

School of Public Policy and Administration

NEWSLETTER

August 2023 – Volume 11, Issue 14

Congratulations to our 2023 SPPA Award Winners!!



Alumni Recognition Award

Victor Severino

VP, Business Enablement

WTC. Toronto Region Board of Trade



Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy, Administration and Law

Erin Valant

*Area Manager, Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports,
Regional Municipality of Durham*



Emerging Leader Award

Meghan Ditta

Supervisor, Strategy and Transformation
Division Office of the CAO, Township of King



Graduate Student Award

Marierose Talla

Clinic and Programs Advisor
Legal Aid Ontario

All awards will be formally presented at the SPPA Annual Awards Dinner on November 16, 2023



Undergraduate Student Award

Milena Basciano

Legislative Intern

The Ontario Legislative Internship
Programme



Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy

Grace Mamberi

Director of Student Engagement

Public Policy & Administration Student Association



Practicum Excellence Award

Milena Basciano

Legislative Intern

The Ontario Legislative Internship Programme



Practicum Honouree Award

Sabina Filipescu

Manager, Safety Program Development Office

Ministry of Transportation

Meet our new Graduate Students' Association of Public Policy, Administration and Law (GSAPPAL) 2023-2024 Executive Team – Congratulations!



Jenning Cheung
President



Manogya Tekriwal
Vice President



Cvitan Brkic
Treasurer



Mengyu (Yvonne) Yuan
Director of Communications



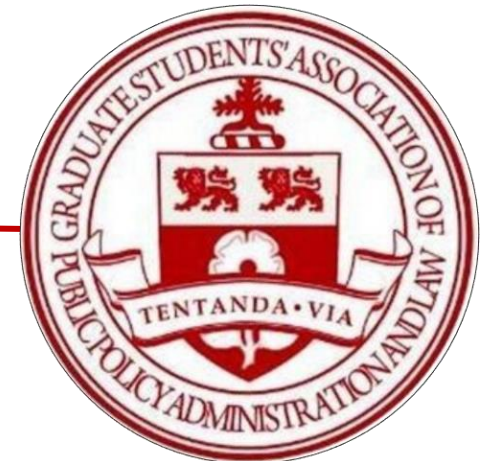
Harroop Ahuja
Director of Outreach



Vitangalee Deonarain
Social Convener



Summer Saadi
Secretary



Introducing two new SPPA instructors: courses are filling up fast -- register ASAP!



Professor Asare Kester-Akrofi AP/PPAS 3000 3.0 A: Politics, Policy and Law of Minority Rights

[waitlist link](#)

Asare Kester-Akrofi has a decade of municipal public sector experience with four years of tenure at the City of Toronto in various leadership capacities. As Manager, Strategic Initiatives, DCMO IS, Asare provides strategic leadership and wrap-around executive operational coordination overseeing complex organizational change initiatives related to multi-billion-dollar City infrastructure projects, public policy development, and stakeholder relations with City Agencies, Corporations, and external partners. Previously, Asare worked in the DCMO, Corporate Services as Manager, Programs & Strategic Support, in Policy, Planning, Finance and Administration (PPFA) Division as Senior Change Management Consultant, *and* Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) Division as Program Manager.

Experiential approaches will enhance the classroom experience through practical problem-solving and critical thinking based on academia and contemporary political, legal and policy issues facing Toronto's diverse community. Themes will cover social issues pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB), customer experience (CXI), and evidence-based decision-making to deliver public service outcomes in complex and large organizations.



Professor Joseph Silva AP/PPAS 4115 6.0 A: The Political Economy of the State and Finance

[waitlist link](#)

Joseph Silva is an experienced public servant and policy and finance leader. He has worked at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, and is currently the Treasurer for the City of Markham, one of Canada's most dynamic and diverse communities. He previously worked at the Regional Municipality of York, including as Director of Strategies and Partnerships in the Region's Community & Health Services Department responsible for strategic social policy and community development initiatives, and as Director and Deputy Treasurer in the Finance Department overseeing the delivery and transformation of a number of financial and business services. He also held progressive positions in the Ontario Public Service, including as executive assistant and policy advisor to Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Energy and at the Ministry of Infrastructure. He started his public service career as an economist at Finance Canada working on agriculture policy.

Have any questions? – Contact the School Director at naomi@yorku.ca

PPASA is Excited to Introduce Two New 2023-2024 Executive Members



ISHVITA SHARMA
Director of Internal Affairs



MATTHEW KO
Director of Academic Affairs



JAPNEET KAUR
President



ALI ADAM
Vice President



BASSAM KASSAR
Secretary



HO MING XIAO
Treasurer



KASHISH BABBAR
Director of Recruitment



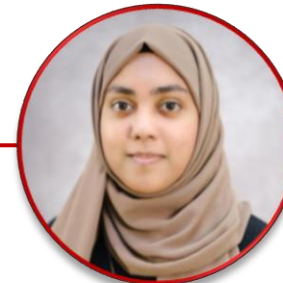
YUVRAJ AUJLA
Director of External Affairs



GRACE MAMBERI
Director of Student Engagement



THARUNE RAJASEKARAN
Director of Outreach



HAFEZA KHAN
Director of Professional Communications



GRIZZEL CALIDA
Director of Marketing and Social Media

SPPA's 2023 High School Essay Contest

Please share with any High School students or teachers you know!

TOPIC:

MAINTAINING INTEGRITY: HOW INFLUENCES OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHAT-GPT HAVE AND WILL PAVE THE PATH FORWARD IN YOUR SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

The School of Public Policy & Administration at York University and its undergraduate student association, the [PPASA](#), invite high school students to submit essays for its 2023 competition. We ask that you reflect on this topic statement and how it applies to your generation. Don't forget to follow us on [Twitter!](#)



Eligibility Criteria

High school students in **grades 10-12** are invited to participate. Individual submissions or co-authored essays by up to 3 authors will be considered. The essays should be **500-1000 words** (1-2 pages) in length.

Process

A group of faculty, current students and alumni from the School of Public Policy & Administration will review the essays and nominate 3 winners. Essays can be submitted online **no later than Monday October 16, 2023**.

[Submit Application here](#)

Find out more about past winners and essay topics [here!](#)

SPPA CALL FOR EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION PROPOSALS

Help our students learn from you!

You are invited to nominate and host experiential education projects for take-up by our undergraduate students at the School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) during the Fall 2023 - Winter 2024 academic terms.

SPPA delivers [Experiential Education Courses](#) in policy analysis and program evaluation, among others, that have a track record of working with public sector organizations and achieving results.

Core experiential learning assignments are featured in **PPAS 4200 Applied Public Policy Analysis and PPAS 4310/20 Program Evaluation I & II in particular**. In these courses, groups of fourth-year students advise on client projects, culminating in presentations and/or reports by April 2024. Host organizations are consulted on project requirements and interim milestones once their project is selected. Any project costs for these pro bono engagements are nominal.

This initiative offers practical benefits for government, non-profit organizations and SPPA. Students look to learn from the real challenges of project choice, complexity, and management. At the same time, the projects enable host organizations to tackle pressing issues in times of uncertainty and change.

*"I am quite impressed [with the final report on **Developing municipal community engagement strategies in Ontario**]. As with the presentation, the team has really demonstrated a thorough grasp of the topic. The research and recommendations here are both relevant and innovative, demonstrating your insight into the issues and opportunities facing the municipal sector. Thank you very much for the time that you have put into this project. I really appreciate that it is evident that you prioritized making a final project that meets the needs of our organization."*

- Charlotte Caza, Policy Advisor, AMCTO

Please complete a form for each project proposal by clicking on [MachForm: Experiential Education Project Proposal](#) and submit your forms online to SPPA by **Monday, August 14, 2023**. SPPA will collect and sort proposals with an eye to project fit, quality, and timeliness.

If you have questions and/or would like to discuss your project ideas on Policy Analysis or Program Evaluation, please contact SPPA's Director, Professor Naomi Couto at naomi@yorku.ca

Student Opportunities:

Looking for Youth Participants for an AI Research Study!

Artificial intelligence in health care: what's important to you?

Are you between 12-17 years old? Take our 30 min survey to tell us your opinion on AI, what makes it safe and fair, and how you want it to be used in health care. **To access the survey, please visit, <https://redcap.link/ECH-Survey>.** Complete the survey for a chance to win a gift card! You will also receive volunteer hours for your time. For more information, please contact abdullahi.mohamud@sickkids.ca.

Become a Peer Mentor Volunteer!

Help incoming students achieve their personal and academic goals by becoming a Peer Mentor. Many students require support when beginning their academic career, and the Peer Mentor Network helps provide that through reliable, knowledgeable and friendly mentors. As a Peer Mentor, you will not only help others but also have opportunities to connect with your peers and learn valuable organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. LA&PS is looking for Peer Mentor volunteers to join their Peer Mentor Network for the 2023-24 academic year. This is a terrific opportunity to build a sense of community, get involved on-campus, develop leadership skills, and positively impact the student experience across LA&PS.

Work as a Recreation Program Instructor this fall! – Vaughan Recreation Services

Get paid to do what you're good at! If you're an ice skater, hockey player, sports superstar, science wiz or artist – you have a teachable skill.

We're hiring part-time Recreation Program Instructors to work at [Vaughan community centres](#) for our fall programming, which kicks off on Saturday, September 23. You're invited to attend a virtual hiring event in August for positions at community centres across the city, or one of four in-person hiring events being held for positions at the newly re-opened [Garnet A. Williams Community Centre](#).

To guarantee an interview time, register in advance for a hiring event at vaughan.perfectmind.com.

Events and Conferences:

2023 IPAC Annual Conference

September 13th - 15th, 2023, The Delta Hotel Ottawa City Centre

IPAC's Annual Conference in Ottawa will focus on the key role of public administration in a time of instability and social change. The actions of government are more important now than ever.

The conference will address key issues such as the housing crisis, AI & Chat GPT, digital government, mental health, municipal innovation, energy transition, diversity, and immigration. An Indigenous-led session will provide you with knowledge, practical skills, strategies, and insights to build successful and respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Employee engagement in the post-pandemic world is certain to be a popular topic.

To register for the event, please visit: [IPAC Annual Conference | 75th Conference](#)

Orientation time! See you August 29 and August 30

1. **LA&PS Orientation:**

Dr. Stevie Bell, Head of McLaughlin College, invites you to attend the LA&PS Orientation, taking place on **Tuesday, August 29th** in various locations across Vari Hall, Ross, Curtis Lecture Halls, and Accolade West. A Connections Fair will take place in Central Square.

- Below are the program session details for incoming and first year students in the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA):

Date: Tuesday, August 29th

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Location: 2005 Vari Hall (VH) – 2nd floor

For more information and to RSVP, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/college-life/orientation/academic/>



2. **School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) Orientation:**

Dr. Naomi Couto, School Director, invites you to attend our program specific orientation, taking place on **Wednesday, August 30th** at 6:00pm in 152 Founders College. You will meet current students, alumni, staff, and your professors.

- Below are the program session details for all incoming undergraduate (BPA) and graduate (MPPAL) students to the School:

Date: Wednesday, August 30th

Time: 6:00pm-10:00pm

Location: 152 Founders College, the Founders Assembly Hall

For more information and to RSVP, click [here](#) or please visit: <https://laps.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=1954057>

Learn more about all that York University and your program have to offer! See you there!

Head of Global Public Affairs, Global Corporate Affairs — KPMG

The Head of Global Public Affairs will be part of KPMG International's Corporate Affairs leadership team, reporting to the Global Head of Corporate Affairs. The successful candidate will be an active participant on the Corporate Affairs Steering Group, and Chair the Public Affairs Working Group. The role will have a number of direct reports, within a team of circa 10 people.

Research Analyst — Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)

IBC is looking for a Research Analyst to support the ongoing work of its Policy Development team. The Policy Development team works with industry members to address policy issues related to the financial soundness with the purpose of bringing the insurance sector's perspective on financial regulation issues to the public policy agenda of federal and provincial governments and regulators. The ideal candidate will be comfortable analyzing qualitative and quantitative information on complex issues such as regulatory capital and solvency.

Human and Organizational Factors Specialist - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

The Human and Organizational Performance Division supports the CNSC's mission and mandate by providing regulatory leadership and expertise in human factors, human performance, and organizational performance. Areas that may be of particular interest are human performance, Human and Organizational Factors (HOF) aspects of small modular reactor technology, HOF aspects of nuclear power plant compliance activities, safety culture, and fitness for duty including the application of HOF considerations for managing alcohol and drug use. If these topics are of interest to you, consider joining!

Senior Policy Advisor (4 positions) - The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

The Policy Development and Collaboration Branch (PDCB) provides advice, analysis and recommendations to support government decision-making on social policy issues to improve outcomes for the diverse populations and communities MCCSS supports. PDCB is seeking Senior Policy Advisors with demonstrated experience in policy development, leadership communications, human-centered design and building an inclusive, equitable and anti-racist culture.

Senior Policy Advisor (3 positions) - The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

The Policy Alignment and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (PAIRB) works with other Ministries and governments to support the MCCSS mandate for change. Relationships across Ministries and through intergovernmental forums are essential to this work and requires strong cooperation both within government and across other jurisdictions. PAIRB is seeking Senior Policy Advisors with demonstrated experience in partnership building, policy and program development and building an inclusive, equitable and anti-racist culture.

National Director, Communications and Marketing - Canadian Mental Health Association

The National Director, Communications and Marketing is a critical member of the senior leader team and is responsible for advancing CMHA's brand identity and leading public education campaigns. Reporting directly to the National CEO, the National Director, Communications and Marketing will bring a wealth of expertise in strategic communications and marketing as well as strong relationship building skills.

[Director of Public Affairs — Canadian Chiropractic Association \(CCA\)](#)

Reporting to the CEO and as a member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), the Director of Public Affairs provides strategic leadership to the development and execution of the CCA's agenda for building advocacy capacity and advancing the interests of the profession. Leading and collaborating with a strong Public Affairs team, this includes developing, implementing and ensuring the ongoing delivery of effective government and insurance stakeholder relations programs that advance the CCA's strategic objectives and build awareness and reputation within key public and private sector stakeholders.

[Senior Research Analyst and Executive and Special Projects Coordinator \(two positions\) — Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations](#)

OCUFA is hiring two public policy-related roles: a [Senior Research Analyst](#) and an [Executive and Special Projects Coordinator](#). On behalf of Ontario's university faculty and academic librarians, the Senior Research Analyst will develop, guide, and maintain OCUFA's sectoral and institutional research and databases while the Executive and Special Projects Coordinator will assist with coordinating and organizing OCUFA's meetings, events, and special projects. Both positions will be part of a dynamic team of policy staff who work collaboratively to deliver the services required to meet OCUFA's mandate, provide support for OCUFA's member organizations, and assist in related advocacy initiatives.

[Climate Finance Program Manager — Environmental Defence](#)

Environmental Defence seeks a highly-committed Program Manager with a passion for climate finance reform to join their team and contribute to efforts to advance climate finance regulation in Canada. The program manager will play a key role in Environmental Defence's efforts to advocate for policy that ensures Canada's financial sector aligns with the country's climate goals and those of the Paris Accord. The ideal candidate will have some knowledge of climate finance and experience with public campaigns centered around climate and environmental goals.

[Certification Engineer – Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

The Certification Engineer is a fully qualified professional engineer with responsibilities covering a broad range of activities concerning the certification of design of transport packages, Class II prescribed equipment and radiation devices to ensure the safety of workers and the public from the use of these prescribed equipment in Canada. This may include assessments of safety cases submitted by the applicants, reviewing transport licence applications, participating in the development of national and international regulations or standards and providing scientific and technical assistance as needed.

[Licensing Specialist - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

As a Licensing Specialist you will assess applications for licenses for medical, academic and industrial uses of nuclear substances and radiation devices, ensure that the applicant's radiation safety program meets regulatory requirements and standards, and make recommendations to the Designated Officer about whether to issue, renew, amend or revoke a nuclear substances and radiation devices license.

[Power Reactor Site Inspector – Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

As an Inspector, the decisions you make directly impact the health and safety of Canadians, and you never lose sight of this responsibility. You are engaged, enthusiastic, and you communicate effectively and respectfully with stakeholders both inside and outside the organization. You are adept at analyzing situations, and you understand being a great inspector goes beyond compliance. These qualities contribute to your success, whether working independently or as part of a diverse team.

Vice President, Evidence Generation — Blueprint ADE

The Vice President will lead a highly talented team of researchers with a wide range of methods expertise, policy knowledge, and disciplines including economics, statistics, sociology, and survey methods. Reporting to the CEO, the VP will use their substantial methodological expertise and strong public policy knowledge to deliver evidence projects for government and non-profit clients. As an experienced leader with significant project delivery experience, they will provide strategic practice leadership, identify new opportunities, and foster Blueprint's pan-Canadian reach and partnerships.

Policy & Advocacy Lead — College Student Alliance

The Policy and Advocacy Lead is responsible for designing and leading policy research and strategies that are derived and supported by its membership to advance advocacy efforts with stakeholder organizations, political parties, elected governments and officials. The Policy and Advocacy Lead will design and develop member-supported advocacy goals, outreach and communication and the implementation of provincial and federal strategies to ensure CSA and its members position is top-of-mind for stakeholders.

Senior Quality Assurance Officer (2 positions) — Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance

Reporting to the Director Operations, the two Senior Quality Assurance Officers will work together to support the Quality Council's on-going activities, its committees, and the Secretariat. The ideal candidates have exceptional attention to detail, strong research and analytical skills (including policy interpretation), experience with meeting and event planning and expertise in communications (including social media and basic website management). These positions would suit candidates with experience in, or interest in learning about, the Ontario university sector.

Manager, General Assembly — Ontario Medical Association

The Manager, General Assembly is responsible for providing a high quality, professional, and member-focused service to the General Assembly and all of its supporting structure including the General Assembly Steering Committee, the Priority and Leadership Group, Issues & Policy, Compensation, and Advocacy panels, and a number of working groups. The position works with colleagues across the organization on a range of governance activities, and lead on identifying and delivering opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance structure. The ideal candidate will have strategic policy and governance experience – and an knowledge of health systems issues.

Director, Climate & Socio-Economic Policy Research — Scotiabank

The Director will prepare and market economic policy analysis with a focus on climate and transition economics, socio-economic trends, and other structural forces underpinning the medium-term economic outlook in Canada, the US, and the global economy, as well as Scotiabank's footprint. Key responsibilities include expanding Scotiabank Economics' thought leadership and research agenda, delivering insights and commentary to executive management and clients through a range of communications channels, and engaging with other departments, stakeholders, and policymakers to advance policy and strategic objectives.

Team Lead (2 positions) - Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

The Policy Development Unit and Strategic Integration Unit is hiring Team Leads. Team Leads provide leadership and expertise in policy and program development, lead and coordinate policy products and mentor staff. MCCSS is looking for candidates who can contribute to a collaborative culture, have relationship, communication and policy and program development skills, and bring an anti-racist and equity lens to all they do.

Researcher — Pathways to Education Canada

Pathways to Education Canada is seeking a Researcher to support their mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education. The Researcher will be responsible for gathering quantitative and qualitative data and effectively communicating evidence in easy-to-understand formats. The Researcher will work collaboratively with colleagues and community partners to conduct literature searches, support research design and analysis, and develop knowledge mobilization products to support evidence-informed decision-making.

Senior Policy Advisor, Canada Energy Transitions — International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

The Senior Policy Advisor will lead the design and implementation of research on energy transitions in the Canadian context and develop strategies to maximize the impact and communication of research outputs. They will also be responsible for presenting IISD's work to a range of audiences, including government officials, and developing strategic research and engagement partnerships. The Senior Policy Advisor will bring expertise in research and analysis of climate and energy policies, sustainable development, fiscal and public finance issues and/or Canadian federal policy

Senior Manager, Policy and Research — Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA)

The Senior Manager will help to create a legislative and regulatory environment in Ontario that supports REALTORS®, real estate, and affordable homeownership. Responsibilities include developing and implementing advocacy strategies, preparing advocacy materials and government submissions, monitoring policy developments, and leading policy research on OREA priorities like increasing housing supply and reducing barriers to homeownership.

Senior Researcher — Responsible Gambling Council

The Senior Researcher will conduct applied research that addresses pressing issues in the gambling industry and supports decision-makers in advancing harm prevention standards, policies, and practices. The Senior Researcher will manage and conduct large research projects, lead program evaluations and policy analyses, monitor trends in legislation and research, and advance thought leadership in the field through knowledge dissemination.

Advisor, Policy and Advocacy (Humanitarian) — Plan International Canada

The Policy and Advocacy Advisor will play an important role in Plan International Canada's Policy & Advocacy Unit and engage closely with many business units such as the Humanitarian Unit, Youth Engagement Unit, and the Public Relations and Communications Unit. The purpose of the Policy and Advocacy Team is to step up Plan International Canada's policy and advocacy impact the Canadian government and global policy decision-makers, as well as align and streamline advocacy efforts across the organization. The Policy and Advocacy Advisor will support the team by executing key elements of Plan International Canada's Policy and Advocacy Strategy, including the development of evidence-based policy positions and coordinating policy and advocacy activities.

Research Director, Transformative Technologies and Governance — Centre for International Governance Innovation

The Research Director oversees the strategic development and design of research programs, frameworks and projects relating to transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum, blockchain, green and outer space technologies and other emerging technologies that have the potential to significantly alter society or global order. The incumbent will play an integral role in the development and implementation of CIGI's strategic plan in collaboration with the senior management team, initiate and maintain key strategic and funding relationships with local, national, and international partners, actively contribute to CIGI's research activities and publications, and act as a facilitator and mentor for the Digital Policy Hub as well as CIGI staff and Fellows.

[Licensee Emergency Programs Officer - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)

The Emergency Management Programs Division (EMPD) is looking for a specialist in the field of nuclear emergency management to join their team. EMPD is responsible for the administration and implementation of the Nuclear Emergency Management program and are the nuclear emergency management experts to CNSC. EMPD is also responsible for overseeing fire response as part of their duties.

[Vice-President, Public Sector Governance – Institute Of Governance, Ottawa](#)

The Vice-President, Public Sector Governance, reporting directly to the President & CEO, is responsible for actively securing new business, delivering on revenue-generating projects, providing applied governance advisory services to clients, developing applied governance tools and practices for public sector organizations, and creating partnership opportunities that advance the reach and impact of the IOG.

[Policy Analyst \(5 positions\) - The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#)

The Strategic Integration Unit, Intergovernmental Strategy Unit and Policy Innovation and Insights Unit are hiring Policy Analysts. Policy Analysts will undertake policy and issues analysis, lead studies and scans, prepare research findings and provide recommendations to senior management. Consider applying if you are looking for a high-performing team who promotes an anti-racist, inclusive and equity-driven culture.



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with SPPA*

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12006583>

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

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