

Lindsey Garner-Knapp, MPP 2015

Current Position: Following completion of the MPP program, Lindsey completed a Ph.D at the University of Edinburgh and authored a book on *Informality in Policymaking*. She currently holds two post doctoral positions with the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy dividing her time between the University of Sussex as a Research Fellow and Cardiff University as a Research Associate.

Prior Education:

BA Anthropology and Philosophy, University of Lethbridge

MA Anthropology and South Asia Studies, University of Toronto

Why did you choose the MPP at UCalgary and advice for someone entering the program:

I chose the MPP program at the University of Calgary as it offered policy streams that I was interested in — international policy and social policy — alongside essential public policy courses in public finance and economics. As I had already achieved a Masters in Anthropology, I was seeking a one-year program that would round out my academic skills.

Description of your current job/typical week:

In addition to collaborative and ad hoc projects like writing blogs on current trade policy and geopolitical affairs, I am leading two projects. First, I am investigating the formal and informal fora and formats that exist within the UK trade policymaking apparatus through which various interests are represented. Second, alongside agricultural trade policy scholars, I am exploring how the UK's Internal Market Act and Common Frameworks are being utilised focusing on agri-food matters. The skills and knowledge I obtained during the MPP program informs my work daily. As a postdoc, I have a similar remit of tasks including research, writing, attending events and networking. One of the key values of the MPP program is the lessons you learn in the networking events and to utilise and maintain the connections made — as well as writing in clear and plain language.

How the MPP program furthered your career:

The MPP program offered a springboard to working with the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (EDT) and specifically the Alberta International Offices operations team. The work I did for my capstone project was of direct value and relevance to EDT, and I was able to contribute to the team immediately. I also had the opportunity to work directly with the senior leadership team of the City of Airdrie as their policy advisor. Having a broad background in anthropology and public policy allowed me to use the qualitative and quantitative skills necessary to advise on wide portfolio of municipal policy issues.

The relationships I developed with SPP and Dr. Eugene Beaulieu allowed me to maintain an academic research program while working with governments. In 2018-19, we collaborated on an ESRC project that explored a potential Canada-UK free trade agreement post-Brexit, which became the foundations for my doctoral research. In January 2025, I defended my Ph.D in Politics from the University of Edinburgh on the making of trade policy. I used an ethnographic approach and social network analysis to explore the negotiation of the Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement from the provincial and devolved government contexts.