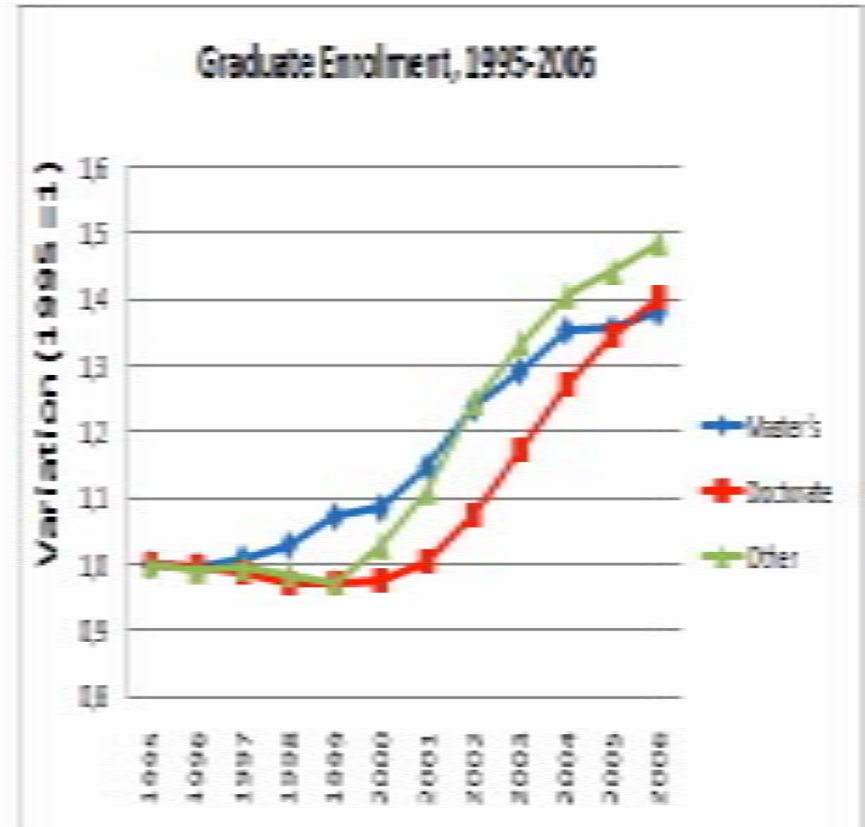
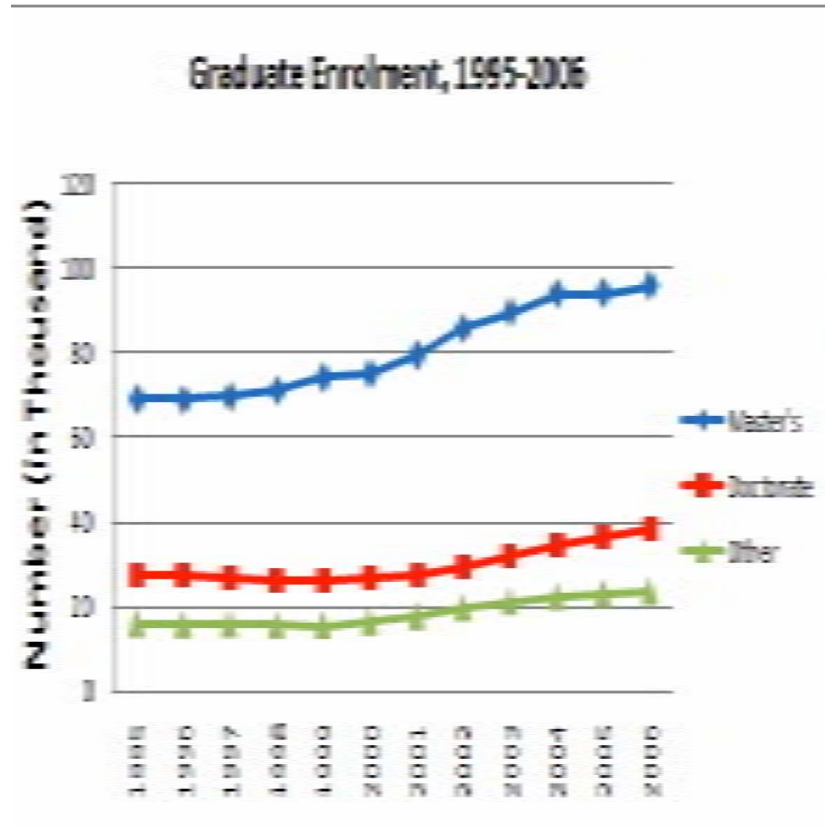


Enhancing Pathways to and  
through Graduate School:  
the View from above the 49<sup>th</sup>  
(or being Bologna before  
Bologna)



Douglas Peers  
President of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies

# Graduate Enrolments



**CAGS, 38th Statistical Report, 1995-2006 (Revised) (2009)**

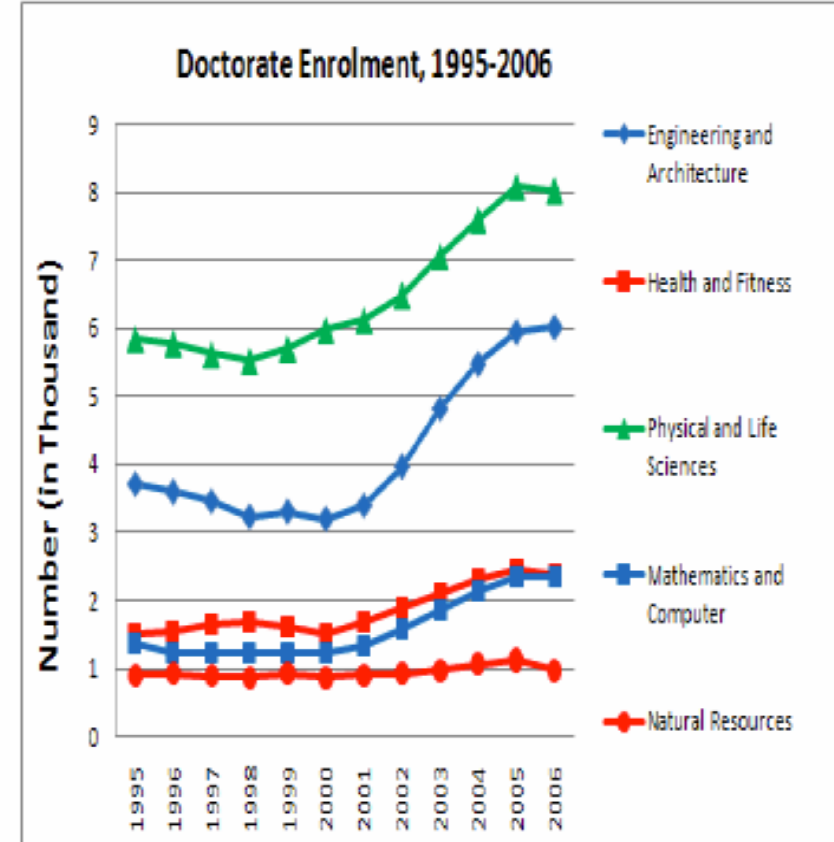
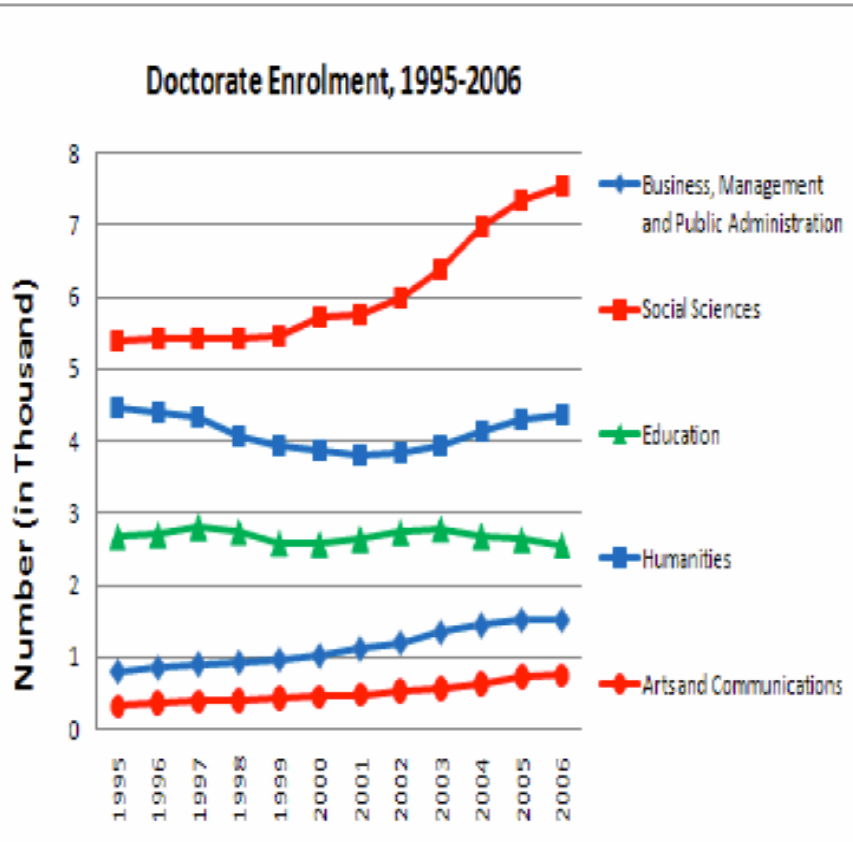
# Canadian Context I

## Similarities

PhDs look broadly similar to US doctorates

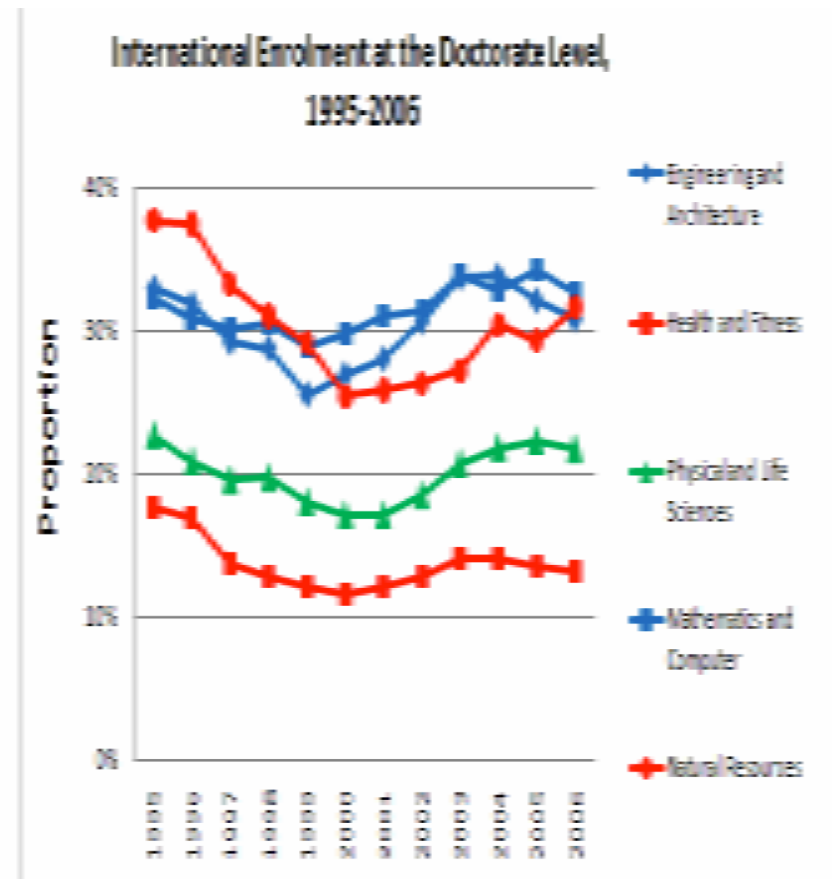
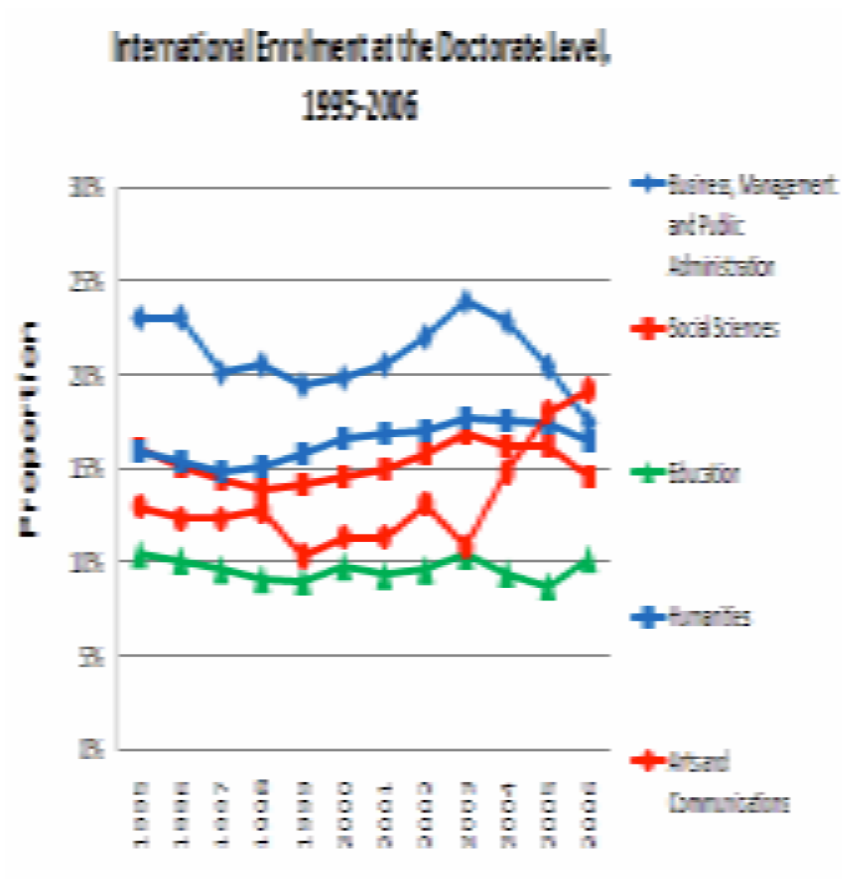
- fundamentally the same expectations
- fundamentally the same structure
- changing demographics – the student of today is not the same as 20 years ago
  - 40% in CGPSS are married:  
25% have children
- 59% women in US, 46.2% in Canada
  - 2006 data for Canada
  - 19.5% in 1972
  - yet women were better represented in CGPSS (51%)
- StatsCan does not track visible minority status

# Doctoral Enrolments



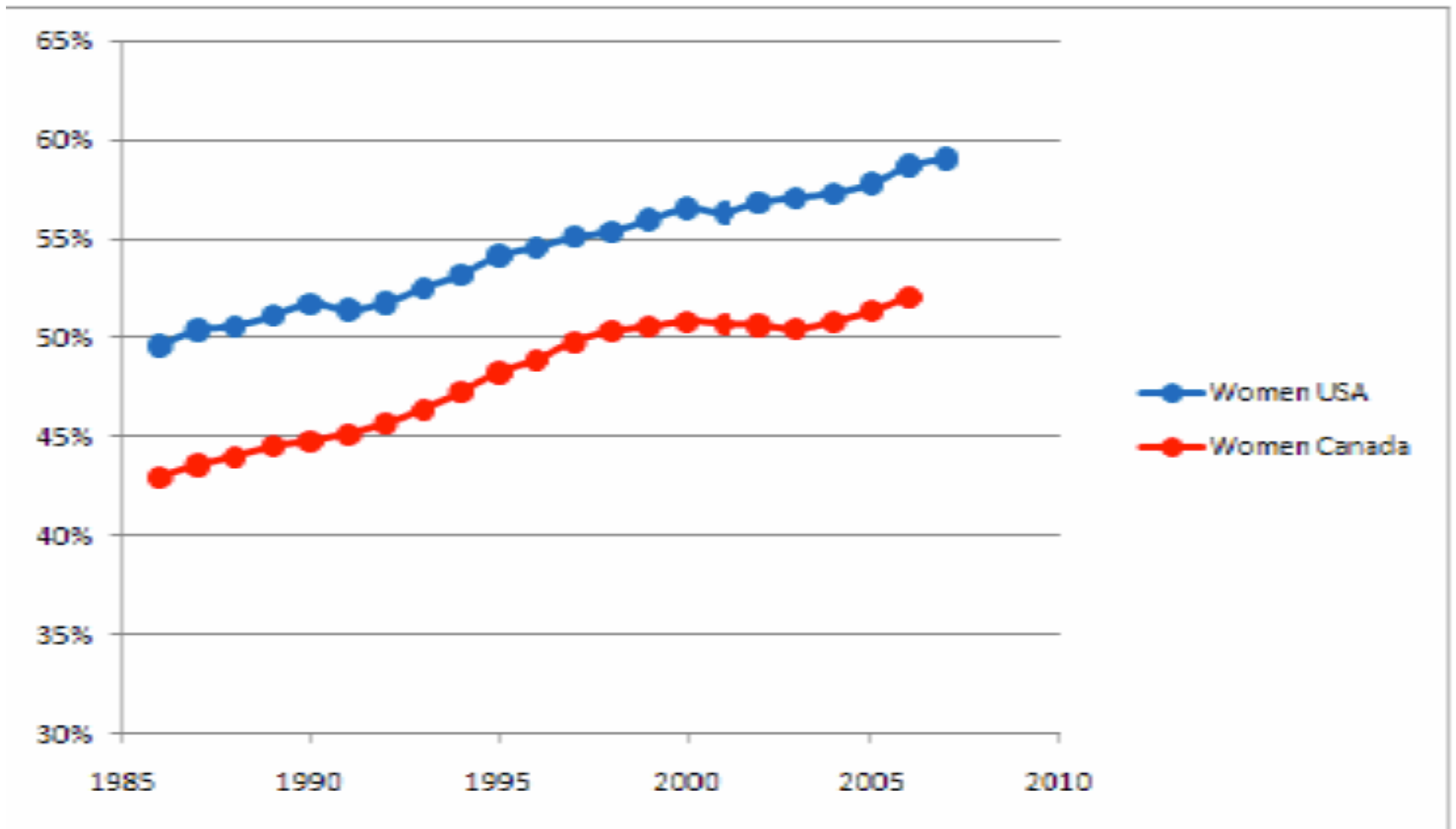
**CAGS, 38th Statistical Report, 1995-2006 (Revised) (2009)**

# International Enrolments



**CAGS, 38th Statistical Report, 1995-2006  
(Revised) (2009)**

# Proportion of Women at the Masters and Doctoral Level



CAGS, 38th Statistical Report, 1995-2006 (Revised) (2009)

# The Canadian Context II

## Similar Challenges

- times to completion
- attrition – currently 65% complete in 9 years (G13 data)
- placements in a time of recession
- funding amount and composition
  - what is the best way to support students – guaranteed packages?
  - length and kind of support
    - CGPSS report TA most common form (59%)
    - 56% report fed/prov scholarship
- concern over adequacy of career preparation
  - need to move away from self-reproduction mode
- global competition vs global cooperation

# Canadian Context III

## Contrasts between US and Canada

- Less Differentiation in Canadian Higher Ed
- Fewer revenue streams
  - universities are all public institutions
  - funding is largely provincial
    - federal research money
  - endowments play a limited role
  - big challenge in funding int'l admits
- Collective Agreements
  - often determine time in program



# Three-Cycle Structure

Big Difference is the role of the Master's degree in Canada

- historically the masters degree was intended as preparation for the PhD
  - most masters were therefore research-focused
  - 1 to 2 years; thesis or MRP
  - usually full time, often funded
  - recent growth in professional masters while still retaining research masters

# Relation of the masters to the doctorate

## **Bologna before Bologna**

- direct-entry PhDs are still the exception
- instead, masters and doctorates either treated as discrete degrees or articulated through internal promotion

## **Intent**

- allows both partners to take a roadtest
- provides students with the chance to experience original research at reduced risk
- facilitates scholarship applications
- can be an end in themselves
  - no sense in Canada of the Masters as the failed PhD

# Relation of the masters to the doctorate

## Impact

- improved times to completion
  - 5.3 years is the G13 median
- completion rates
  - Canada 65% (G13): US 56%
  - most striking in SS&H
  - 50% in Humanities and
  - 59% in SS complete in
  - 9 years

# Other Trends/Directions in Canada

Increased use of milestones

Transferable/professional skills

- CAGS Statement on Professional Skills Development

  - Stalled Tricouncil statement

- Complementary certificates/diplomas

- Internships

- Partnerships – NSERC CREATE program

But CGPSS survey of doctoral students points to the following failings:

- advice on careers outside academe

- advice on IP

# References

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