued a funding initiative to support the advancement of anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion in the classroom. Six PPGA courses brought in speakers with in-depth knowledge of specialized topics including: communicating policy within marginalized communities; advocacy in policy processes; and incorporating Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge in policy work.



School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

The University of British Columbia
C. K. Choi Building
251 - 1855 West Mall
Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z2, Canada
sppga.ubc.ca

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



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