



UBC

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.



SPPGA

UBC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The University of British Columbia's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) offers an unparalleled programme that applies a policy lens to emerging/pressing global issues. Our faculty, researchers, students, staff, and partners reflect the international character of the School, originating from and conducting high-impact research in six continents. Our strengths as a School emanate from our multidisciplinary faculty complement, which includes social scientists, humanities scholars, natural scientists, engineers, and public health experts.

SPPGA is home to the highly-respected Institute of Asian Research (IAR) and its five regionally-based Centres, the innovative Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI), and the Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE), connecting students with experiential learning.

Our Master's program in Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) has rapidly grown to produce emerging policy leaders in governments around the world, as well as in public interest groups and industry. The School integrates working policy professionals into its teaching and research through our innovative Practitioner Fellows Program. We partner with government agencies, First Nations, think tanks, community organizations, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and industry in our learning and research.

Our faculty members' expertise spans a wide variety of fields, leading innovation in critical areas including global governance and democracy, security and development, Asia policy, climate change and environmental policy, energy policy, human rights and social justice, trade policy, global health, global Indigenous politics, and science and technology

policy. It is against this backdrop that we coalesce and channel our efforts in creating and mobilizing knowledge for global impact.

We are living through multiple overlapping crises including climate change, public health emergencies, threats to democracy, societal inequalities, and a changing geopolitical climate. Our faculty are at the forefront of addressing these pressing issues through policy research, engagement, collaboration, and education.





Interdisciplinary Expertise

Institutes, Centres & Offices

Global Policy Impact

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

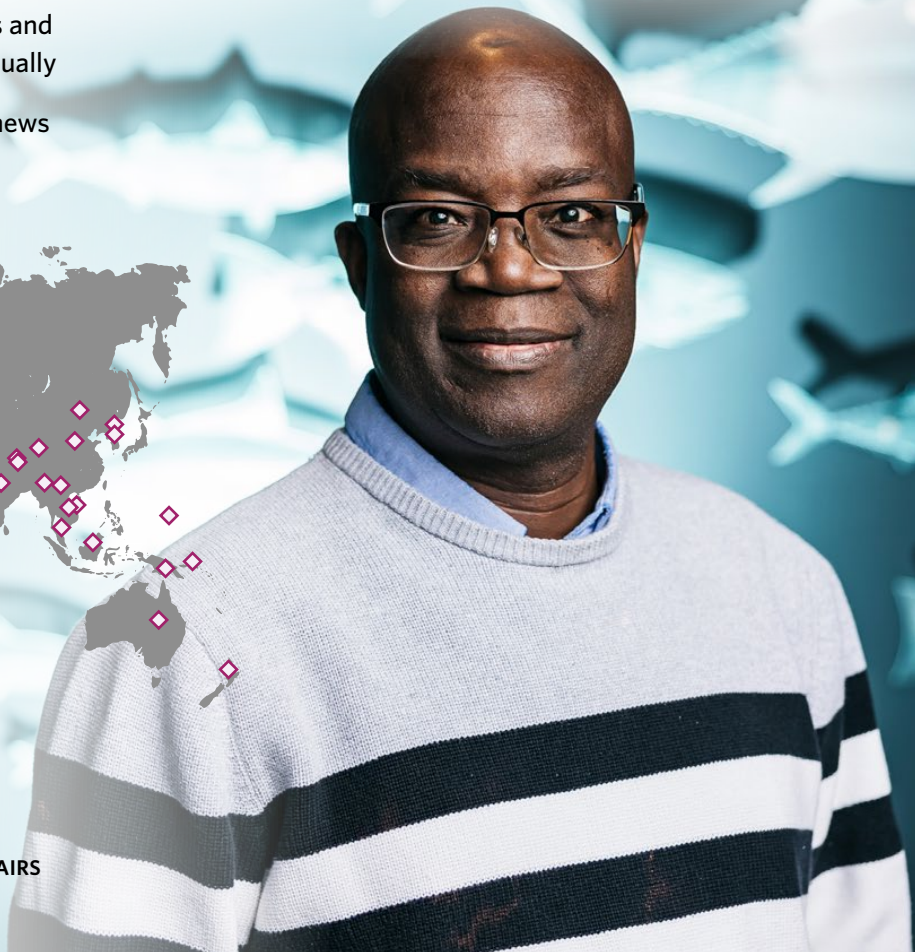
- **25+** SPPGA faculty, including **13** named chairs, conducting research & policy engagement in **30+** countries
- **140+** Books, journal articles, chapters and reports published by faculty members annually
- **375+** media mentions and op-eds in news outlets around the world annually



◆ Countries and regions where faculty research is taking place

"[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."

- Prof. Rashid Sumaila
Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Ocean and Fisheries Economics & Tyler Prize recipient



The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)

The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) strengthens democracy in a digital age through interdisciplinary, inclusive, and publicly engaged research focused on platforms and media, health, and policy communications. Recent highlights include: a global project on AI during elections; research into online abuse and social media regulation; symposia on AI, journalism, and democracy; widely-cited reports on pandemic communications; and a policy communications clinic.

"The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions takes an interdisciplinary approach to examine some of the biggest questions facing the world today, including generative AI, online abuse, and election integrity. We aim to produce rigorous and policy-relevant research, while fostering conversations around how to make democratic institutions more resilient in turbulent times."

- Prof. Heidi Tworek
Director, CSDI





The Institute of Asian Research (IAR)

The Institute of Asian Research (IAR), founded in 1978 and built around five regionally-focused centres, is UBC's hub for research, teaching, and engagement on contemporary political, economic, and social issues in Asia. Recognized as a leading institution in Canada, IAR produces impactful, interdisciplinary research on the Indo-Pacific and the Canada-Asia relationship. It provides core teaching to the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program and engages stakeholders through events, partnerships, and public outreach.

IAR hosts 50+ events and 10-20 diplomatic visits annually. Recent highlights include hosting events with: His Highness Tunku Zain Al'Abidin, Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) David Vigneault, High Commissioner of Malaysia Dr. Shazalina Z. Abidin, Pakistani-American musician Ali Sethi, Ambassador to Afghanistan David Sproule, a delegation from ASEAN Universities, and a full-day symposium on the Indo-Pacific.



Pacific Affairs

Pacific Affairs is a Q1 peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary scholarly journal focusing on current political, economic, and social issues throughout Asia and the Pacific. It has been continuously published since 1928, making it one of the oldest and most recognized journals on the Asia Pacific. The journal is committed to generating high-quality research which takes readers beyond the headlines and across multiple disciplines. New issues are published every March, June, September, and December.

The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE)

The Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE) delivers experiential education programs that bridge theory and practice on global issues. Through interdisciplinary, community-based approaches, ORICE offers courses and co-curricular programs addressing complex community challenges. Every year, hundreds of students take part in ORICE's course-based and co-curricular programs, working alongside community partners to explore and address pressing local and global issues. Projects span topics from AI and human rights to gender+ research, environmental justice, and international development in partnership with global and local communities. ORICE is also home to the Gender+ in Research Collective and the Human Rights Collective.

"At the heart of our work is a commitment to co-creating experiential learning opportunities that are rooted in reciprocity, relevance, and respect."

- Tamara Baldwin
Director, ORICE



Transformative Policy Education

Building Leaders of Tomorrow



MPPGA

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) program equips future policy-makers with a profound understanding of policy-making processes through a solid foundation of rigorous knowledge acquisition, policy analysis, career development, and hands-on learning. From the heart of beautiful British Columbia, our students conduct community-based fieldwork and build expertise from world-renowned UBC faculty and policy practitioners in areas such as global governance, security, development, social change, resources, energy, and sustainability.

MPPGA students graduate with the ability to analyze and address complex policy issues and options across industry sectors and policy domains.

"A major highlight of the program has been the incredible people in my cohort. Their experience and knowledge in policy-making enriches my experience of the program immensely. I also value the connections I've made with outstanding faculty who lead in both research and global policy implementation. Additionally, I've gained insights into Indigenous rights and challenges, which have opened my eyes to ways of crafting policies that are fair and inclusive."

- Juan Cristóbal Collado
MPPGA Student

From the Classroom to the Field

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. In these projects, student teams with interdisciplinary backgrounds consult directly with a client organization on a real-world policy challenge. The teams apply their creative thinking, research, and analytical skills to offer new perspectives and recommendations on the issue at hand that the client can then apply to their work.

Past projects have covered topics including: responding to climate misinformation in Vancouver; understanding security threats to Canada that have been enabled by AI; an exploration of clean heating technologies in Mongolia; enhancing child protection in peacekeeping missions in Uruguay; and more.



20-month, full-time, professional program



In-person, at the UBC Vancouver campus

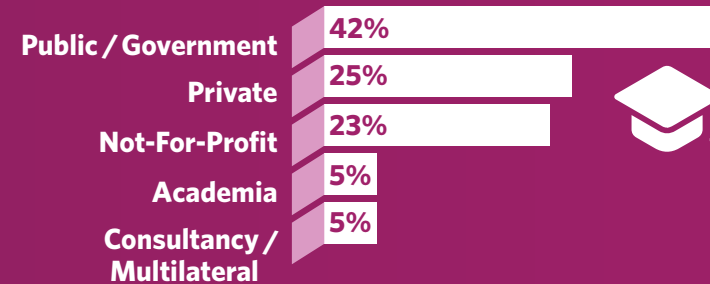


Capstone project with a real-world policy challenge



25+ SPPGA faculty conducting research & policy engagement in 30+ countries

ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT



Convening for Change

Programs, Initiatives & Events



CARE Climate Leadership Program

SPPGA joins Sciences Po in Paris, the University of Toronto, and the University of Guelph in a multi-institutional collaboration to prepare the next generation of global climate and environmental leaders. The Climate Adaptation, Resilience and Empowerment (CARE) Program equips students with knowledge, skills, and international experience to address the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Through cross-cultural exchanges and hands-on learning, the program promotes socially-inclusive climate solutions and policies for sustainable development. CARE is supported by a generous grant from the Foundation David R. Graham and aims to foster global leadership in climate and environmental resilience.



Practitioner Fellowship Program

The SPPGA Practitioner Fellowship Program brings experienced policy professionals into the academic community to foster knowledge exchange and shape just, equitable, and sustainable public policy. Fellows join for four or eight months, contributing to research, teaching, and mentorship while engaging closely with students, faculty, and staff. Since 2020, fellows have included leaders from all levels of government, NGOs, and global organizations. The program empowers practitioners with academic insight, fosters collaborative research, and inspires future policy leaders. Through this dynamic learning environment, the fellowship supports evidence-informed policy-making and builds lasting connections between the university and the global policy community.



Lind Initiative

Since 2015, the annual Lind Initiative series has brought more than sixty prominent US scholars, writers, and intellectuals to UBC to share their unique perspectives on the most urgent issues of our time. Topics have included pressing global issues such as the climate crisis, polarization and corruption in American politics, inequality and racial violence, and the impact of the digital age on the media landscape. In addition to delivering talks in this highly popular public lecture series, which has drawn more than 20,000 attendees overall, these visiting intellectuals also connect directly with students through the Lind Initiative Seminar.

Past speakers have included high-profile figures like Ta-Nehisi Coates, Roxane Gay, Bill McKibben, Jon Batiste and Suleika Jaouad, Masha Gessen, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Winona LaDuke, Ibram X. Kendi, Adam Kinzinger, Heather Cox Richardson, and others.

Events

Every year, SPPGA reaches **7500+ attendees** through hosting **100+ events** that foster dialogue among students, academics, government, industry, non-profits, and the broader community. Through keynotes, panels, symposia and more, SPPGA plays a convening role with topics of relevance that shape and advance our collective knowledge. Speaking to contemporary issues related to public policy and global affairs, events range from online settings to in-person gatherings hosted within the Liu Institute for Global Issues and C.K. Choi buildings on the UBC Vancouver campus.





Partner With Us

SPPGA is interested in building impactful partnerships that encourage knowledge exchange, global mobility, and network development. If you would like to work with us, please reach out:

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