

School of Public Policy and Administration

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 2016 – Volume 4, Issue 14

SPPA Student Profile

We are pleased to present our next SPPA student profile:

Narendra Persaud-Doobay, B.P.A., Spec. Hons. Public Administration (Policy Analysis)



I always said that anything worth pursuing should be difficult because if it were not, you would not appreciate it and you would take it for granted once you got it. My name is Narendra Persaud-Doobay and I graduated with the 3-year (90) credit Bachelor of Public Administration degree at York University. I would like to share my experiences with the program so that those of you who are interested can get the full scope. After graduating, I started my search for a career in my field within the public sector. The hardest thing I have ever done in my life was, and is, searching for a career. After applying for hundreds and even thousands of positions, passing tests, passing interviews, (*just to be placed into a pool of qualified candidates*) I finally got a position within the public sector as a Pre-Examination Clerk at Passport Canada. From Passport Canada, I got another job with Service Canada working in Canada's Pension Plan and Old Age Security Department performing clerical duties. For now, I am currently working as an administrative assistant with the City of Toronto for City Planning.

Currently, I have returned to York in order to complete the 4th year Specialized Honour's BPA in the Policy Analysis stream. As you all may be wondering, "Why did he come back?" I'll explain. I realized after graduating that the real world is not either black or white, but very grey. Being in school before

I graduated, I thought I would find a job, specifically as a policy analyst, with an organization or the government. Although I did find a job in the public sector (*after endless months of dishing out resumes and applying for positions*), it was not what I would consider the ideal position as a Public Administration graduate. I realized that in order for me to get the ideal position in Public Administration, i.e. policy advisor/analyst, it would be necessary to have a background in something else along with my current bachelor's degree, unless I decided to do at the minimum the Specialized Honour's bachelor degree in public administration or take the extra step and pursue a Master's of Public Administration. I could not get a job based on what I wanted because I did not have any experience as a policy analyst. In general, many positions you apply for after you graduate require experience, especially as a policy analyst/advisor, or some kind of special knowledge or background in a field related to the position for which you are applying.

Now that I am back completing my 4th year, I have been taking many courses to complete the program and to help me get that ideal position. I was fortunate enough to take an experiential education course – AP/PPAS 4200 6.0 Applied Public Policy Analysis - offered in the 4th year Specialized Honour's program in the Policy Analysis stream where I worked directly with a client on a real life problem they faced. Applying the policy analysis skills I learned in the program, specifically this course, it gave me the necessary skills, knowledge and tools needed to help my client with their problem in order to provide the best possible solution and to also prepare me for the real working world. I prepared a policy report on my research and presented the best



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solution/alternative to their problem in front of the actual client, professor, faculty members and interested parties. This one course gave me the ideal experience of what organizations are looking for when they ask you the kind of experience you have as a policy analyst. Once you are a new graduate from the Specialized Honour's BPA program, you literally have just gained 8 months of real world experience that organizations are looking for in just that one course alone. Bear in mind, there are other relevant courses that provide something similar to experiential education in the program. Therefore, I can say it is imperative to complete at least the Specialized Honour's program, at the bare minimum, if you are looking for an ideal job as a policy analyst, or any other discipline relevant to public administration.

Another great thing about the BPA program is that professors and faculty members are always there to support you and provide you with advice any time. The department offers many social events where you can network and meet York alumni,, motivational speakers and those who are currently working in the public sector with fantastic careers. They are all there to help you with your studies and provide tips and advice on future career endeavors. I highly recommend taking advantage of these opportunities to meet with those who can give you advice as to what to do after you graduate and what to expect.

The fact is, it is difficult to land a good job out there, and I am not trying to scare anyone, but this is reality. This program is your opportunity to change lives. How? Well, if you are able to land a great job, you can be in control of working with the Ministry of Education and improving the overall quality of education in Ontario. Or you can end up in a job with the Federal Government of Canada implementing policies aimed at helping seniors get the income they deserve for all their contributions to the country through the Old Age Security program. The list is endless, but it all depends on how badly you want something. The more you want something, the more motivated you are to go and get it regardless of how difficult it is. Naturally, things will not be as difficult because when you want something and are not afraid to go after it, you realize how easy it really was in the end. Go get yours!

- **Narendra Persaud-Doobay**

Manager

Delegated Administrative Authority Policy & Oversight Unit

The Ministry of Government & Consumer Services (MGCS),

Consumer Policy and Liaison Branch seeks an experienced, results-oriented professional to manage relationships and oversight, and lead legislative and regulatory policy development related to MGCS' consumer protection administrative authorities. The ministry's administrative authorities enforce consumer protection legislation on behalf of government in areas that include new home warranties, motor vehicle sales, real estate, and travel, among others.

Please click here for more details: <http://www.ipac.ca/Manager-10060E>

Summer 2016 YU START Leader & Peer Advisor positions

The positions are @13.00/hour, up to 700 hours from Thursday, April 21 2016-Wednesday, September 7 2016 inclusive. The applications are due **April 6th**. The eligibility is:

- Must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person
- Must complete Student Financial Profile and demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate satisfactory academic progress (i.e.: not on academic warning/probation)
- Have not defaulted on previous student loans or other government bursary programs
- Must be registered full-time in at least 60 per cent of a full course load (40 per cent of a full course load for students with a permanent disability) or registered as a full-time student in the winter term and returning to full-time studies in September.

For the job postings, please visit: <http://careers.yorku.ca/online-system/>

Job Talks

Organized by the [Department of Equity Studies](#)

Friday, April 8th: 10 – 10:45am – by **Professor Ouedraogo** on [his research activities and discuss both what he has done and what he is pursuing](#)

Friday, April 8th: 2:30 – 3:15pm – by **Dr. Kirstin J. Fisher** on [Child Soldiers After the Fighting: Reintegration and Reparations](#)

Friday, April 15th: 10 – 10:45am – by **Dr. Corinne Lennox** on [Norm Entrepreneurship at the United Nations on Caste-Based Discrimination](#)

April activities at the Career Centre

Please visit [The Career Centre's online calendar](#) for the month of April 2016 activities.

As the academic year winds down, students may be looking for summer employment. During the month of April, the Career Centre will be offering a number of job search workshops to help students articulate their skills and experiences, leverage LinkedIn in their job searches, write effective resumes and cover letters and succeed in their interviews. Students can visit the [Job Search workshops website](#) to find out when these workshops are offered.

Students can also search for and apply to on-campus jobs – including summer work study positions – as well as positions off campus through the [Career Centre's job board](#).

The annual [Career Success Symposium for Students with Disabilities](#) will be taking place on Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 10am-4pm in Founders Assembly Hall. Presented by the Career Centre, in partnership with Counselling and Disability Services (CDS), this session provides an opportunity for students with physical, learning, and mental health disabilities to connect with and hear from employers and community agencies providing employment supports in the workplace. This year we're very excited to be featuring guest speaker, **Michael Landsberg, Bell Let's Talk Spokesperson and Host, Off the Record, TSN**. Please note that this event is open to students with disabilities only. Registration is required through the [Career Centre's online system](#).

Arnold & Blema Steinberg Post-Doctoral Fellowships in International Migration Law and Policy POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The vision and generosity of the Steinberg Foundation is at the heart of this new and exciting Fellowship opportunity. The Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism of the Faculty of Law at McGill University is delighted to be able to offer two Postdoctoral Research Fellowships beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowships will be funded by the Arnold and Blema Steinberg Foundation and the appointment(s) shall be for an initial duration of one year with a possibility of renewal for one more year. The Postdoctoral Fellow(s) will work as part of a research team in collaboration with the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law and the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP) under the leadership and supervision of Professor François Crépeau, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND PROCEDURE:

The deadline for receiving applications is **30 April 2016 at 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard Time (Montreal time)**. The review of applications will commence immediately thereafter and continue until the position(s) is (are) filled. This full-time position will begin on 1 September 2016 and will last until 31 August 2017. The selected candidates will receive a Fellowship of the value of 50,000 Canadian Dollars per annum.

Applications are to be submitted electronically to the attention of the selection committee (see email address below). Applicants must submit a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, a research proposal (maximum four pages), a transcript of postgraduate (doctoral) studies, and one or more writing samples (from peer-reviewed publications, if possible). Applicants should also name three referees who may be invited by the CHRLP to send letters of reference.

For more information about the Fellowships, please contact migration.law@mcgill.ca.

Exam Peer Study Session for Economics Courses

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016
2:00 – 5:00 pm
Room 001 Vanier College**



Economics Vanier Student Success Series

Exam Peer Study Session for Economics Courses

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016
2:00 – 5:00 pm**

Room 001 Vanier College

Exams and keeping up with assignments can be tough!
Come study with your fellow students at our sessions:

- You will have access to past exams and you can bring your own to help out your fellow students
- Refreshments available for ESA members
- Co-sponsored by ESA Economics Student Association, and the Office of the Master, Vanier College

Happy studying!

Register at: www.yorku.ca/vanier/rsvp/rsvp Event Code Number: 162



Economics Student
Association:
<http://dept.econ.yorku.ca/esa/>

Visit www.yorku.ca/vanier
for up-to-date events and programs,
or to view material and/or videos of
past workshops