

# School of Public Policy and Administration

## NEWSLETTER

November 2021 – Volume 9, Issue 31

*In case you missed it:*

### **Anti-racism theme of SPPA's annual Ontario Public Service Breakfast**

The annual Ontario Public Service (OPS) Breakfast presented by York University's School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) on Oct. 5, 2021 focused on anti-racism with a special talk by guest speaker **Nosa Ero-Brown**, Assistant Deputy Minister at Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD).

This year, the event took on a hybrid form, hosting a number of faculty, students and alumni in-person at a downtown location and also virtually over Zoom. This format increased accessibility for those who wanted to participate in discussions on current challenges and future trends in public policy and administration.

Ero-Brown delivered a keynote speech titled "Anti-Racism in Ontario: Strategy and Action" and shared an overview of the ARD, anti-racism challenges, as well as best practices and strategies for organizations and individuals. For more information please read the full [YFile story](#).



*Assistant Deputy Minister  
Nosa Ero-Brown*



*ADM Nosa Ero-Brown at the centre with SPPA Director Prof. Alena Kimakova (left) and MPPAL Graduate Program Director, Prof. Naomi Couto (right)*



*Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) members with ADM Nosa Ero-Brown*

## Team selected to represent the MPPAL program at the 2022 IPAC-CAPPA National Annual Public Administration Case Competition

We are pleased to announce that we have a brand new team to take on the 2022 national case competition challenge. Associate Professor Zachary Spicer (top left corner in photo), who joined SPPA in Summer 2021, will serve as coach for the team this year. The team includes MPPAL students (in order of appearance) Gurkamal Dhahan, Gillian Wassmansdor, Lauren Dranitsaris, Maggie de Barra and Arman Hamidian (Alternate).

Congratulations to the team and if you would like to participate in the tryouts to cheer on and provide feedback as is customary for alumni and faculty members, please email Professor Spicer at [zspicer@yorku.ca](mailto:zspicer@yorku.ca) for more information.



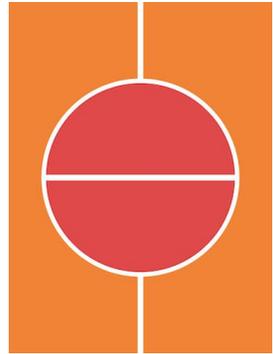
Top row, left to right: Professor Zachary Spicer, Gurkamal Dhahan and Gillian Wassmansdor  
Bottom row, left to right: Lauren Dranitsaris, Maggie de Barra and Arman Hamidian

## McLaughlin College Event

**THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE PROTECTION REGIME: HOW IT STARTED AND HOW IT'S GOING**

**Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 12:30 pm to 1:30 PM, via Zoom**

[Registration](#)



In this international lecture, Dr. Jeff Crisp will examine the concept of an 'international refugee protection regime', trace its origins and evolution, and identify the key challenges and opportunities with which it is currently confronted. The presentation will adopt a global perspective and draw upon examples from many different parts of the world in order to assess the current state of the world's refugees.



Dr. Jeff Crisp

*Dr. Jeff Crisp is a specialist on refugee, asylum, and migration issues. He has held senior positions with UNHCR, where he was Head of Policy Development and Evaluation, as well as Refugees International, the Global Commission on International Migration and the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. Jeff has first-hand experience of refugee situations throughout the world and has published, lectured and broadcast extensively on refugee-related issues. He has a PhD in African Studies from the University of Birmingham and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford.*

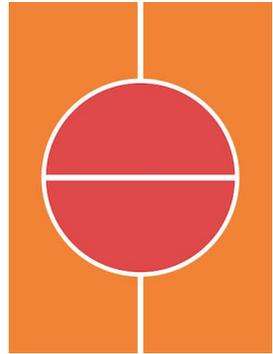


## McLaughlin College 2021 Annual Public Policy Lecture

### The Development of American Gender Asylum Law; Cross Border Collaboration Between US and Canadian NGOs by Professor Deborah E. Anker

Monday, November 29, 2021 at 7:00pm to 8:30pm via Zoom

[Registration](#)



The last twenty years have witnessed the development of the body of U.S. gender asylum law, or asylum claims of women subject to persecution. Forms of such gender-based persecution include sexual and related violence of women because of their gender, by, for example, proto-state transnational gang members, and intimate partners. For years, these claims of women were ignored (indeed lawyers did not even present such claims) so the persecution stories of women were suppressed, not even articulated within the asylum system. This changed beginning in the 1990s, in part due to the influence of the international women's human rights movement, which highlighted violence against women as a human rights issue, and especially due to the Canadian leadership role in this regard. In the U.S., advocates and researchers played a critical role in bringing these stories to light and in successfully lobbying for recognition that gender itself could be a protected status and more recently, that resistance to sexual violence could constitute a political opinion. In the 1990s Canada was a leader in this regard, establishing a human rights framework for interpreting refugee law and issuing the first guidelines for adjudication of gender asylum claims. This legacy, however, is in jeopardy. The U.S., among other policies, regularly detains asylum seekers, including women, forcing them to remain in Mexico in violation of fundamental treaty obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention, and subjecting them to increased risk of sexual and other violence. Canada has deflected its protection obligations, designating the U.S. as a "safe country" to return refugees, under a treaty between the two countries. The lecture will discuss these developments, urging Canada to again take a leadership role, which is very much needed in these times.

**DEBORAH E. ANKER** is Clinical Professor of Law and the *Founder* of the Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC). Professor Anker is one of the most widely known asylum practitioners, teachers and scholars in the United States and a pioneer in the development of clinical legal education in the immigration field, training students in direct representation of refugees and creating a foundation for clinics at law schools around the U.S. Author of the leading and annually updated treatise, *Law of Asylum in the United States*, Anker has co-drafted groundbreaking Gender Asylum Guidelines and *amicus curiae* briefs. Her historical work on U.S. ratification and implementation of the UN Refugee Convention in *The Forty Year Crisis* is a classic that has shaped the interpretation of U.S. asylum law, especially in an internationalist direction.

Professor Anker's work has been cited by federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court as well as by various international tribunals. Professor Anker has received numerous awards including the Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA), the AILA Founder's Award for the Women's Refugee Project, and the AILA Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law. She has also received the CARECEN Award from the Central American Refugee Center and the Massachusetts Governor's New American Appreciation Award. Anker was designated a Woman of Justice by the Massachusetts Bar Association, and in 2011, she was elected as a Fellow to the American Bar Foundation. Most recently, she received AILA's Arthur C. Helton Memorial Human Rights Award for the groundbreaking work of the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program.

## **CivicLabTO Academic Summit**

### **Collaborating on Renewal and Resilience Hosted by York University**

**Tuesday, November 23, 2021 and Wednesday, November 24, 2021 via Zoom**

**[Registration](#)**

CivicLabTO Academic Summit: Collaborating on Renewal and Resilience is a two-day virtual event that provides partner faculty, staff and students, City staff and government representatives the opportunity to join a series of free panel discussions featuring thought leaders from across academia and our municipality. Watch as they address the challenges we collectively face in Toronto, evaluate possible outcomes, and present creative solutions. These sessions will highlight how research collaborations generate grounded theory framework that ultimately leads to stronger public policy development in our ever-changing urban environment.

#### **Building Back Better: An Equity Lens**

A focus on equity will be essential to Toronto's approach to recovery and its ability to build resilience. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Toronto, while working with its partners, had developed and implemented various strategies and commitments to ensure Toronto is a leader in fairness and equity. COVID-19 has highlighted existing inequities through the disproportionately negative social, economic, and health impacts on vulnerable communities, potentially setting back the progress that was being made through the implementation of Toronto's varied actions. As we enter into the recovery phase, unless we design for equity and inclusion, the very people who were disproportionately affected by stresses before the pandemic will become more vulnerable.

As a connecting thread, interwoven throughout the summit, the panel discussions will speak to the equity-related work and opportunities within these thematic areas and address important questions such as:

- How is an equity perspective central to and/or considered in the work you are speaking to today?
- What are examples of tools or approaches you are using to integrate a population focus, neighbourhood focus, and other equity-related considerations to this work?
- Are there any data gaps present in this space, particularly if we are going to make an impact on Toronto residents, given the inequities we know exist?
- Whose voice is and needs to be at the table to ensure full perspectives?

**For more information, visit [civiclabbto.ca](https://civiclabbto.ca)**

## [Director of Policy and Community Action - Community Food Centres of Canada](#)

As their first Director of Policy and Community Action you will be tasked with shaping and steering new ideas. You will lead the Policy and Community Action team, working to drive policy change at the federal level, build buy-in with decision makers for smart policy proposals, elevate public understanding, and ground policy conversations in lived experience.

## [Policy Analyst/Advisor – Maytree](#)

The Policy Analyst/Advisor will work with people across their team and with external partners to undertake policy research and analysis that contribute to the development of public policy solutions. Reporting to Maytree’s Director of Policy and Research, the successful candidate will further their policy work in a number of policy/research areas that help to systemically alleviate poverty.

## [Advisor, Strategic Policy - Ontario Energy Board](#)

The Ontario Energy Board are currently seeking an energetic and collaborative individual to join their team as an Advisor in the Strategic Policy department. In this role, you will be responsible for engaging with industry stakeholders and supporting the development of policy options to facilitate innovation in the energy sector.

## [Regional Director, Government Relations \(ON\) - Canadian Credit Union Association](#)

The Regional Director – Government Relations, Ontario - provides government relations and advocacy services for Ontario credit unions in the form of government relations strategy development, stakeholder relations, policy analysis, research, consultation participation, event planning and other duties as required by the Vice President – Government Relations.

## [Interim VP of Research and Advocacy - Daily Bread Food Bank](#)

The VP works with other departments to mobilize the community in order to advocate with all levels of government on poverty reduction initiatives and policies and influences social policy through research, raising awareness, and advocacy to find long-term solutions to hunger. The VP of Research & Advocacy is a member of the Senior Management team which means they help form and shape the organization’s operation as a whole.

## [Policy Analyst - CAAT Pension Plan](#)

In this important role you will support CAAT Pension Plan’s legislative, regulatory and plan text compliance while providing recommendations for Plan policies and procedures. You’ll support the Plan’s onboarding of new employers through pension asset transfers and collaborate with teams across the organization to support content development for member, employer and public communications.

## [Senior Policy Advisor - Ontario Ministry of Finance](#)

The Strategic Initiatives Unit in the Ministry of Finance is looking for two Senior Policy Advisors to join its fast-paced policy shop supporting strategic initiatives related to beverage alcohol, gaming and cannabis markets in Ontario.

## [Senior Manager, National Policy and Government Relations - Takeda Pharmaceuticals](#)

The senior manager will establish trusting, collaborative relationships with key decision makers and influencers of national policies. She/he will serve as a lobbyist at the federal level on specific Takeda issues, and act as company liaison in federal government offices as well as with other federally-based decision makers.

## [Government Affairs Manager - Magnet Forensics](#)

The Corporate Affairs team is focused on building and maintaining Magnet's reputation as a global leader in digital investigation solutions committed to helping our customers in the public and private sector combat the crimes of today, such as human trafficking, child exploitation, fraud, ransomware and phishing. Further, the team plays a cross-functional support role to ensure the company achieves its strategic objectives related to marketing, sales, operations, product management and R+D.

## [Senior Policy Analyst, Acoustics, Air Quality and Climate Change - Ontario Ministry of Transportation](#)

Then consider this exciting opportunity where you will lead and coordinate initiatives related to environmental assessment and protection with a focus on assessing and mitigating noise, air quality and climate change impacts of transportation.

## [Researcher - Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer](#)

Reporting to the Senior Researcher, the incumbent will be an evidence-based researcher with polished skills in qualitative methods and analysis and experience managing large scale qualitative research projects under tight timelines. They will be responsible for conducting semi-structured interviews with current and prospective transfer students at multiple time points and analyzing large amounts of narrative data.

## [Executive Assistant to the Deputy City of Manager/Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer – City of Toronto](#)

You will provide support to the senior management team, in addition to the Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, on key service organization initiatives, Governance, Council/Committee structure and protocol, as well as the interpretation or application of Corporate/Service area policies and procedures.

## [Senior Advisor, Freedom of Information – Metrolinx](#)

Our FOI Office is seeking a Sr Advisor who provides senior level strategic analysis, advice, coordination, and initiative leadership for Metrolinx's Freedom of Information (FOI) program to ensure organizational compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

## [Senior Advisor, Policy and Practice – Metrolinx](#)

Our Sponsor Office is seeking a Senior Advisor with creative thinking and an entrepreneurial attitude to help grow and develop the practice of Sponsorship and capital project management at Metrolinx.



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