

Best 2020 Major Research Paper Award Winner Alyssa Offenheim (MPPAL, Class of 2020)

The Impact Assessment Act, Climate Change, and Political Priorities in Canada



Alyssa's supervisor, **University Professor Brenda Spotton Visano** will present her with this award at the annual [SPPA Students, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards](#) on November 26, 2020.

Alyssa is a public sector professional with diverse experiences in provincial and municipal governments. She brings her skills in policy analysis, coordination and strategic advice to her role as **Policy Analyst at the Ministry of the Solicitor General**. In her spare time, Alyssa volunteers with local climate action initiatives and acts as the Director of Memberships and Partnerships for the York University School of Public Policy and Administration Alumni Network. She holds a Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law, 2020 and a Bachelor of Public Administration with Honours, 2019 from York University.

Congratulations to Alyssa!

YUSPPAAN PRESENTS



Panel Discussion

BRIDGING THE GAP
BETWEEN PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE INDUSTRIES

DECEMBER 3, 2020

THURSDAY, 6PM-8PM

VIA ZOOM

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Alia Kamlani

Alia is regarded as a transformation expert, having engaged extensively with senior executives, political leaders and front-line staff across a range of strategic initiatives and complex project implementations. At Deloitte, Alia serves as the provincial health and human services leader, bringing sector-specific knowledge of the operating environment and policy context, as well as global trends and best practices.

Sadaf Syed

Sadaf brings a wealth of experience from her career in the technology sector. In her current role as Business Operations Leader for Latin America, Canada, and Caribbean at Amazon Web Services (AWS) Public Sector, Sadaf serves customers at all three levels of government, healthcare, education, and non-profit organizations. She is passionate about using technology to improve service delivery. Sadaf is dedicated to improving diversity and gender parity within the technology industry.



Stephanie LeBlanc

Stephanie Leblanc has over 20 years of experience working in the social service field. Stephanie began working with a non-profit organization that serviced homeless youth. This experience led to her wanting to specialize in Mental health and Addiction. While working in Addiction, Stephanie returned to school and got her Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Victoria. Stephanie possesses a wide range of clinical experience working with vulnerable youth and adult groups experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, addiction and behavioral issues.



Katherine Ros

Katherine Ros is a Senior Manager in KPMG's Public Sector practice in Management Consulting. Katherine brings over sixteen years of experience with the public sector and has worked with organizations at all three levels of government, within the broader public sector, and higher education. Prior to joining KPMG, Katherine was an Economist with the Province of Ontario for over 7 years where she designed programs and policies, developed business plans, and developed multi-year forecasts for health expenditures.



SPEAKERS



ALIA KAMLANI
Strategy & Operations
Consultant,
Deloitte Canada



SADAF SYED
Head of Public Sector
Business Operations
Latin America, Canada
and Caribbean, Amazon



STEPHANIE LEBLANC
Director of Housing
Operations, YouthLink



KATHERINE ROS
Senior Manager,
KPMG Canada

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McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE

You are cordially invited to attend the second McLaughlin College Union Debate that will be held on **Wednesday, November 25th, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm**, that will consider a most consequential subject,

AI as an Existential Threat?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) research is accelerating, and its rapid development, innovations, and discoveries are already having an impact on society in quite dramatic ways such as autonomous vehicles, AI-generated music, poetry and storytelling, customer service bots and portals, and so on. The term "transformative AI" is used to describe a range of advances in AI that could impact on society in dramatic and difficult-to-reverse ways. Government policies and regulations will, undoubtedly, find it extremely difficult to keep up with the pace of technological progress with AI. Researchers are already working on advanced warning systems for any possible extreme events. However, *AI forecasting* based on *measuring AI progress* is at its early stages of development and its utility has been challenged by those who point out that it could never be able to account for the revolutionary breakthroughs and discoveries that have the potential to achieve AGI (Artificial General Intelligence), that will allow machines to adapt to a variety of situations to maximize their potential, or to achieve high-level machine intelligence (HIMI), to perform at the level of an average human adult on key cognitive measures necessary for economically relevant tasks, or to achieve "superintelligence," that Nick Bostrom, states "greatly exceeds the cognitive performance of humans in virtually all domains of interest." (*Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies*. Oxford University Press, 2014) Leading, some would argue, to the "AI control problem" that may be unresolvable.

We have assembled an exceptional panel for our second McLaughlin College Union Debate that will consider the following proposition:

The rapidly accelerating advances in artificial intelligence (AI) could pose, quite likely, a serious existential threat to humankind in the not too distant future.

Please join us for what will undoubtedly prove to be a fascinating debate.

MODERATOR:



JAMES C. SIMEON, is Head of McLaughlin College and an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA), Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University. He is a Member-at-Large of the Executive of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) and a past President of CARFMS.

PANELISTS:



RUTH URNER, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, York University. Her areas of research interest are Machine Learning Theory, Societal Aspects of Machine Learning, Fairness in Machine Learning, and Interpretability in Machine Learning.
Ruth will speak against the proposition.



REGINA RINI, holds the Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Moral and Social Cognition and is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at York University. She studies how social norms should be negotiated in democratic societies, particularly in response to technological change. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* and she writes the regular 'Morals of the Story' column for the *Times Literary Supplement*.
Gina will speak in favour of the proposition.



MATTHIJS MAAS, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge, with research interests in adaptive global governance approaches for extreme technological risks, with a focus on high-stakes or destabilizing uses of AI technology in military contexts and the effects of AI technology on international law, among other areas.
Matthijs has agreed to argue against the proposition.



ALLAN WEISS, Associate Professor, Department of English and Department of Humanities, York University, is a creative writer and scholar who has published mainstream/literary, science fiction, and fantasy short stories in numerous periodicals and anthologies.
Allan will argue in favour of the proposition.



STUART ARMSTRONG, Research Fellow, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford. Stuart has worked with researchers at DeepMind, to formalize AI desiderata in general models so that AI designers can include these safety methods in their designs and his collaboration with DeepMind on "Interruptionability" has been mentioned in over 100 media articles.
Stuart has agreed to argue both sides of the proposition.

Wednesday, November 25, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

CLICK here to register: <https://mycentre.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=613581>

For more information email Vicky Carnevale at vcarneva@yorku.ca

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Call for Proposals Rethinking Rural

SERIES EDITORS

Philomena de Lima, University of the Highlands and Islands - Inverness College

Belinda Leach, University of Guelph

ABOUT THE SERIES

The *Rethinking Rural* series foregrounds place and specifically rural places and communities as dynamic, diverse and mutually constitutive. The Series emphasises rural places as embodying plural visions, voices and experiences which are intrinsic to making sense of places - rural and urban - as lived sites of solidarity, contestation and disruption. Place is not just a backdrop to daily encounters, but a deep and meaningful aspect of everyday living. The Series takes 'rural' to be a contested construct rather than fixed through metrics such as population density, proximity to urban centres, proportion of agricultural activity, etc.

A major aim of the Series is to facilitate dialogue within and between disciplines and countries in order to generate new insights. Conceptual and methodological approaches that move beyond normative paradigms underpinned by Anglo-centric/Occidental ideas that tend to characterise the contemporary study of rural places are welcomed.

Monographs, edited collections and Palgrave Pivots are invited to critically engage with questions such as what and whose knowledge about rural counts, through the explicit inclusion of silenced and/or neglected voices, perspectives and experiences within and across the traditional dualities of south-north and urban-rural.

Scholars are also encouraged to question the ways in which intersecting social locations and hierarchies related to age, gender, social class, indigeneity, ethnicity, race, disability, and sexuality alongside places (rural, urban, etc) interact to shape contemporary discourses, experiences and practices in dynamic and fluid ways.

CONTACT FOR PROPOSALS

For more information or to submit a proposal, please contact Sharla Plant sharla.plant@palgrave.com or the series editors: Philomena de Lima Philomena.deLima.ic@uhi.ac.uk and Belinda Leach bleach@uoguelph.ca

Learn more at palgrave.com

Part of SPRINGER NATURE

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Applications for FCM's Women in Local Government scholarships are now open



FCM is proud to offer awards and scholarships to outstanding women in the field of municipal politics. Our scholarships for women in secondary school, CEGEP and university encourage students in their studies of women in politics, as well as their community involvement.

Canadian Women in Municipal Government Scholarship

Supporting secondary school and CEGEP students

The scholarship is open to female students enrolled in any year of study in secondary school and who are contributing to their school's leadership team or student council. There are five awards of \$1000, each, with one award to be presented in each of the five regions of Canada (British Columbia, The Prairies and Territories, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada).

[Apply here](#)

Mayor Andrée P. Boucher Memorial Scholarship

Rewarding student research on women in politics

FCM awards the Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship to two female college or university students deemed to have submitted the best research paper on a topic related to women in politics. The scholarship is named in honour of the late mayor of Quebec City.

FCM awards two (2) scholarships of \$4,500: one (1) scholarship to a student at the college /university undergraduate level, and one (1) scholarship at the university graduate level.

[Apply here](#)



Rural Policy Learning Commons

Policy for Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) With Marginalized Youth

Thursday November 26th, 2020 @ 1pm CDT



Dalhousie University Team:

Dr. Jeff Karabanow, Social Work, Dalhousie University.
Kathryn Williston, Crisis Response Coordinator, Valley Regional Hospital.
Kaitrin Doll (they/she), Doctoral student, Social Work, University of Toronto.

Simon Fraser University Team

Dr. Peter Hall, Urban Studies Program, Simon Fraser University.
Lindsay Simpson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University.

University of Manitoba Team:

Dr. Shirley Thompson, Mino Bimaadiziwin Principal Investigator, University of Manitoba
Jide Oni, Master student, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

To Register [Click Here](#)

Gastronomy A Tourism Lure: Exploring The Considerations For A Policy Decision & The Impacts on Cross-Sector Interactions

Tuesday December 1st, 2020 @ 1pm CST



With a little over Ten (10) years experience as a public servant for the government of Jamaica, Davio Robinson, an Urban Planner by profession has served in the capacity of Physical Planning Co-ordinator, Acting Disaster Co-ordinator, Physical Planner and Acting Director of Planning for several Municipal Corporations with his last engagement being with the St. Catherine Municipal Corporation. With a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Technology, Jamaica and the recent acquisition of his Masters of Rural Development from the Brandon University, in the Province of Manitoba, Canada. Davio continues to strive to have a positive impact in his field of study with a strong focus on rural development.

To Register [Click Here](#)

[Shareholder Engagement and Policy Analyst - SHARE](#)

SHARE is seeking an individual passionate about and committed to building a more sustainable, inclusive and productive economy and looking to contribute to a vibrant, values-driven organization. The successful candidate is familiar with and works well in corporate governance and finance, but is primarily motivated by the opportunity to make meaningful changes to corporate policies, systems, and practices to contribute to social and environmental change. Reporting to the Director of Shareholder Advocacy, the Engagement & Policy Analyst plays a key role in SHARE's shareholder engagement program, contributing to research, analysis, engagement campaigns, and the program's administration. This role will be remote during COVID and after that can be based in Vancouver or Toronto.

[Senior Advisor - Behavioural Insights Team](#)

The Behavioural Insights Team is a growing organization dedicated to creating social impact. They are looking for people passionate about public policy and behavioural science. Among the activities the Senior Advisor will be involved in are: leading and managing projects, e.g. leading BIT project teams; overseeing the development and delivery of project deliverables; applying concepts from behavioural science to the design of policies, communications, processes, and programs; overseeing the design and implementation of field experiments; leading work plan development and coordination; research and analysis, e.g. leading and organizing field research and desk research; overseeing statistical analysis and the synthesis of findings; and written and oral communication, e.g. writing final reports; presenting findings to senior decision makers; leading client workshops.

[Policy Development Officer \(Indigenous\) - City of Toronto](#)

The Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division has a career opportunity for a First Nations, Inuit or Métis person who has the subject matter expertise, skills, and commitment to support and advance the priorities and commitments in the Meeting in the Middle Engagement Strategy and Action Plan (Meeting in the Middle) which responds to the City's Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Communities and the Priority Calls to Action. Reporting to the Manager, Strategic Policy and Service Planning, the Policy Development Officer has varying responsibilities including developing strategic and operational policies, strategies and programs for the housing and homelessness service delivery system, building and sustaining respectful and reciprocal relationships, and working in collaboration with Indigenous partners in a way that respects self-determination.

[Director of Program and Public Policy - Kidney Foundation of Canada, Ontario Branch](#)

Reporting to the Ontario Branch Executive Director, this position works in collaboration with the Branch Senior Management Team and Branch program staff. This position provides leadership and support to volunteers and colleagues from across the province in influencing provincial health policy, supporting the delivery of core programs and developing new and exciting offerings for the Branch. He/she helps to promote greater engagement and connectivity with patients, stakeholders and the public as well as playing a central role in advocacy and external relations, healthy living and in raising the Foundation's profile with patients, partners, donors and government.

[Policy and Project Specialist - York Region](#)

Reporting to the Head, Policy, Communications and Liaison, the Policy and Project Specialist is responsible for providing policy and communications support to the Commissioner and department management and staff; leading and executing program strategies to support Department projects associated with corporate and strategic planning; coordinates Department engagement in the corporate strategic plan; researching leading industry practices; developing stakeholder relationships that foster collaboration and innovation; and developing written and electronic information materials, briefing notes and presentations.

[Project Manager, Policy and Strategic Support - City of Toronto](#)

As a Project Manager, Policy and Strategic Support, you'll play a vital role within the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division by providing project leadership and expertise to support the delivery of by-law and transformational changes, and by tracking, monitoring, and reporting on performance and results. Major upcoming projects include the multi-tenant houses, RentSafeTO, and short-term rental by-law changes, as well as digitization, business transformation, and system modernization initiatives.

Reporting to the Manager, Business Performance and Change Initiatives, you'll plan and implement complex organizational, operational and culture change projects that may be strategic or technology-focused, expertly developing and leading the implementation of detailed schedules, and resource, budget and communication plans, and ensuring that projects are delivered on time, in scope and on budget. Innovative, adaptable and creative, you're well equipped to meet the changing needs of industries and customers served, as well as emerging directions.

[Senior Economist - Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat](#)

The Operating Expenditure Management Division, Office of the Treasury Board is recruiting for a unique opportunity to enhance your skills through working with ministries to resolve economic and financial issues, and assess the impact of policy initiatives. In this role, you will:

- provide information, advice and consultative services to senior management on fiscal, economic and related policy issues
- analyze major policy issues and assess the impact of initiatives
- work with line ministries to support the annual multi-year planning process, Expenditure Estimates and the Budget, ensuring consistency in approach and compliance with corporate frameworks
- prepare, coordinate and present a range of briefing materials to facilitate decision-making

[Senior Policy Advisor - Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines](#)

The Network and Microgrid Policy unit works with electricity sector agencies, stakeholders and Indigenous communities to manage key electricity transmission priorities including:

- 1) Developing transmission system policies including on project approvals, system reliability, and regulatory oversight.
- 2) Developing policies that relate to the evolution of regional and system-wide electricity planning processes.
- 3) Managing the Province's role with respect to implementation of major transmission projects.

In this role you will lead research, develop policy options and recommendations, provide expert advice to senior management, and work with industry stakeholders and other government partners.

Policy Advisor or Senior Policy Advisor - Office of Ontario's Minister of Finance

The Office of Ontario's Minister of Finance, the Hon. Rod Phillips, is looking to recruit a Policy Advisor or Senior Policy Advisor. This is a great opportunity to be at the centre of public policy in Canada's largest province and part of an outstanding team that leads the government's budget development as well as diverse files including tax, fiscal, alcohol, cannabis, auto insurance, gaming, capital markets, financial services, pensions, and more! If you're interested or have any questions, please send to: charles.lammam@ontario.ca

[Senior Policy Advisor \(9 total positions!\) - Ministry of Children, Safety and Community Services](#)

The Social Assistance Reform Branch in the Ministry of Community, Community and Social Services, responsible for driving the renewal of Ontario's social assistance system to improve responsiveness, efficiency and help people achieve independence and financial resilience through an ecosystem of connected and personalized supports. In this combined policy and program role, you will:

- Develop strategies and integrated implementation plans that bring together policy, program design, funding, data, accountability, technology, service delivery and partnership elements to drive change on priority aspects of social assistance renewal
- Develop and implement project management systems and processes, including clarifying overall goals, tracking progress towards outcomes and implementation milestones
- Identify and manage overall risks, including addressing barriers and bringing additional skills and capacity to bear on key priorities
- Articulate and drive overall change management and engagement strategies, focusing on the needs and values of delivery partners, including municipalities, First Nations, and frontline staff
- Support strategic and consistent communication to multiple audiences on high priority initiatives.

[Policy Advisor – Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#)

The ideal candidate must be an excellent public policy analyst with a related post secondary degree. You excel in policy research and analysis, are proactive in issue identification and problem solving with an advanced understanding of the current public policy and municipal, provincial and federal political environments. You have a strong knowledge of government structures and processes as a result of direct, multi-year workplace experience (minimum 3-5 years). Highly developed analytical skills, superior computer literacy skills, strong knowledge of municipal governments, excellent written and verbal communication skills and effective relationship management will benefit applicants. Please apply in confidence by email to careers@amo.on.ca. Deadline Friday, November 27, 12 noon.

[Policy Intern – Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#)

Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. The job will require research, analysis, report writing, project planning and coordination. The Intern will help identify issues of importance to municipal government and help demonstrate impacts of the issues and appropriate responses. The Policy Intern will also assist with the development and implementation of AMO's August 2021 Annual Conference. The Policy Intern will also participate in the implementation of the AMO-Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Ontario on consultation, including participation in meetings with provincial Cabinet Ministers.

[Economist – Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

If you want to contribute to building strong, financially sustainable communities in Ontario and have a strong economic and financial analysis background, consider joining our Municipal Finance Policy team, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



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