

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION 2009 NEWSLETTER

For alumni, current and prospective students, and others

NEW SCHOOL, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Public Policy and Administration is one of the newest academic units at York University. Its creation in 2006 reflects the importance of studying public policy and administration, as well as the University's strength in these areas.

The School offers undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs (described in more detail in this newsletter). In total, it teaches over 900 students annually, including those enrolled in other programs who find it advantageous to take a course or two in public policy or management.

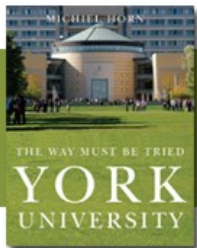
As a relatively new organization, the School and its programs provide many opportunities for students, as well as faculty, alumni

and other stakeholders to have considerable impact on its evolution. In that regard, both the undergraduate and graduate student associations have been instrumental in supporting initiatives, and in some cases starting important new projects.

Societal and political developments in the past several years—including greater awareness of climate change—have made apparent the role that the state, and by extension, public administrators, must play in developing and implementing policy. The large number of public servants expected to retire in the next decade will place an additional burden on the policy and administrative capacity of governments.

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York University: The Way Must Be Tried

In 2009, York University celebrates its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the event, Prof. Michiel Horn has written a history of this important Canadian institution.

The book, titled *York University: The Way Must be Tried* (the motto of the university: *tentanda via*) is a large format,

lively and strikingly illustrated account of York's birth and growth.

The book will be available as of January 2009 at all bookstores.

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION AND LAW



Professor Ian
Greene

Graduate Program
Director

The Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law program began its second year of operation in September 2008 with 85 students, 43 continuing from 2007, and 42 new students, including two who are full-time. The degree offers classes in downtown Toronto at the Osgoode Professional Development Centre at Dundas and Yonge streets as well as on the Keele Campus in order to better accommodate the preferences of students.

Classes are held in the evenings and week-ends in order to allow students to work full-time. The degree requires two years of study.

In just one year, the MPPAL has become one of the biggest graduate public administration programs in Canada. It is heartening that so many of our applicants describe the program as “the most innovative” that they have investigated.

Students come from a variety of backgrounds, with most employed in the public sector, seeking to further their careers and knowledge. This makes for a stimulating and enriching environment for students and professors.

Additional information about the program can be found by following the link on the last page of this newsletter.

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Helen Wong
2008 President,
MPPLSA

The Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Student's Association represents and advocates for students in the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program.

The Association supports its members by facilitating and encouraging communication among students, faculty and the administration. On behalf of their student members, the MPPALSA promotes and represents the student body and provides learning enrichment opportunities.

The Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Student's Association is comprised of the following dedicated committee members:

President 2008: Helen Wong

President 2009: Yousef Salama

Vice President: Lisa Peacock

Treasurer: David Rudoler

Director of Communications: Nina Koumoudouros

You may contact the MPPALSA at yousef.salama@yahoo.com as well as obtain more information at: www.yorku.ca/mppalsa



ALUMNUS WINS AWARD

York alumnus Fausto Natarelli (BA '84) has been awarded the Alumni Recognition Award from York's School of Public Policy & Administration. The award recognizes Natarelli for his contributions to public policy and management, and for his role as a mentor to students and new professionals.

The award was presented to Natarelli by Professor Joanne Magee, director of York's School of Public Policy & Administration, in front of nearly 90 graduate students in the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program, during a special luncheon in September 2008.

After completing his studies in public policy and administration in York's Faculty of Arts, Natarelli joined the Ontario Ministry of Transportation where he has held a variety of positions.

Currently, he is director of the Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. In this capacity, he is responsible for the day-to-day progress of one of the province's largest and most complex transportation infrastructure projects – the building of a new international gateway between Windsor, Ont., and Detroit.

After receiving his award, Natarelli delivered a special lecture to students and faculty. In it, he outlined the critical role that analysis and consultation play in ensuring effective public policy and administration. He presented a case study to students that provided an overview of transportation issues at the Canada-US border at Windsor and high-

lighted the challenges and opportunities inherent in developing solutions.

On many occasions, he has been a guest speaker for courses. Additionally, he has introduced other managers in the Ontario public service to York's public policy and administration programs which has resulted in internship and employment placements for York students.

GRADUATE STUDENT WINS AWARD

Rachelle Mendoza a student in the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law was the winner of the 2008 York Public Affairs Essay Competition. Her paper, titled 'The Ontario Public Service as a New Public Organization?: An Analysis of the OPS Human Resources Landscape' was a thorough account of public service sector reform in Ontario.

In addition to a monetary award, Ms. Mendoza was York University's nominee to the Annual National Student and Thought Leadership Awards supported by the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration, the Institute of Public Administration of Canada and the Canadian Association of Students in Public Administration. She attended the Institute of Public Administration of Canada annual conference in Québec City in August in an all-expenses-paid trip. At the conference, she presented her work in a poster session and participated in the Student and Thought Leadership Awards competition.



Fausto Natarelli



Rachelle Mendoza

PPASA

The Public Policy and Administration Students Association (PPASA) seeks to encourage and facilitate open communication among students, faculty, staff and administration; to represent and advocate for the interests of the field and to promote and enact necessary improvements so as to enhance the overall educational experience.

We work closely with other student organizations such as the Model UN, Model NATO, McLaughlin Student Council and others with whom we hold various types of events. We welcome both new and long-standing members.

Past events and activities include semi-annual alumni dinners where students have chances to network with public policy professors and alumni who are currently working in the Ontario Public Service. The PPASA also organizes career fairs where students are exposed to the various job oppor-

tunities in the public sector, as well as a public policy graduate programs information day.

Over the past year, the PPASA has also assisted in the lunch talk series on public policy issues in conjunction with McLaughlin College.

Lastly, we have collaborated with the Ontario Public Interest Research Group to provide students with volunteer opportunities in public policy research.

Visit the Association at: <http://www.yorku.ca/ppasa/welcome.htm>

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The last couple of years have been exciting ones. The School of Public Policy and Administration began when the three undergraduate programs in public administration offered on the Keele campus were transferred to it. In two years, the School has grown from approximately 500 students to over 800.

However, growth in enrollment is not the only exciting thing. We have been working hard to revise our curriculum to reflect the mandate and vision of the School. The result has been a proposal for curriculum reform which should go into effect in September 2010. It will see our present BA and Honours BA degrees replaced by a new Bachelor of Public Administration.

The new curriculum will allow for greater student choice in terms of courses and provide the opportunity to combine a Pub-

lic Administration degree with a minor. The new curriculum and degree — the Bachelor of Public Administration — better reflects what students learn. Additionally, the new degree will provide future employers with greater clarity about the expertise of graduates.

As the new curriculum moves through the various stages of the approval process, updates will be forthcoming, as well as the measures being put in place to facilitate the needs of current students who are completing our present programs.

Another exciting development is funding of an internship coordinator's position. We have been very fortunate to hire Peter Constantinou for this role. Peter has, for a long time, taught the fourth year practicum in public administration course and has many years of government experience.



Professor Daniel Cohn

Undergraduate Program
Director



Peter Constantinou

Report on Work in Progress

Prof. Thaddeus Hwong

In a part of my long-term collaborative, empirical research project on tax attitudes and information literacy, the world view of York undergraduate students is explored.

Although the data are taken from a limited trial of the survey questions using the classroom response system (i.e. clickers), there might be useful nuggets of information that could enable us to know more about students – part of the younger generation that will help shape who we will be as a community. According to initial raw data, a majority of the undergraduate student survey participants exhibits a strong preference for more progressivity in Canadian income taxation. Specifically, students believe that the rich should pay significantly more than the poor in financing social programs including national child care, public health care initiatives like wait-time reduction, public pensions, as well as employment programs for welfare recipients, homeless people and persons with disabilities.

The initial results appear to be reliable and valid whether or not the survey participants think they will benefit from the social programs. Based on first impressions, my conjecture is that information literacy – the skills to search for and make good use of information in our knowledge economy – may be a key explanatory variable, which hasn't been explored thoroughly in previous empirical research.

In a sense, information literacy in our current knowledge economy might explain attitudes towards tax and civil society, analogous to that of education attainment in welfare democracies. The conjecture will be modelled statistically and the results will be published in peer-reviewed journals.

Public and International Affairs at Glendon College

In September 2008 the Master's Program in Public and International Affairs at Glendon College welcomed its inaugural cohort. Eighteen students from across Canada began their graduate studies in the bilingual, interdisciplinary and globally focused program.

In April 2008, the new Glendon School of Public Affairs School hosted its first major conference. 'Public Institutions and Canada's Future' was the theme of this well-attended and successful event. The keynote speech, given by the Honourable John Manley, can be viewed on-line, as well as the other panels, at www.cpac.ca in the video-on-demand section.

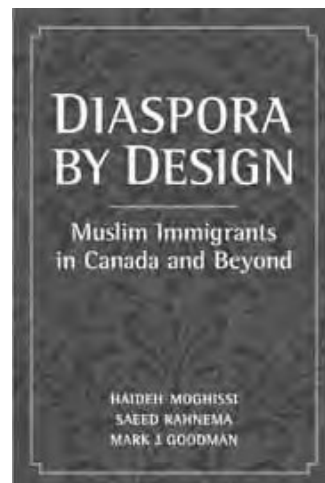
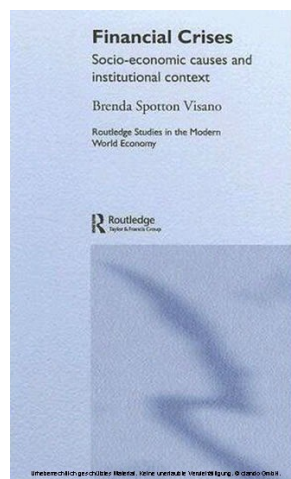
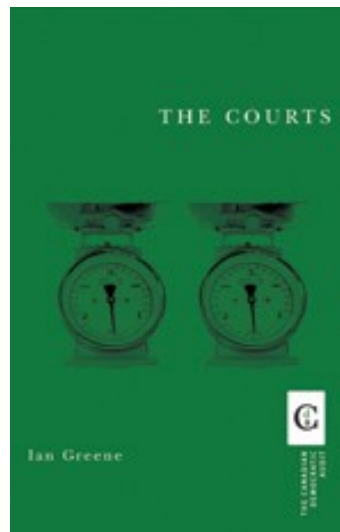
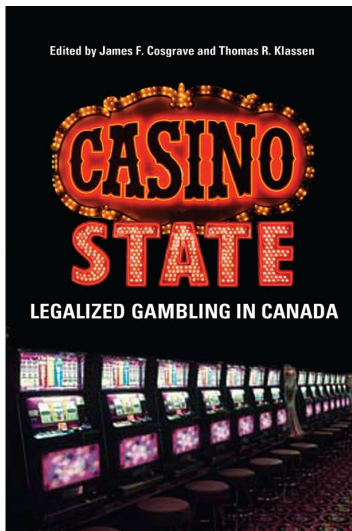
More information about the Master's program can be found at: www.glendon.yorku.ca/gspia

The Glendon School of Public Affairs and its graduate program, along with the Master of Public Administration (MPA) offered by the Schulich School of Business, complement the programs offered by the School of Public Policy and Administration. Together, these academic units and programs demonstrate the breadth and scope of expertise, both teaching and research, at York University in public policy, administration and related fields.

SELECTED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS FROM SOME FACULTY MEMBERS

Daniel Cohn. 2008. "British Columbia's Capital Assets Framework: Moving from Transactional to Transformative Leadership on Public-Private Partnerships, or a 'Railroad Job?'" *Canadian Public Administration*, vol.51, no.1, pp.71-96.

Caroline Dufour. 2009. "From Administration to Management. Forty Years of Public Sector Education in Québec." in Dwivedi, O.P., Tim A. Mau and Byron Sheldrick, eds. *The Evolving Physiology of Government: Canadian Public Administration in Transition*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press.



Lorne Foster. 2009. *A Pigment of Your Imagination: The Racialization of Foreign Credentials and the Colour-Coded Access and Equity Barriers in the Canadian Labor Market.* Multicultural History Society of Ontario and University of Toronto.

Soren Frederiksen. 2007. *An Actor Network Approach to Scientific Evidence in Canada.* PhD Osgoode Hall Law School. York University. Toronto.

P.W. Hogg, **J. Magee** and J. Li. 2007. *Principles of Canadian Income Tax Law* (6th ed). Toronto: Thomson Carswell.

James Simeon. 2008. *Case Studies in Public Management and Administration.* Toronto: Captus Press.

P. Nguyen, **Martin Thomas**, and G. Koren. forthcoming. "Predictors of Prenatal Multivitamin Adherence Among Pregnant Women." *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.*

SCHOOL STAFF

The School of Public Policy and Administration is blessed with excellent support staff. Any student asking for assistance will know how helpful and efficient the counter staff are. Arun Devdas left the School in late 2008 to accept a well deserved promotion in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He will be much missed. Robert Chatelain was appointed to join the administrative team.

Maria Abbatangelo has been with the School from the start. Her efficiency, attention to detail — along with her always friendly attitude — are welcomed by all.

Jasmattie Jewan is the assistant for the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law degree. She has many years of experience in the educational sector and always finds time to support the graduate students.

Margaret (Margo) Barreto is the Administrative Assistant for the School. She makes sure, in a quiet yet extraordinary manner, that students, faculty, and others such as alumni are well served. Truly, without her and her colleagues, the School would be a far less welcoming environment.



Arun Devdas



Maria Abbatangelo



Jasmattie Jewan



Margaret (Margo)
Barreto

Journal of Public Policy, Administration and Law

The Journal of Public Policy, Administration and Law (JPPAL) is an interdisciplinary journal which encourages students, public servants and scholars to share knowledge and research concerning public policy, administration and law issues.

The journal is associated and founded by the Masters of Public Policy, Administration and Law Student's Association at York University. In following the Student's Association mandate, JPPAL will cultivate an "esprit de corps", engaging in educational, political, cultural, scientific and community issues. The goal of this journal is to share and compile high

quality literature that explores conventional and innovative topics and areas of research. JPPAL will publish theoretical, methodological and empirical papers. In addition to publishing peer-reviewed papers, the journal will include invited papers, book reviews, and short commentary sections.

The first issue of JPPAL is anticipated to be published in April 2009 and can be accessed at:

<https://pi.library.yorku.ca/ojs/index.php/jppal/index>

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Daniel Cohn is an associate professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration and the School's Undergraduate Program Director. His research interests are in the areas of public-private partnerships, health care and the roles that academics play in the policy-making process. He has recently started a new project on the politics and policy-making surrounding statutory art. His work has recently appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *Canadian Public Administration* and *Policy and Society* and he is presently working on a book about Canadian public-private partnerships.

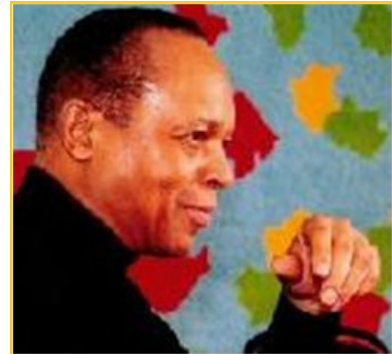


Caroline Dufour is an assistant professor with the School of Public Policy and Administration. She teaches in the field of policy analysis and public administration. Caroline is a historian of public administration and has a special research interest for administrative reform, education of public servants and the evolution of the budgetary system at the provincial level.



FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)

Lorne Foster is an educator, researcher and community activist who specializes in the areas of social justice and human rights, social inequality and social stratification, and anti-racism and anti-discrimination. He is currently an adjunct scholar for the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. He is the author of *A Pigment of Your Imagination: The Racialization of Foreign Credentials and the Colour-Coded Access and Equity Barriers in the Canadian Labor Market*, published by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario (2009, University of Toronto Press).



Soren Frederiksen studies situations in which courts are asked to make determinations about the validity of scientific evidence. As courts lack the specialized expertise and general scientific knowledge possessed by scientists, such situations make it difficult for them to reach admissibility decisions about scientific evidence. His work focuses on this problem and in particular on the complexities involved in making decisions about forensic science in criminal trials.



Thaddeus Hwong teaches social policy, public finance and empirical methods at the School of Public Policy and Administration. Cross-appointed between SPPA and the School of Administrative Studies, he also lectures about Canadian income tax. He conducts empirical research on tax and public policy with current collaborative research projects including survey research on tax attitudes and information literacy; tax and welfare state research on tax mix and tax expenditures; and micro-simulation of the income distributional outcomes of tax expenditures and flat tax. He also leads a social policy research team of graduate students exploring prior empirical findings on social expenditures.



FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)

Thomas Klassen is an associate professor in both the School of Public Policy and Administration and the Department of Political Science. He is the co-editor of *Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2009). He has published widely on aspects of Canadian labour policy, as well as comparative welfare states, especially Germany and South Korea.



Saeed Rahnema, professor of Political Science, was the first Director of the School of Public Policy and Administration. His areas of interests are public management, development administration, comparative politics and religious fundamentalisms. In 2007, he won the prestigious Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award of the Ontario Government valued at \$20,000. His most recent publication is the co-authored book *Diaspora by Design: Muslims Immigrants in Canada and Beyond* (University of Toronto Press, 2009).



James C. Simeon is an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration, a Centre for Refugee Studies scholar and a faculty associate with the Centre for Support of Teaching at York University. His teaching and research interests are in the fields of public management and administration, public policy and administration and international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian and criminal law.



FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)

Joanne Magee is the Director of the School of Public Policy and Administration. Her research interests are statutory interpretation, personal financial planning and the measurement of income for tax purposes. She teaches income tax law and tax planning and is a frequent writer and speaker on these subjects. Professor Magee currently serves on the editorial board of the *Canadian Tax Journal*, the Academic Advisory and Certification Scheme Committees of the Financial Planners Standards Council of Canada.



Martin Thomas is a research methodologist with a primary interest in health-care delivery, especially pertaining to reproductive issues. He previously was as a health-care planner and epidemiologist. Recently, he has worked with the Fetal Alert Network designing a series of surveys to assess the knowledge and behaviour of health-care providers and consumers. Most of his recent research uses surveys to study the values, knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of health-care providers and consumers.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Alice Melcov, a third year student in the School of Public Policy and Administration, has one of the highest GPA's in the University (8.55). "I have a big heart for volunteer work," says the Nelson Mandela fan who has tutored at the Student Peer Support Centre and a Jane-Finch community after-school program. An introvert who can lose herself in a practical ethics text as much as a Tolstoy epic, she imagined a life in medicine until she sensed the heady power of public policy. "It can make a big impact on the day-to-day life" of citizens, she says.



from the December 2008 *YorkU* magazine; photograph copyright of Lindsay Lozon

ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD

The School of Public Policy and Administration at York University seeks nominations for its annual Alumni Recognition Award. The award acknowledges the contributions made by one alumnus/a of the School's programs to public policy and management, as well as to the mentoring of students and new professionals.

Nominations are accepted for the award from individual students and alumni, as well as from the associations of students and alumni, and from faculty and staff. Nominations require, at least, a one-page statement about the accomplishments of the individual nominated as well as a copy of her or his resume.

Nominations must be received by March 13, 2009, but are encouraged to be submitted sooner. Please forward materials to:

Professor Joanne Magee
Director, School of Public Policy and Administration
York University

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This Newsletter was coordinated and edited by Prof. Thomas Klassen, with assistance from Amy Lee and David Wallace. Many students, faculty and staff members provided contributions. Please contact Prof. Klassen with any feedback or suggestions for the next issue. He can be reached at tklassen@yorku.ca or at 416-736-2100 ext. 88828.