

Master of Public Affairs



WATSON INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Admissions Day 2017



MPA Admissions Day 2017



Thursday, April 6

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at the Watson Institute, 111 Thayer Street, McKinney Conference Room (3rd Floor)

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|-----------------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Welcome Breakfast |
| 9:00 – 9:25 a.m. | Introductions and Program Overview |
| 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Faculty Panel |
| 10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Tour of Campus with Special Stop at the John Hay Library |
| 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. | Lunch and Faculty Lecture
Emily Oster, “Does Disease Cause Vaccination?” |
| 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. | Financing Your MPA |
| 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. | Career Planning and Alumni Panel |
| 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Current Student Panel |
| 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. | Reception with Current MPA Students and Faculty
<i>Watson Institute, 111 Thayer Street, 3rd Floor</i> |
| 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Public Lecture (optional)
Corey Flintoff, NPR, “Resurgent Russia in a Time of Trump”
<i>Friedman Auditorium, 190 Thayer Street</i>
<i>It is recommended to arrive by 6:20 p.m.</i> |



Welcome!

Congratulations on your admission to the Master of Public Affairs program at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. This is a significant personal accomplishment. We are delighted you are joining us today!

The MPA faculty includes some of the top social scientists at Brown as well as distinguished practitioners. They share a commitment to bringing the insights from both cutting-edge research and policy experience to the classroom.

I hope you enjoy your time exploring the Watson Institute and learning more about the benefits of the MPA program. Choosing a graduate school is an important step — please let me know if I or any of the MPA staff or faculty can be of help during your decision making process.

Sincerely,
Eric Patashnik
Director, MPA Program

Admitted Students Day

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Faculty Panel

Brian Atwood | International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: U.S. foreign policy, international development, international organizations, and civilian U.S. national security institutions

J. Brian Atwood is a senior fellow at the Watson Institute teaching foreign policy and global affairs classes. He is also professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, where he served as dean and as chair of global policy studies. Before coming to academia, Atwood held a wide range of high-level government and diplomatic positions, including director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, leader of the Clinton-Gore transition team at the State Department and assistant secretary of state for Congressional relations.

Justine Hastings | Economics, International and Public Affairs

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Twitter: @jhastings_econ

INTERESTS: Public, education, behavioral, energy, and environmental economics; big data and smart policy

Justine Hastings designed the MPA program's data-driven policy specialization and is director of the Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab — a partnership with state government to use data and economics to improve policy and equity of opportunity. Her innovative research has combined economics and large data sets to solve social problems in education, retirement policy, and household finance, as well as marketing, competition and environmental regulation. Hastings is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and serves on the Academic Research Council for the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and on the Council of Economic Advisors to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Susan Moffitt | Political Science, International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: Policy implementation, public bureaucracy, education policy

Susan Moffitt teaches policy analysis and program evaluation in the MPA program. Moffitt's scholarship focuses on the development of state capacity to implement policy to support the needs of vulnerable populations in the context of democratic governance. She is presently a co-principal investigator on a multi-institutional team that has received a \$4.9 million grant from the Spencer Foundation and the William T. Grant Foundation to study the development, spread, and use of the Common Core State Standards Initiative in U.S. education. Her prior research examined pharmaceutical regulation and the federal role in K-12 education.

Faculty Speaker

Emily Oster | Economics, International and Public Affairs

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Twitter: @profemilyoster

INTERESTS: Health economics, development economics

Emily Oster teaches economics in the MPA program. Her research focuses on health economics and, in particular, on understanding why people's choices about their health do not always seem rational. She works on topics ranging from vaccination to dietary choices to genetic testing. Her work has been published in top economics journals and covered in a variety of media outlets. She is the author of *Expecting Better: Why the Conventional Pregnancy Wisdom Is Wrong — And What You Really Need to Know*. Oster is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Financing Your MPA

Peter Baron

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Peter is an assistant director in the Office of Financial Aid at Brown University. He is the primary liaison to the Graduate School, and manages all private loan certifications and federal aid processing for graduate students. Baron and his colleagues counsel students on financial planning, types of aid available, application requirements, and inquiries regarding graduate student accounts.

Career Planning and Alumni Panel

Jim Amspacher

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Jim Amspacher has been a career counselor at Brown's CareerLAB since 2010. He also co-leads the Careers in the Common Good project, which helps students connect with alumni and employers in the nonprofit sector, public service, social service, and government or entrepreneurial ventures devoted to serving the common good.

Matthew Harvey, MPP '09

matthew.harvey@gmail.com

Matthew Harvey is the director of the Medicaid accountable care organization (ACO) for Steward Health Care, the largest health care services organization and community hospital network in New England. He is responsible for the implementation and operation of Steward's ACO serving members of the Massachusetts Medicaid program. Previously Harvey

was the director of operations for the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, where he oversaw Medicaid eligibility, enrollment, and customer service, and was the project director for Governor Raimondo's "Reinventing Medicaid" initiative.

Alberto Morales, MPA '16

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Alberto Morales is the data manager in the Communities Program at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. He is responsible for evaluating data, with a focus on racial equity, to help inform program impact and strategies, grant recommendations, and donor communication. He previously managed the foundation's program budget and supported family engagement strategies. Before receiving his MPA from Brown, Morales served as assistant director of the Georgetown Scholarship Program, which has empowered over 600 first-generation students. Morales holds a bachelor's degree in health care management and policy from Georgetown University.

Simran Vazirani, '15, MPA '16

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Simran Vazirani is an analyst at Arabella Advisors, a philanthropic consulting firm. She conducts research and analysis and works with institutional foundations to support strategy and evaluation projects in the fields of development, women and girls, conservation, and physical and behavioral health and wellness. Vazirani completed her MPA consultancy with the Rockefeller Foundation's innovation capacity team. She was responsible for researching and assessing capacity-building initiatives and developing dashboards and logic models to guide internal decision-making processes.

Current MPA Student Panel

Gabby Arredondo-Santisteban, MPA '17

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CONSULTANCY: Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC

Gabby Arredondo-Santisteban's interests surround child welfare policy, particularly the foster care system. She previously worked for a nonprofit law firm, the Children's Law Center, as a research and evaluation assistant. During her consultancy, she surveyed states on their implementation of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act passed in 2014. Her work focused on the permanency goals established for children within the foster care system, especially the goal known as "another planned permanent living arrangement." In 2014 the law increased the age (from 14 to 16) at which a child can be assigned this permanency goal. States were required to implement this change by September 2015. Arredondo-Santisteban collected federal data and conducted analysis to better understand the challenges states face in implementing these changes.

Alessio Faiella, MPA '17

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CONSULTANCY: Federal Communications Commission, Cybersecurity, Washington, DC

Alessio Faiella is a cybersecurity consultant, a technology researcher, and a policy analyst. At Brown, he has worked closely with faculty members across a number of disciplines to understand how economic, political, and social factors affect federal cybersecurity policy. As a consultant at the Federal Communications Commission, Faiella had the opportunity to apply his research to a variety of projects. He assessed the security vulnerabilities of open-source cloud platforms such as OpenStack and analyzed the regulatory statutes pertaining to communicative medical devices. He

also assessed the revision of the small business CyberPlanner, a holistic tool for business owners to design customized, and scaleable cybersecurity solutions for their business. Working with both regulators and members of the private sector, this experience gave him a new vantage point of the current cybersecurity environment, and where it will be going in the future.

Vicki Kidd, '16, MPA '17

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CONSULTANCY: Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab, Providence RI

Vicki Kidd graduated from Brown in May 2016 with degrees in anthropology and political science and specializes in the data-driven policy. She is interested in social policy, including criminal justice reform, anti-poverty programs, and other policies focused on racial, gender, and economic justice. During her consultancy at the Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab, she focused on policy design and implementation, working with government agencies to coordinate the rollout of a new welfare connection program for inmates released by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Joshua Rosenberg, MPA '17

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CONSULTANCY: Department of Education, College Readiness, Washington, DC

Prior to coming to Brown, Joshua Rosenberg was a 2014 Teach For America Corps member in Indianapolis teaching U.S. history and AP geography to high school students. His studies at Brown are preparing him for a policy-making role at the state or federal level. During his consultancy, Rosenberg analyzed the effect of financial literacy curricula across the country.

Current MPA student panel continued >

Shannon Spence, MPA '17

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CONSULTANCY: Microsoft Corporation, Boston, MA

Shannon Spence did her consultancy with Microsoft in the corporate, external, and legal affairs team. She will be returning to Microsoft in June as a summer fellow. Her interests are in private sector public affairs and corporate social responsibility. Before coming to Brown, Shannon served as the head of politics and communication at the British Consulate General, Boston for three years. Her educational and professional background is in political communication.

Shashank Sreedharan, MPA '17

shashank_sreedharan@brown.edu

CONSULTANCY: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Geneva, Switzerland

Shashank Sreedharan comes from an undergraduate background in economics and international relations and is pursuing a design-your-own specialization that combines comparative and global policy and data-driven policy. His interests include policy analysis and research, policy writing, program evaluation (monitoring and evaluation), development policy in post-conflict environments, the United Nations, building state capacity, and implementation analysis. Sreedharan's long-term professional aspirations are to work with the United Nations and the government of India, adopting an evidence-based approach to inform policy making. During his consultancy with OCHA he worked on a study of multi-year funding and the humanitarian-development nexus, which is a part of the larger grand bargain process and part of the World Humanitarian Summit output, convened by (former) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Master of Public Affairs Curriculum

13 courses total (10 credits). Ten are required core courses, and the remaining three are electives.

SUMMER**Orientation**

June 5–9, 2017

Summer Sequence 1 (4 WEEKS)

June 12–July 12, 2017

- Economics of Public Policy
- Statistics for Public Policy

Summer Sequence 2 (4 WEEKS)

July 17–August 16, 2017

- Foundations of Public Policy
- Communications for Public Policy

Global Policy Experience (2 WEEKS)

August 18–29, 2017

- Policy immersion at an international site

FALL**Fall Semester** (REGULAR SEMESTER)

September 6–December 21, 2017

- The Politics of Policymaking in Comparative Perspective*
- Program Evaluation and Analysis
- Specialization Elective 1
- Specialization Elective 2

SPRING**Spring Sequence 1** (12 WEEKS)

January 8–March 23, 2018

- Policy-in-Action Consultancy

Spring Sequence 2 (7 WEEKS)

April 2–May 18, 2018

- Social Justice and Advocacy
- Systems Dynamics
- Management and Implementation
- Specialization Elective 3

*Subject to final approval.

About the Master of Public Affairs

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs is an exciting one-year (June to May) program. Students will develop the analytic, communication, and strategic leadership skills they need to tackle societal challenges.

MPA students can expect a rigorous and well-rounded curriculum, but also the flexibility to ensure they graduate with the knowledge and experience needed to succeed in their careers. Students can choose from faculty-driven policy specializations, or they create their own, benefiting from our diverse faculty and access to a multitude of graduate offerings.

Unique to the MPA program is an emphasis on global policy — a two-week trip to an international site is a required component of the program. The degree also requires a 12-week “Policy in Action” consultancy in the spring. This consultancy, coupled with elective coursework in a policy specialization, provides all our students with the opportunity to develop the ideas, knowledge, and skills needed to make a difference.

Policy Specializations

The MPA program's specializations enable students to pursue deeper knowledge and gain proficiency in the methods and substance of particular policy areas.

Comparative and Global Policy

This specialization focuses on the policy settings where international rules and cross-national differences take a central place in decision-making. Courses in this specialization illuminate the conditions that shape the choice of policy goals and the design of specific instruments in different countries.

Since the interplay of political purposes and economic incentives looms large in all policy decisions, the specialization emphasizes a political economy approach, broadly understood. The specialization allows students to focus on the policy challenges that face developing countries, middle-range countries, advanced industrial democracies, or a combination. Students are also able to emphasize international perspectives on a range of domains, including industrial development and economic growth, international security, and global financial stability.

The courses prepare students for a broad range of work in non-U.S. public sectors as well as NGOs, international organizations, and U.S. agencies that have significant cross-border engagement. Fall-term courses will bring together the institutional underpinnings of policy choice with (in the second half of semester) specific illustrations of the pathways by which policies are shaped and implemented. Second semester options allow students to choose among a variety of levels, substantive policy areas, and geographic contexts.

Data-Driven Policy

This specialization builds the analytic and quantitative skills needed to turn large data sets and behavioral science into improved policy and changed lives. Students learn effective communication as they work in consultancies with Rhode Island government on real policy projects and present their ideas and results to government leaders. Courses focus on behavioral economics, data science, computing, econometrics, and advanced courses on policy issues ranging from poverty to environmental protection.

For their 12-week “Policy-in-Action” consultancy requirements, students participate in Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab/Rhode Island government smart policy consultancies, which integrate data-driven research with experiential learning. In the spring semester, students will take Big Data or Data Science. This is a semester-long class. As part of the six-week spring sequence, students will take a “smart policy” course.

Policy Analysis

This specialization deepens students' skills in the application of economic analysis to questions of policy design, efficiency, and distribution. Students gain familiarity with cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and other applications of quantitative modeling and political economy models and become more effective critical consumers of social science research on the public and private impacts of policy decisions. Courses in this specialization emphasize valuing benefits and costs in primary and secondary markets, dealing with uncertainty, sensitivity analysis and the value of information, and understanding the dynamic between politics and markets.

Social Change and Advocacy Policy

This specialization prioritizes social justice, diversity, and ethics by using the distance between the way things are, and the way things ought to be, to shape learning and to analyze and generate policy and public interventions. Courses facilitate rigorous, critical examination and assessment of public action in analytical as well as prescriptive ways, encouraging students to think about how norms for public action emerge, and their own role, as dedicated public actors, in that process.

The specialization focuses on how power works, how change happens through policy and public mobilizations and partnerships, and how policy makers and analysts can develop not only maximally effective but more ethical and just work.

Design Your Own

Students may work with their faculty advisor to design their own specialization. Students must gain approval to take electives outside of the recommended courses from the Director of Graduate Studies.

Policy-in-Action Consultancy

The twelve-week "Policy-in-Action" consultancy is a hands-on, one-credit learning program designed to help students shape and implement an innovative project with a client in the nonprofit, public, or private sector. Students apply their skills to address real problems while doing work consistent with their professional goals.

Throughout the three-month period, students participate in an online colloquium that brings together their cohort under the mentorship of a Brown faculty member. Each project will culminate in a final report that can be used during the career search process.

The consultancy is designed to:

- Provide a career springboard through a rigorous, practical immersion with a client.
- Focus on experiential learning and creative problem solving.
- Address complex contemporary problems, explore policy and practice-based solutions, and identify strategies and recommend future approaches.
- Develop policy and practice-related solutions to address policy issues and/or enhance an organization's capacity.
- Accelerate proficiency in project management, stakeholder identification and analysis, systems and strategic thinking, and effective presentation of data.
- Deliver value for both community partners and students.

Consultancy Requirements

The consultancy is part of coursework that starts in the summer and continues through completion of final deliverables in the spring.

- **Summer:** Career planning sessions and site preferences discussion.
- **Fall:** Attendance at several seminars on consultancy best practices and the selection and preparation process.
- **Winter (simultaneous with consultancy):** Online colloquium with the cohort to create a shared learning environment. Conducted under the mentorship of a Brown faculty member.
- **Spring:** Final deliverables: 1) Comprehensive consultancy project research/analysis report including recommendations for the organization; 2) Post-consultancy presentation.

Recent Consultancy Placements

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, Boston, MA

Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC

Federal Communications Commission, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Washington, DC

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC

United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

Rhode Island Office of Innovation, Providence, RI

Federal Communications Commission, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Washington, DC

Oxfam, Country Portfolio Analysis, Boston, MA

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Boston, MA

United States Institute for Peace, Washington, DC

Department of Education, College Readiness, Washington, DC

Microsoft Corporation, Civic Engagement Team, Boston, MA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva, Switzerland

Force Water Efficiency Institute, Delhi, India

European Central Bank, Frankfurt, Germany

Human Rights Watch, Washington, DC

The Rockefeller Foundation, New York, NY

Global Policy Experience

During the two-week global policy experience (GPE), students analyze and explore public policy at an international location. Summer 2017 sites to be announced soon. Features of the GPE include:

- Meeting with high-level public officials to explore the political and economic dynamics affecting the world's nations.
- Exploring dynamic policy environments: past sites include Cambodia, Korea, Sweden, Brazil, and India.
- Learning how global forces are transforming policy agendas and how different nations are tackling common challenges, from poverty to pollution.

Career Services

The MPA program provides a dedicated career specialist in the areas of public affairs to coach students through this professional program. The program has an array of services, workshops and resources exclusively for MPA students. The careers director also conducts a career assessment and development path tailored to each student, including:

- One-on-one coaching on exploring options within the public policy arena.
- Developing a career vision, from developing an elevator pitch to transitioning into a new career.
- Mastering tools including goal setting, resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, and clinching the offer.

Placement Support and Employer Relations

The MPA program offers assistance in researching career options and a robust placement support program. Additional resources include:

- Database of prospective internships, consultancies, fellowships, and employment in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors.
- Brown's ongoing development of relationships with prospective employers.
- On-campus events for prospective employers, internship managers, and alumni.
- Curated list of Brown alumni active in the policy field worldwide.

Recent Permanent Placements

Office of Management and Budget, State of Rhode Island, Providence, RI
 Tetra Tech ARD, Environment and Natural Resources, Washington, DC
 Department of Energy, Washington, DC
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, DC
 Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Chicago, IL
 Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Labor, Washington, DC
 United Nations Development Programme, New York, NY
 Arabella Advisors, New York, NY
 The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, DC
 London School of Economics, PhD program
 National Ground Intelligence Center, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, Charlottesville, VA
 Detroit Jews for Justice, Detroit, MI
 Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab, Providence, RI
 Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC
 Booz Allen Hamilton, Washington, DC
 Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, Albany, NY

Living in Providence

Providence, Rhode Island's capital city, has been ranked one of the most livable cities in U.S. Brown University is nestled in the midst of dynamic and historic neighborhoods on the city's **East Side**. **Thayer Street** is a student hub with shops and inexpensive eateries. **College Hill**, adjacent to campus, is known for its historic homes and pretty residential streets. **Blackstone Boulevard**, a mile east of campus, has a 1.7 mile walking/running path. South of campus is **Fox Point**, which has a strong Portuguese identity. **Wickenden Street**, part of Fox Point, offers eclectic shops and eateries. More shopping, restaurants, and housing can be found north of campus on **Hope Street**, and to the east at **Wayland Square**.

Providence is known for great food, including a number of nationally recognized restaurants. **Federal Hill**, originally an Italian outpost, has more than a dozen restaurants on Atwells Avenue. Both **DownCity** and the **West Side** of Providence have more of a city vibe.

Housing

Many options exist for living arrangements as a graduate student. Brown's campus is bordered on three sides by residential areas with an abundance of apartments and multi-bedroom houses. Most students live in the neighborhoods surrounding Brown. Here are ways to investigate your options:

- **Graduate Student Community:** Sign up for the graduate student bulletin board (GSBB), which is the main channel for current graduate students to post about roommate opportunities, rentals they are moving out of, and a range of other want-to-buy/sell opportunities.
- **Brown University Auxiliary Housing:** This office operates limited Brown-owned off-campus housing for incoming graduate students.

This can be a convenient option for students arriving from a distance, though many of our graduate students prefer to live in off-campus accommodation. This office is not just about Brown housing: staff have a wealth of experience of local neighborhoods, and knowledge of established rental opportunities.

- **The Graduate Student Wiki Housing Page (requires Brown university login):** The Grad Student Wiki is populated and updated by grad students for grad students. Here you can check out informal and unofficial advice on housing issues, neighborhoods, landlords, and the graduate experience. The Wiki offers advice and collected knowledge on many other aspects concerning life at Brown and in Providence.
- **Other sources:** Craigslist, Samson Realty Rentals, zillow.com

Explore Rhode Island

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, is loved for its many beaches, the historic city of Newport, and its vibrant capital city. Visitors love unspoiled Block Island, easily reached by ferry from the fishing village of Point Judith. Other parts of the state are rich in history, farms, and outdoor getaways. The Ocean State is a perfect place to explore, with 100 miles of beautiful beaches along its 400-mile coastline.

Rhode Island offers one of the nation's largest concentrations of registered historic landmarks. Centuries of American history are preserved here, from 17th-century Colonial houses and churches to the opulent mansions of Newport. Founded on religious freedom, Rhode Island boasts a number of the country's "first" churches, including First Baptist Church, located near Brown. Scores of museums are located throughout the state. An appreciation of the performing arts is evident in the state's many fine professional and community theater, dance and musical organizations.

Master of Public Affairs Staff

Eric Patashnik

Director, Public Policy

Director of Graduate Studies

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Eric Patashnik teaches Foundations of Public Policy during the summer session. He is the editor of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* and is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Before coming to Brown, Patashnik held faculty positions at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia, the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA, and the department of political science at Yale University. During his time at UVA, he served as associate dean and acting dean at the Batten School. Patashnik is the author and editor of several books including *Reforms at Risk: What Happens After Major Policy Changes Are Enacted* (Princeton University Press).

Carrie Nordlund

Associate Director, Public Policy

Lecturer, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

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Twitter: @profnordlund

Carrie Nordlund received her PhD in political science from Brown University in 2006. She has taught at a variety of liberal arts colleges over the past decade. Most recently she was a clinical professor of public service, director of the undergraduate public policy major, and director of the policy nonprofit graduate program at the Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service at New York University. Her expertise is in political behavior,

American institutions, and race and policy. Nordlund teaches in the MPA during the second summer session.

Heather Wilkerson

Assistant Director, Career Services

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Heather Wilkerson focuses exclusively on the career development of MPA students. She works with students to explore their strengths, develop their professional profiles, and create career goals. Wilkerson helps students develop all the tools needed to identify and engage with future employers as they complete the MPA program. She assists students in obtaining exciting consultancies, a core, hands-on learning experience of the MPA program. She also builds employer and alumni partnerships and works closely with Brown's CareerLAB. Wilkerson previously served as assistant director of leadership and career development for Brown Alumni Relations, where she developed programs for Brown's 70,000-plus alumni network.

Ellen Dessloch

Program Coordinator

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Ellen Dessloch supports and promotes the MPA program, serving as editor and graphic designer for its promotional materials and website. She works on MPA recruiting and outreach, and organizes events for the program.

Melissa Nicholas

Student Affairs Coordinator

melissa_nicholaus@brown.edu

Melissa Nicholas facilitates academic advising and manages daily operations for the MPA program. She has been with Public Policy since 2000.

She is a member of Watson Institute's committee on diversity and inclusion, a Brown University administrative fellow, and received the Wilson Deblois Award for outstanding contributions to graduate students and the Graduate School.

Michelle A. Turcotte

Administrative Assistant

michelle_a_turcotte@brown.edu

Michelle Turcotte provides administrative support to the MPA program and the Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy. She also manages the care of 59 Charlesfield Street.

Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab

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The Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab (RIIPL) has partnered with the Office of the Governor of Rhode Island to embrace data- and science-driven policy reform with outcomes, client needs, and fiscal responsibility at the center of policy design. By developing a sophisticated suite of cutting-edge science and technology, RIIPL builds and navigates complex databases, and designs and tests policy innovations to improve equity and opportunity.

By uniquely combining data science with economics, RIIPL works with government partners to assess current policy, develop innovative ideas, and rigorously test for improvements.

The Watson Institute

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs provides students with close access to renowned faculty, researchers, visiting scholars, and speakers. The Institute seeks to promote a just and peaceful world through research, teaching, and public engagement. The Institute's work focuses on development, security, and governance.

The Institute is a community of scholars and practitioners whose work aims to help us understand and address the world's great challenges, such as globalization, economic uncertainty, security threats, environmental degradation, and poverty. From the Americas to China, from the Middle East to South Asia, the strongest theoretical models emerge through observations and analysis in the field.

111 Thayer Street and 59 Charlesfield Street

Master of Public Affairs students have 24/7 access to both the main building at 111 Thayer Street and 59 Charlesfield Street (known as 59C). The third floor of 59C serves as a dedicated study lounge for MPA students, with several desktop computers, printer, copy machine, and scanner available for use. MPA staff reside in both 111 Thayer and 59C.

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