

policy notes



Protecting, Promoting, and Delivering on the Promise

Democracy Policy Initiative

FALL 2024

Second Annual Conference
and Alumni Gathering

Meet the Tech Policy Fellows

The Constructive Dialogue Initiative

From Dean David C. Wilson



THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL MOBILIZES THE RICH INTELLECTUAL ASSETS OF UC BERKELEY to provide our entire community — students, faculty, staff, alumni, advisors, and friends — with a transformational academic and cultural experience that instills standards of excellence and pride in our work, our peers, our school, and our university. We seek to be the world’s leading intellectual community of policy analysts and researchers for understanding and addressing the world’s most intractable public problems. Our aspirations are motivated by Berkeley’s public mission grounded in rigorous scholarship designed to inform policy and government solutions.

To meet our goals, we are making strategic investments that drive lasting impact. Our faculty, staff, and student body have grown significantly, reflecting the expanding scope of our work. We have redesigned our existing spaces at GSPP and extended our footprint to new facilities that house cutting-edge labs, research centers, innovative degree programs, and world-class staff, researchers, and faculty. In addition, we have launched strategic initiatives in key policy areas including technology and AI, security, energy and climate, democracy, data policy, public management, and agile government. Our growing list of partnerships spans both local collaborations with Alameda County, the City of San Jose, and Oakland, and global alliances with Taiwan, Ukraine, South Africa, India, and Mexico. And, we recently hosted our second annual conference and alumni gathering, bringing together our entire community to re-engage, reenergize, and rededicate ourselves to public service and changemaking. These achievements underscore GSPP’s ability to “be more” and “do more,” modeling the transformational change we seek to create in society.

Our programmatic excellence shines through several noteworthy achievements this year. In March, under the leadership of Professor of Practice Erika Weissinger, GSPP joined 13 other public policy schools to launch the Constructive Dialogue Initiative, aimed at bridging divides and fostering collaboration across differences. Over spring break, Professor Janet Napolitano spearheaded our second Berkeley GSPP student immersion program in Washington, DC, where students engaged with leaders from America’s national security agencies. In May, we proudly conferred 165 degrees to future leaders in public policy, development practice, and public affairs. June marked the celebration of our second cohort of the Data Skills for Congress program — offered in partnership with USAFacts — also in Washington, DC. And in July, GSPP received a transfer of governance to become the new home of the Master of Development Practice (MDP) degree program.

Our faculty continues to achieve remarkable milestones. Over the past year, Professor Hilary Hoynes was awarded the 2024 Daniel M. Holland Medal by the National Tax Association for groundbreaking work in child poverty, while Professor Amy Lerman received the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Award for Research in the Public Interest, recognizing her “exceptional commitment to advancing social change through public service.” The Berkeley Academic Senate selected Professor Henry Brady to deliver the 2025 Martin Meyerson Faculty Lecture. Emeritus Professor Eugene Bardach was awarded the 2024 Peter H. Rossi Award for Contributions to the Theory or Practice of Program Evaluation, and Emeritus Professor Richard Scheffler was both elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and named 2024 Emeritus of the Year by the Berkeley Emeriti Association. These are only a few of the many accomplishments by our school and community.

[Cont. on page 32](#)

table of contents



4 Protecting, Promoting, and Delivering on the Promise Democracy Policy Initiative

- 6 Second Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering
- 8 Meet the Tech Policy Fellows
- 10 The Constructive Dialogue Initiative
- 14 Meet the Senior Policy Advisors to the Dean
- 25 Ribbon-cutting for the new GSPP Courtyard

departments

- 11 Data Skills for Congress
- 12 GSPP Welcomes New Faculty
- 16 Faculty Notes
- 17 Remembering Eugene Smolensky
- 18 MDP Student Anthony Mulanzia
- 20 MPA Student Elycia Knight
- 21 PPIA
- 22 City of Oakland and the MPA
- 24 MPP Student Claire Sullivan
- 26 Event Highlights
- 28 Alumni Awards
- 30 Class Notes
- 32 From the Alumni Board Chair
- 33 GSPP Centers Updates

Editor’s Note

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU at the Goldman School’s Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering! As you’ll see from the article on page 6, the conference — just in its second year — was a vibrant and engaging event, full of thought-provoking policy discussions, networking opportunities, and the encouragement that comes from time spent with a community so wholeheartedly dedicated to the common good.

I was especially grateful for a chance to participate in the workshop on constructive dialogue. I listened as participants shared about broken relationships, the partisan pressures even the most “just-the-facts” agencies face, and how public comments so often devolve into a shouting match. And I thought about how earnestly those of us in that workshop were seeking to understand people with different points of view, while not giving up what we ourselves believe. There were no easy answers, of course. There rarely are. But I found myself heartened by our collective desire to learn, even when — especially when — the problems before us seem intractable. borareed@berkeley.edu



Bora Reed
Editor



(From left) Ian Bassin, Amy Lerman, Jake Grumbach, Angela Glover Blackwell, and David Wilson speaking about the Democracy Policy Initiative at the 2024 Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering

Protect, Promote, and Deliver on the Promise: GSPP's Democracy Policy Initiative

FOR POLITICAL SCIENTIST HENRY E. BRADY, the aspiration towards a flourishing democracy is an idea that's been present since the founding of the United States.

"It's in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution," says the Goldman School professor. "Democracy is about 'We the people.'"

Yet the United States — we, the people — is more divided than ever, polarized along racial, regional, and ideological lines. Trust in our public institutions is at an all-time low, and in some states, the instruments of public policy are being weaponized to achieve partisan ends. Such times call for a more adaptive engagement with the concept of democracy that provides a framework for informed analysis and action.

In response to these troubling times, the intellectual leadership of the Goldman School, including Dean David C. Wilson and Professors Angela Glover Blackwell, Jake Grumbach, Henry Brady, Robert Reich, Amy Lerman, Meredith Sadin, Dorothy Kronick, Daniel Sargent, Janet Napolitano, and others, are organizing their research, teaching, and public engagement around a new Democracy Policy Initiative (DPI).

With generous support from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the Levi Strauss Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, and the Peter E. Haas, Jr. Fund, the Goldman School aims to elevate the power of public policy as a UC Berkeley hub for research, learning, and community engagement about democracy in California and beyond.

"There is a gap between the concept of democracy and how you improve it. While most understand 'economic policy, health policy, education policy, climate, and energy policy...' you won't hear much about 'democracy policy,' it doesn't exist in any organized way," says Dean David Wilson. "Yet, public policy is how we operationalize the quality of democracy; it gives people a degree of choice about the kind of democracy we ought to have. Thus, the Goldman School advanced the DPI to establish democracy policy as a new, expansive, and cross-cutting academic area of focus for local, state, federal, and global governance."

"Democracy is the way we figure where we want to go as a nation," adds Brady. "We need the government to help set what the ground rules are of our society. We need public policy."

The initiative will leverage existing assets at the Goldman School and develop new ones. The School will accelerate the research and programming work at its Possibility Lab, Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement, and the Center for Security and Politics, and it will prioritize events that interrogate and inform the design of democracy.

The school will also invest in new curriculum to study democracy policy and bring in experts from government, academia, philanthropy, and the community. DPI will also stand up two new entities to organize its academic research and community practice agendas. The already launched Democracy Policy Lab (dpl.berkeley.edu), led by Professor Jake Grumbach, will strengthen American democracy by studying how public policies at the local, state, and national levels enhance democracy or leave it vulnerable to backsliding. The forthcoming Flourishing Democracy Institute, led by Professor of Practice Angela Glover Blackwell, will build bridges with frontline practitioners, academic stakeholders, and advocacy organizations through case studies, technical assistance, capacity building, and convenings.

"Democracy is under extreme threat right now," says Professor Angela Glover Blackwell, who serves as DPI's Chief Vision Officer. "That's alarming, but it's also exciting because people are thinking explicitly about democracy. For too long, we've taken it for granted."

Breadth of Democracy Policy Initiative Activities

Collaborative Research. Working with policymakers, advocacy groups, impacted communities, public officials, and across academic silos to identify pressing needs, source ideas, and co-design the best ways to develop and analyze pro-democracy policies and foster promising innovations.

Teaching and Curriculum Development. Codifying new interdisciplinary methods and approaches informed by the voices of underserved communities and policy innovations and spreading those to other institutions of learning. Training students and practitioners on current challenges, engaging them in research and the development of new policy innovations.

Public Education and Trust Building. Regular public lectures, expert panel discussions, and engagement to support practitioners, government leaders and their staff, community-led groups, and journalists to advance public understanding, trust, and increased participation in the civic landscape.

Changemaker Engagement. Supporting networks of pro-democracy actors committed to improving civil society through evidence-based public policy interventions. Training leaders on best practices and the latest tools and innovations, breaking down silos to drive better communication and coordination around democracy policy development, research, and implementation.

"And the world has changed," she continues. "Many states and localities are already experiencing the demographic shift. For democracy to work, it has to do so within the context of profound difference."

"Democratic institutions are some of the gems of human society throughout all time," says Professor Jake Grumbach. "But the U.S. didn't really become a full-fledged democracy until the civil rights revolutions of the 20th century came along. Since then, the U.S. has had many (small 'd') democratic triumphs. At the same time, meaningful challenges to voting rights have arisen that challenge people's ability to make their voice heard in elections."

"We live in a time of challenge and huge opportunity," says Glover Blackwell. "The promise of government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people' has always been an [unfulfilled] promise because it has never worked for all people. We can help change that." 

2024 Goldman School Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering

THE 2024 GOLDMAN SCHOOL ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ALUMNI GATHERING brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other policy practitioners to engage topics ranging from the responsible use of AI to a just clean energy transition to child poverty to voting and much more. The event kicked off with a keynote by Kara Hurst (MPP '98), Amazon's Chief Sustainability Officer, and concluded with the alumni awards banquet (see more on pg. 28).



(From left) Professor Hilary Hoynes, Surabhi Yadav (MDP '19), Janelle Chan (BA '02), Carol Chetkovich (MPP '87/PhD '94), Chaka Tellem (BA '23), Kody Kinsely (MPP '12), Dean David Wilson, Carl Javits (MPP '85), Assistant Dean Annie Campbell Washington



Kara Hurst (MPP '98), Amazon's Chief Sustainability Officer, gave the opening keynote address.



Alejandro Guevara-Sanginés (MPP '97) speaks with GSPP Faculty member Hector Cardenas (MPP '03) and guests



Dean David Wilson welcomes Goldman School alumni, students, faculty, board members, staff, and guests to the conference.



(From left) Alice Friend, Head of AI & Emerging Tech Policy at Google; Rachel Gillum, Vice President of Ethical & Humane Use of Technology at Salesforce; Sarah Shoker, Geopolitics Team Lead at OpenAI speaking on "The AI Paradox: Balancing Innovation with National Security."



Kad Smith of CompassPoint Nonprofit Services and Josh Daniels (MPP/JD '08) of the California School Board Association were two of the panelist in the seminar "Race-Neutral Laws, Racial Equity Goals: Strategies for Racial Repair."



(From left) Professor Jake Grumbach, Dean David Wilson, Professor Amy Lerman, DPI's Chief Vision Officer Angela Glover Blackwell, and Senior Policy Advisor Ian Bassin



MPA student Chip Moore with Sarah Rosencrantz



(From left) MPA students Elycia Knight, Aleksandra Chmielewska, Chelsea Cappadona, and Marshal Caro.



Carla Javits (MPP '85) was honored with a special award for her support of the next generation of public leaders. See page 29.

The 2024–2025 UC Berkeley Tech Policy Fellows

THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE the 2024–2025 cohort of the UC Berkeley Tech Policy Fellows Program, featuring an exceptional group of public and private sector innovators who bring diverse expertise from across the globe.

The Tech Policy Fellowship takes place over the course of 13 months and enables fellows to conduct and refine their research; develop skills in tech policy research; produce impactful tech policy deliverables; and engage with UC Berkeley faculty, staff, and students.

Fellows receive training on how to appropriately scope a tech policy problem, how to create impactful policy deliverables, and how to provide actionable guidance to policymakers. Fellows are placed in working groups, enabling collaborative research and thought leadership around a shared topical area.

The UC Berkeley Tech Policy Fellowship is supported by the CITRIS Policy Lab, the Goldman School of Public Policy, and the Berkeley School of Information.



WORKING GROUP

AI for Public Service Delivery

Tackling the integration of AI into public sector services to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and equity.



Claire Foulquier-Gazagnes

Sr Manager, Civic & Sustainability Partnerships, Google; Adjunct professor, Sciences Po Paris, France



Gideon Lichfield

Former Editor-in-Chief, WIRED & MIT Technology Review New York and Berkeley, USA



Kambria Dumesnil

Management Analyst 5, WA State Department of Labor & Industries; Founder, AI Innovation Lounge Montesano, USA



Melanie Kolbe-Guyot

Head of Policy, Center for Digital Trust (C4DT), EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland



Sabine Gerdon

Business Development Manager Data and AI, Amazon Web Services Berlin, Germany



William Cutler

Head of Tech Policy, British Consulate San Francisco San Francisco, USA



WORKING GROUP

Comparative Policy & Standards Analysis

Analyzing global policy frameworks and standards to drive harmonization and showcase best practices in technology governance.



Christine Galvagna

Head of Research, Eticas Foundation Munich, Germany



Debora Comparin

Standardization Expert, Thales Digital Identity & Security Paris, France



Nikhil Mulani

AI Policy Fellow in the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Planning at the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Washington D.C., USA



Sissi De La Peña Mendoza

Director, Mexican Academy for Cybersecurity and Digital Law Mexico City, Mexico

Melissa Hopkins

Health Security Policy Advisor, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security; Assistant Scientist, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Washington D.C., USA



WORKING GROUP

Content Moderation

Addressing the challenges of moderating online content to mitigate harm while upholding free expression



Isabelle Higgins

Teaching Associate — Media, Culture, and Sociological Theory, University of Cambridge Cambridge, UK



Jeff Lazarus

Strategic Response Manager, Meta San Francisco, USA



Joanna Smolinska

Counselor for Digital and Deputy Head of the EU Office in San Francisco, European Union Delegation to the US San Francisco, USA



Seppe Kelchtermans

Senior Specialist, Platform Safety Policy, Reddit Dublin, Ireland



Stephanie Haven

Responsible Technology Advisor San Francisco, USA



WORKING GROUP

Human Rights

Focusing on the intersection of technology and human rights, ensuring that digital innovations protect and advance fundamental freedoms.



Abeera Akhtar

GBV Tech Product Manager, UNICEF New York, USA



Imogen Resnick

Policy and Commissioning Manager, Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime London, UK



Meri Baghdasaryan

Senior Case and Policy Officer, Oversight Board San Francisco, USA



Ritu Narula

Senior Counsel, Loeb & Loeb LLP Washington D.C., USA



Stefanie Coyle

Deputy Director, Education Policy Center New York, USA and Cape Town, South Africa



WORKING GROUP

Improving Diversity in AI

Championing initiatives that promote the values of diversity, inclusion, and equity within AI development, deployment, and governance.



Gabrielle Hurtubise-Radet

Principal Program Manager at Mila (Quebec AI Institute) Montreal, Canada



Laura Carter

Independent researcher Seattle, USA



Maitreya Shah

Fellow, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University Cambridge, UK



Naureen Rizvi

Product Policy Lead at Twitch Chicago, USA

Seeking Deeper Understanding: Constructive Dialogue Initiative

63% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AGREE that the climate on their campus prevents people from saying things that they believe. 80% of Americans believe that the political opposition poses a threat to the country itself.

These sobering statistics reflect what most people already know through lived experience and observation: society is painfully polarized, discourse is often fraught, and political violence is on the rise.

How can a public policy school prepare its students, faculty, staff, and alumni to lead in such a world? To meaningfully engage with those whose views differ from their own?

With those questions in mind, the Goldman School has launched the Constructive Dialogue Initiative (CDI). With support from the Volcker Alliance and led by Dr. Erika Weissinger, Assistant Professor of Practice and Director of Community, Climate, and Culture, CDI aims to equip the entire GSPP community with the resources needed to foster “a form of conversation where people with different viewpoints try to understand each other — without giving up their own beliefs — in order to work together.”

“The Constructive Dialogue Initiative is essential for GSPP because it equips our community with the skills to engage in meaningful, respectful conversations across divides — whether those divides are between countries, religions, or political ideologies,” said Weissinger. “Here in Berkeley, it’s often progressives disagreeing with fellow progressives. When stakeholders lack the tools for constructive engagement, the policymaking environment becomes disheartening, with conflict stalling progress. Constructive dialogue allows us to hold on to each other’s humanity, even when we passionately disagree. The key question then becomes: How can I truly hear your viewpoint, and how can you hear mine? From there, how can we collaborate to create something better than what we could achieve in isolation, without the benefit of each other’s perspectives?”

CDI at the Goldman School is made up of the following parts:

- An online course, Perspectives, offered to GSPP students, faculty, and staff. Perspective teaches psychological concepts to foster openness and equips participants with evidence-based practices for engaging in dialogue across difference. Topics include “Cultivating Intellectual Humility,” “Managing Emotions in Conversations, and “Mastering Difficult Conversations.”
- CDI concepts integrated into core MPP, MPA and MDP curriculum
- A class taught by Weissinger that delves deeper into the concepts involved in dialogue across difference



Alumni and students engaged in constructive dialogue exercises at GSPP Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering

- A series of events on topics related to constructive dialogue. Possible topics include the Paradox of Tolerance (The conundrum of tolerating the intolerant in current socio-political climates), Student Activism and Free Speech (First Amendment complexities in the context of campus activism), and Dialogue, Marginalization, and Privilege (How personal experiences and identities shape dialogue and understanding).
“As someone deeply involved in Berkeley’s political landscape, I’ve seen firsthand the challenges of addressing community needs amidst a backdrop of division and dysfunction,” said MPA student John

“Chip” Moore. “The Constructive Dialogue class has been a space to sharpen my skills in navigating complex conversations, finding common ground, and bridging gaps between opposing viewpoints. It’s empowering to learn how dialogue can be a tool for fostering real change in the policy process.”

“I decided to join the GSPP’s Constructive Dialogue class because I’ve always been interested in how different viewpoints can shape policy decisions, especially as someone who cares deeply about human services and immigration,” said MPA student Lucila Hernandez-Guido. “Being a first-generation Chicana, I’ve seen how impor-

tant it is for people from all walks of life to have a voice in the process. I’m really hoping to learn how to navigate difficult conversations and find common ground. So far, I’ve learned how important it is to listen more than you speak and to approach things with empathy and understanding. The class has shown me that dialogue isn’t just about talking; it’s about creating a space where everyone feels heard, especially those who are often overlooked. It’s been eye-opening to see how much can be accomplished when people come together with respect and openness.” **G**

To learn more about Constructive Dialogue at GSPP and for a list of resources, please visit gspp.berkeley.edu/constructive-dialogue

Data Skills for Congress

Congressional staffers celebrate completion of first-of-its-kind program

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF GATHERED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO CELEBRATE completing Data Skills for Congress, a new professional education program hosted by the Goldman School in partnership with nonprofit public data platform USA-Facts. The celebratory event welcomed 23 current and former participants to network and strengthen ties around a commitment to using data and evidence in congressional work.

Data Skills for Congress is a 10-week certificate program that culminates in a final data-centered capstone project. Participants attend weekly lectures with a range of experts specializing in data analysis, congressional operations, and data policy, combined with hands-on in-class exercises to maximize practical skills application. This novel program leverages the Goldman School’s public policy expertise with real-world applications to support evidence-based policymaking within Congress.

During the class celebration, three participants showcased their Capstone projects, ranging from creating a new wetlands data collection to improving storage and sharing of congressional testimony to assessing the health effects of outdoor air quality. **G**



Capstone Project: Assessing Progress in California Air Quality

Brennan Adelaide, Deputy Communications Director for the House Foreign Affairs Committee Minority, chose to use data analysis and visualization skills taught in Data Skill for Congress to map air quality over time for her home state of California. The resulting set of visuals shows an increase in particulate matter harmful to human health increasing from 1993 to 2013, then improving between 2013 and 2023. Clear, simple visuals are vital for conveying actionable information to inform legislation and is an essential part of the Data Skills for Congress curriculum.



Capstone Project: Congressional Testimony Database

Christie Kimura, Legislative Aide for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, became interested in the value of congressional testimony. Her capstone program explored the ways in which speech is a form of data, and proposed collecting, transcribing, tagging, and publishing congressional hearings in order to capture expert guidance to Congress. Creating such a database would allow future committees to more easily review existing testimony, and for the same testimony to be used by multiple committees.



Capstone Project: New Molokai Wetlands Data Collection

M. Laakea Stone, Legislative Aide and Appropriations Manager for Hawaiian Senator Mazie Hirono, noticed that Hawaii lacks comprehensive data on wetland health despite other states and regions having robust wetland data collections. For his capstone, Laakea wrote a policy proposal to create a system to collect, monitor, and improve Hawaii’s coastlines.



GSPP Welcomes New Faculty

The Goldman School welcomes five new professors this fall to the GSPP. They bring expertise ranging from environmental policy and the political economy of development to technology policy and social influence.

We checked in with our new faculty members to learn more about their background, research, and what they’re looking forward to as a part of the GSPP community.



Diag Davenport
Assistant Professor of Technology Policy, Governance, and Society

Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Education: B.S. (Economics & Management), Penn State University
M.S. (Mathematics & Statistics), Georgetown University
Ph.D. (Behavioral Science), University of Chicago, Booth School of Business
Research focus: I study tech policy, criminal justice, and social influence.
Introduction: I grew up bouncing between schools in the U.S. (D.C.), Jamaica (Kingston), and England (London), so I’m always looking for an excuse to go get a home-cooked meal in any of my childhood hometowns. My first job out of undergrad was helping companies sue each other. Every job since has been more fulfilling! I love rap and spicy food — if it doesn’t make you make a face, it doesn’t count.
Courses teaching: Decisions and Algorithms, Behavioral Science and Public Policy
Most excited about: Building new ideas with students
Fun fact: In grade school, I skipped 6th grade and did 8th grade twice.



Na’ama Shenhav
Assistant Professor

Hometown: Saratoga, CA
Education: B.A. Economics and Political Science, UC Berkeley
Ph.D. Economics, UC Davis
Research focus: I am a labor economist who studies policies related to education, gender, and health.
Introduction: I grew up in California; the daughter of immigrant parents who worked as engineers in Silicon Valley, and a life-long attendee of California public schools/universities (including Cal for my undergraduate degree). Before I became an academic, I worked as a barista, an economic litigation consultant, and a financial analyst for a network of charter schools. I enjoy hiking, analyzing data, and traveling to new places.
Courses teaching: Economics of Public Policy Analysis (PP210A); Gender and the Economy
Most excited about: I am excited to be among and learn from the vibrant community of scholars at GSPP.
Fun fact: Before starting graduate school, I biked down the coast of California from San Francisco to Santa Barbara.



Carlos Schmidt Padilla
Assistant Professor of Public Policy

Hometown: San Salvador, El Salvador
Education: BA Government, Harvard University; PhD in Political Science, UC Berkeley
Research focus: Broadly, my research encompasses the political economy of development, with a particular focus on issues related to human capital, crime, migration, and policing.
Introduction: I am originally from San Salvador, El Salvador. Before returning to UC Berkeley, I was a postdoc at Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania. In my spare time, I like to eat and sleep.
Courses teaching: Introduction to Development Practice
Most excited about: Being back in the Bay Area.



Felix Owusu
Assistant Professor of Public Policy

Hometown: Techiman, Ghana
Education: BA, Economics and Political Science, Williams College
MPP, UC Berkeley
PhD, Public Policy, Harvard University



Peter Linquiti
Professor of Practice

Research focus: Criminal Legal System, Race and Ethnicity, Inequality, Labor
Introduction: I am originally from Ghana and have lived in Ottawa, Minnesota, Washington (state and D.C.), Iowa, Western Massachusetts, New York City, Eastern Massachusetts (twice), Berkeley (also twice), and most recently Chicago. My work connects the tools of research and data science with the needs of communities and the institutions that represent them. I have worked directly with institutions in local, state, and federal governments to improve policy through research and facilitating transparency and accountability. In my free time, I enjoy reading, exercise, playing hand percussion, and role-playing games.
Courses teaching: Data Science for Public Policy
Most excited about: Returning to the Bay Area and GSPP after nearly 10 years!
Fun fact: Contrary to popular belief, my black cat Huey has brought nothing but good fortune.

Hometown: Tustin, California
Education: BA, Political Science, UC Berkeley
MPP, Goldman School, UC Berkeley
PhD, Public Policy & Public Administration, Trachtenberg School, George Washington University
Research focus: Policy analysis methods, U.S. environmental policy, science & technology policy
Introduction: I was born just outside Washington, D.C., but moved to Southern

California when I was four. After getting a BA in political science and an MPP at Cal, I moved back to the D.C. area and worked at an environmental consulting firm for many years. Eventually, I got bored and decided that I needed a PhD (yeah — go figure). Things worked out well and I spent a decade-plus teaching policy analysis at GW. My wife and I moved back to Berkeley this summer (bringing an enthusiasm for the Washington Nationals with us).
Courses teaching: PP200A, Foundations for Public Policy Analysis; PA215, Economics for Public Policy Makers
Most excited about: Helping GSPP students acquire the skills they need to build a better future for all of us.
Fun fact: My wife and I met as MPP students at GSPP. 



Alumni Connections

Networking events in DC, San Francisco, and Sacramento (not pictured) connected Goldman School students with alumni and prospective employers in government and the non-profit and private sectors, creating opportunities for projects, internships, and jobs after graduation.

The Goldman School of Public Policy is honored to welcome six distinguished policy advisors to our community: Katie Albright, Ian Bassin, X. Eyeé, Robert Hertzberg, Thomas Moran, and Dr. Michael McAfee. Their collective expertise and leadership will be instrumental in advancing GSPP's mission to shape impactful public policy for the greater good.



Katie Albright

Katie Albright is a nationally recognized attorney and children's advocate with over thirty years of experience in legal and nonprofit leadership. She specializes in children's health and well-being, with a focus on childhood mental health, adverse childhood experiences, and child welfare reform. Albright has led statewide policy reform in California to advance equity for children and families, and holds key roles on the First 5 California Commission and the San Francisco Homelessness Oversight Commission. Her career includes legal, policy, and executive positions across various organizations, with a longstanding commitment to improving outcomes for children and families.

"I am honored to serve as an advisor to the Goldman School of Public Policy. Dean Wilson's vision to advance justice on a global scale is inspiring and catalytic. In partnership, we can seek to address systemic barriers facing children, families, and communities both locally and globally, specifically focused on inequities in early learning, mental and physical well-being, safety, economic security, housing, and other social determinants of health."



Ian Bassin

Ian Bassin is co-founder and Executive Director of Protect Democracy. He previously served as Associate White House Counsel, where in addition to counseling the President and senior White House staff on administrative and constitutional law, his responsibilities included ensuring that White House and executive branch officials complied with the laws, rules, and norms that protect the fundamentally democratic nature of our government. His writing on democracy, authoritarianism, and American law and politics has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Salon*, the *New York Review of Books*, and other publications. He is a recipient of a 2023 MacArthur Fellowship, the Skoll Award for Social Innovation, and has repeatedly been named among the 500 most influential people in Washington by *Washingtonian Magazine*.

"At a time when democracy is being threatened by authoritarians at home and abroad, it's critical that American institutions reinvest in exploring what democracy means today and what policies and actions are needed to strengthen and improve it for future generations. I'm gratified to see GSPP taking a leading role in this generational effort, and I'm honored to be a part of helping Dean Wilson, the school, and the rising leaders in its student body take up the mantle of carrying our democracy forward into the 21st Century."



X. Eyeé

X. Eyeé is an award-winning expert in artificial intelligence and the CEO of Malo Santo — an AI consulting firm. X's insights have been featured in *Forbes*, *BET*, and *Wired*, with multiple appearances on CNBC's *Power Lunch*. Over the past 17 years, X has served as an engineering leader, product manager, and researcher for companies like Microsoft, Google, and the Department of Defense. At Microsoft, X worked on cutting-edge Ambient Intelligence solutions that combined blockchain, AI, and IoT for Fortune 500 companies around the world. At Google, they worked across all of Google's AI products & research to ensure they were built responsibly & ethically. X created novel research teams, including the Skin Tone team, which developed techniques to improve AI's ability to recognize diverse skin tones. This work set new industry standards for measuring skin tone in AI & enhanced products like the Pixel phone's camera & Google's Image Search.

Now, as CEO of Malo Santo, an AI consulting firm, X empowers companies to build AI that scales — across geographies, cultures, and within communities.

"AI is actively shaping our world, and defining appropriate boundaries for AI systems is critical to our collective future. In this role with GSPP, I'll help develop resources that enable policymakers and industry practitioners to craft AI policies that balance societal protection with innovation. Our goal is to equip decision-makers with the tools they need to shape an AI-driven future — one that amplifies human potential while mitigating potential risks to our society."

GSPP Welcomes Six New Policy Advisors



Robert Hertzberg

A Los Angeles native, Robert Hertzberg has served as both Speaker of the California State Assembly and Majority Leader of the California State Senate, earning a reputation for tackling California's most complex challenges and brokering critical negotiations. Known for his relentless energy and dedication, Hertzberg has been lauded by the *Los Angeles Times* and Google as one of California's most respected legislators. A 1979 graduate of UC San Francisco School of Law, he has been repeatedly recognized as one of California's top lawyers. Between his legislative terms, Hertzberg worked extensively in the global climate and energy sectors, earning international accolades for his innovative contributions. His public service includes leadership roles with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, MALDEF, and various boards and transition teams.

"I am excited to bring my deep hands-on experience to the students and faculty at Goldman. I am thrilled by Dean Wilson's leadership in working to expand our public policy education at Goldman and am honored to be part of the team."



Thomas Moran

Thomas Moran joined GSPP's Center for Security in Politics in July 2024 after a distinguished 27-year career at the CIA. Over the course of multiple field tours, Moran served as an operations officer and six-time chief of station in varied overseas and operational environments, including East Asia, Western Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. He is fluent in French, has working proficiency in Spanish and Farsi. In Washington, Moran served in several senior leadership and resource management positions.

Moran was a member of the Senior Intelligence Service and is the recipient of the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal (2023), National Intelligence Superior Service Medal (2016), the Intelligence Star for Heroism (2002), and the CIA's Directorate of Operations most distinguished award, the Donovan Award (2000).

"I am very excited to join with the team at GSPP to pass along some of what I learned over the course of almost thirty years with the US Intelligence Community, provide real life examples of its role in national security and policy and, hopefully, inspire some students to consider taking up the challenge and committing to public service."



Michael McAfee

Michael McAfee has served as President and CEO of PolicyLink since 2018, following his impactful leadership as the inaugural director of the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink. With a focus on equity and inclusion, McAfee has spearheaded efforts to secure Promise Neighborhoods as a permanent federal program and improve outcomes for over 300,000 children. He is a leading advocate for corporate racial equity, developing the first comprehensive tool for private-sector companies to promote equity across their value chains. McAfee is committed to ensuring that equity remains a powerful and actionable concept, resisting its dilution into mere rhetoric. His work targets the 100 million people living in or near poverty, aiming to create a just society where all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Before joining PolicyLink, McAfee held key roles at HUD and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, where he significantly advanced affordable housing and community development. A sought-after speaker and published author, McAfee holds a Doctor of Education from George Washington University and has completed Harvard University's Executive Program in Public Management. He lives in the Oakland Hills with his wife, Maja, and enjoys off-road hiking and yoga.

"I'm thrilled to be a partner of GSPP, working with practitioners to strengthen our democracy. Leaders across all sectors have a critical role to play in the journey to renew our nation, and I'm looking forward to evolving our governing systems and structures to work for all. **G**

Adam Leive was elected as a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, as an Academic Fellow at the TIAA Institute, and as an invited researcher at J-PAL North America. His research on household choices of health insurance and retirement saving was awarded the Financial Literacy Research Award at the Cherry Blossom Financial Education Institute.

Jesse Rothstein was appointed the new director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education and was awarded the David Pierpont Gardner Chair in Higher Education. He continues to hold the Carmel P. Friesen Chair in Public Policy and to direct the California Policy Lab. He was named the winner of the 2024 Impactful Mentor Award, given by the American Economic Association's Mentoring Program in recognition of his work as a mentor, particularly for students from under-represented backgrounds. He published five papers in peer-reviewed journals, including a study of labor market outcomes for young people entering the market after the Great Recession, in the *Journal of Human Resources*, and a study of industry earnings differentials, in the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. He also organized a conference on research on intergenerational mobility, through the National Bureau of Economic Research, and joined the advisory boards of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute and the Economic Policy Institute.

Todd Achilles is a lead author on an *American Economic Liberties* project (with Nidhi Hegde, MPA'18) white paper addressing anti-competitive risks in the CHIPS Act, "Reshoring and Restoring: CHIPS Implementation for a Competitive Semiconductor Industry" (Feb 2024). Todd was appointed to the Idaho State Legislature in Feb 2024, representing District 16 in Boise and Garden City. He defended his seat in the May 2024 primary and will face a November 2024 opponent.

GSPP faculty member **Dan Lindheim** was a recent a guest on KQED Forum discussing issues facing Oakland. During the past months, Dan was also a frequent interviewee on KQED, KPIX TV, KGO TV, the *SF Chronicle*, *Oaklandside*, and *East Bay Times* as well as being interviewed by the *NY Times* and the BBC. During AY23-24, Dan continued to work with the Berkeley School District serving on the Superintendent's Budget Committee, the District's Audit Committee, and various ad hoc committees.

David C. Wilson was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and appointed to the board of directors for the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. He published "Stop the Steal": Racial Resentment, Affective Partisanship, and Investigating

the January 6th Insurrection" in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and "The Need for A Recurring Large-Scale Benchmarking Survey to Continually Evaluate Sampling Methods and Administration Modes: Lessons from the 2022 Collaborative Midterm Survey" in *arXiv*. He was awarded a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to conduct a three-wave survey investigating "the Political Psychology of American Democracy." He continues to serve as a co-investigator for the Health of Democracy Survey, sponsored by the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame, and as an advisor on the NSF-sponsored Collaborative Midterm Election Survey run by the Center for Social Sciences at Cornell University. Wilson's presentations included keynote lectures at the 6th World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality in Cape Town, South Africa; the 3rd Annual Conference of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) at St. Phillips College in San Antonio, TX; the Port of San Francisco CHAT Speaker Series in San Francisco; and the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 Flagship Event in Gujarat, India.

Brenda Fellows, a new lecturer in GSPP, was appointed to the Dr. Jeffrey Thomas Stroke Shield Foundation as a Scientific Advisory Board Member. She reviews and offers scientific direction, recommends applications and proposals for funding, and recommends grants to organizations wishing to receive monies to fund programs assisting stroke victims throughout the United States. Letters of intent and proposals are reviewed from respected institutions such as Harvard, Stanford, Rutgers, University of California, Los Angeles; University of Pennsylvania, University of California, Davis; University of California, San Francisco; Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, University of Florida and many other organizations in need of funding. Further, Fellows has a peer-reviewed academic journal article published in the *International Journal of Mental Health (IJMH)* centering on the importance and crucial benefits of formal mentoring programs; specifically as it relates to women and emotion. The article brings to the fore issues impacting all women, women of color, and women working in higher academia, the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Award Winning Research conducted by Fellows demonstrates the role of formal mentoring and how women and emotion play a critical role within all organizations among all levels by integrating the 6 Intelligences (IQ, EQ, AC, CQ, SQ and SQ) and the 4 Capitals (Human, Resource, Political and Community).

Andrew Reddie was invited to speak at the U.S. Strategic Command's Annual Deterrence Symposium on the international security challenges



Eugene Bardach was selected as a recipient of the 2024 Peter H. Rossi Award for Contributions to the Theory or Practice of Program Evaluation from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).

posed by non-nuclear technologies—namely AI-military integration. Other speakers included current and former government officials, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and current members of Congress.

Margaretta Lin and her beloved community have had an impactful year of making good trouble! Along with Dan Lindheim (GSPP) and Charisma Acey (DCRP), Lin launched the Dellums Clinic to Dismantle Structural Injustice, a partnership between GSPP, CED, Just Cities, and local government agencies and community-based organizations. Dellums Clinic projects focused on local implementation of new transformative California state laws, including SB1000, AB617, and AB686. Students directly experienced the real-world messiness, conflicts, and joys of structural change work. They contributed in invaluable ways, including Cynthia Avalos (MPP '24) whose clinic work for her hometown of Norwalk, CA has led to State agency commitment to address the severe human health and community impacts of truck routing through low-income communities. Lin and Acey's community-based research partnership over the past several years has resulted in critical evidence supporting California public policy change recommendations to address the structural roots of racial disparities in land use,

Continued on page 19

Remembering Eugene Smolensky

1932–2023



IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, the Goldman School gathered to remember and celebrate the legacy of emeritus professor and former GSPP dean Eugene Smolensky, who passed away in December 2023 at the age of 91.

Eugene "Geno" Smolensky was dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy from 1988 to 1997 and director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin from 1980 to 1983. He also served in both the Carter and Clinton Administrations.

Smolensky was a public finance economist and leader in the study of poverty, income distribution, and social welfare programs. His path-breaking 1977 book (with Morgan Reynolds), *Public Expenditures, Taxes, and the Distribution of Income: The United States, 1950, 1961, 1970*, provided the first detailed look at income inequality over time that took into account the benefits and burdens of government expenditures and taxes at all levels. His other work considered homelessness, measures of poverty, discrimination against minorities, immigration and poverty, and the challenges of child care, family work policies, and low incomes facing working families.

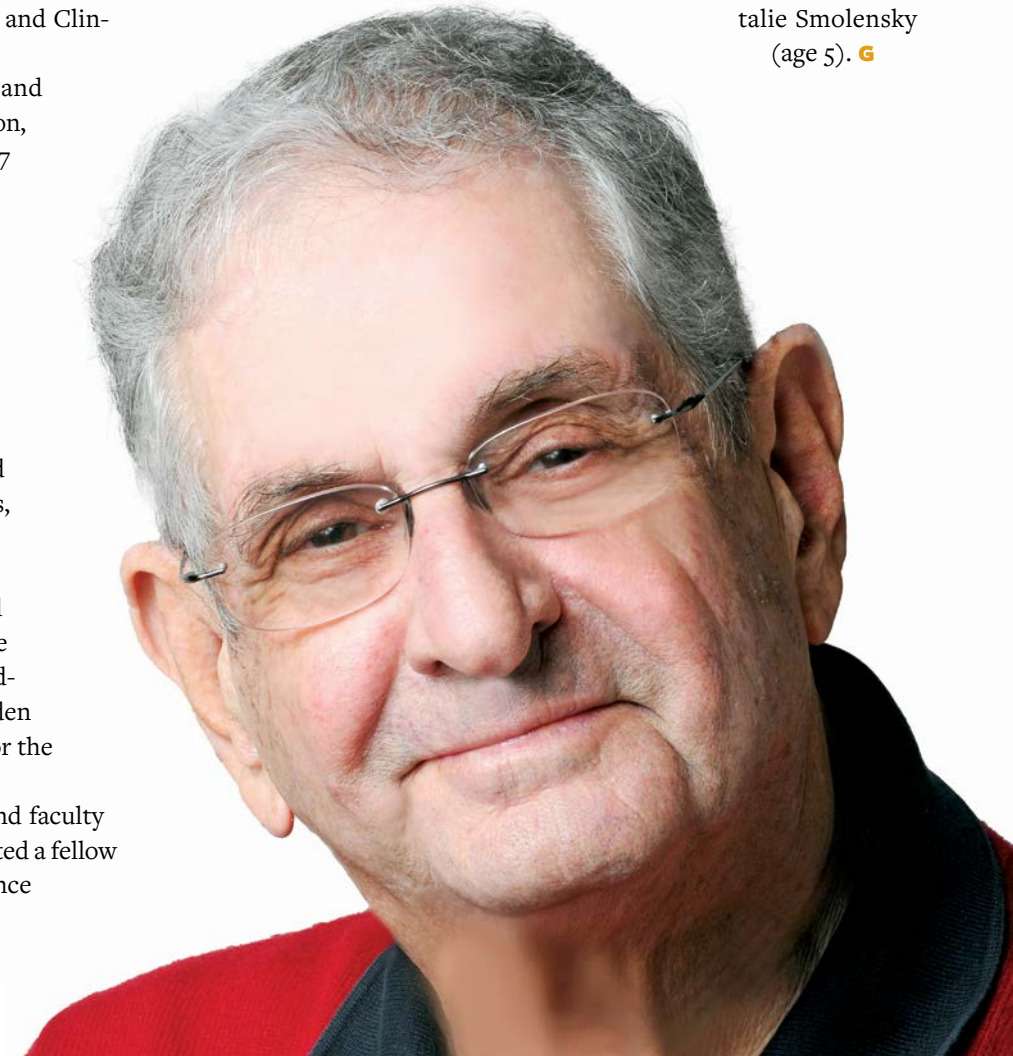
Under his deanship of the Goldman School, the core funding was obtained to build a second building (1893 LeRoy) and expand the school. He created the Advisory Board for the School, including international members, that serves to broaden the sources of innovative ideas and initiatives for the School to pursue.

Geno was much beloved by students, staff, and faculty for his humor, decency, and wisdom. He was elected a fellow of both the National Academy of Social Insurance and the National Academy of Public Administration. He served on the Board of Trustees

of the Russell Sage Foundation, and he was Vice-President of the International Institute of Public Finance. He served as Editor of the *Journal of Human Resources*, the leading economics journal on the study of poverty and related topics. He was an advisor to numerous organizations, including the World Bank, the U.S. Social Security Administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the National League of Cities.

Eugene Smolensky held a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Natalie Joan Rabinowitz Smolensky

(d. 2005), and is survived by the following family members: children Paul Smolensky and Beth Smolensky; daughter-in-law Géraldine Legendre; grandson Josh Legendre Smolensky and spouse Megan Ulsh Smolensky; nephew Matthew Rabin; and great-granddaughters Chloe Noelle Smolensky (age 8), Claire Natalie Smolensky (age 5). **G**



Anthony Mulanzia

What kind of work were you doing before you came to the Goldman School?

Before joining the Goldman School, I worked in the humanitarian and development sector across East Africa. My role at Axiom Monitoring and Evaluation involved overseeing humanitarian and development programs in conflict regions such as Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

In Somalia, I led the evaluation of over 100 development programs, offering critical insights and recommendations for transforming humanitarian efforts to prioritize sustainability, climate resilience, community empowerment, and inclusion. These evaluations also covered emergency humanitarian responses, complex development programs, stabilization efforts, and social protection systems.

As a project manager with the American Councils on International Education, working under the U.S. State Department, I designed impact-driven, durable solutions for vulnerable communities in Kenya. I completed four community projects that improved access to healthcare, sanitation, education, and mental health services for over 4,000 young people, including women and people living with disabilities.

Recently, I've worked with Konexio Africa on innovative, sustainable refugee management solutions. These included digital livelihood training and job placement for refugees in Kakuma, Kenya, and Malawi. The programs focused on empowering women refugees in camp settings, particularly in Kakuma and Dzaleka refugee camps.

Why did you choose to attend policy school at this point in your career? And why GSPP?

Choosing to step away from the field and return to school was a tough decision, especially as I was at a point of significant upward mobility in the development sector. However, I noticed a disconnect between academic theory and on-the-ground prac-

tice in development work. I wanted a program that bridged that gap.

I had already turned down acceptance offers from three leading schools in international development when a GSPP alumnus, Matthew Ndolo, opened my eyes to what the Goldman School had to offer. Its interdisciplinary focus, globally oriented faculty, and holistic programming aligned perfectly with my goals.

Many of my friends and family still don't fully understand what development practice involves, which reflects the broader challenge of making development work more relatable to the public. Development intersects with all sectors of the global community, and I wanted an education that could harness that complexity.

What have been the most helpful/impactful aspects of a GSPP education so far?

The collaborative learning environment at GSPP, rather than a competitive one, has been incredibly impactful in fostering innovative ideas and supporting academic excellence. The diverse student body



brings together great minds and provides a global perspective on development pathways, which is crucial for future work in this field.

I've been particularly impressed by the intellectual rigor, the wraparound support system — especially in career coaching and networking — and the emphasis on practice-oriented learning. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows students to navigate multi-sectoral issues and prepare for real-world impact. At GSPP, the focus is not on exams or grades but on cultivating professional excellence in international development, a value I strongly resonate with.

MDP Student

What do you hope to do after graduation?

After graduation, I aim to apply my skills to enhance programs addressing migration and refugee governance in the Horn of Africa. My focus will be on developing effective strategies for improving the integration and support systems for refugees, addressing climate-induced displacement, and fostering inclusive community development. By leveraging the knowledge and tools from my studies at GSPP, I hope to drive impactful, evidence-based interventions that promote long-term stability and resilience in the region.

Additionally, I plan to pursue a doctorate at the Goldman School to further explore and contribute to development practice through advanced research and policy analysis. My goal is to deepen my expertise, influence policy at higher levels, and mentor emerging development professionals, ensuring that my work continues to address complex development challenges effectively. **G**

Faculty Notes continued from page 16

housing, transportation, environmental, and mass incarceration injustices. This fall, they will be producing final reports, articles, and convenings for government leaders, academic researchers, and grassroots community activists. Lin is very grateful for the GSPP community support and partnership — the alumni who co-envisioned the Dellums Clinic and classes she teaches, the current students who embrace her teaching, and the amazing staff, faculty, and organizational leaders who are the backbone of the GSPP institution.

Meredith Sadin was appointed Director of the Center on Civility & Democratic Engagement, where she will continue and expand the Center's tradition of facilitating dialogue across divides and engaging communities that are too often excluded from the policy process. She also was awarded grants from the CARESTAR Foundation and Alameda County EMS totaling \$430k to explore race and gender equity among emergency medical professionals across the state.

Jennifer Skeem published an article on the effects of repealing juvenile justice fees on families' financial stress and adolescents' probation outcomes (with Jaclyn Chambers, Luyi Jian, and Karin Martin, in *Psychology, Public Policy & Law*). Results of this study were cited by the U.S. Department of Justice in a report calling for juvenile fee reform. In a second peer-reviewed article (also in PPP&L), Skeem and former student Luyi Jian present an empirically informed conceptual model for building young people's sense of prosocial identity to promote desistance from antisocial behavior. Skeem also published an empirical review of "Clinical and Actuarial Predictions of Violence" in *Modern Scientific Evidence: The Law and Science of Expert Testimony* (with John Monahan). Skeem delivered invited keynotes at conferences hosted by the U.S. Pretrial and Probation Services, Chief Probation Officers of California, California Board of Parole Hearings, and American Probation and Parole Association.

Peter Linquiti joined the GSPP faculty in the summer of 2024, after a 12-year stint on the faculty at George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Administration. His article "Operationalizing Lasswell's Call for Clarification of Value Goals: An Equity-Based Approach to Normative Public Policy Analysis" was published in *Policy Sciences* in March of 2024. In June, he presented the article at the National Academy of Public Administration's Social Equity Leadership Conference in Stamford, CT.

Noam Schimmel is the guest co-editor of a special issue of the *Peace Review* journal on the topic of reparative justice in Africa and published another essay in this issue of the journal. Schimmel also published an essay in *World Affairs*: "The State of Human Rights in South Africa Approaching 30 Years of Post-Apartheid Democracy: Successes, Failures, and Prospects." He was additionally awarded the Human Rights Champion Award in 2024 from Humanity in Action USA.

MPA Student Elycia Knight



What kind of work were you doing before you came to the Goldman School?

Before being admitted to the Goldman School of Public Policy, I worked in local government for the City of Santa Clara, supporting the City Manager’s Office with long-range planning and economic development.

Why did you choose to go to policy school at this point in your career? And why GSPP?

I chose to attend policy school as a mid-career professional to enhance my leadership skills, deepen my academic knowledge, and better address complex challenges in urban communities. The UC Berkeley MPA program provides the ideal platform for me to advance my career goals, offering a flexible curriculum that allowed me to focus on my personal passions of economic development, urban revitalization and representation for black and brown communities. I chose GSPP because it emphasizes both critical but creative thinking around policy analysis, development, and implementation that represent my personal interest.



What have been the most helpful/impactful aspects of a GSPP education so far?

The GSPP faculty and staff have been incredibly supportive, creating an environment that is both academically challenging and personally enriching. I truly appreciate the balance between academic research and real-world application. It’s not just about theory — it’s about putting ideas into action. The Goldman School encourages students to lean into their personal problem-solving style while tackling tough issues — that’s the Goldman way. #GSPProud

What do you hope to do in your life after graduation?

After graduation, I hope to explore roles that allow me to continue building communities through thoughtful, equitable urban development. Whether it’s consulting, working with economic development agencies, getting involved with nonprofit organizations, or contributing to redevelopment projects in cities that prioritize cultural preservation and community engagement, my goal is to help shape urban areas into more inclusive and thriving environments. I’m still figuring out exactly which direction I’ll go, but I know I’ll focus on roles that bring together policy, urban planning, and community engagement to create more inclusive and vibrant cities. 

The Goldman School encourages students to lean into their personal problem-solving style while tackling tough issues — that’s the Goldman way. #GSPProud



By Aarin Walker PPIA Program Director

THE SUMMER OF 2024 MARKED THE 42ND YEAR the Goldman School hosted a summer institute in policy skills. Over the years, this program has been grounded programmatically to empower and better address the needs of historically underserved communities. The PPIA Junior Summer Institute at UC Berkeley offers student participants a rigorous seven-week program designed to improve the participants’ analytical and quantitative skills vital to success at top-level graduate programs in public policy and international affairs as well as law school. Additionally, the Institute includes activities intended to give participants a comprehensive knowledge of the opportunities for professional careers in public service.

Each year the program admits approximately 30 undergraduates from across the nation.

The UC Berkeley PPIA program offers a unique law track to PPIA Fellows, particularly for those interested in pursuing joint degrees in law and public policy. In addition to learning the fundamentals of policy analysis, Berkeley PPIA Fellows are exposed to the topics and skills necessary to be competitive at a top law school. The PPIA Fellowship works in conjunction with Berkeley Law and is designed to shape future leaders committed to representing underserved communities in the areas of public policy and law. 

City of Oakland and the MPA



PHOTO CREDIT: CITY OF OAKLAND

THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY PROUDLY PARTNERS with local governments, connecting public leaders with a program designed to sharpen professional skills and deepen an understanding of public policy applied to unique contexts. This year, a cohort from the City of Oakland joined the Masters of Public Affairs program. Read some of their stories below:



Eden Chan
Eden Chan is a proud daughter of Oakland Chinatown, and has built her career upon doing good work and taking good care of people. She currently serves as the Deputy Director of Culture and Communications for the Office of the Mayor. Prior to this, Eden spent 14 years with the GLIDE Foundation in San Francisco, building on the legacy of activist co-founders Rev. Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani. She was most recently GLIDE’s Director of Strategic Partnerships and Special Projects, serving a key leadership role in their fundraising, events and communications strategy. She holds a BA in Classics from New York University.

“What a treat and an honor it is to be a Goldman School of Public Policy MPA candidate! As a career public servant who came up through social services, I did not always think that grad school was accessible or practical for me. GSPP’s partnership and outreach through the City of Oakland provided a thoughtful and intentional pathway for myself and my fellow colleagues to be able to continue doing work we are passionate about, while also investing in ourselves.”

Mayra Chavez
Mayra Chavez supports Oakland’s communities as the Director of Community Engagement. Mayra previously served Oakland as a member of Councilmember Noel Gallo’s Office. She then worked for The Unity Council, a 57-year-old non-profit serving Oakland’s Latinx community in Fruitvale. There she designed



and led a new business department to support small businesses in Oakland and launched Onward Oakland which served over 300 clients.
Mayra is a Board Member of the Oakland Latino Chamber of Commerce and founding member of the Alameda County Chamber of Commerce. She is an Oakland native who grew up in the Fruitvale and Havenscourt Neighborhoods where she worked in her parents’ restaurant.

“I chose to pursue my MPA at GSPP because it presented an opportunity I couldn’t afford to miss. Throughout my career, I’ve dedicated myself to serving the City of Oakland and its diverse communities, from supporting small businesses at a non-profit and having the experience of growing up in a small business, to working in District 5 and eventually the city as a whole. Now, I’m eager to transition from direct service into the policy arena, where I can make an even greater impact. I aim to leverage my experience as a cultural strategist, advocate, business leader, and community-driven Latina leader to shape policies that drive sustainable and equitable change for Oakland and communities alike. The MPA program at GSPP will equip me with the skills and tools necessary to deepen my impact in public service and continue my commitment to uplifting diverse communities.”

Gina Cheng
Gina Cheng was born and raised in Oakland and now works in Oakland as the Police Communications Manager with the Oakland Police Department, where she oversees and manages the dispatch center. She began her career as a dispatcher 13 years ago and finds that there is never a dull day. Although her undergraduate background was in economics and finance, she has developed



a strong commitment to giving back and making a difference in the community she grew up in. Oakland, with its diversity and rich history of social activism, holds immense potential.
“The MPA program at UC Berkeley provides the space to learn from leading experts, immerse in policy work, and be part of a community that shares my commitment to creating meaningful change. This is an unmatched opportunity to develop as an effective, forward-thinking public leader.”

Treva Hadden
Treva Hadden is a passionate and dedicated public servant with over a decade of experience, currently serving as an Ethics Investigator with the City of Oakland. Known for her commitment to accountability, transparency, and ethical governance, Treva’s career has been built on the foundation of upholding integrity in public institutions. She excels in risk assessment, case management, and data-driven investigations that promote fairness and compliance.

Before stepping into her current role, Treva served as an Administrative Analyst II for the City of Oakland, where she focused on personnel policy interpretation and performance improvement strategies. Her dedication to equity is further reflected in her work as a member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) and Commissioner with the Antioch Police Oversight Commission (APOC), ensuring that community voices are central to law enforcement oversight.
“I chose to pursue my Master of Public Affairs at UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy because of its unmatched focus on equity, public leadership, and transformative policy-making. With many of the lecturers and professors having real-world experience — including in the City of Oakland, where I’m currently employed — it felt like the perfect place for me to learn. As I pivot my career, GSPP provides the ideal environment for me to



refine my skills, expand my knowledge, and advance my career in public service. I’m thrilled to be part of a program that not only fosters academic growth but also equips its students to tackle the real challenges facing our communities, while offering invaluable networking opportunities.”

Lucila Hernandez-Guido
Lucila Hernandez-Guido is a first-generation Chicana from Berkeley, who earned her undergraduate degree in Sociology at San Francisco State University. Her background includes extensive work with underprivileged frail seniors in the East Bay Area, where she has helped them remain safe and independent in the community, avoiding premature institutionalization through intensive case management and navigating the social system. Currently, she serves as a Supervising Case Manager at the City of Oakland’s Multipurpose Senior Services Program. In this role, she focuses on community outreach and inclusion for frail and isolated seniors. Her policy interests center on Race, Equality & Immigration, advocating for government agencies to promote race and equality through advocacy and networking across all public sectors. Outside of work, she embraces her roles as a soccer mom, enjoys traveling, cooking, and hosting gatherings with her extensive family, which contribute to a balanced and fulfilling life.

“I chose the MPA program because it felt like the right step to build on my 17+ years of experience working with the City of Oakland’s most vulnerable population of diverse low-income seniors. Throughout my career, I’ve been dedicated to making their voices heard and advocating for their needs. This program will equip me with the tools to elevate that advocacy to higher levels of government, where I can make a broader impact.
“As a Berkeley native, I’m committed to using this knowledge to improve the quality of life in my community and beyond while inspiring others to pursue meaningful change in public service.” **G**



MPP Student **Claire Sullivan**



What kind of work were you doing before you came to the Goldman School?
Originally from Ohio, I completed my BS in Biology at the University of Dayton and then stayed in Ohio to work first on a produce farm and then at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. I moved to southern California in 2022 to work as a scientist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Much of my work so far has been focused on water systems and groundwater management.

Why did you choose to go to policy school at this point in your career? And why GSPP?
I value approaching complex issues with a sense of curiosity and enjoy doing the analytical work and research needed to form my own opinions on policy. I felt that “policy analyst” best fit the description of what I wanted to do. Though I knew I’d miss getting to work outside, I started looking into MPP programs to gain the skills and knowledge needed for this career pivot. I chose GSPP because of its quantitative focus and the opportunity to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Applied Data Science.



What have been the most helpful/impactful aspects of a GSPP education so far?
Being at GSPP has exposed me to the variety of jobs that exist in policy throughout sectors. I feel honored to get to meet and talk about ideas with professors who are leading the research in their fields. But mostly, getting to know my peers has inspired me because the care they have for the world makes me confident I found the right field of work and gives me hope for the future.

What do you hope to do in your life after graduation?
I would love to work with data to evaluate policy effectiveness and its impacts, while also being close to the decision-making process. I’m looking for an environment that welcomes critical thinking and where people are okay with questioning the status quo. I’m still exploring where I might find all of this, but if you have ideas, I’d love to chat! **G**



Ribbon-cutting for the New GSPP Courtyard



PHOTOS BY KEEGAN HOUSER



THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED its newly revamped courtyard and campus entryway with a community-wide ribbon cutting celebration that included students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters. The completion of the courtyard marked the end of a series of renovations designed to spur greater communication, collaboration, and learning among our community, and to make GSPP more accessible, sustainable, and help us look “as good as we are.” The new courtyard space now connects GSPP to campus and showcases GSPP’s excellence to the world, and will be the place where many future informal and formal gatherings occur. Dean David Wilson, current MPP student Ryan Matthew Manriquez, Chancellor Richard Lyons, and Jason and Doug Goldman were present to offer their congratulations. GSPP extends a special thanks to Lisa and Doug Goldman and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund for their support of these school enhancements. **G**

Event Highlights

The Future of SNAP & the US Social Safety Net

Professors Hilary Hoynes and Adam Leive presented their respective research on the long-term benefits of nutritional and cash support to families, as well as the impact of work requirements on economic and nutritional security, labor supply, and participation in public safety net programming. Following their talks, Hoynes and Leive participated in a moderated discussion led by Sakeenah Shabazz (MPP '22), Policy Director at the Berkeley Food Institute (BFI).



Tech Policy Summit

GSPP, the CITRIS Policy Lab, and the School of Information hosted the inaugural UC Berkeley Tech Policy Summit & Awards Ceremony, a daylong conference focused on navigating the complex landscape of tech policy and forging a path that fosters innovation while promoting social good. The Summit was co-sponsored by the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity (CLTC), the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology (BCLT), CLTC's AI Policy Hub, and the School of Journalism.



Housing and Homeless in California

Across the United States, homelessness is on the rise. In California, there are over 181,000 people without a stable place to call home — about 30 percent of the nation's homeless population. (from left) Ali Sutton (MPP '16) of Tipping Point moderated a conversation with Kyriell Noon, CEO of Hamilton Families; Ryan Finnigan, Associate Research Director for the Turner Center for Housing Innovation; Robynne Rose-Haymer, Vice President at Capitol Impact; and Kevin F. Adler (MPA '24), Founder and CEO of Miracle Messages.

Safeguarding the Development of Artificial Intelligence

NBC's Jake Ward (from left) moderated a conversation with New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez, former UC President and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Professor Hany Farid, Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA 23rd District), and Digi-marc CEO Riley McCormack on cross-sector solutions and the actions needed to safeguard the development of GenAI. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Security in Politics and Digi-marc.



2024 Wildavsky Forum

The 2024 Wildavsky Forum featured Dean Karlan, the Frederic Esser Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at Northwestern University. Karlan is Co-Director of the Global Poverty Research Lab, and the Founder and President of Innovations for Poverty Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering and promoting solutions to global poverty problems; he is also on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the M.I.T. Jameel Poverty Action Lab. Karlan is currently serving as the Agency Chief Economist at USAID. He was in conversation with GSPP Professor Manisha Shah. The event concluded a day of school-wide events for admitted students.



Michael Waldman: How the Supreme Court Divided America

The 2021-2022 term of the U.S. Supreme Court was widely considered to be the most consequential in living memory. Bruen, West Virginia v. EPA, Dobbs — the Court's rulings in these controversial cases weakened gun restrictions, hobbled the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to fight climate change, and overturned the constitutional protection for abortion rights nearly 50 years after Roe v. Wade. In *The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America*, Brennan Center for Justice president Michael Waldman examined the term's major cases, the meaning of "originalism" — a new, extreme method of interpreting the Constitution — and offered proposals for reform. Waldman joined Maria Echaveste, President and CEO of the Opportunity Institute and former senior White House official, for an in-depth look at the tumultuous 2021-2022 term.

Excessive Punishment: How the Justice System Creates Mass Incarceration

Excessive Punishment: How the Justice System Creates Mass Incarceration, edited by Lauren-Brooke Eisen of the Brennan Center for Justice, examines the American justice system's dependence on retribution. Professor Steve Raphael (from left) moderated a conversation about the American prison system with Chesa Boudin, the founding executive director of Berkeley's Criminal Law & Justice Center; Asia Johnson, writer and filmmaker; Professor Jonathan Simon of Berkeley Law; and Lauren-Brooke Eisen, Senior Director of the Brennan Center's Justice Program at NYU School of Law.



Richard and Leah Rothstein: A Blueprint for Housing Reform

In *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein argued how explicit government policies — at local, state, and federal levels — were designed to ensure segregation throughout the United States. In his next book, *Just Action: How To Challenge Segregation Enacted Under The Color Of Law*, he and co-author housing policy expert Leah Rothstein provide a blueprint for concerned citizens and community leaders seeking to address segregation and make real, lasting change in their own communities. The conversation with Leah and Richard Rothstein was moderated by Tomiquia Moss, founder and CEO of All Home — on activism, advocacy, housing, and America's legacy of state-sanctioned residential segregation.



2024 Alumni of the Year

THE ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARDS RECOGNIZE Goldman School alumni who reflect the values of GSPP and excel in their respective fields. The honorees were celebrated at a dinner in their honor at the Goldman School's Annual Conference and Alumni Gathering.



**Public Policy Minor Alumni Early Career Award:
Chaka Tellem (BA Political Economy '23)**



Chaka Tellem's journey is marked by a profound commitment to bridging socioeconomic gaps through policy and legal frameworks. As the first two-term student body president at UC Berkeley, he championed environmental justice, equity, and student welfare. Tellem's experiences extend globally, from researching the Colombian peace process to analyzing legal systems and fostering nonprofit collaborations. His outstanding academic achievements and active participation in the community demonstrate his deep commitment to social, economic, and community development. As he embarks on his JD/MPP dual degrees at Yale Law School and Harvard Kennedy School, Chaka is poised to continue making impactful contributions.

Public Policy Minor Alumni Distinguished Career Award: Janelle Chan (BA Ethnic Studies '02)



Janelle Chan has two decades of experience as a strategic community development leader, with deep expertise in affordable housing, equitable transit-oriented development, government and nonprofit management. She has held roles at the local, state, and national policy-making levels. In May of 2024, Chan returned home to the Bay Area and became the CEO of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC). EBALDC is a non-profit organization headquartered in Oakland for nearly 50



years, and has built thousands of units of affordable housing with a comprehensive community development approach that centers the development of healthy neighborhoods and the wellness of residents.

**MPA Distinguished Alumni of the Year:
Hector Mujica (MPA '18)**



As Head of Economic Opportunity and Inclusive Technology, Google.org, Americas, Hector Mujica leads economic opportunity and inclusive technology efforts at Google.org — Google's philanthropy — across the Americas. Within his role, he looks after a \$100M+ investment portfolio that supports interventions which aim to provide pathways to digital economy jobs for individuals with multiple barriers to employment, as well as ensuring that emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence benefit people across society equitably. Mujica also serves on Google's Latino Leadership Council, where he helps to steward Google's social impact ventures with the Latino community.



MDP Distinguished Alumni of the Year: Surabhi Yadav (MDP '19)

Surabhi Yadav's mission is to create joyful and hopeful innovations for rural women. She builds Communities of Hope — groups that offer a new benchmark for what success can look like for a feminist intervention. Yadav is Founder and CEO of two gender equality & rural development initiatives in India — Sajhe Sapne and Project Basanti. Sajhe Sapne empowers young rural women from marginalized caste groups to make big bold bets, including becoming STEM & Management professionals. This Community of Hope currently has 100+ members from over 60 villages building grassroots-leadership movements. She is also the creator of Project Basanti: Women at Leisure, the widely-acclaimed archive which has documented 800+ videos and photos of women and girls at leisure, especially from semi-urban and rural areas giving vivid visuals of what feminist liberation can look like.



MPP Distinguished Alumni of the Year: Kody Kinsley (MPP '12)



Kody Kinsley serves as North Carolina's Secretary of Health and Human Services, overseeing a department with over 18,000 staff and a \$38 billion budget. With experience centered on health policy and operations, Kinsley worked on digital healthcare transformation, national education and labor policies, and served as COO and CFO of the U.S. Treasury.

Under his leadership, North Carolina expanded Medicaid and enrolled at a record-setting pace over 500,000 individuals in just 7 months. He secured nearly \$1 billion and major policy reforms to revitalize the state's behavioral health system. And at no cost to the state taxpayer, he relieved \$4 billion in medical debt for 2 million North Carolinians.

**PhD Distinguished Alumni of the Year:
Carol Chetkovich (MPP '87/PhD '94)**



Carol Chetkovich is Professor Emerita of Public Policy and former Director of the Public Policy Program at Mills College. The Mills public policy program is known for having prepared hundreds of students who are largely from under-represented groups for careers in public service. Prior to joining the Mills faculty, she was Associate Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she taught in both graduate school and executive programs.

At Mills, Harvard, and UC Berkeley, Chetkovich taught courses in public and nonprofit management, workplace diversity, gender and public policy, ethical reasoning, and qualitative research methods (introducing these methods into public policy curricula). She is the 2014 recipient of NASPAA's Leslie A. Whittington Excellence in Teaching Award, given in recognition of "excellence in teaching public policy, public affairs, or public administration over an extended time period."

She is the author of *Real Heat: Gender and Race in the Urban Fire Service*, an ethnographic study of race and sex integration in the Oakland Fire Department, which won a 1998 Outstanding Academic Book Award from Choice. She is coauthor (with Frances Kunreuther) of *From the Ground Up: Grassroots Organizations Making Social Change*, a study of grassroots social change organizations, which called attention to the social-change role of small organizations not identified with larger social movements.



Special Award for Outstanding Service for Supporting the Next Generation of Public Leaders: Carla Javits (MPP '85)



Carla Javits was REDF president and CEO from 2007–2021 and has served as a senior advisor to REDF and on the Board of Directors since 2021. Inspired by REDF's founder, George R. Roberts, Carla focused on achieving measurable results. Under her leadership, REDF expanded nationally, and was awarded two federal Social Innovation Fund grants by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and helped to create CA RISE, the first state initiative in the U.S. to deploy capital to employment social enterprises. Javits was appointed in 2018 by the Governor to California's Future of Work Commission, which brought together leaders in technology, labor, business, education, and venture capital to develop a new social compact for California workers focused on economic equity.

Carla Javits established three fellowship programs to support GSPP MPP students in their professional pursuits: 1) The Javits Senate Fellows Program (awarded to 1–2 students to spend one year working in the Senate), 2) The Javits Summer Fellowship Program awarded to students who secured unpaid summer internships focused on international development, health or economic development, in the US or abroad), and 3) The Javits Political Leadership Scholarship awarded to students who are committed to pursuing careers in political leadership and public service.

These fellowship programs were established in memory of Senator Jacob K. Javits and were made possible through the generosity of the Marion B. and Jacob K. Javits Foundation. Over the past 30 years the awards have supported over 250 GSPP students, and the amounts awarded totaled more than \$1M. **G**



Sydney Bennet (MPP ’20) and **Ben Menzies** (MPP ’20) welcomed the arrival of their son Calvin “Cal” Menzies Bennet on May 29, 2024. Sydney and Ben first met at MPP Math Camp in the fall of 2018 and were married in May of 2023 at a private ceremony at San Francisco City Hall. Sydney, Ben, and Cal are adjusting happily to life as a family of three in Sacramento and are grateful for all the love, support, and home-cooked meals they have received from GSPP friends.

Shira Gans (MPP ’06) was recognized in *Variety Magazine*’s New York Women Impact Report for her work at the NYC Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment creating all the official programs and partnerships to support the city’s music industry.

Dave Weimer (MPP ’75) and **Aidan Vining** (MPP ’75) are the authors of *Dog Economics: Perspectives on Our Canine Relationships*, which was published this spring by Cambridge University Press.

RR Sigel (MPP ’18) works in the performing arts field as a freelance independent producer based in New York, often working to translate the tenets of the MPP into narrative, storytelling, and producing structures. Sigel recently concluded producing Meyerbeer’s timely opera “Le Prophete” while also serving as creative director of “The Oyster Radio Hour” — a live show rooted in song, story and science — hosted by Susan Sarandon — about interconnection, ecosystem and...Oysters. Sigel produces U.S. work for live artist Tania El Khoury (Director, Bard College’s Center for Human Rights and the Arts) and is in the process of producing a development year adapting essays by Saidiya Hartman into inter-media live theater performance.

Michael Colvin (MPP ’07) is pleased to be joining the GSPP Alumni Association Board this year. Michael has been at Environmental Defense Fund for the last 6 years, serving as their Director for the California Energy Program. In a personal update, Michael met the love of his life Jessica Gordon and the two plan to marry in June 2025.

Nicole Berner (MPP ’96) is now a federal court of appeals judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

For the past five years, **Nina Erlich-Williams** (MPP ’04) has been facilitating a communications coalition of tribal, non-profit, and commercial fishing professionals who first advocated for and then worked together to spread the word about Klamath River dam removal. The dam removal project, which is the largest in U.S. history, involved removing four dams from what

was once the third-largest salmon producing river in lower 48. The Klamath River traverses the Oregon-California border, and securing approval for the project involved years of policy-focused communications with elected officials and state and federal regulators. The construction phase of the project is now winding down, and fish passage has been restored. Restoration efforts will continue for years to come.

Dan Smith (MPP ’76) continues as Principal & Owner of The Tioga Group, Inc., a freight transportation consulting firm. His recent work includes a seaport forecast and capacity study for SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a report on autonomous freight vehicles for the National Academy of Sciences, the USDOT Port Performance Freight Statistics Program, and an appearance before the International Trade Commission.

Martha Ture (MPP ’85) continues to persevere in the pursuit of fame and fortune from photography. Her work has been in four shows in 2024, and she has two solo shows scheduled for 2025. She continues to post a nature photo daily on her Facebook page, working her evil scheme of fostering love of our fellow denizens of earth among her swarm of followers. She also writes a politico-economic-ecological substack. You may join her mailing list by emailing her.

Toby Rogers (MPP ’12) is now a Fellow at the Brownstone Institute for Social and Economic Research where he writes about corruption in the pharmaceutical industry, the collapse of the liberal democratic order, and how to build the better world our hearts know is possible.

Margaret McCall (ERG MS/MPP ’21) is the Manager of Data Analytics at NextEra Mobility, overseeing a team of consultants helping fleets transition to electric vehicles. She is also the new mom of a 3-month-old baby boy, Tully!

Daniel Lurie (MPP ’05) is running for Mayor of San Francisco. In 2005, he founded Tipping Point Community, turning it into one of the country’s most innovative poverty-fighting organizations. Daniel has spent years working to uplift the community, supporting the opening of the Bayview Child Health Center and helping move 40,000 people out of homelessness while preventing many more from entering it in the first place. Through Tipping Point, Daniel has created successful models, including a formula for building affordable housing at a fraction of the cost San Francisco usually pays. With a deep love for his hometown and a commitment to positive change, Daniel is ready to bring accountable leadership and fresh ideas to San Francisco.

Anne Green (MDP ’24) is now a Foreign Service Officer with the US Agency for International Development with the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security.

Andrew Manale (MPP ’81) was made a Fellow of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society at its annual meeting this July 2024. He was recognized for his contributions to protecting and preserving soil and water domestically and internationally, as well as helping to advance policies and actions to address climate change.

Hamzah Bin Zaid (MPA ’24) is now the Chief of Staff at SGB.

Steve Rosenbaum (MPP ’79) continues as La Raza Centro Legal’s pro bono counsel and from 2021–23, served as the Interim Director of the San Joaquin Delta College Paralegal Studies Program. Since the beginning of the pandemic, he has taught three undergraduate Disability Studies courses (Zoom, hybrid and IRL) at the University of Washington. Currently, Steve is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Udayana in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia (Fall 2024), investigating the feasibility, development and sustainability of a disability law clinic. In 2023, Steve co-piloted (virtually) a course on procedural access to justice for disabled persons at Jigme Singye Wangchuck Law School, Bhutan’s only law school and continued conducting periodic on-line workshops on comparative law issues with students at the University of Tehran-Al Farabi. After assisting a “scholar rescue” effort when the Taliban regained control of the Government in 2021, Steve has taught two *classroomwithoutwalls.ca* virtual courses on human rights norms to girls and women living in Afghanistan and is serving on the board of directors of ALPA’s (Afghanistan Law, Shari’a & Political Science Association) Academy in Exile. In 2023, Steve additionally conducted a workshop for clinical students at the Facultat de Drets, Universitat de Valencia as well as on-line webinars at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and Université de Québec faculties of law.

After 40+ years at ICF, a consulting and technology services firm, **Michael Berg** (MPP ’82) retired as a Sr. VP and Sr. Project Management Expert. He managed public policy, economic and regulatory analysis for federal and state agencies and directed operations for several divisions.

Matt Mayes (MDP ’19) is now the Co-founder & COO of Sway Innovation Co.

Hailey Gil (MPP ’24) is working at the San Francisco Department of Homelessness as a Senior Legislative Analyst. She resides in North Beach.

Kim Malcolm (MPP ’82) is retired and living in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where she owns and manages a small bookstore, Aurora Books. Kim recently finished her second book, *Burden of Truth*.

Ryan Hunter (MPP ’11) writes, “Since GSPP, I’ve found my professional niche in helping government get through implementation to organizational effectiveness and lasting change. I founded and directed San Francisco’s first city-wide process improvement program, and two years ago created a consulting firm, Partners in Public Innovation, to spread the model of staff-led continuous improvement to other cities, counties, and state agencies. It’s been a wild ride! In the past couple years, we’ve worked with dozens of governments across four states to cut time-to-hire, streamline permitting, and expedite procurement.”

Jamie Allison (MPP ’04), Executive Director of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, was acknowledged for her leadership by the *Nonprofit Times* on its Top 50 Power & Influence list.

Ordaz Salto (MPP ’22) notes, “After two impactful years, I wrapped up my service at the Oakland Police Commission, one of the strongest civilian oversight bodies in the United States due to its extensive powers and role in police accountability. As Vice Chair, I co-led the hiring process that brought Chief Mitchell onboard and upheld the first-ever racial profiling case against an officer, setting important precedents for accountability. I’m proud of our efforts to ensure community input and transparency in Oakland’s civilian oversight structure. Recently, I joined the San Francisco Foundation as Director in the Department of the CEO, where I’m spearheading a business model overhaul to secure sustainable revenue streams to fulfill the Foundation’s aspirations for large scale community impact. Additionally, I’m leading the foundation’s strategy on AI, focused on leveraging strategic partnerships and exploring the implications of AI in the philanthropic sector.”

Joony Moon (MPP ’19) is currently the Director of Integrated Eligibility at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance. In his role, he oversees efforts to improve the experience and outcomes for households seeking to apply for and access multiple benefit programs like SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid. He lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife, two-year-old daughter, and dog.

Sheetal Dhir (MPP ’13) is now the Interim Chief of Staff at Media Democracy Fund, focusing on digital equity and election integrity.

Priscila Aguirre (MPP ’04) writes, “With almost 14 years with Contra Costa County Behavioral Health, I am now an Executive Member of the Behavioral Health leadership team, supporting the initiatives, projects, and activities that support our clients under the Quality Improvement and Informatics Unit within the Division. I have a 15 year old daughter, Amayah, and partner Mario of almost 8 years and a beagle couple Jack (5) and Ella (3), all of which keep me busy and enjoying life.

Tom Faletti (MPP ’86) retired in June 2023 after 24 years as a Policy Advisor to Senator Dick Durbin in Washington, DC, and 13 years teaching social studies and critical thinking at an inner-city Catholic high school in DC. He has launched a website, *faithexplored.com*, where he is gradually posting his 40 years of Bible Studies as well as occasional articles on topics at the intersection of faith and justice (poverty, capital punishment, etc.) and other subjects. Tom is also exploring writing for other venues.

Ashley Clark (MPP/MA-IAS ’13) is the Director of Finance and Administration for the Department of Corrections in Colorado. In addition to safeguarding the nearly \$1.2B budget, she oversees facilities maintenance and capital construction projects, grants program, fleet, payroll, procurement, Correctional Industries, and Controller’s Office. She lives in Denver with her husband Zach, daughters Nadia and Sophie, and dog Heidi Falkor.

Francisco Aguilar (MPP ’24) is now a Consultant with the Investment Climate Unit at the World Bank Group, where he works on developing regulatory frameworks to promote low-carbon development in emerging economies.

Jeff Pertl (MPP ’09) was recently appointed Secretary of Wisconsin’s Department of Children and Families (D.C.F). The Wisconsin alumni presence is small-but-mighty: **Shelby McCulley** (MPP ’03) is a Deputy Division Administrator at D.C.F and **Angela Miller** (MPP ’18) is a Senior Policy Advisor at the WI Department of Health Services.

Public Policy Undergraduate Minor

Dani Sosa (Economics ’22) writes, “Thanks to the connections I made through the Goldman School, I started working in government oversight straight out of college. I am coming up on



(From left) Erika Weissinger (PhD ’13) with Brian Von Moos, and MPP ’05 alumni: Amanda Von Moos, Scott Lyons, Diana Lane Jensen, Jeff Deason, Corie Calfee. In the front is Rebecca Benassini.

my two-year anniversary of serving as an analyst for the Government Accountability Office, and I could not be more happy! I owe a big thanks to all the faculty at the Goldman School, but an even bigger thanks to the wonderful support staff — they are the real backbone of this amazing campus!”

Sam Schooley (History ’15) notes, “I ironically went into business! I now work as a Senior Director of Sales at a global telematics company. What I think is so valuable about the GSPP minor, however, is the approach to the world I take. My career has skyrocketed over the last decade, achieving a senior role about 15 years earlier than my peers in business, and I am consistently achieving top leadership awards. The GSPP program taught me how to approach situations with logic AND empathy, so whether or not you are crafting policy or in my case, leading in business, you are set up to have a successful career. Thank you GSPP!”

Sophia Lewsing (Rhetoric ’21) writes that the public policy minor taught her the ways that government policies can be used to promote good or cause harm. She just started her first year at Harvard Law School where she plans on pursuing union-side labor law and in the long term, she hopes to use both her law degree and public policy minor to help create pro-worker policies.

Emilia Malachowski (Society & Environment ’15) used her minor to land her first corporate job after graduating and joined Amazon’s Public Policy team in Poland. They track legislation, both new and old, and analyze how it would impact Amazon’s regional plans.

Elyse O’Neill (Peace and Conflict Studies ’18) currently works as an advisory attorney, and she notes that having a firm background in public policy has been very helpful in her role.

Service remains critical to our expanded impact. On campus, Professor Jesse Rothstein has been appointed as the new director of our Center for Studies in Higher Education, while Research Professor Meredith Sadin now leads the Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement. Professor Jake Grumbach directs our newly established Democracy Policy Lab, and Professor of Practice Angela Glover Blackwell is leading the visioning of a new Flourishing Democracy Institute as part of our Democracy Policy Initiative. Beyond campus, California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Professor Jack Glaser to the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board,

and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas selected Professor Janet Napolitano for a bipartisan panel of experts conducting a 45-day independent review of the attempted assassination of former President Trump.

Indeed, GSPP has sustained excellence and advanced new ideas and initiatives successfully. We are proud of these many accomplishments. And, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the new 2024–25 U.S. *News & World Report* rankings (announced April 2024) for graduate programs in Public Affairs have GSPP #1 in Policy Analysis, #2 in Social Policy, #4 in Public Affairs, #4

in Environmental Management and Public Policy, and #10 in Health Policy.

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.

Come visit our new space! And I hope to see everyone at the 2025 GSPP annual conference and alumni gathering. **G**

From the Alumni Board Chair

I AM HONORED TO SERVE as the new Chair of the Goldman School Alumni Association Board. Our 15-member board is dedicated to fostering connections between alumni, students, and our alma mater, and I'm excited to share some updates and our vision for the upcoming year.

This past September, we partnered with the school to bring the second annual GSPP Public Policy Conference to fruition – hundreds of students, alumni, and partners gathered to discuss critical topics such as democracy policy, racial equity, responsible use of artificial intelligence, and climate change. As we approach election season, these conversations feel more important than ever and highlight the power of our community in tackling today's most pressing challenges.

Looking forward, we're focused on creating more opportunities for alumni to engage with students through mentorship, career networking, and collaborative initiatives. Additionally, we'll continue working closely with Goldman's leadership to support recruitment efforts, ensuring that

the next generation of students reflects the diversity and excellence that define our community.

Our board is committed to addressing global policy issues, supporting Goldman's Master of Development Practice program and the international perspectives it brings. As a globally minded institution, we will continue to tackle challenges both at home and abroad.

As ambassadors and advocates, we're committed to upholding the values that make Goldman a leader in public policy education. I look forward to working together to elevate our shared mission. **G**



Warmly,
Nida Atshan Osei
MPA '22
Chair, GSPP Alumni
Association Board

Alumni Board 2024–2025

Aaron Scherf (MDP '20)
AJ Johnson (MPP '13)
Carolyn Chu (MPP '12)
Claire Callahan (MPA '23)
Daniel Payares Montoya (MDP '20)
Daryel Dunston (MPA '18)
Fatima Tariq (MDP '21)
Jennifer Liu (MDP '20)
Karely Ordaz (MPA '22)
Maria McKee (MPP '08)
Michael Colvin (MPP '07)
Michelle Chang (MPP '10)
Nida Osei (MPA '22) – *Chair*
Nousheen Wani (MPA '22)
Rosemary Jordan (MPP/MPH '00)

GSPP Centers Updates



California Policy Lab

Earlier this summer, the California Policy Lab released a major new report that estimates the number of University of California (UC) and California Community College (CCC) students who are potentially eligible to receive CalFresh benefits, and of that group, how many students received CalFresh benefits in the Fall of 2019. This report is the first of its kind to link college enrollment and financial aid application data and then compare it to CalFresh eligibility rules to create more precise estimates of how many students are likely eligible for CalFresh. Even among students who were estimated to be eligible, nearly 300,000 didn't participate in 2019, according to CPL's new report.

"We are grateful to our partners for joining us in this research. It enabled us to generate the first estimates of just how many California college students are eligible for and participating in CalFresh," explained co-author Jesse Rothstein. "Depending on which system you're looking at, we found that only about one in three or one in four eligible students are receiving CalFresh benefits. That's a significant take-up gap, and our goal is that this research will help our partners and policymakers in their work to close that gap."

Center for Security in Politics

CSP Director and Goldman School faculty member Janet Napolitano was named by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas to a bi-partisan panel tasked with conducting a security review of the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

The panel — made up of law enforcement and security experts — will carry out a 45-day independent review of the planning for and actions taken by the U.S. Secret Service and state and local authorities before, during, and after the rally, and the U.S. Secret Service governing policies and procedures.

CSP and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Science and Technology Branch hosted a Summit for Achieving Safety, Security, and Privacy for Children Online at UC Berkeley on August 26-27,



2024. Last year, the two parties signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement in order to partner and convene on key issues of national security like AI governance, encryption and lawful access, and civil liberties and privacy. The August Summit was the first result of this effort, focused on child online protection and the challenges relating to public safety access to digital evidence and adversarial use of artificial intelligence, recognizing the urgent need for collaboration in tackling technology-based risks to child safety. The Summit was covered by ABC News.

Democracy Policy Lab

The recently launched Democracy Policy Lab (DPL) seeks to strengthen American democracy through cutting-edge research. Leveraging the expertise of scholars at UC Berkeley and beyond, the DPL studies how public policies at the local, state, and national levels enhance democracy or leave it vulnerable to backsliding. DPL research focuses on a wide range of policy areas that provide foundations for a healthy democracy, including voting rights, redistricting, civil rights, campaign finance, immigration, labor, immigration, and the social safety net.

Led by Faculty Director Jacob M. Grumbach, the DPL's research investigates how existing policies and institutions are vulnerable to emerging threats, as well as how policy can protect and expand majority rule, political equality, the rule of law, and other key components of governance by, for, and of the people. DPL researchers also study how policy can strengthen democracy over the long term — by building social trust and solidarity through the labor movement, increasing the inclusion of young Americans and other groups on the margins of the political system, and producing a political economy conducive to human flourishing.

Center for Studies in Higher Education

Professor Jesse Rothstein has been appointed as the director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE). Rothstein holds the Carmel P. Friesen Chair in Public Policy, with a joint appointment in UC Berkeley's economics department. As CSHE's director, he will also hold the David Pierpont Gardner Chair.

Rothstein's higher education research includes studies of SAT scores and letters of recommendation in college admissions, affirmative action, college choice, and student debt. His work has been published in leading journals in economics, public policy, education, and law.

"I've worked in various capacities with CSHE for almost 25 years, and am deeply honored to have the opportunity to lead it," said Rothstein. "I'm looking forward to deepening its engagement with faculty and students on campus and building out new research efforts that help us understand the unique role that public colleges and universities play as engines of opportunity in California and the nation."



Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement



Dr. Meredith Sadin, Assistant Research Professor at the Goldman School, has been named the faculty director for the Center on Civility and Democratic Engagement. Sadin is a political scientist (PhD, Princeton), whose work focuses on political access, community engagement, and inequality. Her research involves collaboration with community members, practitioners, policy-makers, and government agencies on projects designed to evaluate, implement, scale, and improve public policies and programs as well as access to the democratic process.

“I am thrilled to continue CCDE’s mission of preparing current and future leaders to successfully engage people of diverse perspectives in finding solutions for pressing public policy issues,” she said. “Since its founding, CCDE has been a valuable presence at GSPP with its sponsorship of important public forums, consistent support of student research, and active involvement with local government and community organizations. In building on the Center’s legacy, I envision three key priorities that will guide future activities: community engagement, dialogue, and evidence. Utilizing these pillars, CCDE will continue and expand its tradition of facilitating dialogue across divides and engaging communities that are too often excluded from the policy process”

India Energy and Climate Center

In its first year, the India Energy & Climate Center (IECC) achieved significant milestones in advancing IECC’s mission of Powering sustainable growth for India and the Global South. The team published path-breaking research to push the envelope of clean energy deployment in India’s power, industry, and transportation sectors, informing key policy decisions and implementation pathways. IECC also initiated research on heat stress and how to build resilience to extreme heat. We forged strong



partnerships with senior leadership at several central and state government agencies in India, delivering 75+ briefings, the majority in person. Our work was prominently featured in leading Indian news outlets, including op-eds to influence the discourse on energy and climate.

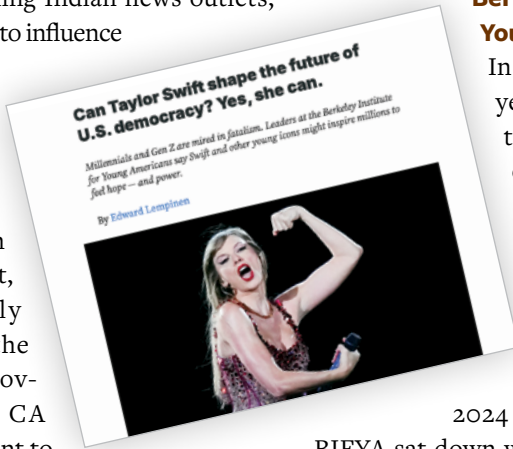
In addition to enhancing policy outreach and engagement, we are closely working with the U.S. Federal Government and CA State Government to

enhance U.S.-India cooperation on clean technology solutions, manufacturing and supply chains.

Berkeley Institute for Young Americans

In this important election year, the Berkeley Institute for Young Americans has been engaged in research looking at how younger generations are feeling about politics and all that they have at stake in the

2024 Election. In February, BIFYA sat down with UC Berkeley News



policy notes

FALL 2024

Policy Notes is published annually by the Goldman School of Public Policy. Send questions or comments to Bora Reed, borareed@berkeley.edu

Editor: Bora Reed
Writer and Feature Editor: Vanessa Martini
Editorial Assistants: Nawel Tahraoui, Katherine Hernandez Garcia
Photography: Jun Junseo Oh, Brittany Hosea-Small, Keegan Houser
Design and Layout: Matt Vanderzalm, Design Site

to talk about the future of U.S. democracy, the disillusionment that many Millennials and members of GenZ are feeling about our political and economics systems, and the power that Taylor Swift and other young icons might have to influence young voters and inspire some hope. In April, BIFYA’s policy director and senior researcher, Erin Heys, sat down with KQED’s Scott Shafer to talk about the biggest issues for young voters and how they might influence the upcoming election. And in July, following President Biden’s decision not to run for reelection, Erin Heys spoke with CNBC about the role of age in politics and how age is playing a unique role in the 2024 Election.

Berkeley Risk and Security Lab

Andrew Reddie spoke on AI-military integration concerns at U.S. Strategic Command’s Annual Symposium. He and Leah P. Walker published an article in *The Oxford Handbook of Geoeconomics and Economic Statecraft*, “Sanctions in an Era of Strategic Competition.”



Risk-Resiliency Lab

The Risk-Resilience Lab works to improve safety, well-being and justice for people and communities at risk, through policy-relevant research. Our annual highlights feature “Playing for Change” (P4C) — a videogame-supported afterschool program designed to prevent aggression and promote wellness among at-risk youth. First, pilot tests completed with very

early adolescents in Richmond schools indicate that P4C is associated with short-term improvement in students’ behavioral and emotional well-being. Now, we’ve begun a randomized controlled field trial to test the program’s impact and scalability. Second, the training videogame at the core of the program — called “un-TILTED!” — just won a gold medal at the 2024 International Serious Play Awards. Over two years, we co-designed this digital intervention with local youth, the Games for Emotional and Mental Health lab, a self-appointed “Hit Squad” of ux/design experts, and Seneca’s Unconditional Education program.

Possibility Lab

For Latino Heritage Month, the Possibility Lab teamed up with the Inland Empire Community Foundation and their Latino



than the statewide sample and the local white sample.

The Possibility Lab also hosted the Abundance Accelerator Research Consortium, a group of researchers from across the state at various universities doing research within our areas of focus.

Center of Environmental Public Policy

In May 2024 the Center for Environmental Public Policy released a set of reports identifying policy and technical pathways to decarbonize ocean going vessels. Seaborne trade emits almost a billion tons of greenwood gas emissions annually. Large ships also significantly contribute to air pollution that shortens lives and increases sickness among people in port and coast communities. The research showed that there is strong momentum to reduce emissions use among the maritime industry, ship owners and governments around the world.

About one year ago the Center completed a year-long study on the costs and benefits of off-shore wind energy (OSW). This effort produced a series of reopens on economic feasibility, supply chain and policy issues. These reports are part of the 2035 Report Series, that also addresses decarbonization of U.S. electric power and road transport systems. <https://2035report.com/offshorewind/>



Goldman School of Public Policy

University of California – Berkeley
2607 Hearst Avenue #7320
Berkeley, CA 94720-7320

gspp.berkeley.edu

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
University of California

Master of Public Affairs

Richard and Rhoda
Goldman School of Public Policy

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



“The UC Berkeley MPA program provides the ideal platform for me to advance my career goals, offering a flexible curriculum that allows me to focus on my personal passions of economic development, urban revitalization, and representation for black and brown communities.” — Elycia Knight (MPA '24)

Read more about Elycia's story on page 20 and learn more about the Master of Public Affairs program at gspp.berkeley.edu/mpa