

PPOL Students and Faculty:

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1--New PPOL Director

As you may have already heard, PPOL will have its 3rd director starting July 1. I will be stepping down after seven years and handing over the reins to **Dr. Beth Rubin** from the Department of Sociology. She brings a breadth of experience to this position, both in the academy (Cornell University and Tulane University) and at the National Science Foundation. She is a highly productive scholar and has just finished a successful year as President of the Southern Sociological Society. She is committed to promoting interdisciplinarity and has a strong track record of building graduate programming.

We are hoping to have a social event later this summer to give everyone a chance to meet and welcome her to the position, as well as celebrate our summer PPOL graduates.

I will send out the additional information as soon as we have all the details worked out for that.

2--August Qualifying Exam Update

As I announced several times in previous Going Concerns, we have scheduled this summer's round of Qualifying Exams for August 13-20. I requested those of you planning on taking the exam to contact me so we can get a head count of those taking the exam (and to help you all coordinate your meetings with the faculty over the summer in preparation for the exams).

Here is the list of those who responded:

Ade Akinde
Yudo Anggoro
Lauren Austin
Eleonora Davalos

Gwen Gill
Michael Kvassay
Karen Okhoya
Mary Jo Shepherd
Ada Uche
Hualiu Yang

If you are planning to take the exams this round and your name is not listed, *please* contact me as soon as possible (daswinde@uncc.edu).

We will be running the next round of Qualifying Exams on the schedule below (tentative).

Monday, August 13 8am-2pm (Economics)

Wednesday, August 15 8am-5pm (Analysis) (includes 1 hour lunch break from 12-1)

Friday, August 17 9am delivery of NOF exam (due Monday, August 20 at 9am, which is also the first day of class).

3--Dissertation Defense: Sasha Tsvetkova

Doctoral Dissertation Defense Announcement
Ph.D. in Public Policy Program

Alexandra (Sasha) Tsvetkova

McEniry Building Room 405
Monday, June 4, 2012
1:00pm – 3:00pm

External Effects of Innovation on Firm Survival:
Evidence from Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing, and Healthcare

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Jean-Claude Thill (GEOG)

The dissertation investigates the effects of innovation at metropolitan level on expected survival of standalone non-patenting firms. Extensive literature argues that knowledge spillovers are likely to be present in agglomerated regions with greater accumulated stock of knowledge. According to this view, firms exposed to knowledge spillovers should become more innovative and productive. Empirical literature consistently finds negative relationship between innovation and productivity on the one hand and probability of exit on the other. An alternative argument, going back to Schumpeterian 'creative destruction', contends that greater innovation leads to increased competition and forces less innovative firms to leave the market. These contesting hypotheses are tested by estimating the hazard rates faced by firms in two high-technology sectors, computer and electronic product manufacturing and healthcare services.

The results of the non-parametric analysis suggest that in more innovative MSAs, computer and electronic product manufacturing firms tend to exit sooner, while healthcare firms enjoy greater likelihood of survival. In most dense metropolitan areas, however, the relationship between innovation and firm survival becomes positive for manufacturing firms, and switches from positive to negative after approximately 12 years of operation for healthcare firms.

After controlling for regional and firm-level characteristics in semi-parametric and parametric analysis, this study implies that innovation in a MSA is either not significant, or forces non-patenting firms out of business in high-technology manufacturing, while it is not a significant predictor of firm longevity in healthcare. These results stay the same when the analysis is performed separately by density group or NAICS4 industries. In general, the dissertation finds support for the Schumpeterian hypothesis, while the knowledge spillover view is not supported.

4-- SECOPA Paper Proposals due June 1 (from the SECOPA Newsletter)

Each year, I strongly encourage students to participate in the SECOPA conference. It is a very student friendly conference, and one that brings academics together with practitioners on issues of public administration and policy.

This year's meeting is October 3-6, 2012 in Coral Springs, Florida in the Miami metro area.

SECOPA
Call for Papers and Proposals
October 3-6, 2012
Coral Springs, Florida

Theme: "Promoting a Positive Transition for the Public Service: Hope for the Future"

If you have a panel idea, want to present a scholarly paper or have a professional experience which you want to share, we want to hear from you. We encourage students, practitioners and academics to submit proposals.

Program tracks are listed below. However, if you have a topic that does not fit into one of the tracks, please contact the conference chair to discuss.

- Economic Policy
- Disasters/Hazards/Emergency Management
- Environmental Policy and Management
- Ethics
- Finance and Budgeting
- Health Administration and Policy
- Human Resource Management
- International and Comparative Public Administration
- Local Government Performance Management
- Nonprofit Leadership and Management
- Performance Management
- Policy, Planning and Program Evaluation

- Public Management and Organization Theory
- Social Welfare Policy
- Criminal Justice Administration
- Planning and Policy

For academics and students interested in submitting a paper, please provide by email attachment a 150-200 word abstract of your paper. Practitioners who have professional experience to share do not have to present a formal paper. However, please provide an indication of the content of your presentation, e.g. an outline or some other written documentation of what people will learn or be able to do when they leave the session. Please also include a suggest track (from above bulleted list). All proposals must be submitted by **June 1, 2012** by email to SECOPA@miami.edu and SECOPA@fiu.edu.

For more information about the program, contact Jonathan P. West, Ph.D., or Allan Rosenbaum, Ph.D., Program Co-Chairs at jwest@miami.edu (305) 284-2500 or rosenbau@fiu.edu (305) 348-1271.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Students interested in presenting their research at the SECOPA 2012 conference are encouraged to submit their work and compete for the prestigious Robert L. Kline Award for master's students or the Morris W. H. Collins Award for doctoral students. Paper Abstracts are due in coordination with the SECOPA Call for Papers by **June 1, 2012**.

Abstracts should be submitted to both SECOPA@miami.edu and SECOPA@fiu.edu using the appropriate submission format found above, as well as to the appropriate committee chair at their respective email addresses, below:

Kline Chair: James Ward, (ASPA 3 Rep) Chair; james_ward80@hotmail.com
Collins Chair: Sharon Wrobel (Secretary) Chair; swrobel@memphis.edu

For more information regarding Awards Criteria and Descriptions, go to:
<http://aspaonline.org/secopa>

5--Call for Papers: Second Annual Public Sociology Graduate Conf. – deadline June 15

“Borderlands in Academia, Activism, and Policy”
George Mason University Campus, Fairfax, VA
October 20th, 2012

Social problems are not black and white issues. To understand their complexity, knowledge from multiple academic disciplines must be considered. However, opportunities to uncover and synthesize such knowledge are few and far between. As such, George Mason University announces its second annual public sociology graduate conference. This year’s theme, “Borderlands in Academia, Activism, and Policy,” will create a space to synthesize knowledge across various disciplines in the social sciences and humanities.

This conference seeks submissions on social topics, including but not limited to age, race, gender, class, sexualities, health, work, communication and media, education, families, organizations, institutions, collective behavior, social justice, human rights, and political,

economic, and civil societies. Paper submissions from many different disciplines are welcome, but the focus of each must strike the tenor of public sociology. We also encourage undergraduate students to submit a proposal for one of our Undergraduate Roundtable Sessions. These sessions provide an opportunity for advanced undergraduate students to share work related to public sociology while receiving valuable feedback from peers and graduate students.

In addition to an abstract, submitters should include a reflexive statement describing how their papers engage with public sociology. Possible forms of reflexive statements include:

- How research findings inform public debates, including proposed or implemented policies, media narratives, and social problems.
- How concepts or findings might be used to empower groups and promote more equitable social relations.
- How concepts or findings might be made more accessible to diverse publics in ways that account for language, cultural practices, and perspectives.
- How papers relate to authors' personal commitments to one or more research topics.

Abstracts and reflexive statements of no more than 500 words each and a current CV should be sent to gmusocgrads@gmail.com with "Conference Proposal" in the subject line by June 15th, 2012. Please include the title, presenter's name, affiliation, contact information, A/V requests, and any special needs required. Abstracts and statements should be sent as Word documents (.doc).

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Sociological Association, Public Sociology Association, and Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. GMU is located just outside of Washington, DC in Fairfax, VA. This conference is the second in an attempt to encourage graduate students to engage their research in ways that move beyond the conventional academic setting. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://gmupublicsoci.wordpress.com/public-soci-grad-conference>.

6--Call for Papers: Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference - deadline Sept 15

The Community Affairs Officers of the Federal Reserve System have released the call for papers for the eighth Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference, to be held April 11-12, 2013, in Washington DC. The conference is titled ***Resilience and Rebuilding for Low-Income Communities: Research to Inform Policy and Practice***. The goal of the conference is to highlight new action-oriented and academically rigorous research on resiliency and rebuilding initiatives that can directly inform community development policy and practice.

Copy and paste the following URL into your internet browser:

http://frb.us2.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsSurveyEngine/?Q_SS=bkdFCxjhkJ6EuqM_bj9wJcmts7Z2iIS&=1

The deadline is September 15, 2012. Authors will be notified in December 2012. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Karen Leone de Nie
Research Director: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Community and Economic Development
Department, Research Division
karen.leonedenie@atl.frb.org

7-- Student and Faculty News

PPOL Student Reid Wodicka and PPOL alum Dr. Nicholas Swartz (along with co-author Liliokanaio Peaslee) have had their article "Taking the Classroom to Town Hall: Advancing Public Affairs Education Through University-Municipality Collaborations," published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

Dr. Peter Schwarz (ECON) has an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, "Using Real-Time Electricity Data to Estimate Response to Time-of-Use and Flat Rates: An Application to Emissions."

Dr. John Szmer (POLS) (and co-authors Dr. Rob Christensen and Justin Stritch) had the following manuscript accepted in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*: "Race and Gender Bias in Three Administrative Contexts: Impact on Work Assignments in State Supreme Courts."

Dr. Roslyn Mickelson (SOCY) was interviewed for the *New York Times* article "Why Don't We Have Any White Kids?"

Robert Brame, criminal justice and criminology, provided comments for the Fox Charlotte segment "Grier Heights Residents Rally After Crime Spike."

Dr. Rosemarie Tong (PHIL) provided comments for the Fox Charlotte video "17-Year-Olds Denied Morning After Pill."

Dr. Peter Schwarz (ECON) did two recent interviews on the possibility of US Airways acquiring American Airlines, both on April 20, with News Channel 14, and with WSOC-TV.

Dr. Paul Friday (CJUS) provided comments for the WCNC video "What's behind the increase in Charlotte murders this year?"

John Szmer, political science and public administration, provided comments for the Fox Charlotte video "Unsettled Issues After Marriage Amendment."

Dr. Bill Graves (GEOG) (along with John Chesser of the UNCC Urban Institute) were interviewed for the *Charlotte Observer* story "Charlotte-area population grew during recession."

Dr. David Swindell (POLS) was a guest on WTVI's television program "282" discussing the policy issues surrounding the upcoming vote on Amendment 1 (aired April 30). He also appeared on WJZT's "Charlotte Now" program discussing the May 8th election (aired May 6).

8--Doctoral Student Fellowship and Seminar Opportunity (due July 2)

The ARNOVA Doctoral Student Seminar is a one-day gathering designed to provide intellectual advice, personal encouragement, and networking opportunities to Ph.D. candidates pursuing studies related to the fields of nonprofit, voluntary action, or civil society studies. The seminar is held the Wednesday prior to the start of the ARNOVA Conference each year. It typically includes a group of (up to) 8 fellows as well as several senior nonprofit scholars. Students will make brief presentations on their research and receive feedback from senior scholars and their fellow doctoral students. Students will also provide an 8 to 10 page summary of the current status of their research and issues encountered several weeks prior to the seminar so that all participants can offer useful feedback. After the seminar, students are expected to participate in the ARNOVA Conference, which runs the next three days, and offers additional opportunities to learn about important issues in nonprofit research.

The fellowship award will provide each recipient with \$1,000 to offset the cost of travel and lodging at the seminar and ARNOVA conference. In addition, fellows will receive free registration at the ARNOVA conference.

Eligibility: In order to be considered for the fellowship, doctoral students must have approved dissertation proposals, with preference given to applicants in the early to mid-stages of their research. *Fellows may come from any institution and any academic discipline.* The research must be focused on a topic related to philanthropy, voluntary action, civil society and the nonprofit sector. Focus areas might include nonprofit institutions (e.g., hospitals, human service agencies, arts organizations, religious groups); or phenomena like civic advocacy, pro-social behavior and social capital; or issues related to nonprofit management, public policy and intersectoral relations. The scope of the studies may include these organizations or activities in the U.S. or other countries.

Inquiries: May be directed to Thomas Jeavons at tjeavons@arnova.org.

9--Dissertation Grants from NSF

SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

[Political Science Program](#)

Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Political Science Dissertation Deadline Dates: January 15th and September 16th.

The Political Science Program supports scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of citizenship, government, and politics. Research proposals are expected to be theoretically motivated, conceptually precise, methodologically rigorous, and empirically oriented. Substantive areas include, but are not limited to, American government and politics, comparative government and politics, international relations, political behavior, political economy, and political institutions.

In recent years, program awards have supported research projects on bargaining processes; campaigns and elections, electoral choice, and electoral systems; citizen support in emerging and established democracies; democratization, political change, and regime transitions; domestic and

international conflict; international political economy; party activism; political psychology and political tolerance. The Program also has supported research experiences for undergraduate students and infrastructural activities, including methodological innovations, in the discipline. Besides information on the Political Science Program, we invite you to also look at the [SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities \(SMA\) web site](#).

Furthermore, for program specific guidelines on the Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant please view the: [Doctoral Preparation Checklist](#).

10--Post-Graduate Work at the Congressional Research Service

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is accepting applications for its Graduate Recruit Program. The program seeks to attract a diverse pool of highly qualified graduate students, as well as Library of Congress staff who already possess graduate degrees, who have the desire to assist Congress with its deliberations and legislative decisions. See [About CRS](#) for information about CRS's mission and services.

The 2012 Graduate Recruit Program offers a variety of paid positions, including analyst, financial management specialist, human capital management specialist, information research specialist, and law librarian positions. See [Areas of Research](#) and [Organizational Structure](#) for information about our research divisions and offices. A list of full position titles appears on the web site:

<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/opportunities/op-grad-recruit.html>

11--Jobs

The Heartland Institute Research Specialist - Free to Choose Medicine

The Research Specialist is a full- or nearly-full-time position with The Heartland Institute working from either Heartland's Washington DC or Chicago offices. He or she is responsible for soliciting and editing a series of white papers on Free To Choose Medicine (FTCM), a public policy proposal being promoted by The Heartland Institute.

The Research Specialist is part of the following team devoted to the FTCM campaign:

- Project Director
- Coalition Manager
- Development Assistant
- Government Relations Specialist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Research Specialist

The Research Specialist reports to the Project Director, interacts as peer with other Heartland and FTCM staff, and has no direct reports.

The Research Specialist is responsible for the successful publication of a series of white papers on FTCM documenting the number of lives saved, the number of people who are able to escape from needless suffering, the savings to taxpayers and consumers thanks to lower drug prices, the number of jobs that would be created, and other specific benefits that would come from adopting FTCM. This research agenda should always be subordinated to the analysis and insights generated from the *positioning* step of our marketing plan. We should not conduct research proving points that our target audiences don't think are important.

The Heartland Institute has a network of some 120 academics working in a wide variety of fields, and expects to work with Greg Conko, Sam Kazman, Henry Miller, and other experts to identify academics and industry experts who might be interested in producing white papers on key aspects of FTCM.

Specific activities will include identifying potential authors, drafting requests for proposal to send to authors, negotiating and signing contracts, monitoring work progress against schedules and goals, submitting manuscripts to peer review, negotiating changes to manuscripts, editing and proofing the papers, and working with Heartland's publications department to publish the final papers.

Additional information and application instructions are available at:
<http://heartland.org/content/research-specialist-free-choose-medicine>

**University of North Carolina Wilmington
Department of Sociology and Criminology
Lecturer**

The University of North Carolina Wilmington invites applications for a full time, one-year lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Criminology beginning August 2012.

This position is a one-year lecturer contract with a teaching load of four courses per semester. Applicants should be prepared to teach research methods, social problems, and additional courses in substantive areas of inequalities. Experience teaching online course is strongly preferred. Minimum qualifications for candidates are a master's degree in sociology; preference will be given to candidates holding a Ph.D. in sociology.

Priority consideration of applications begins May 31, 2012, and will continue until the position is filled. To apply, complete the online application process available on the Web at <http://consensus.uncw.edu>. Application materials must include a letter of application containing a statement of teaching philosophy, CV, contact information for three individuals who are willing to write letters in support of the application and copies of (unofficial) graduate transcripts. These letters are expected to address the candidate's teaching ability and experience. All documents must be attached as Microsoft Word or PDF files to the online application system – not e-mailed, mailed or faxed. Questions regarding the application process can be directed to Dr. Jean-Anne Sutherland, 910-962-4170 or sutherlandj@uncw.edu.

The Department of Sociology and Criminology has over 20 full-time faculty members, roughly 350

majors), and offers bachelor's degrees in sociology (both general and public sociology) and criminology, (general, and with a criminal justice focus), as well as a master's degree in criminology and public sociology. UNCW is a growing comprehensive university committed to teaching, scholarship and service. The university currently enrolls 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students.