



THE INNOVATION POLICY LAB

The Munk School of Global Affairs is home to a wide range of researchers, teaching programs and international partnerships, all of which share a strong focus on innovation.

The existing strengths at the Munk School in the field of Innovation Policy are spread across a number of different centres and research programs, whose collective research and teaching initiatives describe a unique and exciting approach to the study of innovation. The Innovation Policy Lab will provide a new institutional home for these initiatives.

A major focus of the Innovation Policy Lab will be an analysis of the ways in which innovation is occurring in both the industrial countries as well as in the global south, reflecting the growing reality of distributed innovation across a wide range of nodes around the globe. The Lab will pool the knowledge that scholars at the Munk School and from across the University of Toronto have generated about “demand-driven” innovation and develop shared explanations of the impact of policy on innovation across different economic sectors and at different geographic scales. We understand demand-driven as innovation that succeeds in meeting the needs of a wide range of end-users; is reflected in increasing rates of adoption, and improves outcomes and/or generates efficiencies.

The Innovation Policy Lab will work to disseminate policy-relevant knowledge about “demand-driven” innovation to interested policy-makers and attentive publics, in Canada and abroad. Research, teaching programs and international partnering activities will focus on new ways of sharing knowledge about adoption among both academic researchers and relevant policymakers in Canada and other countries.

The Lab will be directed by David Wolfe, Royal Bank Chair in Public and Economic Policy, and director of the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems at the Munk School of Global Affairs.