Policy Workshop CETA: Where are we three years later?  
March 26, 2021, 8:30-13:00

Keynote Biographies

Dr. Ailish Campbell  
Canada’s Ambassador Designate to the European Union (EU), Global Affairs Canada

Dr. Ailish Campbell was appointed Canada’s Ambassador Designate to the European Union in October 2020. In this role she leads diplomatic representation to the EU and strategic engagement of Canada’s second largest trade and investment partner.

Ailish joined Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in 2002 as a trade negotiator in the WTO Doha Round. During her time as a federal public servant, she has held successively senior executive roles in economic, finance and international policy, including at the Privy Council Office and Industry Canada. Outside of the public service, Ailish was Vice President, International and Fiscal Policy, at the Business Council of Canada from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, she returned to public service and became General Director, Economic Development and Corporate Finance, at Finance Canada, where she led work on innovation, clean technology, and defence. From 2017 – 2020 she served as Chief Trade Commissioner of Canada and Assistant Deputy Minister, leading Global Affairs Canada’s team of Trade Commissioners across six Canadian offices and over 150 locations worldwide. Under her leadership, the Trade Commissioner Service expanded services to high-growth companies and established a range of new digital services to small business to promote the use of Canada’s global network of free trade agreements.

Ailish holds a Doctorate in International Relations from the University of Oxford. Her doctorate thesis was published by Palgrave Macmillan (UK) as “European Welfare States and Supranational Governance of Social Policy”. In August 2020 she earned her ICD.D designation from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. She is designated a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Melita Gabrič  
Ambassador Designate for Delegation of the European Union to Canada

Ambassador-designate Gabrič is a Slovenian career diplomat who served as Ambassador of Slovenia to Canada since 2018 and was concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Slovenia to Cuba.

Dr. Gabrič holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and has extensive experience in both bilateral and multilateral international relations. Before coming to Canada, she was Director of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid in Slovenia. Prior to that, she served as Senior Advisor on Human Rights to two Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Ambassador-designate Gabrič was Diplomatic Advisor to both the President and Prime Minister of Slovenia and occupied the post of the Slovenian Consul General in New York.

Since 2020, Ambassador-designate Gabrič has had the honour of serving as Chairperson of the Women Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Ottawa.

Ambassador-designate Gabrič enjoys downhill and cross-country skiing, as well as skating and snowshoeing. She has a keen appreciation of contemporary art, literature, and design, and savours the beautiful natural landscapes and the rich cultural offerings of Canada.
Participant Biographies

Mark Agnew is the Vice President, Policy and International at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. He is responsible for managing the Chamber’s international work, including on trade policy, B7/B20 as well as Business at OECD. Prior to starting at the Canadian Chamber, he worked for the UK government on trade and economic policy issues at the British High Commission in Ottawa for seven years. In that role he was responsible for leading UK work in Canada pertaining to Brexit, the EU-Canada CETA. He has also worked for the Canadian government in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as at Parliament. Mark attended Carleton University, where he specialized in international trade policy during his graduate studies.

Eleonora Catella joined the International Relations Department of BusinessEurope in September 2012. Prior to this, she was a case handler of anti-dumping investigations at the European Commission DG Trade, worked on a project on inter-parliamentary communications at the European Parliament and was a trainee on trade policy at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Permanent Representation in Brussels. She holds a Master degree in European political and administrative studies from the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium) and a Bachelor degree in political science, with a major in international relations from the University of Roma Tre. Eleonora is Italian and speaks English, French and Spanish fluently.

Valerie D’Erman has been an instructor in the Department of Political Science since 2010 at the University of Victoria. She has taught courses related to European Integration, International Relations, and Comparative Politics, as well as co-taught the department’s 103 World of Politics course. Valerie's research interests include comparative political economy, theories of European integration, international relations, and European political parties. She has published in numerous academic journals and has contributed to edited volumes with Ashgate Press (2010) and University of Toronto Press (2018). In 2017, Valerie won the Gilian Sherwin Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Robert Finbow is Professor of Political Science and Deputy Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence at Dalhousie University. A graduate of Dalhousie's honours programme, he holds an MA degree from York University and MSc and PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Professor Finbow’s current research focuses on the socially responsible elements of trade agreements, especially labour and social issues in NAFTA, and the EU. He has published books, chapters, and articles on the CETA and TTIP negotiations, the EU social dimension and fiscal crisis, labour and environmental aspects of NAFTA, comparative health care and social policy, comparative North American political cultures and Atlantic Canadian regionalism and comparative regional development in North America. His focus recently has been on the Canada-European Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), especially the implications for social policy and federalism. He received an Erasmus+ grant from the European Commission for research on the CETA Implementation and Implications Project. Dr. Finbow is currently working on a book for McGill-Queen’s University Press based on this project.

Geneviève Gougeon is the Deputy Director of the Trade Commissioner Services (TCS) division which is responsible for the promotion of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Her team works closely with the trade policy divisions at Global Affairs Canada to provide training and capacity building to Trade Commissioners around the world and to implement strategies and develop tools to help Canadian exporters take advantage of the FTAs. Geneviève has also worked on inclusive trade files, in particular for the Business Women in International Trade division (also known as BWIT) as well as for the International Education division, where she helped to attract international students to Canada and led the development of the EduCanada brand and FPT relations on the matter. Geneviève holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs from the Université de Montréal and has traveled to more than 15 countries for EduCanada.
Patrick Leblond is CN–Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy and Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is also Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Research Associate at CIRANO, and Affiliated Professor of International Business at HEC Montréal. Dr. Leblond is an expert on economic governance and policy with a particular focus on Canada, North America, Europe and, increasingly, China. He has published extensively on financial and monetary integration, banking regulation, international trade, and business-government relations. Before embarking on his academic career, he worked in accounting and auditing for Ernst & Young as well as in corporate finance and strategy consulting for Arthur Andersen & Co. and SECOR Consulting.

Nanette Neuwahl is Associate Professor (Professeure Invitée) at the Faculty of Law, Université de Montréal, and holds a Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Law. Previously she was Director of Studies at College of Europe (Natolin campus) and co-director of the European Foreign Affairs Review. She has been a Full Professor in Law at UdeM since 2001. She specializes in European Union law (constitutional law and external relations) and her research focuses on interactions with and the division of power between the European Union and its member states, the European Union’s status on the international stage, inter-normativity and access to justice. She is also a co-editor of European Foreign Affairs Review (Kluwer Law International). With Amy Verdun, she is working on an edited book on the relations between the EU and Canada after Brexit. Dutch by birth, Professor Neuwahl has a PhD from the European University Institution in Florence and a Master’s Degree from Leiden University. She is the author of numerous publications. Her most recent publications include: “Brexit and Canada - Stopgap for a Shrinking CETA or New Beginnings?”, in Brunet-Jailly, E. (ed.). Brexit: How the British Exit is Impacting the European Union, International Studies, 58/2 Special issue (2021) and 'Emerging Principles of European Investment Protection', in Andenas M. et. al. (eds.), EU External Action in International Economic Law - Recent Trends and Developments (TMC Asser Press, 2020), 9-34.

Brenda O’Neill was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs on Oct. 1, 2020. She also holds a position as Professor in the Department of Political Science. Her research addresses several topics including political behaviour and gender and politics, focused largely on Canada. Her most recent research has examined gender and party leadership and the role of feminist identification in shaping support for sovereignty among women in Quebec. She has held several SSHRC grants and recently held the Thelma Margaret Horte Fellowship in Women and Society at the University of Calgary. Between 2017 to 2020, she served as English-language editor of the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

Ksenia Polonskaya is Assistant Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. She specializes in international investment and trade law. Previously she served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). She has published in the Journal of International Economic Law and the Journal of International Dispute Settlement, among others. Her interests include investor-state arbitration, international trade law, comparative law, international commercial arbitration and private law theory. Her current focus is in investment arbitration reform under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the issues of gender equality in international institutions and regional perspectives on trade. She holds a Ph.D. from Queen’s University, a LL.M. from the University of Toronto and a LL.B. from Kuban State University in Russia.
Michèle Rioux is Professor of political science at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and Director of the Centre d’études sur l’intégration et la mondialisation. Specializing in international political economy, her research focuses on international organizations and global governance, transnational firms, competition, the information society and the telecommunications sector, economic integration and regionalism, electronic commerce, digital, and cultural industries. She has published extensively and most recently: Vers une politique commerciale socialement responsable (PUQ, 2021); two chapters in La guerre par d’autres moyens (Boulanger, Mottet et Ares, PUM, 2021); La culture à l’ère du numérique : Plateformes, normes et politiques (PUL, 2020); Mondialisation et connectivité : Les enjeux du commerce, de l’investissement et du travail au XXIème siècle (PUQ, 2019); with Sylvia Ostry and Kari Polanyi-Levitt : Deux économistes à contre-courant, (PUM, 2018). Also articles such as: Rioux, M. and C. Vaillancourt (2020), “Regulating Corporate Social Responsibility for Economic and Social Development Through Trade Rules”, with A. Hira (ed), Special issue, Journal of Developing Societies; Rioux, M., C. Deblock, and G.-P. Wells (2020) “CETA, an Innovative Agreement with Many Unsettled Trajectories.” Open Journal of Political Science, 10, 50-60.
