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Nataliia Borozdina

Policy Management

Natalia comes to the Public Policy program with multiple graduate degrees. She has a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Education both from the University of Arkansas as well a Master of Foreign Language Education and a PhD in Education from Kursk State University in Russia. While pursuing her Public Policy PhD she is also working on a Master of Analytics and Statistics degree. She has chosen to concentrate on management policy with a focus on education and environmental policies. She chose this area to complement her previous PhD studies in

which she has more than 10 years of experience. Her main research area is K-12 climate change education in the United States.

Nataliia left her hometown of Kursk, Russia to come to the University of Arkansas in 2017 as a Fulbright Scholar and liked the area so much she decided to stay. She comes by her interest in education policy honestly as her mother was a university professor and her grandmother taught math.

She hopes to be able to combine her academic career with community outreach and do something like start a non-profit organization that focuses on helping individuals to succeed academically.



Social Justice Policy

Erica is a current employee of the University of Arkansas School of Social Work as a Field Trainer where she is tasked with training newly hired caseworkers and supervisors throughout their first year of employment with DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services). She has a Master in Sociology from the University of Arkansas and is specializing in Social Justice Policy for her PhD. Her main research interest is child welfare policy. Erica believes the skills and knowledge she will



Erica Bowles

gain in the Policy program will provide valuable insight into addressing the issues faced by underserved populations in our communities and is excited to be part of a “forward thinking, diverse, and progressive program.”

Erica plans to use her Public Policy PhD “to continue work on improving the lives of children in Arkansas whether that be in child welfare, education, etc., potentially writing policy to advocate for change at the state level or within the Department of Children and Family Services. I am also interested in helping others learn about the challenges children face in Arkansas and what action can be taken.”

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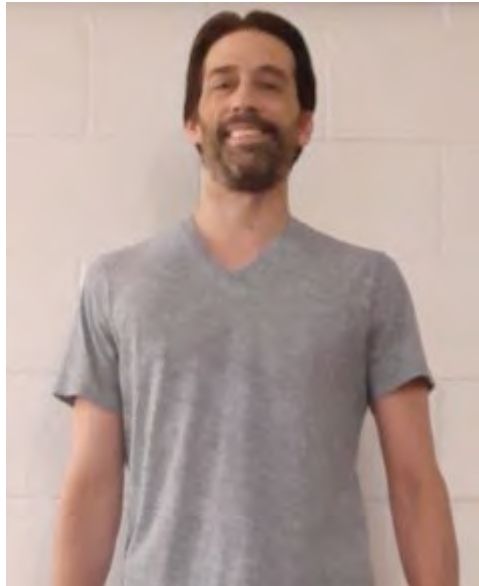
Eva Caroline

Agriculture Policy

Eva Caroline came to the University of Arkansas from Bali, Indonesia as a Fulbright Scholar in Agricultural Economics. After graduating from Fisheries University in Indonesia, she spent 11 years working in the supply chain of the fisheries sector before continuing her education. She is enjoying the fulfilling yet challenging life of being an employee, graduate student, and mother of 3 girls.

Eva chose UA Public Policy program because it has renowned faculty in the field of agricultural policy whose research interests align with her own. The UA also provides tremendous research opportunities with the availability of funding, access to data and collaborative research environments. She is particularly interested in researching sustainable resource management in agriculture and wild capture fisheries. Eva plans to study strategies and policies that can enhance agricultural sustainability in the face of water scarcity and how those policies can balance the conversation of marine ecosystems with the socioeconomic needs of fishing communities. She would also like to uncover how collaborative governance models and stakeholder engagement can be leveraged to create more effective policies for this sector.

Eventually Eva hopes to use her expertise and education to become a consultant or International Development Specialist or perhaps the leader of a Non-Governmental Organization that can contribute to the development of her home country of Indonesia, especially in the agricultural and fisheries sectors.



David Hollingsworth

Agriculture Policy

David comes to the Public Policy program bringing with him years of legislative and policy expertise. He received a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas in 2002 and for the past 20+ years has served as legislative assistant for two U.S. Representatives as well as policy advisor/director for two not-for-profits in Washington D.C.

He plans to specialize in Agriculture policy due to the growing impacts of climate change and the need for innovative policy making. He specifically is interested in researching regenerative agriculture, agroecology, and agriculture economics. The UA's strong agriculture programs and the opportunity to return to his native state of Arkansas made choosing the University's Public Policy program particularly attractive. While David has no specific career plans for the future, he is not ruling out the possibility of staying in academia.



Xochitl Delgado Solorzano

Education Policy

Xochitl's passion for education began with her studies in Spanish Literature at the University of Kansas, where she delved into the narrative of cultural identities and linguistic diversity. This exploration sparked a desire to make a tangible impact on educational access, prompting her to pursue a Master's degree in Public Service from the prestigious Clinton School of Public Service and now a PhD in public policy here at the University of Arkansas with a specialization in education policy.

As a recruiter for the University, Xochitl actively seeks out talented individuals from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities who have the potential to succeed in college, but may not have considered attending or may have chosen alternative paths. This has fueled her desire to examine policy factors that influence students' decisions regarding higher education and shed light on how policy decisions can either support or hinder access to higher education opportunities.

Xochitl chose the UA program due to the university's commitment to inclusive education and the opportunity to continue her work supporting students as well as the affordability of taking advantage of the tuition discount provided to staff members.

Alumni Spotlight


Dr. Meredith McKee Adkins

Dr. Adkins is a 2022 Public Policy alumna who specialized in Community Development during her time in the program. Though she studied sustainable international development during her Political Science master's program she changed her focus toward home, choosing to prioritize community development in Arkansas due to the high rate of poverty and the income and social inequalities within her home state.

Her dissertation, *Reconciling Conflicting Institutional Logics: Community Reinvestment Officers at the Intersection of Public Policy and Market Forces*, examined the multiple conflicting field-level institutional logics that private sector managers must reconcile between the demands of public policy with their market driven missions.

Immediately upon graduation Dr. Adkins continued working as the Director for Northwest Arkansas Industry and Community Engagement for the Division of Economic Development at the UA where she had been recognized by community awards such as Celebrate Arkansas' *Ones to Watch* in 2022. However, it didn't take long for Dr. Adkins to find her true calling. She states, "Obtaining my doctorate opened up a new career opportunity for me, as I was hired as an Assistant Research Professor by the Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research (I³R) in January of this year. I³R is a translational research institute. Our mission is to pioneer solutions to wicked problems through convergence research across academic, industry, government, and non-profit sectors to make a positive societal impact by creating and deploying innovations to scale." By working at the Institute, she is able to combine her interests in economic development and community engagement with the institution's priorities of innovation and entrepreneurship to create a positive societal impact. She is currently the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator grant funded study involving the transformation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered data to make it more accessible to smaller businesses.

Dr. Adkins gives a lot of the credit for her current success to the Public Policy program, "I would absolutely not be in the position that I am in without the PUBP program." Speaking with mentors and faculty throughout the program helped her to realize that her passion was to make a tangible posi-



difference for her community and her new position allows her to do just that. She also credits the rigors of the doctoral program for preparing her to write winning NSF grant proposals. And acknowledges, "Without the support of my committee members, most especially my dissertation chair, Dr. Margaret Reid, I'm not sure how I could have finished. She had patience and encouragement for me for many years, for which I am extremely grateful."

2022
Will Miller
Distinguished Dissertation Award
Winner
Dr. Marei Houpert



Dr. Houpert's dissertation titled "Decision Making Under Uncertainty Among Agricultural Commodity Traders" consists of three articles that explore the complex reasons for commodity traders to engage in so-called forward transactions. The first part explores if traders are able to perform consistently, while the second section investigates if either the length of a forward contract or the price basis influences decision making. The third section takes a look at the importance of public information for agricultural producers to sell or for commercial traders to buy a commodity. The findings demonstrate that under certain conditions some traders are able to perform consistently and that at high price levels, traders engage in shorter transactions. Public information is used by buyers and sellers to inform their decisions. These results may support policymakers in allocating financial resources efficiently while supplying public information and supporting efficient markets.

Policy Studies Journal
Benefits Students, Program,
and University

By Callie Embry

The *Policy Studies Journal* (PSJ) is a premier, peer-reviewed academic journal that enjoys the status of being the flagship publication of the Policy Studies Organization (PSO). It is ranked among the top 30 Political Science journals according to its Clarivate 2-year Impact Factor. It was ranked 4th according to the 2022 Scopus CiteScore and the 6th most cited journal by Goggle

Scholar in the Public Policy and Administration Category. I recently had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Geoboo Song and some of the staff of the *Policy Studies Journal* who found its home at the University of Arkansas when Dr. Song became the Editor-in-Chief this past summer.

PSJ has a long and distinguished history that Dr. Song was happy to share. "It was first published in 1972, and since then has continued to maintain its status as a highly selective and prestigious publication, replete with scholarly articles of the highest quality." Aside from being

affiliated with PSO, the former editors of the publication include some of the most well-known names in policy research; Drs. Hank Jenkins-Smith, Chris Weible, Peter DeLeon, Edella Schlager, and Michael Jones.

Follow the *PSJ* at:

PSJ website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15410072>

PSJ blog: <https://psjblog.net>

Twitter (or X): https://twitter.com/PSJ_Editor

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/psjlv>



Pictured from left to right are *Journal* student staff members Ben Galloway, Camille Gilmore, Morgan Farrar, Nataliaia Borozdina, and Izehi Oriaghan accompanied by editor-in-chief Dr. Geoboo Song

One of the biggest benefits of bringing the *Policy Studies Journal* to the University is the impact it has already had on the UA's Public Policy program. While the senior editorial staff is comprised of renowned scholars in the field, specifically Drs. Gwen Arnold (UC-Davis), Melissa Merry (Louisville), Aaron Smith-Walter (Massachusetts Lowell), and Holly Peterson (LSU) as well as managing Editor, Dr. Creed Tumlinson (Cal State Bakersfield); the editorial associates and assistants are MPA and Public Policy PhD students.

Ben Galloway and Victor Kwaku Akakpo, who are both Public Policy Ph.D. students at U of A, play a vital role in ensuring that the manuscripts submitted to the journal meet the author guidelines. This involves processing new manuscripts and checking for adherence to these guidelines. On the other hand, Nataliaia Borozdina and Camille Gilmore, who are also Public Policy Ph.D. students at U of A, work on different aspects of the *PSJ* website, *PSJ* blog, and social media campaign. These platforms are critical in disseminating information about the journal and engaging with a broader audience of scholars and practitioners interested in policy studies. Chris Giller, Izehi Oriaghan, and Morgan Farrar, who are all Public Policy Ph.D. or MPA students at U of A, are integral to the overall success of *PSJ*. They provide support across a range of activities, including project management, impact factor analysis, generating special collections, and fact-checking on issues.

The journal staff shared their perspective on the benefits of being involved with such a prestigious journal. Not only are they building editorial skills and the obvious benefit of being able to put their contributions on their resumes, working on the journal has also brought many other benefits. Camille was first to note the benefits of having a "behind the scenes" look at the whole publication system. Izehi added that it has demystified both the writing and the submission process as well as humanized some of those authors that have been required reading in classes. Additionally, Morgan noted the advantage of having early access to the latest articles that she could leverage for her own research interests.

Working on the journal has also provided what Dr. Song referred to as a 'hidden curriculum', providing an education on things that are not often brought up in the classroom. Nataliaia spoke of the importance of journal choice when submitting a manuscript and how that had never really crossed her mind prior to her work on the journal when she stated, "Sometimes we get great articles, but they don't fit the mission of the journal, so we have to look for something else." Camille revealed that she is interested to see how her exposure to so many varied articles outside the classroom will impact her ability to read and analyze research over time.

Another benefit to the students is networking
(Continued...)

opportunities. They have developed a community amongst themselves, as well as with university faculty, and they also get to work with the associate editors at other universities across the country. As Ben noted, “I get to network outside of the university when I go to conferences. I get to attend the *PSJ* reception and hang out with the other editors and meet other people through them.” Izehi added, “We get to see ourselves in different spaces with other people in the whole of academia and see how we measure up in such a space.”

The *PSJ* will not only be a benefit to those who are part of the Staff but will also be a benefit to the



Public Policy program and the university as a whole. As Dr. Song states, “I am thrilled by the fact that the University of Arkansas is now home to the *Policy Studies Journal* editorship. This is a huge achievement for our Public Policy Ph.D. program, as it adds immense value to our research capabilities and academic reputation. Having the editorship of *PSJ* at our institution provides a unique opportunity for

faculty and students to be at the forefront of the latest developments and research trends in public policy. This access to cutting-edge research ensures that our curriculum remains relevant, and our students are well-prepared to tackle the complex challenges facing society. Furthermore, hosting the *PSJ* editorship puts the University of Arkansas on the map in the field of public policy. This prestigious journal has a wide readership across academia and policymaking communities around the world. Being associated with such a well-regarded journal serves as a powerful signal to other scholars and institutions that our program is of the highest quality.”