SPA GROWING IN NUMBERS!
2021-2022

Faculty Research

60+ Peer-reviewed journal articles
3 Books
10 Peer-reviewed book chapters
2 National Science Foundation grants

Ph.D. Student Accomplishments

21+ Peer-reviewed articles
2 Fellowships

As well as numerous book chapters, presentations, and encyclopedia entries!
Greetings from the School of Public Administration!

Here's our Fall 2023 newsletter!

As part of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, our School is continuing to chart a dynamic and progressive path forward. We’ve had several exciting events and happenings at SPA. In 2021-2022, our discipline’s premier accrediting body, NASPAA, reaccredited the MPA program. The re-accreditation is for 6 years from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2028. SPA ranks among the top schools of public affairs in the US and Florida. In the latest US News and World Report Graduate Program rankings, 2023-2024, SPA- Public Affairs has moved up again in the rankings from #81 last year to # 72; this is up 18 spots in the ranking from 2020!

SPA is delighted to have four new faculty members: Drs. Kaila Witkowski, Qiaozhen Liu, Pablo Sanabria joined SPA in Fall 2022 and Dr. Abu Bakkar Siddique joined our School in Fall 2023.

SPA provides numerous scholarships to its students and this year, the School’s Scholarship Committee awarded 17 SPA students a record amount of $22,000 in scholarships.

Student scholarship and research were also the focus of the Annual Colloquium of the Association of Doctoral Students in Public Administration. Students and faculty enjoyed the keynote speech and presentation by Dr. Thomas Birkland. In January 2023, student activities continued as the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy held the Annual Regional High School Ethics Bowl.

In faculty and student research, faculty achieved numerous academic feats, Ph.D. students published 21 journal articles and presented at various conferences, six alumni defended their dissertations (2020 included), and five alumni obtained jobs in academic positions. In total, SPA faculty published over 60 pieces of scholarship.

I hope you enjoy reading about these developments and achievements of faculty and students. Also, consider following us on X (known as Twitter) @FAU_PublicAdmin and Facebook https://www.facebook.com/FAUSchoolofPA/ to keep up with SPA developments as they happen.

We are very proud of our distinguished faculty and the successes of our undergraduate, master’s, and Ph.D. students. Our outstanding faculty and students have been a beacon of resilience and continue to be very productive in their contributions to research and practice. In this newsletter, it is my pleasure to share their scholarly and other achievements with you, along with an overview of our recent events.

With much appreciation and warm regards,

Alka Sapat,
Director and Professor,
School of Public Administration
On April 21, 2023, the School of Public Administration hosted an event to honor SPA students who received scholarships for this academic year. The School’s Scholarship committee was composed of Dr. Tomás Olivier (Chair), Dr. Ali Farazmand, and Dr. Peter Cruise. Based on the criteria of fit to the award, academic merit, and fairness, the committee awarded a record amount of $22,000 in scholarships to 17 SPA students who applied for these competitive awards.

The awards given and recipients are listed below:

**John Canada Scholarship, $300**
- Frederick Stang, MPA student

**John Miklos Scholarship, 2 at $1,500**
- Laderne Jeudy, MPA Student
- Kacey Walker, MPA Student

**Jane Thompson Award, 2 at $450**
- Pedro Macedo, Ph.D. Student
- Frederick Stang, MPA Student

**Rosalyn Carter Endowed Book Scholarship, $700**
- Konstantina Gugudi, MPA Student

**Khi and Xuan Thai Family Endowed Scholarship, 2 at $700**
- Gorgin Mansourian, Ph.D. Candidate
- Kofi Andoh Addison, Ph.D. Student

**Adrianna Castellano Memorial Scholarship, $1,000**
- Andrea Ramos, PhD Candidate

**Le Roy Collins Public Ethics Award, 7 at $2,000**
- Albena Dzhurova, PhD Candidate
- Patrick Gavin, MPA Student
- Irini Gugudi, MPA Student
- Kara Haggerty, MPA Student
- Maria Lungu, Ph.D. Student
- Dominick Spano, PhD Candidate
- Julia Soondar, PhD Student

**School of Public Administration 2023 Excellence in Research Award**
- Ryan Lofaro, PhD Candidate

**School of Public Administration 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award**
- Andrea Ramos, PhD Candidate
Doctoral Student Colloquium

The Association of Doctoral Students in Public Administration held an annual colloquium on January 27, 2023. This student-organized annual conference provides the means for students at FAU and other universities in South Florida to present scholarly research and receive feedback from peers, professors, and networks. The aim is to expand the breadth of knowledge in public administration while giving students the experience of presenting at academic conferences.

High School Ethics Bowl

On January 28, 2023, the School District of Palm Beach County, in collaboration with Florida Atlantic University's LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy, hosted the Annual Regional High School Ethics Bowl. The Ethics Bowl is an educational experience with two fundamental purposes: the development of ethical understanding in connection with complex, ambiguous, and difficult cases to resolve, and the fostering of key virtues associated with democratic deliberation, thereby cultivating the virtues central to democratic citizenship.

This year's event included students from Archimedean Upper Conservatory, American Heritage, Atlantic High School, Palmer Trinity School, and Saint Andrews School. During the tournament, the teams were presented with ethical dilemmas and asked questions about the cases. Ultimately, Archimedean Upper Conservatory took the first and third prizes, with American Heritage PBC coming in second, and Atlantic High School earning a fourth-place finish. Students in the top four teams received scholarships, in addition to a monetary donation that would support the growth of the programs at their respective schools.

This year, the guest speaker was Dr. Thomas Birkland, Professor of Public Policy at North Carolina State University, and Associate Dean for Research and Engagement in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and Florida International University (FIU) presented their research on four panels:
New faculty members at SPA!

Last Fall, the School of Public Administration welcomed three new professors who joined the faculty: Dr. Qiaozhen Liu, an expert in public administration, nonprofit management, and finance; Dr. Kaila Witkowski, an expert in public health, public administration, and emergency management, and Dr. Pablo Sanabria-Pulido, an expert in public management, local government, policy analysis, and public affairs education.

Qiaozhen Liu
Assistant Professor

Qiaozhen Liu received his Ph.D. degree in Public Policy from Georgia State University. His research focuses on public and nonprofit organizations with special interests in financial management, program outcomes, and decision-making. His work has appeared in top public and nonprofit journals, including the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, and Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. He also received multiple academic awards and fellowships, such as the Penn Summer Social Impact Doctoral Fellowship and the Andrew Young School Excellence in Teaching Policy Award. His teaching areas of interest include nonprofit management, budgeting and financial management, research design, and quantitative methods.

Kaila Witkowski
Assistant Professor

Kaila Witkowski received a Ph.D. and MPA from Florida International University and an MSW from the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on the intersection of public health, public administration, and emergency management.

Pablo Sanabria-Pulido
Associate Professor

Pablo Sanabria-Pulido is an international scholar in the fields of public policy and public administration. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from The American University in Washington DC, as well as a master’s in public policy from the London School of Economics (LSE). His research interests encompass the design, formulation, and implementation of public policies, as well as the managerial challenges faced by public service organizations and officials.

Specifically, her research focuses on using mixed-method techniques, such as network analysis, content analysis, PhotoVoice, and community-based participatory research, to improve government action and policy outcomes in response to emergency health events. Her research has been published in journals in the fields of public administration and public health, including the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Arts and Health, and the Internal Journal of Public Administration. She also worked with national and local funders, including the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, to conduct applied and engaged research.

His research has a special focus on national and local-level public organizations and their functioning, utilizing mixed methods and a comparative perspective to analyze organizational and individual behaviors.

Sanabria’s expertise covers a range of topics, including public management, policy analysis, and formulation, comparative public policy and administration, organizational behavior and HR, open government, corruption and transparency, local governance, and public affairs education. He has published numerous books, journal articles, and book chapters on public management and public policy issues and has received recognition for his research from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), the International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum, and the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis.
Alongside his scholarly work, he has extensive administrative experience in designing and running undergraduate and graduate programs through blended, online, and in-person learning. He has also served as a board member of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM), the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), the Inter-American Network of Public Administration Education (INPAE), the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Ad-Hoc Committee for the COVID Pandemic and the Public Administration Review (PAR).

Additionally, he holds editorial roles in numerous prestigious journals, including the Review of Public Personnel Administration (ROPPA), Gestion y Política Publica journal (Mexico), Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration (APJPA), Public Administration (UK), and Gobernar Journal.

He is currently an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Public Administration (IJPA) and of the Journal of Policy Studies, and also co-convenor of the Special Interest Group in Public Sector Human Resource Management of IRSPM.

**Abu Bakkar Siddique**

**Assistant Professor**

Abu Bakkar Siddique is an Assistant Professor of Public Finance in the School of Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University.

He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University. Before joining FAU, Abu Bakkar was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at Indiana University Bloomington.

He is also interested in methodological research that aims to improve trust in science by fostering scientific rigor, reproducibility, and transparency. His work also involves detecting bias in statistical model selections and research publications.

His interests, broadly, lie at the intersection of Politics, Economics, and Social Psychology, covering various fields of public finance, development, economics, and health affairs.

The driving motivation behind his research is to inform public policies and practices that improve social and economic justice, reduce inequality and poverty, and increase common welfare.
Robin Larson serves as the Coordinator of the Masters in Public Administration and Master’s in Nonprofit Management Programs. She was instrumental in the curriculum revision, self-study, and site visit, and helped achieve NASPAA reaccreditation successfully for the MPA program.

Gau Liu received the Christopher Polliit prize for best conference paper at the International Research Society of Public Management (IRSPM) held in Budapest, Hungary in the Spring for his coauthored paper titled “From Relational Stability to Network Resilience: Comparing Negotiated Versus Competitive Municipal Bond-Issuing in California During 2000-2015”.

Qiaozhen Liu published three articles and his coauthored article entitled “The Nonprofit Starvation Cycle: Does Overhead Spending Really Impact Program Outcomes?” was recognized as of the top five downloads in 2022 by the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly.

Clifford McCue published two papers and attended six conferences last year, including the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference and the Association for Budgeting and Finance. His article with Emily Boykin, Eric Prier, and Ryan Lofaro. (2022). "The Tortoise or the Hare? A Look at European Union Public Procurement Transaction Time.” presented at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) at its Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida in March, and received the Best Paper Award from the Section on Public Procurement and Contracting.

Palina Prysmakova attended two conferences and published the article: “Financial Performance and Ethics: Employing Commitment to Public Values as a Proxy” in the International Journal of Public Sector Performance Management. She was appointed to be Editor-in-Chief for Belarusian Political Science Review ‘Political Sphere.” and received Quality Matters for the course in Human Resources. She has been actively invited to provide expert commentaries to leading Eastern European and Latin America mass media outlets. In 2022 she had more than twelve appearances in different media outlets that resulted in 23K views of her personal interviews and 120+K views of the news shows with Dr. Prysmakova’s participation.

Pablo Sanabria published three journal articles in Public Management Review, Public Administration Review, and the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Administration. Also, he published two books and four book chapters. His coauthored article titled “The Transaction Costs of Government Responses to the COVID-19 Emergency in Latin America” received recognition from Researcher’s Choice: Public Administration Review's Top-Cited Articles from 2020 and 2021. He was also invited to be part of the Public Administration Review (PAR) Chester Newland Award 2022 Committee and a member of the Keith Provan Award 2022 Committee of the Academy of Management (AoM). Dr. Sanabria-Pulido was also appointed Associate Editor of the International Journal of Public Administration (IJPA).

Alka Sapat received a three-year National Science Foundation Grant for close to $1 million and serves as Principal Investigator and is serving as Principal Investigator. The grant is titled "NSF-ADVANCE ADAPTATION: Enabling Minorities’ Prime Outcomes with Education & Research (EMPOWER)” at Florida Atlantic University.” She published six journal articles in journals such as Public Administration Review, the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, Risk Analysis, Risks, Hazards, and Crisis in Public Policy, and the International Journal of Public Leadership, along with a book chapter in a Handbook on Disaster Law.


Kaila Witkowski published three articles in Policy & Internet, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Public Personnel Management. She also published a technical report in the International Journal of Emergency Services. She presented at two conferences, including the American Society for Public Administration’s Annual Conference and the Natural Hazards Center Researchers Conference.
Kofi Andoh Addison is working on two papers soon to be submitted titled “Searching for IMF externalsities in economic support programs: A case of water and sanitation in West Africa” and “Unemployment, Labor Force Participation, inflation, and annual percentage changes in GDP: Evidence from Africa”

Albena Dzhurova published one article in the International Journal of Social Economics. She also presented research at conferences in our field, such as MPSA 2022, PATNet 2021, and PATNet 2022.


Maria Lungu published 5 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including Review of Black Political, Administrative Theory and Praxis, American Journal of Qualitative Research, Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education, and Academia Letters. She also presented 10 papers at conferences in our field, such as the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), International Conference on Digital Government Research, Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR), Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), Public Administration Theory Network (PATNET), and Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA).

Jean-Claude Ndongo published one article in the African Journal of Public Administration and Management (AJPAM), a peer-reviewed journal. He also presented his research at the 2021 and 2022 annual conferences of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and the 2022 annual conference of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM).

Julia Soondar submitted one article to a peer-reviewed journal and presented her research at the 2022 Applied Geography Conference.

Dominick Spano published three articles in peer-reviewed journals and contributed a book chapter to The Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance titled “Bureaucracy, leadership, and ethics as reflected through movies”. Dominick also presented his research at the Florida Atlantic University Annual Colloquium.

Benjamin Trautman published one article in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. He also presented his research at the doctoral colloquium in 2022.
RECENT PH.D. DISSERTATION DEFENSES

2023

Albena Dzhurova
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
Can Narrative Inquiry Account for the Political Impasse of Immigration Policy Reform? Bringing Together the Multiple Streams Approach and the Narrative Policy Analysis to Explore the DREAM Act Legislation

Ryan J. Lofaro
The Impact of Lived Experience Representative Bureaucracy on the Perceived Humanness and Deservingness of Clients: Analyzing First Responders' Attitudes Toward People with Opioid Use Disorder

Andrea Ramos
Examining Evacuation Decisions of People Experiencing Homelessness During Natural Disasters Using the Protective Action Decision Model (PADM)

Dominick John Spano
Exploring Employee Turnover during the Great Resignation

2020

JArjola Balilaj
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
Social Constructions and Narratives: An Analysis of The U.S. Refugee Policy From 1980-2018
January 2020

Jose Luis Irizarry
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
The Classical Dilemma and Probation Officer Training in Florida: An Ethnographic Content Analysis of Rules, Routines, Roles, Rituals, and Relationships
August 2020

Karen Sweeting
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence: An Interpretive Analysis for Cultural Competence of Federal Departments' Strategic Plans
August 2020

2022

Carlos Manzano
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
Leadership Challenges Women Face in New York City Local Government
March 2022

2021

Meena Subedi
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
The Effect of Community Social Capital on Non-profits' Governance and Disclosure Quality
April 2021

Evan Harrow
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration
Presenting Government Action: A Burkean Cluster Analysis of Varied Portrayals of Environmental Protection Agency Regulations by Newspapers Across the Political Spectrum
November 2021
RECENT PH.D. PLACEMENTS

Arjola Balilaj
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Jacksonville State University

José Luis Irizarry
Department of Public Administration, North Carolina Central University

Ryan J. Lofaro
Department of Public and Nonprofit Studies, Georgia Southern University

Carlos Manzano
Public Relations and Media Professional, Adjunct professor in the M.S. in Public Relations and Corporate Communications at New York University

Meena Subedi
College of Business and Economics - University of Wisconsin, Whitewater

Karen Sweeting
Department of Political Science – University of Rhode Island
Ali Farazmand

Articles:


Books:


Clifford McCue

Articles:


Book Chapters:


Qiaozhen Liu

Articles:


**Hugh Miller**

Articles:


**Tomás Olivier**

Articles:


**Palina Prysmakova**

Articles:


Book Chapters:


**Pablo Sanabria**

Articles:


Books Chapters:


**Alka Sapat**

Articles:


Book Chapters:


**Arthur Sementelli**

Articles:


**Kaila Witkowski**

Articles:


Abu Bakkar Siddique

Articles:


