



Giving our Students Access to the Public Policy and Governance Portal

Edited Version of the Status Report to the August 2009 CAPPA Meeting

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Purpose

The Public Policy and Governance Portal (PPG Portal) now contains over 1,400 concept definitions — which likely include over 90 percent of the key concepts used in most core courses in Canadian master's programs in public policy and public administration — and many thousands of pages of searchable supporting documents. The PPG Portal now constitutes a useful resource for master's students in English-speaking CAPPA member programs and plans are underway to add French content.

The purpose of this note is to provide a status report on the Portal project, and to describe how CAPPA member schools can give their master's students full access to the resources on the PPG Portal.

The PPG Portal

The portal is a password-enabled extranet platform that uses leading edge Web 2.0 tools (Microsoft Office SharePoint software and physically secure servers) to create a place where scholars, students and practitioners can interact to add and modify concept entries and participate in collaborative projects on member-created sites. Access permissions to these sites are determined by the member responsible for the site. There are separate sites for each course, each practice area and each collaborative project.

This document contains hyperlinks to the PPG Portal that can be used by those who are already portal members.

The PPG Portal project was launched at the CAPPA meeting in Winnipeg in August 2007 and has been financially supported by a \$205,000 contribution from the Canada School of Public Service (from January 2008 to March 2010) and a \$300,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Knowledge Impact in Society program (from April 2008 to March 2011).

The concepts now on the portal were generated from the 27 master's courses listed in Annex 1 and from the 12 practice areas listed in Annex 2. These courses were selected to cover most of the subjects taught

in the core courses of Canadian master's programs in public policy and public administration¹ and the practice areas cover the most important management functions as well as a number of policy sectors.

The PPG Portal is currently one of the few platforms available in Canada where participants from different institutions (e.g., two or more governments; a government and external advisors; or two or more universities) can gain access in a simple fashion (username and strong password) to a secure place to collaborate on line.

Five examples of collaborative sites currently on the portal (with access in most cases restricted to the particular team members) are: 1) the project-management site for the portal, which can be seen at PPG
Portal Project; 2) a Student Internship site which lists the internship assignments and contact information for all the students in a master's program, along with discussion fora to compare experiences; 3) a research project where four scholars and two research assistants at three different universities are coauthoring a book on postsecondary education; 4) a partnership-building project where a university and a national Aboriginal organization are developing a comprehensive framework agreement covering a number of joint research and educational initiatives; 5) a committee secretariat site where a federal department is providing the external members of its audit and evaluation committees with secure on-line access to restricted committee materials. Membership in the PPG Portal is provided free of charge to faculty and students in CAPPA master's programs, as well as to interested practitioners in governments and the non-profit sector. Students are provided with a username and password after the school provides the Portal administrator with a name and email address of the registered students.

In the autumn of 2009 selected material from the PPG Portal, particularly concept definitions, will be made available on a public internet site, perhaps the site being created for the on-line student journal described below.

Student resources on the PPG Portal

When students become members of the PPG Portal they have access to all the concepts, organized by course and practice area, and to those projects for which they are granted access by the project leader.

In addition, to this encyclopedia service, students can benefit from:

Contacts and exposure: On becoming a member of the PPG Portal, a student has access to current contact information for all other members. Since one of the undertakings that practitioners make when they become members is to respond to reasonable e-mails and phone calls from students, each student is provided with potentially useful contacts for research and for career planning. As well, the practitioners interested in recruiting can see examples of student work – from concept entries, to discussion board commentary, to course papers – and can review the biographical information the student wishes to share.

¹ The process for harvesting concepts usually involved asking student research assistants who were taking or had recently taken the course to identify and define, under the supervision of the instructor, "all the important concepts used" in the course. Although subjective judgements are needed to determine what terms constitute "concepts" and which are "important," it is probably safe to assert that the portal now contains the vast majority (say, over 90 per cent) of the important concepts used in every core course in every current Canadian master's program in public policy and public administration.

Professional development and career services: A site is being developed to provide for all student members the basic resources for planning their career, such as a list of recruitment programs, a calendar of application deadlines, sites for help with crafting résumés, and career planning advice (see Professional Development and Career Services). In addition, each School can create sub-sites with more specific information such as contact lists of practitioners who have met with the class in the course of their program, helpful alumni, and calendars of school-specific career services events.

Participation in the student journal: A student-run, peer-reviewed, journal (the *Public Policy and Governance Review*) will be published on-line. It is hoped that interested students from most CAPPA programs will be involved in authoring, reviewing and editing papers for publication in the Review. These functions will be conducted with the SharePoint technology used by the PPG Portal. For details on the development of the journal, see <u>Online Journal (Public Policy and Governance Review) Project</u>. The call for applications for Associate Editor positions from CAPPA member master's students is attached as Annex 3.

Student papers for a particular course: Where the instructor and students agree, students could be encouraged to post their papers in a Course Library, with access restricted to certain groups (such as other members of the academic program, or practitioners in a certain area). A preliminary circulation of papers in this way could provide students with feedback to help them determine whether to submit the paper for publication in the *Public Policy and Governance Review*.

Search engine: Members have access to the system's powerful search engine that will quickly find word strings in any of the sites or documents on the portal to which the member has access.

On-line storage: Students can back up crucial files to their own secure space on the portal and can have access to it on-line from any computer.

Space for collaboration: Students can create their own collaborative project space and set access permissions for any other member of the portal.

Classes and events calendaring: It is easy to create an integrated calendar of course times and special events at any school. For an example, see SPPG Classes and Events Calendar.

Linking existing concept entries to a course

Students in particular programs would obviously find it useful to know which of the concepts are used in their specific courses. It is relatively easy for an instructor to associate an existing concept with her or his course. In order to make this process as simple as possible, five worksheets have been created to permit an instructor (or a designated assistant) to select from a list of concepts currently associated with courses in other universities that in one or more of the following general subject areas: economics; quantitative methods and evaluation; government and politics; social context; and global context and international development. The first pages of these worksheets are included for illustrative purposes as Annexes 4-8. The full worksheets can be downloaded from the portal at Worksheets for Associating Concepts with Courses site or obtained by e-mailing id.clark@utoronto.ca.

The process could be done on line or by simply checking boxes on a hard copy print out. It should take an instructor less than an hour to check off the concepts to be associated with the course that she or he teaches. The Portal Team would then enter this information on the portal.

At the same time, the Portal Coordinator will work with directors of the schools and individual instructors to identify courses with material not yet on the portal and to assign research assistants to identify, define and elaborate additional concepts. All portal members are encouraged to add material to existing concepts, and where perspectives differ, to interact (perhaps through an on-line discussion board) n online debate) with the person responsible for the original entry.

Conclusion

After two years of substantial effort on the part of many faculty and students in several universities, the PPG Portal is now capable of providing valuable resources to students in CAPPA member master's programs.² It will now take only a modest effort on the part of school administrators and faculty to provide students with access to these resources in a way that is tailored to the school's course offerings.

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² Because the vast majority of the content on the portal is still in English, this assertion applies to students who are doing their research in English. Efforts are underway to markedly increase the French content on the portal.

Annex 1: Courses that have Provided Concept Input to Date

(with Faculty Members and Research Assistants)

Courses	Instructors	Research Assistants
University of Toronto		
PPG 1000 Governance and Institutions	Linda White; Phil Triadafilopoulos	Shannon Wells, Jane Hilderman, Kathryn Ellett
PPG 1001 The Policy Process	Richard Stren	Shannon Wells, Anna Maria Cappella, Kathryn Ellett
PPG 1002 Microeconomics for Policy Analysis	Dwayne Benjamin	Ben Eisen, Harpreet Johal, Diana Kuzmanovic
PPG 1004 Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis	Phil Oreopoulos, Garth Frazer	Shannon Wells, Nicola Fernandes, Sevil N-Marandi
PPG 1005 The Social Context of Policy Making	John Myles	Jee Lim, Dipal Damani, Jodie Bakker
PPG 1007 Putting Policy into Action: Strategic Implementation of Public Objectives	Pam Bryant, Janet Mason	Jee Lim, Sevil N-Marandi, Lisa Rae
PPG 2000 Information and its Social Contexts	Nadia Caidi, David Phillips, Matt Ratto	Ben Eisen
PPG 2001 Integrating Seminar I: Climate Change and Healthy Cities	Andrew Green and Kathi Wilson	Dipal Damani, Viola Dessanti, Anila Durrani
PPG 2002: Integrating Seminars II: Practical Issues in International Development	James Radner	James Banting
PPG 2003: Integrating Seminars III: Setting Policy Priorities	Carolyn Tuohy	James Banting, Ben Eisen, André Côté
PPG 2008 Globalization, Internationalization and Public Policy	Grace Skogstad	André Côté
PPG 2010 Panel Data Methods for Policy Analysis	Paul Grootendorst	Ben Eisen
PPG 2011 Ethics of Public Administration	Joseph Heath	André Côté
PPG 2012 Public Policy for Children	Michael Baker	Ben Eisen

PPG 2013: Multicultural City: Diversity,	Nathan Edelson and	James Banting
Policy and Planning	Norma-Jean	
	McLaren	
PPG/PLA 1751 Public Finance for	Edith Slack	André Côté
Planners		
Queen's University		
PMPA 809: Management in the Public	Rachel Laforest,	Aamir Taiyeb
Sector	Mike Joyce	
Carlton University		
PADM 5111: Microeconomics	Saul Schwartz	Alexandre Gagnon
PADM 5115: Introduction to State and	Phil Ryan	Ha Nguyen
Society Society	Tilli Kyali	Tia Nguyen
PADM 5116: Policy Analysis and	Susan Phillips, Les	Ha Nguyen, Robin Toews
Contemporary Governance	Pal	
PADM 5117: Public Management	Susan Phillips, Rob	Ha Nguyen, Vicki Fleuri
	Shepherd	
PADM 5420 Policy and Program	Robert Shepherd	Travis Clark
Evaluation		
PADM 5814: Program and Project	Ted Freeman	Ha Nguyen
Management		
Regina Saskatchewan (Johnson		
Shoyama Graduate School)		
GSPP 801 Governance and Administration		Travis McLellan
	Kathleen McNutt	Travis McLellan
Dalhousie		
PUAD 5170 Human Resources	Marguerite Cassin	Julia Selig

Annex 2: Current Practice Areas

Practice Area	Coordinators	Institution
Public Management Functions		
Citizen-focused	Jennette Frost	Ontario Ministry of Finance
Service	tbc	TBS Business and Service Strategies
Evaluation Policy and	Barbara Adams	Ontario Ministry of Finance
Practice	Ian Clark	University of Toronto
Financial	Murray Lindo	Ontario Ministry of Finance
Management	Andrew Graham	Queen's University
Governance, Oversight and Control	Lee McCormack	Canadian Comprehensive Audit Foundation (CCAF)
Internal Audit Policy	Anne Scotton	Indian and Northern Affairs
and Practice	Rob Shepherd	Carleton University
Human Resources Management	Laura Bryce, Randy Snitman	Ontario Ministry of Finance
	Ian Clark	University of Toronto
Leadership Development	Randy Snitman, Laura Bryce	Ontario Ministry of Finance
	Louse Forgues	University of Ottawa
Public Management Sectors		
Aboriginal Policy and Governance	Victoria Freeman	University of Toronto
Nonprofit Sector	Susan Phillips	Carleton University
Policy and Governance	Anthony Sealey	University of Toronto
Higher Education	Janet Mason	Government of Ontario
Policy and Governance	Ken Norrie	Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
Governance	Glen Jones	University of Toronto
Regulatory Policy	Ann Langleben, Elizabeth Doherty	Ontario Ministry of Finance
	Robert Shepherd	Carleton University
Urban Policy and	Rick Johal	Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Municipal Governance	Ian Clark	University of Toronto

Annex 3: Call for Applications for Associate Editor Positions in the Student On-Line Journal, *Public Policy and Governance Review*

The Public Policy and Governance Review: Associate Editor positions

The *Public Policy and Governance Review (PPGR)* is a dynamic new journal by tomorrow's policy makers and professionals featuring peer-reviewed academic articles, profiles and interviews with policy leaders and innovators, reports from the field, reviews, debates and opinions. It aims to showcase the work of graduate students from public policy and administration programs across Canada, introducing bold new ideas and fresh insight to the policy problems of the 21st century. The *PPGR* is published biannually online at the Public Policy and Governance Portal, a public web site, generated from the PPG Portal, which will be launched in autumn 2009.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Job Description

The Public Policy and Governance Review (*PPGR*) is seeking volunteer Associate Editors from graduate-level public policy and administration programs across Canada. The Associate Editor will hold a seat on the *PPGR* Editorial Board, and will be responsible for his or her school's contribution to the *PPGR*. The Associate Editor should be an individual with broad policy interests, who knows his or her classmates well, and is able to solicit and gather written material as necessary. The successful candidate must be able to edit written material for content, form and style. Among the duties listed below, the Associate Editor should consider him or herself as the official liaison between his or her school and the *PPGR*.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Soliciting and managing submissions from students.
- Managing deadlines.
- Reading, evaluating and editing manuscripts or materials submitted from their respective program for publication.
- Liaising with Editors-in-Chief and authors regarding changes in content, style, organization, or publication.
- Contributing to Editorial Board decisions.
- Collaborating in the production of editorial content for the *PPGR*.

Editorial Board Structure

Editors-in-chief: Alissa Von Bargen and Michael Nicin, School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto.

Associate Editors: (One from each participating policy program)

Reviewers: (4-6 student volunteers)

To apply, please send a cover letter and your CV to both Alissa Von Bargen and Michael Nicin at alissa.vonbargen@utoronto.ca and michael.nicin@utoronto.ca by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Annex 4: First Page of Work Sheet for Associating Concepts on the PPG Portal with Masters Courses on Economics in Policy

Please add an X to the box to the left of any of the 228 concepts that should be associated with the course. The details of the concepts or the other course can be found on the PPG Portal by right-clicking on the hyperlink. The four courses listed in the right-hand columns, where the concepts are currently used are:

U of T, PPG 1002 – Microeconomics for Policy Analysis (Dwayne Benjamin) U of T, PPG 1003 – Macroeconomics for Policy Analysis (Peter Dungan) Carlton, PADM 5111 – Microeconomics for Policy Analysis (Saul Schwartz) Regina-Saskatchewan GSPP 805 – Economics for Public Policy Analysis

Course	Concept Currently on the PPG Portal	PPG 1002	PPG 1003	PADM 5111	GSPP 805
	Ad Valorem Subsidy	Х			Х
	Ad Valorem Tax	Χ			Χ
	Aggregate Demand	Χ			
	Aggregate Supply Curve		Χ		
	Allocative Efficiency				Χ
	Arrow's Impossibility Theorem	Χ			Χ
	<u>Assumption of Convex Preferences</u>	Χ		X	
	<u>Assumption of Monotonic Preferences</u>	Χ		X	
	<u>Asymmetric Information</u>	Χ			Χ
	Automatic Stabilizers		Χ		
	Average Cost	Χ			Χ
	Backward-bending Labor Supply	Χ			
	Bank Rate		Χ		
	Bond		Χ		
	Budget Constraint	Χ		Χ	Χ
	Budget Deficit		Χ		
	Budget Line	Χ		Χ	Χ
	Budget Set	Χ		X	
	Business Cycle		Χ		Χ
	Closed Economy		Χ		
	Coase Theorem	Χ			Χ
	Commodity Money		Χ		
	Comparative Advantage				Χ
	Compensating Variation	Χ			Χ
	Compensation Effect	Χ			
	Competitive Market	Χ			Χ
	Completeness of Preferences	Х		X	
	Composite Good	Х		X	
	Constant Returns to Scale	Х			
	Consumer Optimization Principle	Х		X	Χ
	Consumer's Surplus	Х			Χ
	Consumption		Χ		

Annex 5: First Page of Work Sheet for Associating Concepts on the PPG Portal with Masters Courses on Quantitative Methods and Evaluation

Please add an X to the box to the left of any of the 148 concepts that should be associated with the courses. The four courses listed in the right-hand columns, where the concepts are currently used are:

U of T, PPG 2010 – Panel Data Methods for Policy Analysis (Paul Grootendorst)
U of T, PPG 1004 – Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis (Phil Oreopoulos, Garth Frazer)
Carleton, PADM 5420 – Policy and Program Evaluation (Rob Shepherd)
Carleton, PADM 5814 – Program and Project Management (Ted Freeman)

Your	Concept Currently on the PPG Portal	PPG	PPG	<u>PADM</u>	<u>PADM</u>
Course		<u>2010</u>	<u>1004</u>	<u>5420</u>	<u>5814</u>
	Activity			Χ	
	Analytical Tools				Χ
	<u>Assumptions</u>				Χ
	Attribution				Χ
	Audit			Χ	Χ
	Base-line Study				Χ
	<u>Benchmark</u>			Χ	
	<u>Beneficiaries</u>				Χ
	Binary Variable	Х	Χ		
	Bootstrapping	Х			
	Cluster Evaluation				Χ
	Community Score Card				Χ
	Comparison Group				Χ
	Conditional Expectation Function		Χ		
	Confidence Interval	Х	Χ		
	Contamination				Χ
	Continuous Random Variable		Χ		
	Control Group Contamination		Χ		Χ
	Controlled Experiment		Χ		
	Correlation		Χ		
	Cost-benefit Analysis			Χ	
	Cost-effectiveness Analysis			Χ	
	Counterfactual				Χ
	Country Program Evaluation				Χ
	Covariance		Χ		
	<u>Cross-Sectional Data</u>	Х			
	Data Collection Tools (in evaluation)				Χ
	<u>Data Collector Bias</u>		Χ		
	<u>Dependent Variable</u>	Х	Χ		
	<u>Discrete Random Variable</u>		Χ		
	<u>Econometrics</u>	Х			
	Economy (in evaluation)				Χ

Annex 6: First Page of Work Sheet for Associating Concepts on the PPG Portal with Masters Courses on Government and Politics

Please add an X to the box to the left of any of the 525 concepts that should be associated with your course. The seven courses listed in the right-hand columns, where the concepts are currently used are:

U of T, PPG 1000 – Governance and Institutions (Stein, White, Triadafilopoulos)

U of T, PPG 1001 – The Policy Process (Stren)

U of T, PPG 1007 – Strategic Implementation of Public Objectives (Bryant, Mason)

Carlton, PADM 5116 – Policy and Contemporary Governance (Pal, Phillips)

Carlton, PADM 5117 – Public Management (Phillips, Shepherd)

Queen's MPA 809 – Management in the Public Sector (Laforest, Joyce)

Regina-Saskatchewan GSPP 801 – Governance and Administration

Your		PPG	PPG	PPG	PADM	<u>PADM</u>	MPA	GSPP
Course	Concepts in Portal on August 2, 2009	<u>1000</u>	<u>1001</u>	<u>1007</u>	<u>5116</u>	<u>5117</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>801</u>
	Absent Mandate	Х						
	Accountability	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		
	Accounting Officer				Χ	Χ		
	Accounting Unit				Χ			
	Ad Valorem Subsidy						Χ	
	Ad Valorem Tax						Χ	
	Administrative Coordination			Χ				
	Advice			Χ		Χ		
	Advocacy Coalition	Х			Χ			
	Agency Theory (The Principal-Agent			Χ				
	<u>Problem)</u>							
	<u>Agenda</u>		Χ					
	Agenda Setting		Χ		Χ			
	Allocative Efficiency						Χ	
	Alternative Service Delivery			Χ	Χ	Χ		
	Answerability		Χ	Χ		Χ		
	Apparent Conflict of Interest					Χ		
	Argument Mapping				Χ			
	Argumentative Policy Analysis				Χ			
	Argumentative School of Policy				Χ			
	Arrow's Impossibility Theorem						Χ	
	Associational System				Χ			
	Assumptional Analysis				Χ			
	<u>Assumptions</u>			Χ				
	Asymmetric Information						Χ	
	<u>Asymmetrical Federalism</u>					Χ		
	Attentive Public				Χ			

Annex 7: First Page of Work Sheet for Associating Concepts on the PPG Portal with Masters Courses on the Social Context for Public Policy

Please add an X to the box to the left of any of the 180 concepts that should be associated with the course. The eight courses listed in the right-hand columns, where the concepts are currently used are:

U of T, PPG 1005 The Social Context of Policy Making (John Myles)

Carleton, PADM 5115: Introduction to State and Society (Phil Ryan)

Johnston-Shoyama, GSPP 819 Gender and Public Policy (Kathleen McNutt)

U of T, PPG 2001 Integrating Seminar I: Climate Change and Healthy Cities (Andrew Green and Kathi Wilson)

U of T, PPG 2003: Integrating Seminars III: Setting Policy Priorities (Carolyn Tuohy and Wendy Dobson)

U of T, PPG 2012: Public Policy for Children (Michael Baker)

U of T, PPG 2013: Multicultural City: Diversity, Policy and Planning (Nathan Edelson and Norma-Jean McLaren)

U of T, PPG 2000: Information and its Social Contexts (Nadia Caidi, David Phillips, Matt Ratto)

Your	Concept Currently on the	PPG	PADM	GSPP	PPG	PPG	PPG	PPG	PPG
Course	PPG Portal	<u>1005</u>	<u>5115</u>	<u>819</u>	2001	2003	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	2000
	Absolute Inequality		Х						
	Absolute Poverty		Χ						
	Access-to-Drinking-Water		Χ						
	<u>Agenda</u>					Χ			
	<u>Assimilation</u>	Х							
	Automatic Stabilizers		Χ						
	Baumol's Disease	Х							
	Brain Drain	Х							
	Brokerage Parties		Χ						
	<u>City</u>		Χ						
	<u>City Diplomacy</u>		Χ						
	<u>Civilization</u>		Χ						
	<u>CivWorld</u>		Χ						
	<u>Climate Change</u>		Χ		Χ	Χ			
	Commodity		Χ						
	Community Based Policies						Χ		
	Community Policing		Χ						
	Comparative Advantage		Χ						
	Conflict		Χ						
	Confounding "Child Effects"						Χ		
	Conservatism		Χ						
	Conservative Welfare State	Х							
	Contact Hypothesis							Χ	
	Context of Information								Х
	Cost-benefit Analysis					Χ			

Annex 8: First Page of Work Sheet for Associating Concepts on the PPG Portal with Masters Courses on the Global Context and International Development

Please add an X to the box to the left of any concept that should be associated with the courses. The three courses listed in the right-hand columns, where the concepts are currently used are:

U of T, PPG 2008 – Globalization, Internationalization and Public Policy (Grace Skogstad) U of T, PPG 2002 – Practical Issues in International Development (James Radner) Carleton, PADM 5814 – Program and Project Management (Ted Freeman)

Your	Concept Currently on the PPG Portal	PPG	PPG	<u>PADM</u>
Course		2008	2002	<u>5814</u>
	Absolute Poverty		Χ	
	Aid		Χ	Χ
	Aid Effectiveness		Χ	
	<u>Assistance</u>		Χ	Χ
	Base-line Study			Χ
	<u>Beneficiaries</u>		Χ	Χ
	Citizenship			Χ
	Civic (Private) Regulation	Χ		
	<u>Civil Society</u>		Χ	Χ
	Community Driven Development		Χ	
	Community Score Card			Χ
	Comparison Group			Χ
	Conflict		Χ	
	Conjunctural Theories of Globalization	Χ		
	Constructivist Theories of Globalization	Χ		
	Copenhagen Consensus 2004		Χ	
	Counterfactual			Χ
	Country Program Evaluation		Χ	Χ
	Democracy		Χ	
	Development Objective			Χ
	<u>Dutch Disease</u>			Χ
	East Asian Miracle		Χ	
	Economic Liberalism	Χ	Χ	
	Efficiency (in evaluation)			Χ
	Empowerment of Women (or women's			Χ
	<u>Epistemology</u>	Χ		
	Export-led industrialization		Χ	
	Ex-post Evaluation			Χ
	External Evaluation (in development)			Χ
	Fragile State		Χ	
	Free Trade	Χ		
	Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)			Χ