

School of Public Policy and Administration

NEWSLETTER

September 2021 – Volume 9, Issue 25

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Ian Greene Book Prize winners for outstanding academic achievement in the MPPAL program

This MPPAL graduating class of 2021 proves that it is possible to do it all - read more about each of the prize winners below. Congratulations to all!



Sarika Bhatnagar is a Provincial Prosecutor with the Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario, Halton Crown Attorney's office in the Criminal Law Division and has been a part of their Local Resumption of Court Services Working Group. She is also a part-time professor at Sheridan College in the Faculty of Applied Health and Community Studies, Paralegal Program. As a past Governance Board of Director for Victim Services of Peel, she has received recognition awards both from the Legislature of Ontario and from then Member of Parliament Ruby Dhalla for her six years of community service. Her areas of research and publications include the intersection of race, gender, and immigration status with employment equity as it relates to the recruitment and selection of police forces; and Charter section 11(b) delays under the Jordan framework.



Munir Chagpar is currently a Policy Manager at the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators Secretariat, a national association of provincial insurance regulators, where he provides policy leadership in financial services market conduct, innovation and consumer protection. He began his public service career at Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services as a front-line worker serving vulnerable citizens. He then moved to Program Analyst roles that saw him improve back-end processes for serving these citizens. This experience enabled him to take on senior policy and IT positions to transform the way social assistance was delivered in Ontario. He also held a policy advisory role at an agency of the Ministry of Finance that regulates financial services in Ontario where he was involved in development of auto insurance policy and improving health service provider regulation.



Meghan Ditta has been a municipal public sector professional since early 2018 and has since transitioned into her current role as the Township of King's Supervisor of Strategy and Transformation within the CAO's Office. Meghan is passionate about public policy and politics which motivated her to transition from previous project coordination roles held for over five years within the private sector. She is an exceptional strategic and analytical thinker and researcher, with well-developed project management skills as demonstrated through her Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) designation.



Gyula Kovacs is an experienced public policy and communications professional who works for Ontario's Ministry of Education as a Senior Policy and Programs Advisor. His previous roles include Issues Management and Media Relations Team Lead with Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Communications and Media Relations Officer for Ontario's French-Language Services Commissioner, and Communications and Media Relations Coordinator for the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. Gyula has also worked as a broadcast journalist in Toronto and Montréal, in both English and French.



Cara Santoro is a dedicated public servant and has been an employee of the Ontario Public Service since May 2017. She first started her career as a student with the Ministry of the Attorney General as a policy and programs assistant at the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. In March 2018 she then transited into her current role in labour relations at the Public Service Appeal Boards, an agency of the Ministry of Labour, where she is a Case Coordinator.

The winners will be formally presented with the Ian Greene Book Prize for outstanding academic achievement in the MPPAL program at the [annual SPPA Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards](#) on November 25, 2021.

This year we expect the SPPA awards to be a hybrid in-person/virtual event.

MENTORSHIP CIRCLES – CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Dear alumni and students,

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new round of mentorship circles at SPPA.

Circles have 3 members (3 of the 4 categories represented in each circle):

Level 1: 1 Upper year BPA/MPPAL student or recent graduate at entry level position

Level 2: 1 Analyst/Advisor

Level 3: 1 Manager

Level 4: 1 Sr. Executive E.g.: Director, ADM, DM

Each group will consist of a Level 1, 2 and 3 or a Level 2, 3 and 4.

The minimum commitment is to hold two meetings for each mentorship circle by end of March 2022, and preferably one more by the end of April or May, with the aim to advance the professional development and careers of participating members. **All meetings will be held virtually during this cycle.**

For the 2021-2022 cycle confirmed Level 4 Senior Executives and Level 3 Managers include:

David Au – Director, Labour Relations Policy and Fiscal Coordination Branch at the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat

Jim Cassimatis – Chief Operating Officer, Bereavement Authority of Ontario and former Assistant Deputy Minister, Enterprise Business Services Division at Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

Wendy Chen – Manager, Corporate Court Services, Services Support Unit, Ontario Ministry of Attorney General

Ana Kapralos – Director, Program Modernization and Appointments, Policy Division, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General

Fausto Natarelli – Consultant and career public servant with positions spanning the Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation

Nancy Sanders – Career public servant and former Assistant Deputy Minister, Solicitor General of Ontario

Rory O'Connor – Former Executive Public Servant in Residence at SPPA and Associate Regional Director General Indigenous Services Canada, Atlantic Region

Victor J. Severino – Assistant Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response Secretariat, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

If you are interested in participating or have questions about the mentorship circles, please contact Prof. Alena Kimakova, SPPA Director via email at akimakov@yorku.ca no later than **Monday, October 18, 2021**

CALL FOR JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

Apply to become a Junior Ambassador for the Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA)!

- Attend networking events
- Build close connections
- Become more involved in community
- Transition to become an executive

Accepting applications until October 7, 2021 at 11:59pm

at <https://tinyurl.com/ppasa-junior-ambassador>

To learn more about the association, please visit the [PPASA website](#).



The Centre for Refugee Studies at York University

presents

Fact-Finding in Immigration Detention Reviews: Evidence Law meets Administrative Law

September 30 and October 1, 2021 (by Zoom)

[Register here](#)

Debates over immigration detention have received increased scholarly attention in Canada in recent years. Some key points of contention include whether there should be any immigration detention at all, whether there should be an upper limit on the length of detention, whether children should ever be detained (and if not detained, then separated from detained parents), whether processes for reviewing ongoing detention are fair and appropriate, and what detention conditions are appropriate.

One aspect of immigration detention that has not received as much attention is the norms and processes according to which evidence is introduced and assessed in immigration detention reviews conducted by the Immigration and Refugee Board's Immigration Division. At first glance this may not be entirely surprising. Section 173 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act notes that the Immigration Division is "not bound by any legal or technical rules of evidence."

This workshop, cohosted by Osgoode Hall Law School and the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, aims to help bring evidence law and administrative law into deeper conversation with one another by examining fact-finding in immigration detention reviews. It will be of interest to scholars of evidence law, administrative law, and immigration law – as well as to practitioners and decision-makers involved with immigration detention reviews in Canada.

For more information, please visit the [CRS website](#).

Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Policy Analyst Recruitment and Development Program (PARDP)

Do you have a Graduate degree (Master's, PhD or Law)? Are you an Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) candidate with an undergraduate degree and 2 years community experience?

Apply now to one of the Policy Analyst Recruitment and Development Program (PARDP)'s two streams.

As Natural Resources Canada's signature accelerated development program for policy analysts, PARDP is designed to help candidates develop the skills and experience necessary to become strong policy leaders.

PARDP Virtual Information Sessions on Oct 1 (2 PM EST) and Oct 5, 2021 (5 PM EST)

Log on: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/89738186682>

Dial in: +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 897 3818 6682

Passcode: 917785

Apply online [here](#) by October 21, 2021.

Visit [the PARDP page](#) to learn more about applying to this exciting program!

Contact pardp-prpap@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

[Policy and Engagement Specialist - Daily Bread Food Bank](#)

The Policy and Engagement Specialist works with the Research and Advocacy team on priorities including income security, affordable housing, decent work, and food access. They will develop and execute advocacy tactics to advance Daily Bread's public policy objectives, engage partners, monitor government activities, research policy options, and develop briefs and other materials

[Manager, Public Policy - Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#)

The Manager, Public Policy will support the public policy team's work on exploring and researching innovative policy solutions, including solutions to eliminating systemic racism. This public policy professional will be lead the dissemination of vital policy ideas that achieve the CRRF mission. This person will be responsible to research and review public policies in Canada and other jurisdictions; and recommend measures to be adopted at the national, provincial, and international level for combating racism through policy.

[Policy Advisor - Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development](#)

In this role, you will provide policy analysis, advice and technical expertise to senior management, the Deputy Minister and the Minister on a broad range of workplace insurance and occupational health and safety issues. Plan, and participate on cross-cutting project teams of staff from other divisions/branches to plan the development and implementation strategies of policy products.

[Government Relations Specialist - Kinross Gold](#)

Reporting directly to the Senior Vice President, Government Relations, this role serves to support the global government relations function across a range of research, analysis, reporting and project management activities.

[Policy Research Services Coordinator - York University](#)

The Policy Research Services Coordinator, works in collaboration with the Senior Policy Advisor, Research, to support and operationalize strategic research policies and initiatives.

[Plastics Campaigner - Oceana Canada](#)

The incumbent is preferably bilingual in French and English and will work remotely due to COVID-19 until it is safe to return to work in the Ottawa or Toronto office. The Campaigner will work with a multidisciplinary team to develop and execute Oceana Canada's campaign to end single-use plastics by calling for government laws or regulations and other plastic-free policies. This position requires strong persuasion, communications, problem-solving, project management and grassroots campaigning skills. The ideal candidate is action- and detail-oriented, with experience working collaboratively to advance policy.

[Manager, Research, Public Policy and Evaluation - United Way Greater Toronto](#)

Reporting to the Senior Manager, Research, Public Policy and Evaluation, the Manager will undertake the evaluation of programs and initiatives, conduct and support research projects, and contribute to public policy analysis in support of United Way's strategic directions and priorities.

[Junior Policy Analyst - Children's Mental Health Ontario](#)

CMHO is looking for research and analytical support as part of the policy team. The ideal candidate will use critical thinking skills to research, analyze, and summarize data and information on a range of policy issues impacting the sector in support of the policy development process.

[Senior Horse Racing Policy Manager - OLG](#)

Reporting to the Senior Director, Horse Racing, the Senior Horse Racing Policy Manager will use market research and analytical modelling to position key issues and inform for various government and industry audiences, and make recommendations related to industry developments (ex. strategic, financial, legislative, regulatory). Provide leadership related to strategy support, analytics, economic and policy developments with the Ontario Government and Horse Racing industry associations to guide informed decision-making, and enable a self-governing and accountable Horse Racing Sector that is positioned for long-term success.

[Senior Policy Analyst and Policy Analyst - AdvantAge Ontario](#)

AdvantAge Ontario, the association of not-for-profit long-term care, housing and services for seniors, is hiring for two policy positions.

[Project Officer - International Federation on Ageing](#)

The Project Officer responsibilities include undertaking research on policy issues and responses across the sector by developing and maintaining effective networks and relationships with internal and external stakeholders, to promote successful policy development and implementation. Stakeholders include the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

[Senior Economic Advisor \(2 positions\) - Ontario Ministry of Transportation](#)

In the System Optimization Policy Branch, Economics and Methodologies Office, you will support transportation policy and decision-making with economics and performance measurement expertise as well as project leadership on issues impacting the Ministry of Transportation.

[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisor – Ontario Public School Boards' Association](#)

The successful applicant will provide guidance and leadership to the Association in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. The position will advise and support OPSBA's internal and external professional development, advocacy, work teams, and the general work of the Association.



*Stay connected
with SPPA*

Facebook:
[/YorkUSPPA](#)

Twitter:
[@YorkUSPPA](#)

SPPA LinkedIn Group:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12006583>

MPPAL LinkedIn Group:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3908927>

<https://sppa.laps.yorku.ca/>

*If you wish to unsubscribe from the SPPA Newsletter, please email us at: lapssppa@yorku.ca asking to be removed from the mailing list.

