Making a Better Future – Together
Berkeley Public Policy Conference and Alumni Gathering

FALL 2023

CA100 and Possibility Lab Launch
Government Innovation

DC Immersion: An Interview with Janet Napolitano

GSPP Welcomes Six New Faculty

gspp.berkeley.edu
that can produce more resilient and impactful leaders. Governments in Ukraine, Taiwan, and South Korea—and are looking to establish new collaboration on real-world projects. Finally, we have established commitments to work with private firms to create opportunities for our students to apply their policy analysis and implement their ideas for the nation’s benefit. We are also working with Alameda county and the city of Berkeley on leveraging data for federal policy endeavors and drafting legislation that yields valuable data for federal data policies and their practical applications. The program focused on leveraging research and development for Congressional staff about emerging technologies and ethical challenges. The collaboration produced a training program for Congressional staff about emerging technologies and ethical challenges.

We have acquired new facilities that will house our expansion, including new research centers and collaborative efforts. We have created new programs in early childhood learning sciences and security policy. We are bringing some of the most innovative minds to our school as fellows through our Tech Policy initiative. And, we are actively developing programs to offer the most thorough and user-friendly training on technology and AI changes, bolstering public confidence and awareness, and improving decision-making about the design, application, ethics, and oversight of burgeoning technologies.

Indeed, we envision UC Berkeley as a dynamic nexus for democratic ideation and transformation. Our commitment extends to grassroots involvement. We’ve inaugurated a pivotal civic alliance with the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, championing ideas and pioneering research to invigorate the public sector and catalyze policy innovation.

Building our capacity to address the pace of technological advancement is also a Gold- man priority. We are launching a joint faculty search with Berkeley’s School of Information in Technology Policy, Governance, and Society. Research Professors Brandie Nonnecke and Andrew Reddie are stewarding policy innovations and ideas at their respective Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) Policy Lab and Berkeley Risk and Security Lab (BBRL). They will help us maximize the benefits of such tech and AI changes, bolstering public confidence and awareness, and improving decision-making about the design, application, ethics, and oversight of burgeoning technologies.

GSPP is also expanding our partnerships. This past year we worked with USAFacts, a nonpartisan civic endeavor dedicated to offering the most thorough and user-friendly repository of government metrics, and to creating a fresh professional development program. The collaboration produced a training program for Congressional staff about federal data policies and their practical applications. The program focused on leveraging data for federal policy endeavors and drafting legislation that yields valuable data for the nation’s benefit. We are also working with Alameda county and the city of Berkeley to create opportunities for our students to apply their policy analysis and implementation skills on real-world projects. Finally, we have established commitments to work with governments in Ukraine, Taiwan, and South Korea—and are looking to establish new relationships in the region of Latin America—to create public service training programs that can produce more resilient and impactful leaders.

These questions are prompting our faculty and staff to rethink how we engage, empower, and inspire our students to tackle these issues with good, effective policy. In addition, we have to ask the same questions about how we engage and inspire our alumni, and local and state public servants. As the dean of the Goldman School, I grapple with these questions daily, recognizing that solutions cannot be found in isolation. It’s imperative to engage the whole of the GSPP community so that we can accelerate our ability to tackle intractable issues by leveraging our expertise, our methods, and our values.

To meet our goals of being a transformational school of public policy, we are investing in several areas. We have grown our faculty, staff, and student bodies exponentially. We have acquired new facilities that will house our expansion, including new research centers and collaborative efforts. We have created new programs in early childhood learning sciences and security policy. We are bringing some of the most innovative minds to our school as fellows through our Tech Policy initiative. And, we are actively developing proposals for our Democracy Policy Initiative (DPI) designed to advance analytic tools for that fortify democratic tenets and move California toward being a more inclusive, representative, multi-racial democracy.

AS I TYPE THIS NOTE, I CAN HEAR THE CACOPHONY OF JACKHAMMERS in the Goldman School courtyard. Bulldozers and the beeping of dump trucks have been the “soundtrack” of our GSPP summer and fall, as the homey lawn area between the two GSPP buildings is transformed into an updated space designed for collaboration, events, and engagement. As noisy as the construction has been, it’s a cheerful sound, reminding me of the innovative, continuously-improving spirit embodied by the Goldman School. Whether it’s launching our inaugural Berkeley Public Policy conference, welcoming new faculty, or tackling emerging, urgent policy areas, GSPP is a place that leads in toward a vision of a brighter future. The courtyard is slated for completion in late Fall 2023 (we can’t wait!) and when it’s done, we look forward to having you come visit and see the ever-evolving, always-innovating, future-leaning Goldman School for yourself. 6 borareed@berkeley.edu

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Berkeley Public Policy Conference and Alumni Gathering

Nearly 500 alumni, faculty, students, staff, and public policy leaders gathered in Berkeley, CA for the inaugural Berkeley Public Policy Conference and Alumni Gathering. Topics for plenary sessions, panel discussions, and workshops included democracy policy, emerging technology, Black reparations, clean energy, and philanthropy. The full schedule can be found at conference.gspp.berkeley.edu. The final keynote address of the conference was delivered by Jennifer Pahlka, founder of Code for America and author of *Recoding America: Why Government Is Failing in the Digital Age and How We Can Do Better.*

GSPP PhD Alum of the Year
Karl Hausker (MPP ’81 / PhD ’85)

Dr. Karl Hausker is a Senior Fellow in WRI’s Climate Program. He leads analysis and modeling of the clean energy transition, climate mitigation, electricity market design, and the social cost of carbon.

Hausker has worked for three decades in the fields of climate change, energy, and environment in a career that has spanned legislative and executive branches, research institutions, NGOs, and consulting. He has led climate policy analysis and modeling projects for USAID, USEPA, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Western Climate Initiative, and the California Air Resources Board. Much of his work has focused on the energy and transportation sectors.

His experience also includes: serving President Clinton as Deputy Assistant Administrator in EPA’s Policy Office where he represented EPA in interagency climate policy development and at COP-1; and serving as the Chief Economist for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where he worked on a diverse set of issues including electricity restructuring, CAPE standards, alternative fuels, western water policy, nuclear power, and energy security.

MPP Alum of the Year
Jannelle Kubinec (MPP ’97)

Jannelle Kubinec is WestEd’s incoming Chief Executive Officer and current Chief Administrative Officer. Since graduating from GSPP in 1997, she has focused on improving outcomes for children, youth, and their families through research, policy, and technical assistance, through the lens of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

For the past 12 years, she has served as an accomplished leader at WestEd, supporting the organization’s growth, innovation, and impact. Her notable contributions include helping guide California through a once-in-a-generation redesign and transformation of its K-12 funding formula and accountability system, and serving as the principal architect and manager of a diverse team of researchers and policy experts who helped California leaders craft the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care. The Plan has resulted in historic increases in funding, improved support for the workforce, and expansion plans to include all four-year-old children in Transitional Kindergarten.

GSPP Alumni Award for Exceptional Literary Achievement
Amina Luqman-Dawson (MPP ’01)

Amina Luqman-Dawson loves using writing to tell stories and to build an understanding of race, culture, and community. Her published writing includes op-eds in newspapers, magazine articles, travel writing and book reviews. She authored the pictorial history book *Images of America: African Americans of Petersburg* (Arcadia Publishing) and she worked as a policy professional, researcher, and consultant on issues of education and criminal justice.

*Freewater* is her debut novel. *Freewater* won the John Newbery Medal for Children’s Literature, which is considered the highest honor for a children’s book in the United States. *Freewater* also received the Coretta Scott King Award, which honors books by Black authors that show “appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.”

Photos and videos of the plenary sessions can be found at conference.gspp.berkeley.edu

Alumni Awards

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Helping Government Better Engage its Residents

Policy works best when participation occurs on every level. However, building a system where everyone has a voice requires finding new ways to listen. That’s why researchers at the Lab are designing and testing new models for how government can reach diverse populations and engage with communities. For example, in partnership with California state agencies, Lab staff are testing ways community-based organizations can act as “trusted messengers” to support health, safety, and well-being among low-wage workers and other historically underserved communities. In addition, the Lab is working with senior leaders in California state and local government to develop and test new models through which to flex our civic muscles — all while centering the voices of communities who are too often underrepresented and undervalued in halls of power.

Empowering Communities to Drive Change

The people closest to the problems are also closest to the solutions, and policymaking advances best when policy practitioners and those with lived experience work hand-in-hand. Towards that goal, the Lab is developing new ways to integrate residents’ voices into program design, implementation, and evaluation. One place this work is being applied is in the City of Oakland, where Lab researchers are working together with a range of community organizations and local government leaders to develop an Everyday Indicators for Policy Innovation (EIP) framework designed to produce holistic, community-sourced data for public safety reform. In addition to this work aimed at reimagining public safety, the team is leveraging the EIP model with formerly unhoused community members, individuals experiencing acute behavioral health crises, and patients seeking care for opioid use disorders. The results of this work are helping uncover new and promising solutions that come directly from populations most immediately impacted by some of our most pressing social problems.

Instituting Equity Metrics for a More Effective Government

In response to Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2022 executive order directing state agencies and departments to embed equity analysis and considerations in policy, Lab researchers are working to develop and test ways to measure and evaluate equity. In partnership with state agencies, the aim is to develop data-informed recommendations for comprehensive measurement standards that can be used to identify gaps and ensure the state is making meaningful strides towards greater equity. Ultimately, this will help enable increased data-driven decision-making and add an equity lens to state activities and initiatives as a whole.

From a Scarcity Mindset to an Abundance Agenda

California has long been a leader in innovation, from technological advancement to social movements, but it simultaneously struggles to ensure all state residents have their basic needs met. The Possibility Lab is embarking on an expansive, multi-year inquiry into promising policies and practices that can improve access to fundamental goods and services. Through research, stakeholder engagement, demonstration projects and other activities, the Lab is identifying policies that may lead to scarcity in essential goods in order to design actionable steps to promote more abundant resources for all. This “Abundance Agenda,” sometimes also referred to as supply-side progressivism, has the potential to unite a wide cross-section of the political and ideological spectrum, brought together by a belief that policymakers can increase affordable access to fundamental goods through the supply-side of the economy, and that many of the key issues of the day could be addressed with policies that target innovation, production, and distribution.

How do we improve civic participation, outreach, and trust in government? How do we embed policies and practices within government that advance equity and opportunity for diverse communities? How can we think differently about access to fundamental goods and services, by examining these issues through a lens of abundance, rather than scarcity? These are some of the big questions the Possibility Lab team is actively working on, seeking new ways to advance innovation and improve people’s lives.

Looking at Future Trends to Inform Policy Action Today

For the past two years, Professor Amy Lerman, Possibility Lab’s Executive Director, along with Senior Advisor Jesse Melgar and Senior Project Lead Lindsay Maple (MPP ’17), helped lead the innovation arm of the California 100 Initiative. Professor Henry E. Brady served as research director for the initiative. This multi-year, multi-million dollar effort engaged directly with thousands of Californians through original research, polling, and demonstration projects that examined future trends and solutions to the state’s most pressing challenges. As the Initiative winds down, much of the work lives on at the Possibility Lab, with a focus on designing, piloting, and scaling solutions within government.

Learn more about this transformative work at PossibilityLab.berkeley.edu.
An Interview with Janet Napolitano

By Vanessa Martini
Associate Director of Communications

THE CENTER FOR SECURITY IN POLITICS (CSP) at the Goldman School of Public Policy is a hub for research, curriculum, and dialogues that catalyze the expertise of students, scholars, and top-tier political practitioners. Its mission is to address pressing global risks, convert research and analysis into pragmatic solutions for policymakers and influential figures, and develop a diverse cohort of security professionals poised for public service.

In March 2023, under the stewardship of Professor Napolitano, CSP granted UC Berkeley students a rare into the intricate mechanics of how both government bodies and private enterprises counteract national and global security threats. By leveraging her vast network of contacts for Washington, D.C.

Immersion Week (DCIW), Professor Napolitano pioneered this three-unit course and travel seminar at the Goldman School. Participants interacted closely with industry stalwarts, academics, and key figures from agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FBI, and CIA. They gained firsthand knowledge from senior officials, immersing themselves in a week packed with discussions, panel sessions, and visits to pivotal government institutions.

In its quest to spearhead security policy discussions, CSP has also forged alliances with global institutions. Collaborations with the National Taiwan University and an emerging partnership with the Kier School of Public Affairs exemplify how CSP and Professor Napolitano are setting new benchmarks in security policy.

We had the privilege to sit down with Professor Napolitano, delving deeper into CSP’s visions for the future and celebrating its milestones in 2022-23.

As the leader of CSP, you have a wealth of experience from your roles as a district attorney, Arizona governor, Secretary of Homeland Security, and president of the University of California. How do you utilize these diverse experiences in your current role to address critical global risks, and how do you foresee your unique background impacting the future direction of CSP?

Though I’m not an academic in the traditional sense, my practical experience enables me to offer students insights into effective problem-solving in this evolving field. My focus has been on redesigning the approach to security in our country by expanding traditional security studies. While these studies have typically centered on military strategy and geopolitical analysis, I believe it’s crucial to incorporate emerging risks such as those from new technologies (including cyber security, AI, and quantum computing), climate change, and the impact of misinformation on our democracy, along with its link to domestic extremism.

To this end, we’ve established CSP at Goldman to foster research and curriculum on these novel security risks.

We offer a certificate in security studies, featuring a core course on security that I teach every fall, co-instructed with Professor Daniel Sargent from the history department. Our focus is on educating students about government organization, including key agencies and the information flow from intelligence to policymakers. Central to our teaching is the practical question of how to effectively get things done: “What are the key agencies? How does information flow from intelligence gatherers and analysts up to policymakers?”

You played a critical role in organizing and developing the curriculum for the Goldman School’s inaugural Immersion Week. How do you plan to evolve and build upon this initiative in the future to continue fostering this critical interest in national security and public service among students?

We plan to offer Washington Immersion Week again in 2024, making it a consistent experience at Goldman. During this immersive week, students visit the CIA, FBI, DHS, important government contractors, and participate in a crisis exercise at the National War College, using the Taiwan Strait controversy as a model. One evening we took a trolley tour of the monuments. It was cherry blossom time, so it was great. It wasn’t just school work!

Another evening event was the “Uncommon Table” program co-hosted with the Sine Institute at American University. This program encourages diverse political dialogue. The idea was to get people of different political beliefs talking with each other and listening to each other about their experience as Americans within the current political climate. We also had a special private dinner with Jill Hruby, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, to discuss nuclear weapons and policy. The Goldman School covers housing, food, and in-city transportation, with students only responsible for airfare. We hope to expand the offering in other locations and countries as we develop this type of curriculum. This type of experiential learning is crucial to training students for the real world and the impact it has on them is substantial.

While national security and domestic security is our current focus with D.C., the types of courses we can develop in locations like Taiwan, Mexico, or even the Middle East could be even more transformative and impactful.

In coordinating the Immersion Week, you leveraged your extensive network to provide students with firsthand insights into the complexities of national security. What elements do you feel are particularly important for students to understand?

The federal agencies we visited rolled out the red carpet for our students, providing substantial panels and speakers, including top leadership. Many students had previously little exposure to federal security work, such as the associated career opportunities and how their talents could contribute. Upon returning, several students reached out to our CSP staff to apply for jobs at agencies like the CIA, FBI, and DHS.

The key goal is to expose students to both theory and practice in security, including interagency work and the transition from analysis to policy and decision-making. In both the core fall security course and the Immersion Week assignments, students are required to write concise analytic pieces akin to agency director briefings, rather than traditional academic papers. This approach fosters an understanding of how real-world security work gets done.

During your speech at the Cyberspace expo in Taipei, you emphasized the critical need for government, private sector, and civil societies to work together to strengthen cybersecurity readiness. Could you elaborate on how you envision this collaborative approach working effectively on a global scale, particularly considering different national cybersecurity strategies and regulations? My talk at the cybersecurity conference addressed collaboration among the private sector, government, and individuals for protection, response, recovery, and resilience against cyber attacks. I highlighted strategies, using Taiwan as an example, for maintaining continuity of government and operations. For example, in Taiwan, if there is an attempt by another country to disrupt their networks, what they can do ahead of time so that they can have continuity of government, continuity of operations and the like.

The talk was well-received, leading to a dinner invitation from the president of Taiwan. We’ve also executed an MOU with National Taiwan University (NTU), incorporating this subject into our collaborative efforts.

Students from UC Berkeley and American University’s Sine Institute of Policy and Politics connect over dinner at “Uncommon Table”

Pictured from left: (in light blue jacket) Katie Noyes, Section Chief at the FBI; Professor Janet Napolitano; Robert Brown, Executive Assistant Director of Science and Technology at the FBI with staff, Berkeley students, and faculty.

By Vanessa Martini
Associate Director of Communications
GSPP Welcomes New Faculty

This fall, the Goldman School welcomed four faculty new to UC Berkeley, as well as two faculty members who have taken on new appointments and roles within the Goldman School.

**Jacob (Jake) Grumbach**

Associate Professor of Public Policy

Jake Grumbach is a political scientist who studies multiracial democracy, labor, democratic backsliding, campaign finance, and racial and economic inequality. He is the author of Laboratories Against Democracy (Princeton University Press, 2022), which investigates the causes and consequences of the nationalization of state politics since the 1970s.

**Current Projects:** “I’m interested in better understanding organized labor as a force in improving and preserving democracy. Many of us know that labor unions affect wages, work benefits, and economic inequality. But labor unions were also key supporters of civil rights and voting rights in the 20th century. Some of my previous research also shows that union membership reduces racial resentment and increases support for multiracial democracy among white workers.”

**What drew him to GSPP and Berkeley:** “It’s always been my dream to work at Berkeley. I wanted to join the best public research university in the world (any ranking system that disputes this is wrong) and teach a diverse and interrepid set of graduate and undergraduate students who will help tackle the country’s most pressing problems. I’m especially lucky to be joining GSPP, which has assembled many of the country’s leading social scientists across political science, economics, psychology, and other disciplines to study and improve California and U.S. policy in areas like criminal justice, the welfare state, education, and climate. I’m really thrilled to join this community.”

**Maria Carreri**

Assistant Professor of Public Policy

Maria Carreri is a political scientist working on political economy and local politics. She studies how the immigration policies of local leaders constrain their actions, and seeks to answer two sets of questions: 1) What is the impact of local elected officials for service delivery, local public finance, and the distribution of resources within communities? 2) How do local institutions impact the way in which elected officials affect these outcomes? She tackles these questions using causal inference methods in quasi-experimental settings, leveraging a combination of original surveys, newly digitized historical data and administrative data, across Italy, Colombia and the U.S.

**Current projects:** “I am actively engaged in two projects examining the United States and Italy, and I am eager to initiate a new research endeavor in Colombia, investigating the fiscal rules and austerity measures in public administration and their implications through a natural experiment.”

**What drew her to GSPP and Berkeley:** “I was immediately captivated by the combination of cutting-edge research and a strong policy focus that defines the academic environment at UC Berkeley. What sets this institution apart is its commitment to both exceptional scholarly contributions and fostering student growth. GSPP’s reputation is unparalleled, attracting renowned scholars and facilitating groundbreaking research. Furthermore, being part of this vibrant scholarly community, particularly those who share my interests in political economy and local government, was a major factor in my decision to join. I had the privilege of being invited as a speaker for GSPP’s distinguished political economy series, which further solidified my connection to the school. Added to this, the campus itself is stunning, providing an inspiring backdrop for intellectual pursuits.”

**Caitlin Patler**

Associate Professor of Public Policy

Caitlin Patler is a sociologist whose research examines U.S. immigration and criminal laws, legal statuses, and law enforcement institutions as drivers of socioeconomic and health disparities. Patler also studies the spillover and intergenerational consequences of systemic inequity for children and household wellbeing. Patler has received multiple grants and awards for her research on undocumented immigrant youth adults, the impacts of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and the U.S. immigration prison system. She serves on the Editorial Board of Social Problems.

**Current projects:** “I am working on several really exciting, interdisciplinary projects right now, all focused on understanding how various aspects of U.S. immigration policy impact community wellbeing. My research teams and I seek to understand not just how punitive policies can harm communities (though that is very important in and of itself), but also how policies that offer increased rights and benefits to immigrants may improve wellbeing.”
Manisha Shah
Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy
Manisha Shah is a development economist whose primary research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of applied microeconomics, health, and development. She has written several papers on the economics of sex markets in order to learn how more effective policies and programs can be deployed to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. She also works in the area of child health and education.

Current projects: I have quite a few active projects, including those that focus on evaluating interventions to ameliorate the challenges facing vulnerable children, which are often particularly acute in lower income settings.

“In Uganda, I am currently working with BRAC (largest NGO in the world) and the Ministry of Education to evaluate the scale up of ELAS, an after-school program which promotes social and economic empowerment to vulnerable youth in secondary schools. We are implementing a randomized controlled trial in 150 schools across Uganda and plan to follow 5000 adolescents over time to evaluate the impact of ELAS on their lives.

“In Mexico City, I am in the early stages of a project with SEMU-JEREIS (Ministry of Women) and researchers at the University of Toronto. We will evaluate an intervention targeting young men who challenge social norms around traditional masculinity, teaching them skills to reduce violence against women, improve their communication, and have healthier emotional lives. Intimate partner violence and femicide have been on the rise in Mexico, so this is one potential innovation to reduce it.

“In Jamaica, I just completed a project in collaboration with the World Bank and the Early Childhood Commission, evaluating an intervention to reduce violence against children. We adapted an in-person positive parenting program to be delivered virtually via mobile phone technology during COVID. We find that the interventional group had greater knowledge and attitudes toward violence, and leads to meaningful changes in caregiver disciplines with their children. The virtual delivery of this intervention has important scalable policy implications for decreasing violence against children across the globe.

“As these projects highlight, though I am very much a data-driven economist, the policy and social impact implications of my projects fuel my passion for this research.”

What drew her to GSPP and Berkeley: “The Goldman School is a global leader in research on public policy. Faculty and students work on projects with real-world impacts at local, state, national, and international levels. Many projects partner with individuals and communities with a direct stake in policy issues and implementation. Collectively, this work informs solutions for some of the world’s most pressing social problems. It is an honor to join such an extraordinary community.”

Erika Weissinger
Assistant Professor of Practice (Public Policy) and GSPP’s Director of Community, Climate, and Culture
As Assistant Professor of Practice, Erika Weissinger will expand and enhance GSPP’s curriculum in critical areas such as social justice, ethics, and policy analysis. As the Director of Community, Culture, and Climate, Weissinger will play a pivotal role in analyzing and advancing GSPP’s practices related to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice (DEIB).

What drew her to her new role at GSPP: “This is truly a dream job for me, as it allows me to focus on what I love most at GSPP and make a tangible impact on creating a supportive climate and culture within our community.

“Fostering a climate of belonging is key to our collective success. In my time at GSPP, first as a PhD student and now as an educator, I’ve witnessed that some of the most cherished members of our community were initially the ones who most felt like they didn’t belong here. Let’s set the record straight — we belong here! We were admitted, we teach, and we work here. When our community fosters an environment that reaffirms our sense of belonging, each of us can bring our best selves to our respective roles.”

Hamzah Bin Zaid
MPA 2024

“The Master of Public Affairs program at the Goldman School gives me the opportunity to learn from leading academics and from my amazing peers!”

POLICY NOTES | FALL 2023

GOLDSMITH SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY
Professor Steve Raphael speaks on criminal justice reform at the Berkeley Public Policy conference.

Adam Leive received the FIAA Institute Paul A. Samuelson Award for Outstanding Scholastic Writing on Lifelong Financial Security for his research on Health Savings Accounts. His publications in 2021 included "Employed in a SNAP: The Impact of Work Requirements on Program Participation and Labor Supply" (with Colin Gray, Elena Prager, Kelkay Pukli, and Mary Zaki), American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, "On Resource Allocation in Health Care: The Case of Concierge Medicine" (with Molly Cann and Guy David), Journal of Health Economics.

Hector Cardenas was reelected for a second term to serve on the board of directors of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations. His company, The Erigó Group, was awarded a $3M project to support the implementation of Mexico’s labor law reform in ten state judiciaries by the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations. His community involvement includes serving on the board of directors of the Bakersfield School of Public Policy and Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. Cardenas coauthored. The model ordinance is to be presented at the following invited talks:


Maria Carrerl’s project “Constraints in Bureaucratic Hiring and Public Sector Performance” (with Eduardo Di Porto, Carlo Medici, Eduardo Teo, and Silvia Vannetti) was selected by the Vistaspas Scholarship grant, access to the universe of Italian Social Security Data.


After many years in the making, Margaretta Lin and friends are launching the Dellums Dellums Clinic's Diverse Structural Racism, a partnership between GSSP, the College of Environmental Design, and the School of Social Welfare, to transform the university’s clinical model, the Dellums Clinic will train future public policy leaders on the practical skills needed to transform existing public policy training and planning systems and structures that perpetuate structural racism. GSSP’s Critical Theory Research Group (CTR) has engaged in a multi-year evaluation of Repair Generation, the first national non-profit supporting private wealth transfers from White to Black families in the United States.

Henry Brady has continued to work as Research Director for California 100, an initiative looking at how 911 and 988 call takers respond to behavioral health crises. He also received (with Yolanda Leval) a $600K grant from the Sao Paulo Foundation to improve health and mental health first aid at universities.

Jennifer Skeew was awarded a $1.1M grant from the National Science Foundation to support their research on how 911 and 988 call takers respond to behavioral health crises. She was awarded a $1.1M grant from the National Science Foundation to support their research on how 911 and 988 call takers respond to behavioral health crises. She was awarded a $1.1M grant from the National Science Foundation to support their research on how 911 and 988 call takers respond to behavioral health crises.

Erika Weisssinger and Ashley Adams, and Darcelle Labour, lead a collaboration of students and educators supporting reparations-related policy analysis and implementation. They hosted their first annual conference on Black reparations and created an information repository to track public reparations task forces, reports, and policy. Weisssinger was appointed by Berkeley Unified School District Superintendent (BUSD) Enika Ford Mortell to serve on the public school board. She served on the companion theory course to the Dellums Clinic. Many thanks to the former GSSP students who envisioned, designed, taught, and taught for today’s CRT class — Yael Hale, Taylor Smiley Wolfe, Jeanette Ling, Perfeta Oshom, EJ Top- pin, Vanessa Quintana, Eljah Wood, Hortencia Rodriguez, Vellee Adithi, Astha DuMontier, and Britteney Carter.

Jake Grumbach’s book, Laboratories Against Democracy, was published with Princeton University Press.

Tangerine Brigham (MP 90) and Professor Adam Leive speak at a panel on health policy at the Berkeley Public Policy conference.

Jesse Rothstein was elected fellow of the Society for Labor Economics (SOLE). He gave the invited Rees Lecture to the SOLE annual meeting and became an elected member of SOLE executive board. Rothstein also joined the Board of Trustees of the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Hilary Hoynes was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences. She was elected Co-Vice President of the American Economic Association, and was appointed Associate Dean of the Goldman School.

Hoynes published papers on the social safety net during the 2019-2021 crisis, one for Brookings and one for Russell Sage. She gave the following public lectures: 1) the Bernard Moss Memorial Lecture at UC Berkeley, 2) the Leigh Distinguished Lecture, Washington State University, 3) the Lampman Lecture, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, and 4) the Yates Distinguished Lecture, Tulane University.

Her opinion piece, “Budget analyses of U.S. income support programs must incorporate long-term benefits for children,” was published by the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

Noam Schimmel published a commentary in World Affairs reflecting on the state of human rights in South Africa 30 years since the end of apartheid. Schimmel went on to Time Higher Education’s ‘Campus’ series on improving mental health support services and mental health first aid at universities.

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Dr. Janet Holmgren as senior policy advisor to the dean, with a focus on higher education policy. Her appointment began on July 1, 2023.

Dr. Holmgren is President Emerita of Mills College, former Senior Vice President for Strategic Advancement at University Now in San Francisco, and an affiliate faculty member in the Goldman School’s Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE).

“I’m pleased to be engaged with GSPP and to work on projects that highlight the Goldman School’s leadership in addressing urgent public policy issues in higher education,” said Holmgren. “With Dean Wilson’s leadership, GSPP can foster collaboration between public and private higher education, as well as connect those institutions to K-12 education to address critical educational challenges.”

“Dr. Holmgren is a proven leader in higher education and a wonderful thought partner on taking action to address the urgent needs of our students, faculty, staff, and institutions of higher learning,” said Dean David C. Wilson. “She is actively interested in supporting UC Berkeley in its public mission, and she cares deeply about the future of higher education and has many ideas about how public policy can help. She is already a part of our GSPP community through her affiliation with the Center for Studies in Higher Education, and we will all benefit from her vast leadership network and energy.”

Holmgren will work on a range of projects, including: 1) diversifying higher education leadership, 2) offering solutions to the financial challenges of college students and graduates, 3) growing racial-ethnic diversity among student populations, and 4) building new philanthropic partnerships.

Before leading Mills College, Holmgren was Vice Provost and a Professor in the English Department of Princeton University, Senior Administrator and Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Professor at the University of the District of Columbia in Linguistics and English. She holds a BA in English, summa cum laude, from Oakland University (Rochester, MI), and an MA and PhD in Linguistics from Princeton University.

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Local Interests: Book Talk and Panel Discussion

Professor Sarah F. Anzia discussed her book, Local Interests: Politics, Policy, and Interest Groups in U.S. City Governments and examined the interest groups that are regularly engaged in city politics. She was joined in conversation by Jerusalem Demsas, a staff writer at The Atlantic; Ned Resnikoff (MPP ’19), policy director at California YIMBY; and Yiaway Yeh, a former city councilmember and mayor of Palo Alto, California.

An Evening with Robert Reich, In Conversation with Arlie Hochschild

The Goldman School community honored Professor Robert B. Reich on the occasion of his retirement with a public talk, in collaboration with Cal Performances, and an afterparty featuring—at the guest-of-honor’s request—live music and dancing.

Meme Wars & the Future of Democracy

Dr. Joan Donovan, an expert in media manipulation, political movements, critical internet studies, and online extremism, presented an overview of how memes are weaponized to push disinformation and deepen partisanship in the United States.


Travis Mosier, a technology, semiconductor, and global policy expert, discussed the centrality of semiconductors to geopolitical rivalry, economic growth, innovation, and emerging technology and about current incentives, policies, research opportunities, and commercial efforts in the United States.

Tennessee State Representative Justin Jones

Tennessee State Representative Justin Jones visited the Goldman School to speak at a public event with Professor Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of PolicyLink, and to be the featured speaker at GSPP’s commencement. Jones is an activist and community organizer in Nashville representing Tennessee’s 52nd district. He made national headlines and sparked debate on race, representation and activism as he was expelled from the Tennessee House of Representatives for leading a gun control protest on the House floor.

The Future of Public Policy in Higher Education: A Leadership Conversation

Dean David C. Wilson and the Goldman School hosted a meeting of the following group of Deans of Public Policy schools. (From top left): Ian Solomon (University of Virginia), Scott Taylor (Boston University), Roland Anglin (Cleveland State University), David C. Wilson (GSPP). (From bottom left): Nisha Botchwey (University of Minnesota), Celeste Watkins-Hayes (University of Michigan), and Susan Gooden (Virginia Commonwealth University).

War in Ukraine: What’s Next?

Ukrainian Member of Parliament Inna Sovsun joined Yuriy Gorodnichenko, Professor of Economics at UC Berkeley, and Janet Napolitano, Professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy and former Secretary of Homeland Security, for a firsthand perspective on the war, its impact, and what comes next for the people of Ukraine.

The State of Global Security: A Conversation with Michael Nacht

The Goldman School of Public Policy, the Institute of International Studies, the Department of Nuclear Engineering, and the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium at the University of California, Berkeley honored Professor Michael Nacht on the occasion of his retirement with a public talk. Rose Gottemoeller, a senior diplomat and policymaker joined Nacht in conversation about the past, present, and future of global security.

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Surabhi Yadav

SURABHI YADAV (MDP ’19) is the founder and CEO of a non-profit in India, Sajhe Sapne. Sajhe Sapne supports young rural women to kick-start their careers in the modern world, empowering a generation of women from low-income Dalit and Bahujan caste groups to learn, earn, and excel in the domains such as coding, project management, and math teaching. Sajhe Sapne delivers a rural college model called, Sapna Centers (or Dream Centers) providing training, mentoring, exposure and networking to young rural women. Surabhi’s job is to do program design, secure her team’s wellbeing and growth, fundraising, systems change strategy building, and big partnerships.

How has your GSPP degree shaped your work and career?

If you are joining MDP, it would be super helpful if you can articulate a question for this experience. The clearer the articulation, the better chances you would have to connect all the eclectic information you will get on campus. For me the question with which I entered in the program was “what do I want to do in rural India to positively contribute to its growth?” By the second year, my question evolved and narrowed down to “what work can I do with rural women to positively contribute to rural India?” The questions became the anchor in my thinking, the better chances you would have to connect all the eclectic information you will get on campus. For me the question with which I entered in the program was “what do I want to do in rural India to positively contribute to its growth?” By the second year, my question evolved and narrowed down to “what work can I do with rural women to positively contribute to rural India?” The questions became the anchor in my thinking, the better chances you would have to connect all the eclectic information you will get on campus.

What advice would you have for prospective students considering an MDP?

I could not have become a professor without my GSPP training. First, GSPP provided me with grounding in research methods courses to Masters and PhD students, and conducts research at the intersection of school policy and student mental health and wellbeing.

How has your GSPP degree shaped your work and career?

My MPP degree has opened many doors for me. I have worked in academia, philanthropy, public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and the GSPP alumni network is thriving in all of them. I enjoy connecting with other GSPP alumni because there is an inherent trust amongst the group. My MPP provides me with the skillset to work across many issue areas, and this has been important in my work as most health care issues intersect with other social issues. I am grateful for the connections I’ve made with other alumni when seeking expertise in issue areas that I am not as familiar with.

What advice would you have for prospective students considering an MPP?

An MPP offers the flexibility to have choice in which sector you want to work in. The skills and knowledge that are attained through the GSPP curriculum allow graduates to engage in complex social problems. When completed, you will have the hard and soft skills to be competitive in the job market.

Sean Darling-Hammond

SEAN DARLING-HAMMOND (PHD ’22) is an assistant professor at UCLA in the departments of Community Health Sciences, Biostatistics, and Education Policy. He teaches research methods courses to Masters and PhD students, and conducts research at the intersection of school policy and student mental health and wellbeing.

How has your GSPP degree shaped your work and career?

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What advice would you have for prospective students considering a PhD?

The training GSPP provides will allow you to begin to understand the forces that shape opportunity and inequality in this country and around the world; and to harness the incredible power of research to uncover ways to expand thriving. I cannot recommend it highly enough.

Crispin Delgado

CRISPIN DELGADO (MPP ’03) is the Executive Director at Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) based in Sacramento. ITUP’s mission is to ensure all Californians have access to quality, equitable and affordable health care services. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health and wealth disparities. Low-income and communities of color were hit first, hardest and will take the longest to recover. Crispin is committed to advancing health equity in his role at ITUP.

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Gianna De Filippis

Gianna De Filippis (MPA ’23) is the Program Manager for LinkedIn’s Economic Graph & Public Policy team. In this role, she works with data scientists, economists, and marketing & communications professionals to tell stories about the global economy using LinkedIn data and recommend policy solutions to governments. Using the research, she advocates for gender equity in the workforce, a just transition to a more climate-friendly and digital future, and the move towards a skill-based labor market. Gianna is responsible for planning and developing the team’s thought leadership, as well as managing the team’s budget and operations.

What advice would you have for prospective students considering an MPA?

My advice for potential MPA students would be to think through a list of skills and knowledge areas that you are interested in and/or that would advance your career goals. For me, many of those experiences working with a state government to support workers during the energy transition, an issue I now work on in my role and hope to dedicate more of my career to. My degree also gave me a much more sophisticated economics background, which allows me to work more collaboratively with the economists on my team. Lastly, having the opportunity to get hands-on experience working with a state government to support workers during the energy transition, an issue I now work on in my role and hope to dedicate more of my career to.

I want to leverage the MDP program’s interdisciplinary approach, and the diverse student perspectives to better understand how to debias capital allocation and investment policy development.

Kaone Tlagae, MDP ’24

Alumni Awards cont. from page 5

GSPP MPA Alum of the Year

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Dean’s Message cont. from page 2

And, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that the new 2023-24 US News and World Report Rankings (announced April 2023) for graduate programs in Public Affairs have GSPP #1 in Policy Analysis (sustained), #1 in Social Policy (up from #2 in 2023), #4 in Public Affairs (down 1 spot from 2023), and #4 in Environmental Management and Public Policy (sustained). All of these endeavors were highlighted at our first ever Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering which took place on September 7-8. The Conference is our attempt to bring together the entire GSPP community — faculty, students, staff, alumni, advisors, and friends — to renew, reinvigorate, inspire, and recommit ourselves to dialogue, scholarly discovery, human centered approaches to problem solving, and public improvement.

All of the above underscore a year of unparalleled achievement and growth, and I’m grateful for the dedication of the GSPP community — including you — in making this past year such a success. The vitality and resilience of GSPP are evident; the state of the school has never been more robust and promising.

Madhyama Subramanian (MDP ’15)

Madhyama Subramanian is Head of Programs and Partnerships, Solidaridad North America. Her areas of expertise include supply chain sustainability, natural resource management, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods. Since 2016, Madhyama has been working with Solidaridad North America. Here, she is responsible for building partnerships with stakeholders, including donor organizations and technical partners, who are committed to improving sustainably in global commodity supply chains, along with developing and managing international projects across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

She is currently the Chief of Party for Amazonia Connect, a 5-year initiative supported by USAID, focused on addressing commodity-driven deforestation and improving biodiversity conservation in the Amazon, in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

Julie Lo (MPA ’19)

Julie Lo has been working in the nonprofit and government sector for over a decade to improve public systems so that all Californians have the opportunity to thrive. After completing her MPA, Julie became the Executive Officer of California’s Interagency Council On Homelessness (Cal ICH). At Cal ICH, Julie led a statewide entity responsible for significant homelessness initiatives and funding programs. Among her accomplishments while at the state was leading the development of a new statewide data system, the relaunching of the state’s first interagency council directed to focus on coordinating, and streamlining public homelessness programs across nearly 20 state departments, and launching several new homelessness funding programs, including one focused on funding services to unsheltered settings.

Julie currently works for Tipping Point Community overseeing its grantmaking and capacity building and serves as a board member for Sacramento Steps Forward, the Continuum Of Care in Sacramento, and as a commissioner for Alameda County’s Healthcare For The Homeless.
Martha Ture (MPP ’19) has had three photos accepted into an international exhibition in Nepal. Her campaign-making work has been exhibited at the Prajii Gallery 2023, a dozen photos solicited by the Town of Farfax, Maric County, for the town website and newsletter. Several photos solicited by Weathersmarmers, a "flavid" by the Museum of Modern Art, one posted by Congresswoman Janice Hahn in Outdoor Photographer, and many more. She writes, "There’s no money in it but that’s the point."

Luke Klipp (MPP ’14) has worked for the past two and a half years for Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn as her Senior Transportation Deputy. Before taking this position, he worked as the Los Angeles Metro Board Deputy for then-Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, now Congressman Garcia. He is also now the Pride President, the LGBTQ+ supporter group for the Los Angeles Football Club. Additionally, he has created a podcast about the LGBTQ+ community and football called the "GGBT FC." Luke has also volunteered with the Parking Reform Network to remove parking minimums, which was also the topic of his 2006 MPP. He was surprised that the subject he initially researched was finally gaining traction after so many years.

JP Daniel (MPP ’20) works as an energy resilience Policy Researcher for the U.S. rural, remote, and island communities at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. Go Bears!

James Savage’s (MPP ’16) article, “The Stability and Growth Pact’s ‘Unusual Events’ Clause and the Fragility of European Welfare States,” was published in August by the International Journal of Public Administration. He conducted the research for the article while studying for a Master of International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria.

Helena Jacobs (Hoffman) (MPP ’19) writes, “I co-founded the Asian Native Birdworkers Community, whose mission is to serve Native birdworkers families. We are an Asian American Asian American, Pacific Islander Union,” was published in August by the International Journal of Public Administration. He conducted the research for the article while studying for a Master of International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria.

Robin Stone (MPP ’20) was elected the President of the San Francisco Elections Commission, the oversight and policy in the Biden-Harris Administration under the leadership of Secretary Janet Yellen.

In October, Darian Woods (MPP ’16) was announced as a co-host of NPR’s daily economics podcast The Indicator from Planet Money.

Nicole Lindler (MPP ’18) was recently appointed as the Acting Executive Secretary for the Department of Public Health in California, whose mission is to serve Native birthing communities. She also welcomed GSP friends to Wisconsin this past July to celebrate her wedding!

Elizabeth (Liz) Rusch (Schulz) (MPP ’09) since graduating from GSP, Liz has been a magazine journalist and author of books for young readers. Many of her 24 books touch on public policy, including You Call This Democracy?, which reviews the "Left is Fascinating" (NYTBR) and "riveting and a "must-read" (Kirkus). In September, HarperCol- lins will be releasing The 21: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government for Climate Change. In its starred review, Kirkus called it "bail-binding," "moving," and "an absorbing account of an urgent case."

Lori Liewellyn (MPP ’89) retired in 2020 after serving as the Associate Director of the UCSPM MIND Institute’s Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities from 2007 to 2000. Before that, she worked as a health services researcher! She was selected as the UCSPM’s first General Alumni Award for the 2019–2020 academic year to "recognize the best performing student in the academic year’s General Alumni Award."

Anika Joshi (MPP ’29)MS Engineering (’29) is now working for a flying taxi company and is the safety and reliability of an AI and ML-based aviation systems. She works at Supernal, which builds electric autonomous aircraft that can be used for delivery, cargo, and medical transport. She helps make these aircraft safer and more reliable. Her day-to-day tasks involve collaborating with standards-setting organizations, tracking regulations, and performing risk and safety analysis to set requirements for AI and ML safety certification, and building processes for designing and validating the safety of intelligent systems. The policy analysis skills she built from the MPP pro- gram at GSP helped her develop a risk management program for Supernal, and she helped develop safety and reliability requirements for these aircraft.

Leah Rothstein (MPP ’21) has contributed oral histories to the Behind the Mask project at the National Institutes of Health, which aims to document NIH's role in researching and responding to COVID. Lisa has been a patient representative on NIH's RECOVER Initiative, and Michael has participated in the project. They also discussed living with Long COVID, how they understand and respond to their symptoms, their advocacy work, and the importance of engaging patients in the research process.

Angela Miller (MPP ’18) started a new role as the Policy Director for the Wisconsin Depart- ment of Health Services, serving as the senior advisor to the Secretary and the Governor. She also welcomed GSP friends to Wisconsin this past July to celebrate her wedding!

Rosie Grimaldi’s (MPP ’93) consulting firm Grid Strategies is now up to eight people and a few more buildings. She focuses on energy and climate-oriented cli- ents. They have hired one GSPP MPP, Zach Zim- merman, who is doing all they can to service Congress. The department also works with federal agencies, and grid operators according to the Californi- a Public Utilities Commission to integrate large amounts of renewable, solar, and storage systems. They provide more information on their website, gridstrategiesllc.com. Rob and Merrie have four kids who are doing great.

Jennifer Friedmann (MPP ’97) joined Outstate Medical as Vice President of Government Affairs. She’s working for a disruptive technology company to help advance innovative and patient-centered kidney care and other medical services. Plus, she gets to go to California once a month! In personal news, her son, Jacob’s team is in the little league regionals. He is starting middle school in the fall, and her daughter, Jordana, is starting high school.

In July 2016, Jessica DCarlo (MPP ’16) joined the faculty at the University of Utah as an Assis- tant Professor in Geography and Environment. Her research examines Chinese engagement in a transnational political economy, and the development of policy networks. She has led projects for the Patient-Led Research Collaborative (PLRC), and Michael is a Policy Advisor for PLRC. Their oral histories focused on how they have engaged with NIH to advance research on Long COVID. Lisa has been a patient representative on NIH’s RECOVER Initiative, and Michael has participated in the project. They also discussed living with Long COVID, how they understand and respond to their symptoms, their advocacy work, and the importance of engaging patients in the research process.

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Tom Maxner (MPP ’20) and partner Emily wel- comed their child, Quinn, to the world on January 6, 2023. Quinn joins his brother Henry.

Kathryn White (MPP ’20) has been appointed to lead the Minnesota Office of Financial Regu- lation, giving Kathryn and her team the exciting opportunity to administer risk-based regulation and implementation of the future of the internet. As part of this work, Kathryn’s team has recently published two white papers in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. Search for “Social Implications of the Metaverse” and “Privacy and Safety in the Metaverse” at wef Główny.org/reports

Kody Kinsley (MPP ’16) writes, "In August, I had the chance to donate blood under the FDAs new policy. I left blood (and plasma) to save two lives in one day. I was the one who answered yes when they asked, "Is it safe to give blood?" In August, I had the chance to donate blood under the FDAs new policy. I left blood (and plasma) to save two lives in one day. I was the one who answered yes when they asked, "Is it safe to give blood?"

Justin Miller (MPP ’11) married Kari Ruiz on November 5, 2022, with several GSPP alumni in attendance. Andy and Kari were originally introduced to each other by Sonny the first for their future grad career goals.

Melissa Cortez (Public Policy ’20) used her pub- lic policy minor to help establish diversity, equity, and inclusion at the Southern California Medical Education Group, which provides leadership and training for all public health professionals in the region. She used her minor in public policy to help achieve a role as a senior level campuswide leader and educate her colleagues on real-world circumstances and how they, as a team, can help bring diversity into Kaiser Permanente.

After graduating in May 2021, Sophia Lee (Rhetoric ’21) was an Urban Fellow, a program that accepts 25 recent college grads and places them in different New York City government offices. She was placed at the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development.

In November 2022, a 3-month fellowship ended. I wanted to get some-on-the-ground field work in labor because I thought it would make me a better future policy maker on labor issues. I then began a job as an Organizer at the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 280, where I currently organize low-wage workers in residential buildings across all five boroughs. My public policy minor has given me a strong grounding in public policy that has traded-off and that we live in a world governed by incremental change. Even in my job where grassroots youth-power is the theory of change, we have had to push for legislation to be passed and not just crossed-fingers and hope that Congress will pass laws. My public policy minor degree has equipped me with a strong understanding of the public policy making process, how to get things done, and how to work with different stakeholders in working towards our goals.

Mag Tatum (MPP ’05) writes, “I started out as a Bio-Medical Engineer major and ventured off into my first Public Policy course and was super amazed and excited about the curriculum! Today, I support elected officials at one of the world’s leading Transportation companies in the Bay Area — BART!”

Mehra Dyal (Environmental Economics & Policy) describes. She has integrated her policy and regulation-related events in part of the topics they cover. Dyal reports for Bloomberg.

Since graduating, Ignacio Valverde (Film Stud- ies and Media Studies ’23) has worked at an immi- grant rights legal practice that is responsible for immigra- tion and policy. They have helped many clients with their cases.

Changrui Xiao (Molecular and Cell Biology ’09) is an advisor to the Policy and Regulation Affairs committee of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics.
Matthew Thomas (Economics ’17) joined the City and County of San Francisco audit department out of college. He immediately deployed the policy analysis and problem-solving skills developed in his GSPP classes. These skills helped jump-start his career and helped identify and resolve waste, inefficiencies, and compliance issues for the local San Francisco government. He has since moved into the private sector. Still, his public policy degree and local government work have been a differentiator for his career by bringing him unique perspectives and skills.

Richard Chiang (Business Administration ’09) notes that public policy is integral to his role as a software company leader. He is particularly interested in the social and regulatory impacts of complex software systems and relationships, having a better overall experience through personal and career development.

Lisa Lim (Legal Studies ’15) earned her master’s degree at the University of Chicago School of Law, with a concentration in international policy, as well as recently assuming the position of Policy Director for the Seattle AAUW where this year I will have just completed a MPP at Mills (having been passed over at GSPP - yep, you all missed the boat on this choice!) and am currently working in Seattle, over at GSPP… yep, you all missed the boat on that choice!) and am currently working in Seattle, addressing housing and digital equity policy, as well as recently assuming the position of Policy Chair for the Seattle 6A (with a focus on housing and the other on aging).

John Wu (Social Welfare ’15) says that having a minor in public policy during his undergraduate years, profoundly influenced his path to becoming a Program Data Analyst in the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. It was a foundation for his master’s in social welfare with a concentration in macro-level social work.

This dual layered academic experience cultivated a robust understanding of the various social policies and public health factors affecting diverse populations, and this understanding continues to shape his work on a daily basis.

The public policy minor sharpened his analytical skills, broadened his awareness of legislative processes, and instilled a deep appreciation for the need for an intersection of macro, micro, and inclusive policies. He learned to evaluate and navigate the complexities of public policy structures and understood how those structures can perpetuate wealth and poverty inequities in our society.

Applying this knowledge to his current role, he uses these skills to critically assess existing policies, identify gaps and areas for improvement, and aid in the creation of new macro, micro, and inclusive policies for veterans. Whether it’s optimizing healthcare accessibility, mitigating the effects of homelessness, or developing innovative approaches to mental health care, his background in public policy and macro-level social welfare helps him approach these challenges comprehensively.

In other words, the public policy minor degree not only shaped his career but also significantly increased the impact he could make. It equipped him with the necessary tools to identify, analyze, and address societal inequalities and structural challenges.

This dual-layered experience has contributed more effectively to the advancement of social welfare in his professional capacity, specifically improving the lives of veterans.

Sydney Schoonover (Environmental Economists and Policy ’21) said that Studying the relationships between public policy and environmental regulation. The program is a highly selective six-year dual JD and PhD in Law and Economics degree program. Berkeley’s minor in public policy allowed her to explore her interests — whether it be the behavioral economics and policy — while developing policy analysis skills.

She is now an appointee in the Biden Administration’s Health and Human Services Department. As a Staff Attorney at the Department of the Interior. Every day, she learns more about how policy is implemented and the importance of having the right people in the room to do it.

Andrew Quinio (Political Science ’08) writes, “I did a minor in public policy at the Goldman School and have strengthened my career as a civil rights litigator. Uplifting the promise of equality before the law requires me to navigate complex policy considerations that my time in public policy minor program prepared me for.”

Kat Lockwood (Society and Environment ’12) ran or worked at environmental and repro-ductive freedom policy advocacy nonprofits. Her first job was working as a field organizer in Iowa for Kamala Harris’ campaign, and the program then sent the general election organizing for the Democratic Party in Tucson, Arizona. She got to talk to folks on the ground about how policy and politics impacted their lives and what they wanted from their elected officials, and it shaped her understanding of our government’s role in defining and changing the status quo.

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Joyce Halabi (MPP ’19) who served on the leadership of Muneeb Khan (MPA ’20), the alumni leadership team. She is now an appointee in the Biden Administration’s Health and Human Services Department. As an appointee in the Biden Administration’s Health and Human Services Department.

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A Commitment to Public Education Becomes a Legacy

As a proud Berkeley graduate, Catherine Hutto Gordon Baker (BA’73) personified her alma mater’s public mission. After earning her BA in Social Welfare, Catherine dedicated her life to supporting educational institutions and helping children, especially those from marginalized communities or those with disabilities.

In February 2021, Catherine passed away unexpectedly, at the age of 69. Prior to her passing, she served as head of the Hutto-Patterson Charitable Foundation, which supported a variety of schools and nonprofits serving children. In addition, Catherine was an active and generous UC Berkeley volunteer, serving on the Goldman School’s Advisory Board, as well as on the boards of the UC Berkeley Foundation, the School of Social Welfare, and the School of Education.

Catherine’s passing was a tragic loss, but her passion continues to thrive at UC Berkeley thanks to her bequest. The Goldman School, along with the Schools of Social Welfare and Education, are the beneficiaries of an estate gift totaling nearly $7 million. At GSPP, we will honor Catherine’s commitment to the power of public education to change lives and transform society. For years to come, our faculty and students will benefit from a life that was very well lived.

Since its naming in honor of legendary Bay Area philanthropists Richard and Rhoda Goldman, the Goldman School of Public Policy has represented the family’s long-standing commitment to public service and impact.

With continued support from the Lisa & Douglas Goldman Family Fund, GSPP was able to break ground on a new courtyard that will reflect the family’s legacy of giving and help ensure that our campus — inside and out — will better reflect the talent and excellence that lies within.

I appreciate that the MPA program is a mid-career offering with students that bring a depth and variety of career experiences to the cohort. As a working mom, I am grateful for the flexible MPA schedule. And, as a hiker, I’m excited to explore the Bay Area trails!

Jennifer Pharr Davis
MPA 2024

Groundbreaking for GSPP’s New Courtyard

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Principal activities of The Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement (CCDE) have included the following: (1) organizing a Homecoming panel on civic-campus relations (with Dean Wilson, Sen. Skinner, Mayor Arreguin, Councilmembers Robinson and Harrison (both GSPP grads) and Faculty Director Lindheim); (2) sponsoring research projects including: (i) how legal partisan gerrymandering threatens democracy (and caused Republican control of the House); and (ii) how to improve community participation in District Attorney elections, given their importance in the criminal justice system; (3) providing substantial financial and mentoring support for 10 Spring APA projects on topics such as: campaign financing and the Court, diversity in law school admissions, improving staff working conditions in the CA legislature, the unintended consequences of HUD affordable housing rules, financing local government in Richmond, probation reform in Hawaii. Care Courts in CA; and promoting free speech in China. Learn more at gpp.berkeley.edu/cdce.

The Center for Environmental Policy and Public Affairs (CEPP), Energy Innovation, and GridLab released a new report, 2023 Report: Abundant, Affordable Offshore Wind Can Accelerate Our Clean Electricity Future, demonstrating the U.S. has one of the world’s best offshore wind potentials, enough to power up to 25 percent of America’s total power needs by 2050. With the right mix of policies today, offshore wind can help us meet our climate goals, create jobs, improve grid reliability and keep electricity affordable. In 2022, CEPP partnered with CalSpec to support the California Assembly Natural Resources and Senate Environmental Quality Committees to produce a report on microplastics, "An Evidence Review for the California State Legislature," titled “Microplastics Occurrence, Health Effects, and Mitigation Policies.” CEPP also serves as the Secretariat for the California Green Bond Market Development Committee project and committee members, May 15, 2023. Learn more at gpp.berkeley.edu/cepp.

The California Policy Lab (CPL) generates research insights for government impact. CPL partners with California agencies to conduct quantitative studies of directly policy-relevant questions. A recent study, led by Professor Steven Raphael in partnership with the County of Santa Clara Public Defender’s Office, evaluated a program providing earlier legal representation after an arrest. The program reduced time in jail, increased the chances that a case was dismissed, and lowered the chance of conviction. Another study, led by Professor Jesse Rothstein in partnership with several higher education and safety-net agencies, is studying the use of safety-net benefits by college students and its impact on educational outcomes. Learn more at capolicylab.org.

The India Energy & Climate Center (IECC) leverages clean energy technology and policy expertise at the world’s top public and private universities, Silicon Valley, and the state of California to catalyze the rapid transformation of energy systems that can deliver significant environmental, economic, and energy security benefits. Led by director Shruti M. Deorah, the center works collaboratively with Indian policymakers and business leaders to design an innovation and deployment ecosystem through technologically informed policy design, capacity building, a leadership dialogue platform and south-to-south collaboration. Learn more at iecc.gspp.berkeley.edu.

The Berkeley Risk & Security Lab housed the GSPP’s Center for Security in Politics examines global risk and resilience. The lab will also bridge the gap between policy-makers in Washington, with scientists and engineers in Silicon Valley and nurture the next generation of researchers. BSRL was launched under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Reddie and with the help of a $1.8M grant from the Founders Pledge Fund. Learn more at berkeley.edu.

In 2023, the Berkeley Institute for Young Americans embarked on new research initiatives focused on public policy issues affecting young Californians. In one project, our researchers are advising youth advocates and the state legislature about the pros and cons of lowering the voting age to 17. A recent policy brief shared with state lawmakers highlights existing research from other countries on how lowering the voting age effects turnout rates and improves voting as a lifetime habit, and also predicts the number of 17-year-olds in California that would turn out to vote in both midterm and presidential elections. In a second project, the institute is exploring reforms to Proposition 13 and how new funding would affect school finance for the state’s K-12 districts. Learn more at youngamericans.berkeley.edu.

The Center for Studies in Higher Education welcomed Lisa Garcia Bedolla, UC Berkeley’s Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Dean of the Graduate Division, and Professor in the School of Education, as the Interim Director. Lisa succeeds George Blumenthal, who recently concluded his term as the Director at the center. Since Spring 2023, CSHE highlights include an on-site career development session for Gardner Fellows from eight UC campuses; an in-person research symposium hosted by Student Experience in the Research University Consortium (SERU) with over 80 worldwide participants; and a virtual professional development program organized by the Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) for Ukrainian university leaders.

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“I chose the MPA at Berkeley because it allowed me to create my ideal program while still providing a strong public policy foundation.” — Gianna De Filippis (MPA ‘23)

Read more about Gianna’s story on page 22 and learn more about the dynamic, flexible, one-year Master of Public Affairs program at gspp.berkeley.edu/mpa