



## 2018 Mentor Biographies

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### CRIME, JUSTICE, AND DRUGS



**[Analisa Packham](#), Assistant Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University**

Analisa Packham received a Ph.D. in economics from Texas A&M University in 2016 and is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Farmer School of Business at Miami University. Her research interests are in applied microeconomics, including labor and health economics and the economics of education. Her research focuses primarily on the effects of nutritional assistance policies on crime and education as well as the effects of contraception and family planning policies on teen childbearing. Her work has been covered in the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Huffington Post, Politico, and Dallas Morning News, among other outlets.

Dr. Packham enjoys mentoring and advising students. The job market is an intimidating place, and sometimes it can be difficult to seek outside research assistance or advice. Dr. Packham hopes that she can provide useful guidance for those in the throes of research and/or students preparing packets for the job market.



**[Leah Sakala](#), Policy Associate, Urban Institute**

Leah Sakala is a policy associate in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she focuses on criminal and juvenile justice reform. She manages projects to identify and address the drivers of state prison populations, evaluate juvenile justice reform efforts, and develop strategies to broaden public safety investment to include community partners and more effectively respond to local priorities. Sakala has a decade of experience conducting research to inform local, state, and national policy conversations about criminal justice and incarceration practices. Before joining Urban, she was a senior policy analyst at the Prison Policy Initiative. She led research projects to document the impact of mass incarceration on issues ranging from voting rights to family communication, and she worked with government officials and other stakeholders to develop policy solutions. Her research has been featured in major media outlets, such as the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Atlantic* and has received praise from the National Institute of Corrections.

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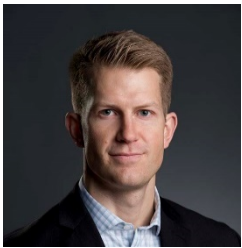


**[Sarah Tahamont](#), Assistant Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Maryland in College Park**

Sarah Tahamont is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland in College Park. Prior to joining the faculty at Maryland, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Criminal Justice & Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany, SUNY, working with Shawn Bushway. As part of her post-doc, she was an embedded scholar in the Office of Justice Research and Performance at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. She completed my Ph.D. at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley in 2013. Her dissertation uses applied econometric methods to identify the causal relationships between correctional policies and prison misconduct.

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## EDUCATION



**[Drew M. Anderson](#), Associate Economist, RAND Corporation**

Drew M. Anderson studies the economics of education finance and household financial decision making. His research evaluates how financial aid and financial education affect household investments, as well as how public policies shape markets for education, health, and financial products. He focuses on building partnerships to access and link administrative databases, execute quasi-experimental and experimental designs and inform policy. Drew earned his PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, then worked at UW as a postdoctoral researcher with the Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Center for Financial Security.

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**[Nikolay Anguelov](#), Assistant Professor of Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

Dr. Anguelov is an Assistant Professor in the department of Public Policy. He has a Ph.D. in Policy Studies with a focus on Rural and Regional Economic Development and an MPA as well as a MS in Applied Economics and Statistics from Clemson University. Dr. Anguelov completed his undergraduate studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology where he earned a double B.S. in International Trade and Advertising Communications and Marketing. After his undergraduate studies Dr. Anguelov spent a number of years in the private sector as an international trade operative.

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**[Alison Cohen](#), Assistant Professor, University of San Francisco**

Alison Cohen is an assistant professor of public and nonprofit administration at University of San Francisco. At USF, she teaches classes for Masters of Public Administration students on topics including quantitative methods, program evaluation, and public health. Trained in both public health and education, she has a PhD in epidemiology and MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics from University of California Berkeley and a BA in education studies and community health from Brown University. Her research focuses on links between education and health, evaluating programs and policies that affect youth, and environmental health equity. She has experience conducting community-based participatory research studies and program and policy evaluations, using both quantitative and qualitative data. She has also developed and participated in multiple research-practice partnerships with community-based organizations and government agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, nationally, and internationally.

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**[Joseph Cordes](#), Associate Director, The George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center**

Professor Cordes is Associate Director of the School of Public Policy and Public Administration and Professor of Economics, Public Policy and Public Administration, and International Affairs and co-director of The George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1977, and joined The George Washington University faculty in 1975. His academic specialization in economics is in the area of public economics and tax policy. Dr. Cordes was a Brookings Economic Policy fellow in the Office of Tax Policy in the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1980-81, and served as a senior economist on the Treasury's Tax Reform project in 1984. From 1989 to 1991 he was Deputy Assistant Director for Tax Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Urban Institute in 1998-1999, and is currently an Associate Scholar in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. Prof. Cordes is the co-editor (with Robert Ebel and Jane Gravelle) of *The Encyclopedia of Taxation and Tax Policy* (Urban Institute Press, 2005); and co-editor (with Gene Steuerle) of *Nonprofits and Business* (Urban Institute Press, 2009). He has also authored or co-authored over 40 articles in scholarly journals and contributed over 20 chapters to books and edited volumes.

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**[Laura Crispin](#), Associate Professor, Saint Joseph's University**

Laura Crispin is currently an Associate Professor at Saint Joseph's University. Laura obtained the following degrees prior to joining Saint Joseph's: Ph.D., Economics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2012); M.A., Economics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2008); B.A., Economics, Northeastern University, Boston, MA (2004). Laura had held various research assistant positions at The Ohio State University after gaining experience as a Research Associate with the Brattle Group in Cambridge Massachusetts in 2007. With many publications under her belt, her research areas are primarily Labor Economics, Economics and Education, Applied Econometrics, and Urban Economics.

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**[Anna J. Egalite](#), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development, North Carolina State University**

Anna J. Egalite is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development at North Carolina State University. Her research focuses on the evaluation of education policies and programs intended to close racial and economic achievement gaps. Her studies have examined school choice policy, school size, the influence of family background on intergenerational economic mobility, and the diversification of the teacher labor force.

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**[Beth C Gamse](#), Independent Consultant**

Beth Gamse is an experienced Independent Consultant with a demonstrated history of success in designing evaluations for non-profit, philanthropic, and public organizations. She is skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Research Design, Program Evaluation, Editing, and Technical Assistance. She is a strong consulting professional with doctorate in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

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**[Oded Gurantz](#), Assistant Professor at the Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri**

Oded Gurantz will be an Assistant Professor at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, beginning in Fall 2018. Previously, Oded was an Institute of Education Sciences Fellow in the Stanford Graduate School of Education and worked as an Associate Policy Research Scientist at the College Board. His research focuses on gaps in college enrollment and completion between students from historically underserved groups and their more privileged peers and has been published in some of the leading economic, policy, and education journals. With a background in economics and education policy, he uses quantitative research methods, primarily quasi-experimental and experimental designs, to examine programs and policies that are both effective and efficient in ameliorating educational disparities.

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**[Chris Herbst](#), Professor, Arizona State University**

Chris M. Herbst is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs and a faculty affiliate in the School of Social Work in the College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, and a former Visiting Scholar in the School of Public Policy at Central European University (Budapest, Hungary). Professor Herbst's research focuses on the evaluation of public policies within the U.S. social safety net. Specifically, he seeks to understand the ways in which redistributive tax and transfer programs affect the well-being of economically disadvantaged families. Current and previous projects have examined the impact of child care, welfare, and tax policy on low-skilled women's employment and health trajectories as well as on children's early cognitive and behavioral development. This work draws on a diverse set of theoretical and methodological tools, including those in economics and developmental psychology.

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**[Jane Arnold Lincove](#), Associate Professor of Public Policy, UMBC**

Jane Lincove is an Associate Professor of Public Policy at UMBC and a Research Fellow at the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans at Tulane University. Her research focuses on the implementation and effects of market-based policy in public education. She is particularly interested in the equity effects on low-income families, minorities, and girls. Much of her research focuses on New Orleans, a city that lies at the center of the national and international debates over market-based school reform. Jane's current projects include identifying obstacles to college access for minority and low-income high school grads, measuring the equity effects of school choice lotteries, and learning how charter schools influence the supply and quality of public education.

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**[Daniel Litwok](#), Associate/Scientist, Abt Associates**

"Daniel Litwok is an Associate/Scientist with Abt Associates, a global leader in research and evaluation based in Rockville, MD. His research interests include applied econometrics, research methods (including experimental and quasi-experimental designs), and a wide variety of policy applications covering education, criminal justice, and job training. At Abt he has co-authored reports sponsored by the Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics. In 2018 Dr. Litwok was awarded an Early Career Research Grant from the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. His scholarly work has been published by the *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, the *American Journal of Evaluation*, and *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*. He earned his Ph.D. in economics from Michigan State University."

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**Javaeria Qureshi, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Illinois at Chicago**

Javaeria Qureshi is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is an applied microeconomist who studies education and social policy issues. Her research investigates the determinants of human capital production with a focus on the interaction of families and schools in education production, and the impact of public policies on academic achievement. She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago in 2012.

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**[Elizabeth Setren](#), Gunnar Myrdal Assistant Professor in Labor Economics, Tufts University**

Professor Setren received her Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. Before joining Tufts, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Her research in the economics of education and labor economics includes studying the impact of Boston charter schools on special education students and English Language Learners, the scaling of the Boston charter sector, and the effects of education technology. Her research has been covered by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, and other news outlets.

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**Menbere Shiferaw, Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research**

Menbere Shiferaw is a researcher at Mathematica Policy Research. Her research spans diverse areas of education and social policy and labor economics. Her recent work has aimed to inform policy and practice to serve special populations of youth, in particular immigrant children, English language learners, and children with disabilities. She also studies policies and programs that support teacher retention in STEM fields. Previously, Menbere was a research specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's research department and Center for Human Capital Studies. She holds B.S. in economics from the University of Georgia, M.A. in economics from Syracuse University, and Ph.D. in public policy from New York University.

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**[Matthew G. Springer](#), Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Education, Vanderbilt University**

Matthew G. Springer is the Robena and Walter E. Hussman Jr. Distinguished Professor in Education Reform and an associate professor of education, evaluation, and policy. Springer's research focuses on the impacts of incentive pay programs, accountability policies, and educator evaluation systems on the teacher workforce and on student achievement. His work also examines why short-term boosts in measured outcomes from early childhood programs often diminish soon after the program ends. He has extensive experience partnering with policymakers and practitioners, receiving Vanderbilt University's Faculty Excellence Award for Research and Service to the Field for his leadership in the development of the Tennessee Education Research Alliance in 2017. Springer earned a PhD from Vanderbilt University, where he served on faculty for almost a decade, and a B.A. in education and psychology from Denison University in Ohio.

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**[Jennifer Steele](#), Associate Professor of Education, American University**

Dr. Jennifer L. Steele is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at American University, and an affiliate faculty member in the Department of Public Administration and Policy. Her research, which emphasizes quantitative methods that support causal inference, focuses on urban education policy at the K-12 and postsecondary levels. She currently leads a federally-funded evaluation of The New Teacher Project's school leadership pipeline initiative in New Jersey, and she co-leads a study funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to examine achievement effects of a statewide scale-up of dual-language immersion education in Utah.

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**[Roddy Theobald](#), Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research.**

Roddy Theobald is a Senior Researcher in the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) at American Institutes for Research. He received his PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington in 2015, and previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Center for Education Data and Research at the University of Washington and as a 7th-grade math teacher at Westlake Middle School in the Oakland (CA) Unified School District as a Teach For America corps member. His ongoing projects investigate teacher education and licensing in Massachusetts and Washington, postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities in Washington, teacher quality gaps in North Carolina and Washington, and collective bargaining in California, Michigan, and Washington.

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**[Barbara Wolfe](#), Richard A. Easterlin Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin- Madison**

Barbara Wolfe is the Richard A. Easterlin Professor of Economics, Population Health Sciences, and Public Affairs and Faculty Affiliate at the Institute for Research on Poverty. Her research focuses broadly on poverty and health issues. Wolfe's current projects examine whether housing voucher and public housing programs lead to better school performance of children in the household; how poverty influences critical brain areas among young children and these in turn influence school outcomes; the influence of growing up with a sibling who is adopted or who has a developmental disability or mental illness, or a sibling who dies, on outcomes as a young adult; and, a comparison of the effects of early childhood general health, physical health and mental health on long-term earnings and labor force participation.

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## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS



**[Lawrence M. Mead](#), Associated Professor, New York University**

Lawrence M. Mead is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at New York University. He is an expert on the problems of poverty and welfare in the United States and other Western countries. Among academics, he was the principal exponent of work requirements in welfare, the approach that now dominates national policy. He is a leading scholar of the politics and implementation of welfare reform and also work programs for men. His many books and articles on these subjects have helped shape social policy in the United States and abroad. He often testifies on poverty and welfare in Congress and comments on these subjects in the press. His next book, now in press, is about American culture and power.

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## FAMILY AND CHILD POLICY



**[Taryn Morrissey](#), Associate Professor, American University**

Dr. Morrissey's work centers on examining and improving public policies for vulnerable children. She is Associate Professor of public policy at AU, a non-resident fellow at the Urban Institute, and a Commissioner on the Washington, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education's Healthy Youth & Schools Commission. Ongoing research examines early care and education policy, family economic instability, and neighborhood poverty. Her work has been published in journals including Pediatrics, Child Development, Developmental Psychology, and the Journal of Marriage and Family.

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**[Christopher Wimer](#), Director, Center on Poverty & Social Policy, Columbia University**

Christopher Wimer conducts research on the measurement of poverty and disadvantage in both local and national contexts, as well as historical trends in poverty and the impacts of social policies on the poverty rate. He is the Project Director on the Robin Hood Poverty Tracker, and manages and participates in the research on many of the Center's poverty-related research projects. In addition to Wimer's research on measuring poverty and disadvantage, he focuses on how families cope with poverty and economic insecurity, manage food insecurity and other forms of material hardship. His work pays attention to the role of government policies and programs and their potential impacts on the wellbeing of low-income families and children.

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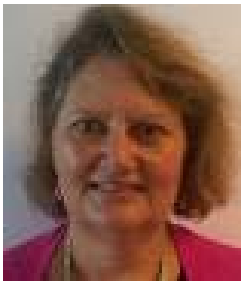
## HEALTH POLICY



**[Kevin Callison](#), Assistant Professor of Global Health Management and Policy, Tulane University**

Kevin Callison is an assistant professor in the Department of Global Health Management and Policy at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Kevin's research focus includes issues related to health care use, health insurance markets, and policy evaluation. His work also extends to analyses of health determinants and substance abuse.

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**[Sandra Decker](#), Economist, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

Sandra Decker has been an economist at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality since 2015, following 10 years at CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Her research focuses on the effects of state Medicaid policy on access to health care and has been published in *Health Affairs*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *the Journal of Health Economics*, and other outlets. She was a recipient of the CDC Shepard Award for excellence in scientific achievement and a two-time recipient of the CDC Billah Award for economic research. Dr. Decker earned a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

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**[Gregory Gilpin](#), Associate Professor of Economics at Montana State University**

Greg Gilpin is an Associate Professor of Economics at Montana State University after earning his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University in 2009. He has published in some of economics most prestigious journals, the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, and the *Economics of Education Review*. He recently was awarded a National Leadership Grant. Greg is passionate about researching education policy and finance, and has applied this expertise to the economics of public libraries. He has examined the effects of Internet growth on U.S. public library use and has worked with the Montana State Library to help improve high-speed Internet access. Dr. Gilpin also teaches at the university.

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**[Gilbert Gonzales](#), Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University**

Gilbert Gonzales is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Prior to Vanderbilt, he was a research assistant at the State Health Access Data Assistance Center where he used federal surveys to report state-level measures of population health and health care. Gonzales' research examines how state-level social policies and health reforms affect health and access to medical care in vulnerable families and children. His dissertation examined the impact of same-sex marriage laws on health insurance coverage among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples and their children. His research has appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Pediatrics*, *JAMA* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

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**[Todd A. Grindal](#), Senior Researcher, SRI International**

Todd Grindal, Ed.D., studies the impact of public policies on young children and children with disabilities. Currently, Grindal is participating in the evaluation of the Virginia Preschool Initiative, supporting a regression discontinuity study of the initiative's impact on children's school readiness outcomes. Grindal is also working on the Institute of Education Sciences Continuous Improvement Research in Education partnership grant with secondary schools in Montana. The objective of this project is to support lower performing students struggling with reading through improvement science methods.

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**[Maria Agustina Laurito](#), Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago**

Agustina Laurito is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In her research, Agustina uses administrative and survey data and quasi experimental methods to answer questions at the intersection of social, education, and health policy. Her current research projects investigate the role of non-school factors, including the home country, in shaping immigrant students' academic success, the interplay between SNAP and the National School Lunch program, the effect of neighborhood violence on child obesity, and the overall role that schools can play in ameliorating health deficiencies in childhood. She holds a PhD in Public Administration and Policy from New York University and a Master's of Public Policy from Duke University.

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**[Catherine Maclean](#), Associate Professor of Economics, Temple University**

Professor Maclean's research uses health and labor economic theory to empirically explore the causes and consequences of substance use, mental health, insurance coverage, and labor market outcomes. She is particularly interested in the role of public policies in influencing these outcomes. Professor Maclean is a Faculty Research Fellow in the Health Economics Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Research Affiliate at the Institute of Labor Economics. Her recent work examines the effect of insurance regulations, e-cigarette regulations, and access to healthcare services.

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**[Andrew Mulcahy](#), Policy Researcher and Associate Director, RAND Corporation**

Andrew Mulcahy is a policy researcher and associate director of the Economics, Sociology, and Statistics Department at the RAND Corporation; he is also a member of the Pardee RAND Graduate School faculty. His key research areas are prescription drugs, payment for health care services and drugs, and policy evaluation in general and particularly evaluation of Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions. He routinely uses large-scale health care claims and transactional data in his research. Mulcahy leads projects using claims data to evaluate components of the ACA including the dependent coverage, coverage expansion, and Medicaid primary care payment increase provisions. In the area of payment, Mulcahy's recent research focuses on the accurate valuation of services under the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale system used by Medicare and many other payers to pay practitioners. In prescription drugs, Mulcahy is the lead author on a set of RAND Perspectives outlining key policy issues around the 340B Drug Discount Program and biosimilars. Mulcahy's portfolio also includes analyses of medical care in California's workers' compensation system and an assessment of the U.S. blood system.

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**[Rebecca Myerson](#), Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical and Health Economics, University of Southern California**

Rebecca Myerson's research aims to quantify the impacts of policies on incidence and treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Her health economics research assesses whether informing patients about their health biomarkers and health insurance options closes gaps in uptake of needed care. Specific projects have analyzed trans fat restrictions, screening interventions, assistance programs for health insurance enrollment and Medicaid eligibility expansions. Her research has been funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and featured in outlets such as The New York Times, the Washington Post and NBC Nightly News. In 2018, Myerson's research was selected to receive the ISPOR Award for Excellence in Application of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research. She holds a doctorate in public policy from the University of Chicago with a concentration in applied econometrics, as well as a master's in public health from the University of Washington and a bachelor's in psychology from Harvard. Prior to graduate school, Myerson worked at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and conducted research in China as a Fulbright scholar.

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**[Adam Wilk](#), Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, Emory University**

Adam Wilk is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management. He is a health economist and health services researcher, conducting research on physician decision-making—both clinical and organizational—Medicaid and underserved populations, and the management of complex, chronically ill patients, particularly patients with end-stage renal disease undergoing dialysis. Other research interests include medical consultations in inpatient care and geographic variation in utilization, costs, and quality. Dr. Wilk received his doctorate at The University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2015. Before his time in Michigan, Dr. Wilk worked to develop episode-based cost-of-care measures at The Brookings Institution and as a consultant to state Medicaid agencies and private insurers at The Lewin Group.

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**[David Slusky](#), Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Kansas**

David Slusky, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Economics and an Oswald Scholar at the University of Kansas, where he also co-directs the Health Policy Research Group and is a faculty affiliate of the Institute for Policy & Social Research. His research focuses on how changes in public policy and environmental exposure affect health outcomes, primarily for women and children. Recent publications show that women's health clinic closures due to funding cuts reduce preventive care and increase the fertility rate of unmarried women, and that increases in maternal sunlight exposure reduce childhood asthma. His results have received substantial press coverage, including in the Economist, FiveThirtyEight, the Huffington Post, the New York Post, NPR, Slate, Vox, and the Washington Post. Dr. Slusky's research has also been funded in part by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. He also teaches courses on microeconomic theory, labor economics, and health policy, and advises graduate students working on dissertations in industrial organization and the economics of education. Previously, Dr. Slusky was a management consultant in Oliver Wyman's financial services practice in New York City. He holds a doctorate in economics from Princeton University, and an undergraduate degree in physics and international studies from Yale University.

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# HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND URBAN POLICY



**[Ingrid Ellen](#), Paulette Goddard Professor and Faculty Director of Urban Policy and Planning, New York University**

Ingrid Gould Ellen, the Paulette Goddard Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, is a Faculty Director at the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. She joined the NYU Wagner faculty in the fall of 1997 and teaches courses in microeconomics, urban economics, and urban policy. Professor Ellen's research interests center on housing and urban policy. She is author of *Sharing America's Neighborhoods: The Prospects for Stable Racial Integration* (Harvard University Press, 2000) and has written numerous journal articles and book chapters related to housing policy, community development, and school and neighborhood segregation. Professor Ellen has held visiting positions at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution. She attended Harvard University, where she received a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics, an M.P.P., and a Ph.D. in public policy.

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**[Austin Nichols](#), Principal Associate, Social & Economic Policy, Abt Associates**

Austin Nichols is a public finance expert who focuses on economic mobility. He has explored child poverty, income volatility and inequality, labor market interventions, disability and unemployment insurance, and other social programs. Nichols' specialties include applied econometrics, labor economics, education, demography, taxation and social insurance. His recent publications describe changes in social insurance programs and tax expenditures, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, disability insurance, and unemployment insurance systems. He recently developed a local-area population projection tool to help governments plan for future budgetary consequences of population change.

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**[Rachel Meltzer](#), Chair and Associate Professor of Public and Urban Policy, The New School**

Rachel Meltzer is an Associate Professor of Urban Policy and Chair of the Public and Urban Policy M.S. degree at the Milano School of Policy, Management and Environment. Her research is broadly concerned with urban economics and how market and policy forces can shape disparate outcomes for neighborhoods. She focuses on issues related to housing, land use, economic development and local public finance. Current projects look at how market-based, natural disaster and policy "shocks" impact retail and commercial activity in urban neighborhoods. These "shocks" range from gentrification to the introduction of broadband and suburban malls to Superstorm Sandy. Dr. Meltzer is also interested in the private provision of public goods, and she has explored a number of questions related to Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Homeowners Associations (HOAs). In addition, she has conducted research on Inclusionary Zoning, an alternative to traditional methods of providing affordable housing, including its impact on local housing markets and the political economy behind the adoption of such policies.

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**[Carolina K. Reid](#), Assistant Professor, University of California at Berkeley**

Carolina Reid is an Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley and Faculty Research Advisor for the Turner Center for Housing Innovation. She assists with the design and execution of the Center's research agenda and portfolio. Carolina specializes in housing and community development, with a specific focus on access to credit, homeownership and wealth inequality. She has most recently published research on the impact of the foreclosure crisis on low-income and minority communities, the role of the Community Reinvestment Act during the subprime crisis, and the importance of anti-predatory lending laws for consumer protection. Carolina is particularly interested in interdisciplinary research and the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods.

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**[Jenny Schuetz](#), David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution**

Jenny Schuetz is a David M. Rubenstein Fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. She has published extensively about housing policy, land use regulation, urban amenities, and neighborhood change. Jenny received a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University, a Master's in City Planning from M.I.T., and a B.A. with Highest Distinction in Economics and Political and Social Thought from the University of Virginia. Jenny served as a Principal Economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. She taught at the University of Southern California and at City College of New York and was a post-doctoral fellow at New York University.

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## INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

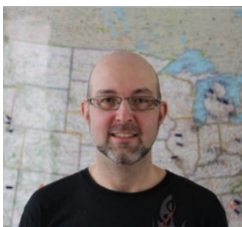


**[Omar Isaac Asensio](#), Assistant Professor, Georgia Tech School of Public Policy**

Dr. Omar Isaac Asensio is an Assistant Professor and Class of 1969 teaching fellow in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Tech. His research examines the role of big data in public policy issues. He conducts large-scale field experiments and uses statistical and computational tools to identify the causal effects of policies and interventions at regional and global scales. His current projects focus on behavioral strategies for resource conservation in cities, building efficiency and resilience, vehicle electrification and machine learning in transportation infrastructure. Dr. Asensio's research has been published in general interest journals such as *Nature Energy* and PNAS, as featured in NBC news, CBS radio, NPR, Yahoo! News, *Scientific American*, the *Economic Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is a faculty affiliate at the Institute for Data Engineering & Science (IDEaS), the Machine Learning Center, and the Climate and Energy Policy Laboratory.

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## METHODS AND TOOLS OF ANALYSIS



**[Andrew P. Jaciw](#), Chief Scientist, Empirical Education Inc.**

Andrew Jaciw has 22 years of experience in the field of education: 6 as a practitioner and 16 as a researcher. As Empirical's Chief Scientist, Jaciw has led the design and analysis of 25 randomized experiments and multiple quasi-experiments involving SEAs and LEAs, including 6 trials carried out through ED's Institute of Education Sciences grants. Jaciw directed the design and analysis and co-authored the report of a state-wide, cluster-randomized trial involving 80 schools and around 700 teachers, assessing the efficacy of the **Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative** over a three year period. His research interests include problems of generalizability, implementation fidelity, and use of mixed methods to unpack impact findings from experiments. Stanford University awarded Jaciw an MS in Epidemiology and a PhD in Education, focused on identifying factors that lead to discrepancies between quasi-experiments and true experiments in the analysis of program impacts. Before his MS, Jaciw earned a BS in statistics and MA in math education at the University of Toronto and worked as a statistical **analyst** at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office.

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**[Erica Zielewski](#), Senior Evidence Analyst at Office of Management and Budget**

Erica Zielewski is currently a Senior Evidence Analyst on the Evidence Team in the Office of Management and Budget's Economic Policy Division. As a member of the Evidence Team, she undertakes activities to promote evidence building and use across the federal government, including serving as an internal expert on program evaluation within OMB and working with agencies to build capacity in this area. Erica started her federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2009. At OPRE, she most recently led the Division of Data and Improvement, focused on interoperability and administrative data use, with prior roles overseeing large-scale evaluations of employment and training programs, asset-building efforts, and programs serving disconnected youth. Prior to joining ACF, she was a Research Associate at the Urban Institute where her research focused on the child welfare system, adoption, and youth aging out of foster care. Erica has an MPP from Georgetown University, and a BA in Political Science from Vassar College.

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**[Mimi Engel](#), Associate Professor, University of Colorado Boulder**

Mimi Engel is an associate professor in the Research and Evaluation Methodology (REM) program in the CU-Boulder School of Education. Through her research Dr. Engel aims to contribute to our understanding of how policies and programs affect children's developmental outcomes and opportunities to learn. Her interest in studying how schools and other contexts influence students is informed by her training in human development and social policy and social work. Spanning several areas including teacher labor markets (focus on teacher hiring) and early skill formation (focus on mathematics teaching and learning for young children), and contextual influences on children, the central aim of her research is to provide new information about policies, programs, and administrative factors that have the potential to improve students' school-related outcomes, particularly among students from traditionally under-served populations.

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**[Steven Glazerman](#), Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research**

Steven Glazerman has expertise in methods for evaluating the impact of social programs and in teacher labor markets, including issues of teacher recruitment, professional development, alternative certification, performance measurement, and compensation. He is an expert on student achievement growth models and value added. His recent research has focused on school choice, especially consumer demand and the role of information in school choice behavior. Glazerman is the director of state and local education partnerships and also directs the Educator Impact Laboratory.

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## NATIONAL SECURITY AND HOMELAND SECURITY



**[George Atisa](#), Assistant Professor, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

Dr. George Atisa is an Assistant Professor in the department of Public Affairs and Security Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. His research analyzes international, regional and domestic governance issues and systems, political and administrative decentralization in Africa, public and environmental policy, biodiversity, ecosystem services and water resources. This research cuts across government and non-governmental organizations in the administration of public sector programs with a broad focus on sustainable development as well as climate change. He is an external expert reviewer with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services. Dr. Atisa serves on the Commission on Environment, Economics and Social Policy of the IUCN. He has a PhD in Public Affairs and an MSc in Environmental Sciences from Florida International University and an MA in Economics from the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

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## NATURAL RESOURCE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



**[Sanya Carley](#), Associate Professor, Indiana University**

Sanya Carley is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Policy Analysis and Public Finance faculty at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Her research focuses on electricity and transportation policy, and the effects, effectiveness, and unintended consequences of these policies. She also researches energy-based economic development and public perceptions of emerging energy technologies. Dr. Carley has extensive consulting experience with the World Bank, RTI International, ARCEconomics, The Nicholas Institute, and the Environmental Protection Agency. She is a managing editor of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* and on the editorial boards of *Public Administration Review* and *Energy Research & Social Science*. She received her Ph.D. in public policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and bachelor's degrees in economics and sustainable development from Swarthmore College.

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**[Ana Espinola-Arredondo](#), Associate Professor, Washington State University**

Ana Espinola-Arredondo is Associate Professor in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University since 2014. Her research and teaching focus on the areas of environmental economics, game theory and industrial organization. She received a PhD in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh and was awarded the Research Medal Award of the Global Development Network, sponsored by the World Bank. She is a Co-editor in *Economic Inquiry*. Dr. Espinola-Arredondo has several publications in the field of environmental economics in which she has analyzed the strategic behavior of firms under the presence of environmental regulation and uncertainty.

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**[Agustin Leon-Moreta](#), Associate Professor, University of New Mexico**

Agustin Leon-Moreta is Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico. A former Fulbright Fellow, he received his PhD in Public Administration and Policy from the Askew School at Florida State University. His research has been published in a range of scholarly journals, including *Urban Studies*, *State and Local Government Review*, *the American Review of Public Administration*, *Public Administration Quarterly*, and *Public Administration Review*, and he has refereed articles for the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Urban Studies*, the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, and *Urban Geography*. A nationally awarded scholar, his work has been sponsored by local and national grants, including awards from the Department of State, Department of Education, and the American Political Science Association. His published research covers the interaction of social context, institutional capacity, and the delivery of municipal services.

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## POLITICS, MEDIA, AND THE POLICY PROCESS



**[Emmerich Davies](#), Assistant Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Emmerich Davies is an assistant professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He works on the political economy of education with a regional focus on South Asia. He is interested in the effects of education on citizen-state relations, political participation and socialization, and the effects of the growth of private education in low-income democracies. He has studied the effects of decentralization on political participation in Bolivia, the effects of private education on political behavior in South India, and the effects of the expansion of basic education on political participation in India. His approach is methodologically diverse, including field and natural experiments, household and public opinion survey data, large administrative datasets, archival research, and participant observation.

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**[Sherry Glied](#), Dean & Professor of Public Service, New York University**

In 2013, Sherry Glied was named Dean of New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. From 1989-2013, she was Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She was Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management from 1998-2009. On June 22, 2010, Glied was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, and served in that capacity from July 2010 through August 2012. She had previously served as Senior Economist for health care and labor market policy on the President's Council of Economic Advisers in 1992-1993, under Presidents Bush and Clinton, and participated in the Clinton Health Care Task Force. She has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Social Insurance, and the Board of AcademyHealth, and has been a member of the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Health Advisers.

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## POPULATION AND MIGRATION ISSUES



**[Abigail Fisher Williamson](#), Assistant Professor, Trinity College**

Abigail Fisher Williamson is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy & Law at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Her book *Welcoming New Americans? Local Governments and Immigrant Incorporation* (University of Chicago Press, 2018) focuses on municipal responses to immigrants and how these policies shape social and political incorporation. She is a co-editor of *The Politics of New Immigrant Destinations: Transatlantic Perspectives* (Temple University Press, 2017). Her research has received funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Ruth Landes Memorial Fund, and Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS). She holds a Ph.D. and Masters in Public Policy from Harvard and a BA from Williams College.

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**[Julia Gelatt](#), Senior Policy Analyst, U.S. Immigration Policy Program**

Julia Gelatt is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, working with the U.S. Immigration Policy Program. Her work focuses on the legal immigration system, demographic trends, and the implications of local, state, and federal U.S. immigration policy. Dr. Gelatt previously worked as a Research Associate at the Urban Institute, where her mixed-methods research focused on state policies toward immigrants; barriers to and facilitators of immigrant families' access to public benefits and public prekindergarten programs; and identifying youth victims of human trafficking. She was a Research Assistant at MPI before graduate school.

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**[Justin Gest](#), Assistant Professor, George Mason University**

Justin Gest is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. His teaching and research interests include comparative politics, immigration, and demographic change. His research has been published in journals including *Citizenship Studies*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Global Governance*, the *International Migration Review*, *Migration Studies*, and the *Review of Middle East Studies*. He has also published commentary, analysis or contributed reporting to newspapers, including *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, *The Hill*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Politico*, *Reuters*, *The Times*, and *The Washington Post*. From 2010 to 2014, Gest was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in Harvard University's Departments of Government and Sociology. In 2014, he received the Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Harvard's highest award for teaching. In 2013, he received the Star Family Prize for Student Advising. From 2007 to 2010, he co-founded the Migration Studies Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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**[Matthew Hall](#), Associate Professor, Cornell University**

Matthew Hall is an Associate Professor of Policy Analysis & Management and (by courtesy) Sociology, and the Training Director for the Cornell Population Center. A sociologist and demographer by training, Hall's research focuses on understanding the causes and consequences of demographic change, with particular emphasis on evaluating the impact of immigration on neighborhoods, schools, and labor markets. His research has assessed how immigrant legal status affects workers' ability to find housing, secure work, negotiate wages, and avoid occupational risks. He has also contributed extensively to scholarship on processes of residential segregation and neighborhood change. His most recent work is directed at examining how local immigration enforcement and deportations affect well-being and community development, as well as, exploring the spatial dynamics of discrimination in U.S. housing markets.

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**[Melinda Weisberg](#), Assistant Professor, Marist College**

Melinda Weisberg has a long and distinguished career in nonprofit management and education. She is a tenure track assistant professor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. She teaches undergraduate courses in Organizational Behavior, Human Resource Management, and Introduction to Business, as well as a course in Change Management in the MBA Program. Prior to joining Marist, she held leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, including serving as a Leadership Trainer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and as Executive Director for the Interfaith HIV/AIDS Ministry of Danbury CT. From 2006 to 2012 she was Director of Organizational Development and Public Policy, Astor Services for Children & Families, Hudson Valley and Bronx, NY. In this capacity, she oversaw Human Resources for 700+ employees and led development of the long-term strategic plan for this \$50 million agency that provides behavioral health and education services to over 6,000 children and their families.

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## POVERTY AND INCOME POLICY



**[Crystal C. Hall](#), Associate Professor, University of Washington**

Crystal Hall joined the Evans School faculty in 2008. She teaches courses on psychology for policy analysis, decision theory, and quantitative analysis. Her research explores decision making in the context of poverty, using the methods of social and cognitive psychology, along with behavioral economics. This work has focused on financial decision making and economic opportunity for low-income families. Her work has also explored new ways of incorporating these insights into policy design and implementation. She has a record of serving government agencies at the local, state, and federal level – including having served as a Fellow on the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences Team and the Federal Office of Evaluation Sciences at the General Services Administration. She is also an Academic Affiliate of ideas42, and a Faculty Affiliate at the University of Washington's West Coast Poverty Center. Hall holds a PhD and MA in Psychology from Princeton University. In addition, she holds a BS from Carnegie Mellon University in both decision science and policy and management.

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**[Lauren Jones](#), Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University**

Lauren Jones is an Assistant Professor in the department of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. Dr. Jones conducts quantitative, policy-based research on child and family wellbeing, especially in the areas of consumer protection, social policy and health. Broadly, her interests lie in understanding factors that affect the ability of children and families to flourish, and how government policy can help families get ahead. Her recent work has focused on the effects of the EITC on household finance, and on understanding the determinants of the opioid crisis. Dr. Jones's work has been published in top journals such as the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, and the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, and has been covered in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News* and the *New York Times*. In 2017, Dr. Jones won the Raymond Vernon Memorial Prize for best paper published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

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**[Edward Vargas](#), School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University**

Edward D. Vargas obtained his Ph.D. in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. His research interests include the effects of poverty and inequality on the quality of life, focusing specifically on health, education, and social policy, and how these factors contribute to the well-being of vulnerable families. In particular, he is examining the effects of immigration policy and deportations on health, health hardships on the well-being of Latino/a families.

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## PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE



**[Anna Amirkhanyan](#), Associate Professor, American University**

Professor Amirkhanyan's research focuses on public and nonprofit management, organizational performance, public-private differences, and citizen participation. Her articles have been published in various outlets such as the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (J-PART), Public Administration Review, the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, and others. Professor Amirkhanyan has received 2006 National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration Annual Dissertation Award, 2007 SPA Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community, and 2008 SPA Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching, and 2017 SPA Pioneer Award. She served on the Board of Directors of the Public Management Research Association and is on the Editorial Board of J-PART.

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**[Jeremy Barofsky](#), Vice President of Applied Research and Evaluation, ideas42**

Jeremy Barofsky's work covers the intersection between health and poverty, where the application of behavioral economics can improve wellbeing and human capital formation. Prior to joining ideas42, Jeremy was the Okun-Model Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution and a non-resident fellow there in Governance Studies. He has published on how health investments affect economic development in sub-Saharan Africa and the impact of Mexico's health insurance program for its low-income population. His work has appeared in publications such as the Journal of Health Economics, The Lancet, and Health Affairs. Jeremy received his doctorate from Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Global Health and Population (Economics) and holds a Master's degree in Economics from Boston University.

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**[Stuart Bretschneider](#), Foundation Professor, Arizona State University's School of Public Affairs**

Stuart Bretschneider is a Foundation professor of Organization Design and Public Administration at Arizona State University. He is the director of research and a senior research associate at the school's Center for Organization Research and Design. Previously, Bretschneider was a Maxwell Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs and Director of the Center for Technology and Information Policy at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. His research has focused on how public organizations make use of information technology and the effects of those technologies on public organizations; how public organizations employ forecasting technology and organize to carry out forecasting activities; and how sector differences affect administrative processes. He also has done work in Science and Technology policy, including funded projects associated with the evaluation of public policy in the energy, environment and technology areas. Bretschneider was a past president of the International Institute of Forecasters, as well as a director. He was the managing editor for the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* from 1992-2000.

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**[Can Chen](#), Assistant Professor, Florida International University**

Dr. Can Chen is an Assistant Professor of Public Budgeting and Finance who joined the Department of Public Policy & Administration at Florida International University (FIU) in Fall 2015. His core research agenda focuses on developing sound capital planning and budgeting practices for state and local governments and promoting innovative, efficient, and effective infrastructure financing to support critical infrastructure that is sustainable in its financing and funding, use, performance, and maintenance. His academic work has been published in the leading academic journals: *Public Management Review*, *American Review of Public*

*Administration*, *Transport Policy*, *Public Finance Review*, *Public Budgeting & Finance*, *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*, *Municipal Finance Journal*, *Public Works Management & Policy*, and *Food Studies: An International Journal*. He received several national awards and grants for his research.

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**[Daniel \(Yuan\) Cheng](#), Assistant Professor, The University of Minnesota**

Daniel (Yuan) Cheng is an assistant professor with a research focus on a range of theoretical and managerial questions lying at the nexus of polycentric governance, government-nonprofit relationships, coproduction, and the distributional and performance implications of cross-sectoral collaboration, often with a substantive focus on urban sustainability. Recent research examines the processes and consequences of nonprofits becoming important players in determining and supporting public service provision in the context of parks and recreation services in large

US cities. Cheng holds a PhD in Public Affairs from Indiana University Bloomington, a master's degree in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Zhejiang University (China). He has earned awards from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, the Ostrom Workshop, and the Center for Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania.

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**[Nathan Dietz](#), Associate Research Scholar, University of Maryland**

Nathan Dietz, Ph.D. joined the Do Good Institute in March 2017 as an Associate Research Scholar after over twenty years of conducting and managing research projects in government, the nonprofit sector, and academia. His recent publications include articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, and *Nonprofit Policy Forum*, as well as two recent Spotlight reports published by the Giving Institute, sponsors of the annual Giving USA report on American philanthropy. His work focuses on social capital, volunteering, charitable contributions, civic engagement and social entrepreneurship, especially among college students and young adults.

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**[Dallas Elgin](#), Senior Research Associate, 2m Research**

Dallas J. Elgin is a Senior Research Associate with 2M Research. He holds a PhD in Public Affairs with an emphasis in Public Policy from the University of Colorado's School of Public Affairs. Dr. Elgin has 10 years of professional public policy research experience in the public and private sectors. At 2M, his responsibilities include developing research designs, data collection, utilizing econometric and mixed-methods research methodologies to conduct rigorous evaluations, and summarizing and communicating research findings. Elgin's experience includes serving as a Senior Researcher at the Colorado Department of Human Services as the state's senior expert in internal and contracted program evaluation efforts. His policy-focused research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including *Public Administration*, *Governance*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, and *Review of Policy Research*, among others.

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**[Travis St. Clair](#), Assistant Professor, New York University**

Travis St. Clair is an assistant professor at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, focusing broadly on financial management in the public sector. His research examines the long-term budgetary challenges facing state and local governments in the United States, and how fiscal institutions, such as tax limitations or accounting rules, mediate governments' responses to these challenges. Some recent projects examine contribution volatility in public defined benefit pension plans and the effect of new accounting standards on municipal debt issuance. In addition to his substantive interests in financial management, St. Clair also has methodological interests in causal inference and program evaluation. He received a BA in chemistry from Harvard and a PhD in public policy from George Washington University. From 2012-2013, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research. Prior to joining NYU, he was an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland.

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**[Ann Huff Stevens](#), Deputy Director, Center for Poverty Research**

Ann Huff Stevens is Deputy Director of the Center for Poverty Research and Professor of Economics at UC Davis. She studies low income workers and labor markets, the incidence and effects of job loss, connections between economic shocks and health, and poverty and safety-net dynamics. Her current work examines returns to vocational education programs, the dynamics of EITC eligibility, and long-term effects of labor force non-participation. Stevens previously served on the faculty at Rutgers and Yale Universities and is a faculty research associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research. At UC Davis, Stevens has served as Chair of the Department of Economics and Interim Dean of the Graduate School of Management. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and has served as a principal investigator on grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

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**[Lang \(Kate\) Yang](#), Assistant Professor, George Washington University**

Lang (Kate) Yang teaches public budgeting and finance and conducts research on state and local public finance and financial management. Dr. Yang examines the source, type and impact of state and local government fiscal stress, especially severe fiscal challenges such as default and bankruptcy, in the fiscal federalism framework. She publishes in journals including *Public Administration Review*, *National Tax Journal*, *Health Economics*, *Public Budgeting and Finance* and *Local Government Studies*. Prior to her academic career, she worked as a program evaluation specialist for the Minnesota state legislature.

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## SOCIAL EQUALITY AND RACE



**[Ferzana Havewala](#), Assistant Professor, University of Baltimore**

Ferzana Havewala was born and raised in Bombay (now Mumbai), India. Through her college years, she volunteered at Akanksha, an informal school for underprivileged street children from the slums in Bombay. This experience shaped the rest of her academic and career choices leading to the study of social inequality and policies to address the same. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Economy from the University of Texas at Dallas. Prior to her Ph.D., she attended the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and received a Master of Public Policy. Ferzana also holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a minor in Statistics from The University of Mumbai. Her research focuses on the dynamics of residential segregation in terms of race and income, and the food environment. She is interested in the intersectionality of race, social inequality, poverty, residential segregation and food security.

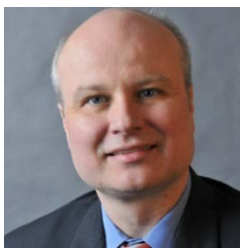
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**[Kristen Cooksey Stowers](#), Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Connecticut**

Dr. Kristen Cooksey Stowers is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at the University of Connecticut, focusing on research to address how public policy influences inequities in obesity prevalence through community food retail environments that are considered “food swamps.” Dr. Cooksey Stowers earned her B.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Master’s in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Policy in 2016 from Duke University, where she was a Dean’s Graduate Fellow and National Institutes of Health Pre-doctoral Fellow with the Add Health Parent Study. Her dissertation examined zoning restrictions on fast food as an obesity prevention strategy. Dr. Cooksey Stowers’ research with the UConn Rudd Center will focus on strategies to improve the nutritional quality of foods that flow through the emergency food system, with an emphasis on food banks. She will also work on refining WellSAT-I as a reliable measure of school wellness policy implementation.

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**[Christian Weller](#), Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston**

Prior to joining the faculty, Christian Weller was a senior economist at the Center for American Progress, where he remains a senior fellow. He has also worked at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., Center for European Integration Studies at the University of Bonn in Germany, under the Department of Public Policy of the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C., and in banking in Germany, Belgium, and Poland. Weller has published more than 100 articles in academic and popular publications. His academic publications have appeared in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, and *Journal of Economic Issues*, among others. His popular writings include pieces in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. In 2006, he was awarded the Outstanding Scholar-Practitioner Award from the Labor and Employment Relations Association. He is also a research associate at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. and a research scholar at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.