

## **PPOL Students and Faculty:**

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### **1--Dissertation Defense Announcement**

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

Andrew Baxter

Friday Building, Room 006  
Monday, June 13, 2011  
2:00 pm

TRADEOFFS IN THE USE OF VALUE-ADDED ESTIMATES OF TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Jennifer Troyer (ECON)

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### **2--Computer Simulations in the Humanities June Seminar, June 1-17**

PPOL students are invited to attend this on-campus seminar that utilizes multiple methods of analysis focusing on topics traditionally thought of as humanities, though such categorizations are breaking down. This might be of particular interest to policy students interested in examining the application of qualitative techniques in new and blended ways. Also note that one of our own, Liz Johnson, is one of the presenters. Take a look at the announcement below and click on the link to read more about the topics and presenters. Attend any that appeal to you. It's all free and right here on campus:

UNC Charlotte will host a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, June 1-17. The title of this Institute is "Computer Simulations in the Humanities." Both local and visiting

speakers will make presentations emphasizing interdisciplinary connections between science and the humanities and detailing the practical dimensions of humanistic research. Several speakers will explore the relevance of computer simulation and modeling as methods of investigation within the humanities. Interested faculty and students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about new methodological tools that supplement traditional approaches to humanistic inquiry.

Visiting speakers include Johanna Drucker (Information Studies, UCLA), Paul Humphreys (Philosophy, UVA), Katy Borner (Information Science, IU), Tim Tangherlini (Language and Culture, UCLA), Matthias Scheutz (Cognitive and Computer Science, Tufts), and Melanie Mitchell (Computer Science, Portland State). Local speakers include Deborah Bosley (English), Boyd Davis (English), Eric Sauda and Chris Beorkrem, (Arts and Architecture), Paul Youngman (Languages and Culture Studies), and Liz Johnson (Public Policy). Marvin Croy (Philosophy) and Mirsad Hadzikadic (Complex Systems Institute) serve as principal investigators on this project.

Details of the presentations can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/unccdigitalhumanities/>

Contact: Marvin Croy ([microy@uncc.edu](mailto:microy@uncc.edu) <<mailto:microy@uncc.edu>> ) or [RichardPreville@uncc.edu](mailto:RichardPreville@uncc.edu)

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### 3--Needs Assessment Presentation

United Way has just partnered with the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute to complete a 5-county needs assessment. For those of you interested in either applied methodological issues or in the substance of a community needs assessment, I would like to invite you to attend a presentation of the results. This will also be of interest to those of you with interests in working with nonprofit agencies.



**COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**  
Presented by the UNCC Urban Institute

**United Way**  
United Way of Central Carolinas

**INCEPTION: Where does change for good begin?**

Please join us to hear about the pressing issues and recommendations for change identified by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, as we explore the ramifications of its 5-county Community Needs Assessment.

**June 7, 2011**  
**7:30 am – 9:00 am**

Wells Fargo Auditorium  
at the Knight Theater  
430 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC  
*Corner of First and Tryon streets*

Hosted by Wells Fargo  
Light breakfast will be served.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO RSVP

Parking is available in the Levine Center for the Arts Parking Deck.

Enter from Stonewall Street (corner of Church and Stonewall Streets)

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#### **4--Call for Papers: Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis Annual Conference**

**Abstracts due: June 15, 2011**

2011 Annual Conference and Meeting of the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis  
Expanding the Scope of Benefit-Cost Analysis: Practical Applications and Analytical Frontiers

October 21-22, 2011 at the [L'Enfant Plaza Hotel](#) in Washington, D.C.

The [Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis](#) promotes the development and appropriate application of benefit-cost analysis to a broad range of public policy issues. This year, our Fourth Annual Conference and Meeting continues the focus of past conferences on the practical use of Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) in a variety of institutional and national settings, with special attention to the role of BCA in both prospective and retrospective program evaluation; and to broadening and improving measurement of benefits and/or costs. As always, we welcome abstracts on any topic related to improving the use of benefit-cost analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, risk-benefit analysis, applied welfare economic analysis, and damage assessments in policy settings, from scholars, practitioners, and others interested in these areas who wish to present research at the conference.

Some examples of areas of interest including the following:

- Developing innovative analytic tools and testing their application in case studies
- Extending the use of benefit-cost analysis to new policy areas
- Improving the use of benefit-cost analysis in decisionmaking
- Incorporating research on happiness, life-satisfaction
- Behavioral economics
- Developing principles and standards for benefit-cost analysis
- Determining the appropriate treatment of discounting
- Assessing and accounting for risk and uncertainty
- Valuing costs and benefits and assessing distributional impacts
- Incorporating moral sentiments and equity considerations
- The role of retrospective benefit cost analysis in program evaluation and policy analysis
- Evaluating the use of benefit-cost analysis in practice in the U.S. and other countries
- Communicating analytic results effectively

Abstracts should be 200–300 words in length and provide adequate detail on the content of the research. Proposals for panels that include three to four speakers are also welcome, and should include a summary of the overall focus of the panel as well as a 200–300 word abstract for each presentation. Note that the program committee reserves the right to select the panel abstracts and to reorganize the panels as needed. Submission of an abstract is viewed as a firm commitment to participate in the conference if accepted.

Abstracts and panel proposals should be submitted as email attachments in Word document (.doc) format to [sbcainfo@uw.edu](mailto:sbcainfo@uw.edu) along with complete contact information for all prospective presenters (name, title, affiliation, email, phone, and address), by June 15, 2011. Please write "Abstract: SBCA 2011" in the subject of the email.

Please consider becoming a member of the Society. [Learn more about joining the Society](#).

2011 Conference Program Committee:

Joseph Cordes, Coordinator (The George Washington University), Glenn Jenkins (Queens University, Canada and Eastern Mediterranean University, Northern Cyprus). Clive Belfield, (City University of New York), Elena Ryan, (U.S. Department of Homeland Security), Trudy Ann Cameron (University of Oregon), and Tony Homan (U.S. Department of Transportation)

For more information: <http://benefitcostanalysis.org/about-society/news/call-papers-open-2011-society-benefit-cost-analysis-annual-conference>

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## **5--SPSA Paper Proposals Due by August 9<sup>th</sup>**

83rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association

January 12-14, 2012, at the Hotel InterContinental

New Orleans, Louisiana

Submissions are now open through August 9, 2012

We invite you to submit your proposals for consideration by one of the 35 sections planned for the upcoming meeting. We welcome proposals for papers, panels or roundtables, as well as volunteers for chair and discussant duties.

You may submit your proposal for review to a maximum of two sections. This is a sequential review process with a computer serving as gatekeeper, so indicating first preference will provide that section chair with the right of first refusal to your proposal. Second preferences help the Program Committee identify opportunities for co-sponsored panels, so please select a second preference if your work overlaps multiple sections.

Use the "All Academic" link on the SPSA homepage to submit proposals (<http://www.spsa.net/>).

Due to some technical difficulties, the All Academic software has been purged. Therefore, we are asking that all participants generate a new account in the All Academic system. Also, please do not try to login from the SPSA homepage, as this login function is only for SPSA personnel use!

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you at the SPSA 2012 annual meeting!

SPSA Staff

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## 6--Student and Faculty News

Lilly Graduated

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Cicily fellow position:

Thank you for entering your idea into the 2011 Dell Social Innovation Competition! Although you did not qualify for the Semi-Final Round this year, we believe that your idea has great potential and would love to see you further develop and re-enter it in the future. Therefore, you've been selected for an exclusive opportunity to have one member of your team apply for StartingBloc, which is a fellowship program that will help provide the tools, resources and networks needed to polish your idea. You can find more information about the Fellowship in the attached flyer.

To become a Fellow, you must attend a StartingBloc Institute for Social Innovation. These Institutes are exciting, fun multi-day "bootcamps" for social innovation, where you will learn how to be an impactful social entrepreneur and will have the opportunity to engage with other young, inspiring social entrepreneurs. You will be able to choose the Institute that best fits your schedule: May 26-30, 2011 in New York City or February 16-20, 2012 in Los Angeles.

We are inviting 100 DSIC entrants to apply for StartingBloc, and twenty of those will be accepted into the program. It is a competitive application process -- StartingBloc seeks Fellows with a passion for social innovation, a clear vision for creating social value, and outstanding leadership and teamwork skills. The application opened today and will remain open until 5 p.m. on April 1, 2011. You can find detailed application instructions in the attached "SB\_DSIC Application Instructions" document.

Our judges were inspired by your idea. We hope you will take full advantage of this opportunity to apply to become a StartingBloc Fellow!

Vivian Lord, criminal justice and criminology, provided comments for the WCNC video "Sources: Teen charged in CMS bus incident had traumatic past."

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## 7--Graduate Assistantship Opportunity

### Leadership Journey – A Learning Community GA Job Description

**Position Description:** The Graduate Assistant for The Leadership Journey - Learning Community (LJLC) will report to the Assistant Director for the Center for Leadership Development and work closely with Housing and Residence Life staff. **This is a 20 hour position** for 2011-2012, August through June. Hours are shared between administration of the LJLC and additional projects from the Center for Leadership Development. This is a dynamic position including recruiting, administration and programming tasks. This position will also regularly interact with the students in the LJLC through providing programs and assisting with advising and assessment.

**Required Skills:** This position requires the ability to coordinate and organize a student application process, maintain organized participant records and to design and implement basic marketing pieces. The position is also required to attend recruitment events and activities, occasionally on evenings and weekends. The GA must be comfortable working directly with students and a diverse community and have basic event planning skills. In June the position will assist with a recruitment table at Freshmen SOAR resource fairs. The Graduate Assistant needs to be competent in computer and organizational skills including an understanding of Access, Word, Publisher, and basic webpage design.

**General Job Responsibilities:**

**RECRUITMENT & SELECTION**

- Attend Fall and Spring Explore sessions, June SOAR sessions, and other recruitment sessions and opportunities as needed.
- Identify and develop recruitment strategies
- Coordinate the application/acceptance process with both Residence Life and the Center for Leadership Development, and provide information for participants as needed.
- Correspond with all applicants /keep students updated on status

**ADMINISTRATION & MARKETING**

- Develop and coordinate publications and printing
- Keep a photograph archive (both of participants and of group activities)
- Work with students on class registration /coordinate with academic advising
- Meet regularly with supervisor & LJLC instructor
- Assist with the assessment of students including surveys and focus groups
- Keep website updated and recommend improvements
- Other duties as assigned relating to LJLC and overall program

**PROGRAMMING**

- Coordinate with the PILOT GA on enrollment of LJLC students into PILOT.
- Develop a minimum of 2 events per semester for students meeting social and educational needs.
- Attend LJLC events including a beginning of the year retreat and end of year graduation.
- Assist with the Freshmen Seminar and Leadership Classes as other duties allow.
- Assist with the Multicultural Leadership Conference.
- Assist with coordination of the mid-year recognition for Distinguished Leadership Medal recipients.
- Assist with CLD projects including LeaderShape, Distinguished Speakers Forum and other events.
- Develop and present one workshop (in LEAD format) for PILOT
- Coordinates (With PILOT Grad) the Distinguished Leaders Medal Reception and the CLD student worker holiday party
- Assists with office projects, mailings, events, reception desk staffing, etc

**To Apply:** Mail a copy of your Graduate Assistantship Application, a cover letter and résumé to Stephanie Schmidt, Center for Leadership Development, Student Union 280, 9201 University City Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28223. Call 704-687-7159 with questions. **Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until the position is filled.**

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## **8--Dissertation Funding Opportunity #1**

SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (SBE DDRIG) - NSF 11-547  
National Science Foundation (NSF)  
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

The National Science Foundation's Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), and the SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA) award grants to doctoral students to improve the quality of dissertation research. These grants provide funds for items not normally available through the student's university. Additionally, these grants allow doctoral students to undertake significant data-gathering projects and to conduct field research in settings away from their campus that would not otherwise be possible. Proposals are judged on the basis of their scientific merit, including the theoretical importance of the research question and the appropriateness of the proposed data and methodology to be used in addressing the question.

In an effort to improve the quality of dissertation research, many programs in both BCS and SES, the Research on Science and Technology Surveys and Statistics program within NCSES, and the Science of Science and Innovation Policy program in SMA accept doctoral dissertation improvement grant proposals. Requirements vary across programs, so proposers are advised to consult the relevant program's webpage for specific information and contact the program director if necessary.

Deadlines vary depending on the subject area of the research, so check the website for specific deadlines (which begin hitting in mid-August). Full program details are available at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11547/nsf11547.htm>

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## **9--Dissertation Funding Opportunity #2**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT Notice of HUD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)**

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides prospective applicants for HUD's competitive funding with the opportunity to become familiar with the General Section of HUD's FY2011 NOFAs, in advance of publication of any FY2011 NOFAs. It also describes HUD's policy priorities based on its Strategic Plan for FY2010-2015, as well as submission requirements for FY2011.

**Purpose of Program:** To enable doctoral candidates enrolled at institutions of higher education accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to complete their research and dissertations on policy-relevant housing and urban development issues.

**Available Funds:** This NOFA announces the availability of approximately \$400,000 for the Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant program.

**Eligible Applicants:** The institutions of higher education accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that sponsor the doctoral student is the official applicant. However, the sponsored doctoral student is responsible for the completion of the application (with the assistance of the institution) and must meet the following program requirements: Only Ph.D. candidates who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (meaning they must possess an Alien Registration Recipient Card-Form I-551) who have an approved dissertation proposal and an assigned dissertation advisor, and will have completed all of their doctoral program requirements except the preparation of the dissertation by September 1, 2011.

**Application Deadline:** July 14, 2011. Applications must be received and validated by Grants.gov by 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time on the deadline date.

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## 10--Post-Doc Opportunity

CGE/Systems Econometric Modeler  
Rutgers University

Rutgers University has an immediate opening for a post-doctoral scholar. The position is a one-year, renewable appointment in the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. The successful candidate will work with a team of researchers from Rutgers Economic Advisory Service (R/ECON™) in coordination with other groups within the Bloustein School on various research projects in the area of regional economic impact analysis, most notably in matters related to climate change and transit security in the northeast region of the United States. Candidates must secure a PhD in economics, public policy, planning, geography, or a related field prior to hiring. Proven skill in the general design and implementation of input-output models, systems econometric time-series models, and/or applied computable general equilibrium (CGE) models is key. The ability to communicate well in English in both written and oral formats is critical. Demonstrated experience in publishing articles is a definite plus.

Applicants are asked to send to Professor Michael Lahr <[lahr@rutgers.edu](mailto:lahr@rutgers.edu)> a covering letter that explains the candidate's interest in and motivation to obtain the position; a detailed curriculum vitae and copies of publications, if applicable; a transcript of results of university studies; and the names, affiliations, and addresses of two people that would recommend the candidate to the position.

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## 11--Jobs

JOB OPENING FOR PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY METHODOLOGIST  
Office of Opinion Research in the U.S. Department of State

The Office of Opinion Research at the U.S. Department of State is looking for a well-qualified public opinion survey methodologist/statistician with a strong background in survey methodology and solid experience with public opinion polls.

Where? Washington, DC  
What level? GS-13 (\$89,033.00 - \$115,742.00 a year)

What we need:

We are an office of survey research and area specialists who design and conduct international public opinion research on political, economic, social, and security issues. We are looking for someone who can advise us on:

Overall survey design (including innovative research designs for challenging environments or hard-to-reach populations)

Sampling strategies for stringent probability-based sampling in face-to-face, telephone, online or mixed mode/multiple-frame surveys

Questionnaire design (including measuring constructs such as political efficacy, social distance and nationalism)

Advanced multivariate analysis of public opinion data with a wide range of strategies for identifying significant patterns, segmenting potential audiences and estimating sampling error in complex sample designs

A successful candidate will also have excellent communication skills to be able to train other members of the staff in research design, sampling, and statistical analysis.

This job is open to all U.S. citizens.

For additional information, contact:

Anna Dean, Acting Director, Office of Opinion Research ([DeanAS@state.gov](mailto:DeanAS@state.gov))

The formal job posting is available on USAJOBS through May 31, 2011 by searching [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

Keyword: OPN Statistician

HBS has an opening for a statistician/analyst. It's actually my replacement, so I'm happy to provide any advice or answer any questions about the position. The ideal candidate is a recently-minted Ph.D. in an applied quantitative social science (poli sci, econ, psych) field. Expertise in R and willingness to learn a variety of statistical/mathematical packages is strongly desirable.

I pasted a job description below. You may also read it and apply for the position by clicking this link:

[https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim\\_jobdetail.asp?SID=^xhrczeDVXwlpzS8AIQrBMZAmvNDzkRUF5jJOob3JhitZNIFXky/J9tCBXsTkhuox&jobId=789845&type=search&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=789845\\_5341&GQId=0<https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim\\_jobdetail.asp?SID=%5exhrczeDVXwlpzS8AIQrBMZAmvNDzkRUF5jJOob3JhitZNIFXky/J9tCBXsTkhuox&jobId=789845&type=search&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=789845\\_5341&GQId=0>](https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?SID=^xhrczeDVXwlpzS8AIQrBMZAmvNDzkRUF5jJOob3JhitZNIFXky/J9tCBXsTkhuox&jobId=789845&type=search&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=789845_5341&GQId=0<https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?SID=%5exhrczeDVXwlpzS8AIQrBMZAmvNDzkRUF5jJOob3JhitZNIFXky/J9tCBXsTkhuox&jobId=789845&type=search&JobReqLang=1&recordstart=1&JobSiteId=5341&JobSiteInfo=789845_5341&GQId=0>).

Feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Best,

Adam

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