

# SSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Policy-Making at the 'Center': How does it work?

# **Rachel Curran**

Former Director of Policy to Prime Minister Stephen Harper November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 9:00am – 4:30pm

# **Workshop Outline**

- I. The Prime Minister's Office
  - a. The team
  - b. The decision-making structure
  - c. The relationship with the public service
- II. Setting the Policy Agenda
  - a. What gets on and how
  - b. Challenges
- III. Dealing with crises at home and abroad
  - a. Domestic policy crises
  - b. International policy crises
- IV. Improving Policy-Making for Future Generations

### **Required Readings**

Goldenberg, E. (2007) Chapter 5, The Way it Works: Inside Ottawa. Toronto: McLelland & Stewart. http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll?Action=10&Type=14&Value=14EF010F

Craft, J. (2016) Chapter 1.Backrooms and Beyond: Partisan Advisers and the Politics of Policy Work in Canada. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. <a href="http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00C0">http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00C0</a>

Curran, Rachel (2016) Parliament returns, policy work ramps up. *Policy Options*. September 19. <a href="http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/september-2016/parliament-returns-policy-work-ramps-up/">http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/september-2016/parliament-returns-policy-work-ramps-up/</a>

Smith, Alex (2009) The Roles and Responsibilities of Central Agencies. *Library of Parliament Research Publications*. <a href="https://lop.parl.ca/content/lop/researchpublications/prb0901-e.htm">https://lop.parl.ca/content/lop/researchpublications/prb0901-e.htm</a>

## **Recommended Readings**

Goldenberg, Eddie (2007) The Way it Works: Inside Ottawa. Toronto: McLelland & Stewart.

Chapter 4: <a href="http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00F7">http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00F7</a>
Chapter 6: <a href="http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00EE">http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF00EE</a>

Howlett, Michael (1998) Predictable and Unpredictable Policy Windows: Institutional and Exogenous Correlates of Canadian Federal Agenda-Setting. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 31(3), 495-524.

http://www.sfu.ca/~howlett/documents/Ch2Agenda-Setting.pdf

