INEquality and Social Policy

JAMES M. and CATHLEEN D. STONE PhD SCHOLARS

THE PHD SCHOLARS
2019-2020
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN INEQUALITY & SOCIAL POLICY

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2019-2020

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ALEX P. ALBRIGHT

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  ECONOMICS
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor/social economics, law and economics, and economic history.
Economics of crime and the criminal justice system.
Technology, transparency, and fairness.

BIO

Alex Albright is an economics PhD student at Harvard. Her research interests are broadly in labor/social economics, law and economics, and economic history.

She is currently pursuing a set of projects on risk assessment scores as tools and subjects of study in the pretrial stage of the criminal justice system. She is also taking an empirical approach to examining the lasting and intergenerational consequences of the 1921 Tulsa race riots.

Alex has presented research at Oxford University, Cornell University, Université de Bordeaux, and Bloomberg Global Headquarters. She often writes for non-academic audiences; her articles have been published by *The New Yorker* and *Quartz*.

Alex is a Stone PhD Scholar in Harvard’s Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy as well as a Considine Fellow in Law and Economics at Harvard Law School. She developed many of her current research interests while working at Stanford Law School as an Empirical Research Fellow from 2014 to 2016.

She graduated from Williams College with a BA in math and economics in 2014 and was awarded the Carl Van Duyne Prize in Economics.

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ANGIE BAUTISTA-CHAVEZ

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS
The politics of immigration, interstate cooperation on migration control; bureaucratic politics; American politics; international relations.

A bureaucratic and international relations approach to the study of contemporary U.S. immigration enforcement.

The role of mid-level bureaucrats in U.S. efforts to control migration beyond U.S. borders.

The conditions under which countries cooperate on issues of border security and migration control. U.S.-Mexico relations on issues of migration.

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BIO
Angie Maritza Bautista-Chavez is a PhD candidate in the Department of Government at Harvard University.

In her dissertation project, “Exporting Borders: The Domestic and International Politics of Migration Control,” she examines contemporary U.S. immigration enforcement from a bureaucratic and international perspective. Angie examines the domestic bureaucratic drivers of U.S. efforts to control migration beyond U.S. borders, and the conditions under which Mexico cooperates with the United States on issues of border security and migration control. Angie’s previous work on political outreach strategies is forthcoming in Political Science Quarterly.

Angie’s work has been made possible through the support of the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at the Kennedy School, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and the School of Global Policy and Strategy’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Angie is grateful for the support of the Ford Foundation Fellowship, the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, and her hometown Lockhart, Texas.

Angie has experience teaching on the topics of borders and immigration, as well as qualitative research methods and survey methodology. Angie earned a BA in Political Science and Policy Studies from Rice University.
ALEX BELL

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  ECONOMICS
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics, innovation, health, and public economics.

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BIO

Alex is a PhD candidate in economics interested in sources of economic inequality in the labor market.

Much of Alex’s work considers the role of social exposure in kids’ long-run outcomes. Alex has documented and shed light on large gaps in patenting activity by race, gender, and parent background. By illustrating that exposure to adult inventors has causal effects on kids’ occupation trajectories, Alex’s research suggests that the innovation landscape could be as much as four times as large if all kids had access adult role models in innovation who are demographically similar to them. In ongoing related work, Alex is studying the long-run social and economic outcomes of a group of disadvantaged youth who were experimentally randomized to be eligible for adult same-sex mentors during their childhoods.

Other studies of the labor market include the role of preferences for non-income job amenities in income inequality and an empirical measurement of productivity spillovers across workers in the innovation sector.

Alex’s research has been published in journals such as the American Economic Review and Quarterly Journal of Economics. His work has been supported by the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Kauffman Foundation, Weatherhead Initiative on Gender Inequality, and the NBER Health and Aging Research Program.

Prior to graduate school, Alex was a pre-doctoral fellow for the Equality of Opportunity Project. Alex holds a Bachelor’s of Science with honors in Computer Science and Economics from Brown University.
Aaron Brennen Benavidez is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Harvard University. Funded by the Inequality and Social Policy Doctoral Fellows Program, his research examines institutional and city-level factors shaping college persistence, trajectory, and completion.

A six-time winner of the Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, given by the Office of Undergraduate Education, and winner of the 2018 Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates, given each academic year by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to the five most outstanding Teaching Fellows in GSAS, Aaron is committed to undergraduate education not only in research but in pedagogical practice.

In addition to his research and teaching, Aaron founded and served as President of the Harvard GSAS Latinx Student Association for three years. He currently serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs for the Du Bois Graduate Society; Chair of the Committee for Engaged Sociology in the Department of Sociology; Vice President of Administration and Vice President of Finances for the Harvard GSAS Latinx Student Association; Vice President of Finance and Vice President of External Affairs for the Harvard LGBTQ@GSAS Association; and Principal Cellist and Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Du Bois Orchestra.

He earned his B.A. in Sociology and Rhetoric, with highest honors, from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was named the University Medalist in 2011.
AVISHAY BEN SASSON-GORDIS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political theory; normative theory of democratic institutions.

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BIO

Avishay is a PhD candidate at the Harvard University Department of Government. He is a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, a research fellow at the Berl Katznelson Foundation, and at Molad: the Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy.

Avishay studies the normative theory of democratic institutions, and his dissertation project focuses on the political theory of the democratic military. Among the questions the dissertation examines are issues surrounding social and economic inequality and its relationship to military service, how these notions relate to discourse surrounding draft and volunteer forces, and the moral concepts of citizenship that underlie discussion in this area.

He received his BA from the Joint Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
James Biblarz is a joint JD/PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy and a Stone PhD Scholar at Harvard University.

His research is funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Inequality and Wealth Concentration PhD Scholarship, and the Harvard Fellowship in Law and Graduate Studies.

Jimmy is interested in links between equity-focused public policies, features of neighborhoods and schools, and children’s chances of upward intergenerational mobility. His current project traces the rise and fall of racial integration as the ideological focus of social policy, and the subsequent emergence of competing ideologies. More generally, he is interested in stratification and inequality including discrimination processes, urban poverty, race, immigration, social networks, and continuity and change in values and attitudes.

Originally from Los Angeles, Jimmy is a 2014 graduate of Harvard College (Social Studies and English) and the resident LGBTQ tutor in Eliot House.

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Stratification and Inequality; Discrimination; Urban Poverty; Social Mobility; Demography; and Sociology of Law

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James Biblarz is a joint JD/PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy and a Stone PhD Scholar at Harvard University.

His research is funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Inequality and Wealth Concentration PhD Scholarship, and the Harvard Fellowship in Law and Graduate Studies.

Jimmy is interested in links between equity-focused public policies, features of neighborhoods and schools, and children’s chances of upward intergenerational mobility. His current project traces the rise and fall of racial integration as the ideological focus of social policy, and the subsequent emergence of competing ideologies. More generally, he is interested in stratification and inequality including discrimination processes, urban poverty, race, immigration, social networks, and continuity and change in values and attitudes.

Originally from Los Angeles, Jimmy is a 2014 graduate of Harvard College (Social Studies and English) and the resident LGBTQ tutor in Eliot House.
JUSTIN BLOESCH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  ECONOMICS
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests: Labor and Macroeconomics. Wage inequality, skill specialization and assignment models, pay/productivity divergence, monetary Policy, Phillips Curve estimation, inflation expectations.

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BIO

Justin is a PhD candidate in Economics and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration. He is interested in macroeconomics and inequality, with a particular focus on the effects of monetary policy on the labor market.

His current research focuses on the effect of full employment on the distribution of wages. In particular, he is exploring the relationship between labor market tightness and the pay-productivity gap for low-to-middle income workers. He is also researching the relationship between firm productivity and wages for white collar and professional workers. Future work will focus on understanding the natural rate of unemployment and monetary policy in an environment of low inflation and low interest rates.

Justin received a BS in Economics and Applied Mathematics at the University Wisconsin–Madison and worked in the Macroeconomic Research division at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago prior to enrolling at Harvard.
BIO

Kristina Brant is a PhD candidate in Sociology. She is broadly interested in understanding the causes and consequences of persistent concentrated poverty, particularly in rural communities.

Kristina’s current research focuses on the secondary effects of the opioid epidemic on families. Her dissertation is an in-depth qualitative investigation of the impact of parental addiction on children, through the lens of kinship care. Additional projects consider economic hardship and trust; post-coal economic development; rural heterogeneity; and rural rental housing markets.

For the past four years, Kristina has also been a part of the National UndACAned Research Project, a multi-site longitudinal study investigating the impact of DACA on undocumented young adults. With co-authors Roberto Gonzales and Ben Roth, she is currently working on a book manuscript under contract with UC Press, The Growing Significance of Place: Assessing the Diverging Trajectories of DACA-eligible Young Adults, exploring how the impact of DACA has been patterned by state and urbanicity.

Since 2016, Kristina has been conducting fieldwork in Central Appalachia, making her home in Eastern Kentucky. When not researching, she skates with Somer City Roller Derby, acts with Flashback Theater Company, and volunteers with Camp Mariposa – a program for youth impacted by parental substance abuse.

Kristina also holds a BA in Sociology and a BA in Economics from the University of Chicago.
MATTHEW BROOKE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Political sociology; urban sociology; development of political parties and organizations; how political organizations influence social processes.

BIO
Matthew Brooke is a PhD student in Sociology and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Matthew’s research considers how expertise among political professionals mediates access to the political process. He is currently working on a project on congressional campaigning that combines ethnographic and quantitative methods, which examines how campaigns recruit voters and volunteers in diverse communities.

Matthew graduated from Oberlin College, majoring in Latin American Studies. Before coming to Harvard, he worked as a social worker in homeless services and as a journalist in Central America.

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Jacob Brown

Harvard University  PhD Student in Government and Social Policy
James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Research Fellow in Inequality and Wealth Concentration

Research Interests
American Politics, Political Behavior, Political Geography, Race and Ethnic Politics.

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BIO

Jacob is PhD candidate in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University and a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Research Fellow in Inequality and Wealth Concentration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

His dissertation examines how partisan segregation — where Democrats and Republicans live in relation to one another — shapes how people conceive of their political identities and how they think about the out-party. This work uses nationwide partisanship and residential administrative data to measure individual’s geographic exposure to members of each political party and applies experimental and quasi-experimental methods to test how partisan geography shapes partisan conflict.

This dissertation project is part of a larger research agenda on how political geography shapes political behavior and group conflict in American politics. In related work, Jacob tests the downstream effects of early life cross-racial contact, the political reaction to increased exposure to addiction and homelessness in one’s community, and how formative political experiences produce differential downstream political attachments between racial groups.

Jacob also researches and teaches applied statistics, focusing on experimental design, causal inference, and geographic analysis.
OLIVIA CHI

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  EDUCATION
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Economics of education, teacher labor markets, teacher quality

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BIO
Olivia Chi is a PhD candidate in Education with a concentration in Education Policy and Program Evaluation at Harvard University. She is also a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Her research focuses on teacher labor markets and teacher quality, with a particular interest in how teachers impact both academic and social-emotional skills. In addition, she is currently engaged in projects that examine teacher skill development, the teacher screening process, and the allocation of teachers to schools.

Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as a research analyst at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University and as an elementary school teacher in New Haven, Connecticut. Olivia holds an EdM in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and an AB in Economics and Public Policy from Brown University.
Allison Daminger is a PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University and a doctoral fellow in the Harvard Kennedy School’s Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, where she is a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Allison’s research focuses on the ways broader societal inequalities shape and are shaped by household dynamics. Her current projects examine “cognitive labor”—the mental work of remembering, planning, researching, and deciding. She asks how this work is distributed by gender, and how couples understand and explain that gendering.

Previously, Allison worked as a research associate for a nonprofit consulting firm that uses insights from behavioral science to solve social problems. She received her A.B. in anthropology from Princeton University.
MEREDITH DOST

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD RESEARCH FELLOW IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American politics and policy.
Interest groups and public participation in policymaking and rulemaking.

Impacts of social policy on top-end income inequality.

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BIO

Meredith Dost is a PhD candidate in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, she earned a BA in Public Policy and Hispanic Studies from the College of William & Mary. In addition to research and teaching, Meredith serves as a resident tutor and government concentration advisor in Quincy House at Harvard College.

She is broadly interested in bureaucracy and governance, social policy, and policy feedback in the United States.

Meredith’s research considers participation by interest groups and the public in rulemaking, the process by which governmental agencies implement legislation. She is also interested in the causes and consequences of income inequality and has studied the relationship between community-level income inequality and income-based disparities in educational outcomes.

Prior to Harvard, Meredith worked at Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. as a research assistant on the American politics and policy team.
DIANA DRAGHICI

HARVARD UNIVERSITY   PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American politics; political methodology.

American political economy, including electoral competition, legislative behavior, policymaking.

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BIO

Diana Draghici is a doctoral student pursuing a joint degree in Government and Social Policy.

Her major field of substantive interest is American politics, and her research agenda places a particular emphasis on aspects pertaining to American political economy (electoral competition, legislative behavior, policymaking).

Her methodological interests are causal inference, graphical methods, Bayesian statistics, and data visualization.
LIZ ENGLE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN ECONOMICS
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD RESEARCH FELLOW IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public economics and labor economics.

Effects of policies that influence the labor market participation and investment of people with criminal records.

Program and policy design, especially as it affects vulnerable populations.

BIO

Liz Engle is a PhD student in economics and a Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Research Fellow in Poverty and Justice.

She is broadly interested in how programs and policies shape the ways in which vulnerable groups interact with the world, particularly through labor market interactions and human capital investments.

Her work so far has focused on labor market regulations that affect people with criminal records. She is particularly fascinated by how individual and employer responses to these regulations spread effects through the labor market and the roles of information and signaling in the context of low-skill labor markets.

Prior to her doctoral studies, Liz worked with isolated elders in Chicago through Dominican Volunteers USA. She holds a BA in classics with a minor in mathematics (first honor, summa cum laude) from Davidson College.

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AARON FERNANDEZ

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Neighborhoods, race, immigration, demography

BIO

Aaron Fernandez is a PhD student in Sociology and a Stone PhD Scholar.

He is interested in issues of race and immigration, with a particular focus on boundary creation and neighborhoods.

Aaron is currently working on a project examining the suburbanization of immigration and poverty, as well as its implications for spatial inequality in American cities. This project decomposes immigrant suburbanization into between metropolitan area dispersion and change within metropolitan areas, noting the role of changing the composition of immigrant and US-born populations. He is also interested in the effects of discrimination and segregation on labor markets.

Aaron received his BA in Sociology from Tufts University, where he researched the role of university career centers in social mobility. Before starting graduate school, he worked as a research assistant on a mixed-methods project examining intergroup contact between blacks, whites, Mexicans, and Indians in the Philadelphia and Atlanta metro areas, emphasizing neighborhood, public space, and workplace segregation.

He has also conducted ethnographic research on issues of urbanization and ethnic tourism in China through a study in Kunming and internships with Asia Society and the U.S.-China Strong Foundation.

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KELLEY FONG
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PHD STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Poverty and inequality; social policy; family life; child welfare; education; housing and neighborhoods; social services.

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BIO
Kelley Fong is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Policy, studying families’ engagement with social policies, systems, and supports.

Kelley's dissertation and book project focuses on Child Protective Services (CPS), a central vehicle through which the state manages marginality and deviance. Drawing on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork with agency social workers, mandated reporters of child maltreatment, and mothers subject to child maltreatment investigations in Connecticut, the study examines the implications of a system that can provide support to families but that also wields coercive power.

Previous research, published in Social Forces and based in Providence, RI, showed how the reach of child welfare surveillance extends beyond the child welfare system itself, as CPS concerns inform how poor mothers mobilize institutional resources for their families.

In other work, Kelley has studied inequalities in school choice and registration in Boston; housing and neighborhood search processes among parents in Cleveland and Dallas; and non-use of food pantry services among low-income individuals in San Francisco.

Kelley has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, and a Julius B. Richmond Fellowship from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard.

She holds a BA in History and American Studies from Stanford University and an AM in Sociology from Harvard. Before beginning her doctoral studies, Kelley researched community college reforms at MDRC and worked on child welfare system reform efforts.
JANELLE FOUCHÉ

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  EDUCATION POLICY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS


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BIO

Janelle Fouché is a PhD student in Education Policy & Program Evaluation and a Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of the penal system and education policy, as she believes the two are inextricably linked to issues of race, inequality, and opportunity.

As of late, she is focused on evaluating prison education initiatives on the impact of recidivism, self-worth, and quality of life. She has completed the restorative justice training program at MCI-Norfolk, taught a college-level sociology course at MCI-Concord, and is now an elementary algebra teaching assistant at MCI-Framingham through BU’s Prison Education Program. Currently, she serves as one of the co-organizers of the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign, which is a reparatory justice initiative that seeks to sever Harvard’s financial ties to the prison-industrial complex.

Janelle holds a BS in Economics and a BS in Management Science (Finance concentration) from MIT.
MADELEINE GELBLUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN PUBLIC POLICY
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics. Returns to higher education, gender wage gaps, and the impact of technology on the labor market.

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BIO

Madeleine Gelblum is a doctoral student in Public Policy and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

She focuses on labor economics. Her research interests include the returns to higher education, gender wage gaps, and the impact of technology on the labor market.

Prior to her doctoral studies, Madeleine worked as a research assistant for the Columbia Population Research Center and as a program coordinator for a New York City-based non-profit. She holds a BA in English (cum laude) from Yale University and an MSc in Social Research Methods from the London School of Economics.
Blythe George is a member of the Yurok Tribe, and she attends Harvard University as an Ashford Fellow. In 2014, Blythe received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her Masters’ project, where she examined the intersection of unemployment, gender, and crime on the Yurok and Hoopa Valley reservations, located in Northern California.

For her dissertation, Blythe uses in-depth interviews and ethnographic observation on the Yurok and Hoopa Valley reservations to document the effects of prisoner re-entry on the reservation communities of Hoopa and Klamath. She finds that thick social embeddedness, a high exposure to adverse experiences, and fundamental “world renewal” worldviews based on tribal practices shape the job search process for tribal fathers with criminal records as they return to the work force. Blythe adds a new lens to studies concerned with concentrated disadvantage by describing how the “reservation” represents both a physical space and a social institution shaping contemporary inequality. This theoretical insight nuances considerations of how social networks and informal employment shape male labor force attachment.

Blythe’s dissertation was awarded a 2018 NSF Sociology Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant. The project builds on her efforts to document the extent of prisoner reentry in tribal communities with the Far North Tribal Offender Database, a confidential database for the twelve tribal nations of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Siskiyou counties of Northern California that uses tribal enrollment and county jail records to track tribal members who are incarcerated in local jurisdictions. This pilot database serves as a model for a statewide database and tribal notification system. Blythe’s work on prisoner reentry in tribal communities has been supported by the Social Science Research Council’s Mellon Mays Initiatives, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Harvard University Native American Program, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Association for American Indian Affairs, and Indigenous Education, Inc.

Blythe graduated in 2012 with a BA in Sociology from Dartmouth College, where she was a Mellon Mays Fellow and a national Beinecke Scholar.
LEAH E. GOSE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social service organizations and their networks, food insecurity and hunger relief efforts, the working poor and the social safety net, local grassroots resistance organizations during the Trump Presidency.

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BIO

Leah Gose is a doctoral student in sociology and a Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice. At Harvard, Leah is exploring social policy, organizational sociology, and network theory to understand how organizations and communities serve people in need.

Her current work focuses on the network of organizations working in hunger relief and food insecurity eradication. Her additional scholarship includes participation in a longitudinal study on how smaller communities and grassroots political organizations are functioning during the Trump presidency. She is particularly interested in utilizing new theories on poverty and human capabilities to understand how individuals, social organizations, and law makers influence policy to shape their communities and how such decisions affect people’s health and well-being, particularly the working poor and those living on fixed incomes.

Leah’s prior research focused on the health of disadvantaged populations in both rural and urban environments, predominately looking at minority populations. Her undergraduate thesis work espoused the combined powers of quantitative longitudinal data analysis and qualitative research to explain disparities in rural black health.

She graduated from Washington and Lee University in 2015 with majors in Sociology and German Language and a minor in Poverty and Human Capabilities studies. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, Leah served as an Elrod Fellow at a DC-area nonprofit dedicated to employing wounded veterans and individuals with disabilities.
SERENA HAGERTY

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD RESEARCH FELLOW IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The effects of transparency of inequality on consumption. Preferences for redistribution and support for income-based fines. Perspectives of needs of lower income consumers. Monetization of public and sacred goods.

BIO

Serena is a PhD student in Marketing at Harvard Business School and a Stone PhD Research Fellow in Inequality and Wealth Concentration. Her research interests include transparency of income inequality, relative wealth and wasteful consumption, and perceptions of the needs of lower class consumers. Her current research explores beliefs about redistribution and punishment and their collective effect on support for income-based fines.

Prior to starting her PhD, Serena earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Harvard College. As an undergraduate her thesis research focused on decision making under uncertainty in the health care domain.

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EMMA HARRINGTON

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor and public economics with a focus on criminal justice

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BIO

Emma Harrington is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics. She is broadly interested in inequality traps in criminal courts, labor markets, and school systems.

She is currently pursuing two projects that investigate the workings of the criminal justice system and its web of collateral consequences.

In the first project, she considers the tradeoffs from targeting different criminal-justice reforms through the instrument of prosecutorial discretion. Particularly, she asks how shifting towards prosecutors whose sentencing behavior aligns with a particular reform—e.g. achieving racial equity in sentencing—spills over into other objectives—e.g. protecting public safety.

In the second project, she considers how criminal records affect worker evaluations, by first assessing how criminal records predict on-the-job performance and then estimating how much firms are willing to pay to avoid criminal records in the context of a large staffing agency.

In previous work, she has developed algorithms to predict low literacy. She has also investigated the role of doctors’ prescribing practices in the origins of opioid-use dependence.

Emma studied economics and computer science at Williams College, where she wrote a thesis about intrinsic and extrinsic incentives to contribute to an online Q&A site.
HANNO HILBIG

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD RESEARCH FELLOW IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS


BIO

Hanno Hilbig is a PhD candidate at the government department and a graduate student affiliate at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science and the Center for European Studies at Harvard.

He is broadly interested in political, social and economic inequality in advanced democracies; public opinion and political representation; and gender, race and ethnicity.

Some of Hanno’s research considers how historical institutions and customs have repercussions for current levels of income and wealth inequality. In addition, he examines how policies that are designed to increase inclusion of minorities may backfire.

He holds a BA from Freie Universität Berlin, an MA in Economics from Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and is also an AM candidate at the Statistics department at Harvard. Prior to coming to Harvard, he worked as a research assistant for the migration and integration research group at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), where he is also an affiliated researcher.

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SOPHIE HILL
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative politics. Public opinion and electoral politics

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BIO

Sophie Hill is a PhD student in the Government department and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Her research focuses on public opinion and electoral politics. In particular, she is interested in how structural changes in labor markets have produced new social cleavages in rich democracies.

Sophie is an affiliate of the Center for European Studies and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy at Harvard University.

Prior to joining the doctoral program, Sophie spent two years working in financial markets in London. She received her undergraduate degree in Mathematics & Philosophy from the University of Oxford and she holds a master’s in Political Science from Columbia University.
HELEN HO

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN PUBLIC POLICY
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics and public economics, specializing in criminal justice policy.

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BIO

Helen Ho is a PhD candidate in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School. She is interested in American social policy, especially related to the criminal justice system, racial inequality, and economic opportunity.

Helen is currently working on two field experiments in the criminal justice system, one to evaluate the effects of criminal justice debt and one using SMS reminders to reduce failure to appear for court arraignments. Other research projects include the effects of charter school attendance on college graduation and the effect of criminal activity nuisance ordinances on evictions and crime.

In addition to being a Malcolm Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice at the Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy, Helen is a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow. She is also a research associate at the School Effectiveness and Inequality Initiative (SEII) at MIT and an affiliate of the Access to Justice Lab at the Harvard Law School.

Prior to the PhD program, she was a research assistant at SEII and the National Bureau of Economic Research and a research associate at the Urban Institute. She holds a BA in Public Policy from Duke University.
Sa-kiera T. J. Hudson is a PhD student in Social Psychology at Harvard University. She is a Women and Public Policy Fellow at the Kennedy School as well as an NSF fellowship winner. Her work has been supported by the Mind, Brain, and Behavior initiative at Harvard as well as the Weatherhead Institute on Gender Inequality.

Her research aims to answer two related questions: One, what are the psychological and biological roots of power hierarchies and how do these hierarchies intersect to influence experiences and perceptions? For example, to address the first question she looks at the biological underpinnings of social dominance by exploring the relationship between social dominance orientation and testosterone levels. She is also examining the origins of social hierarchical perception by asking when and how children come to represent social categories of race and gender as social dominance hierarchies. Finally, she examines the role of emotions like empathy and counter-empathy on preferences of hierarchy and prosociality.

Her second question is fundamentally about intersectionality, or the interconnected nature of social identities like race, gender, and sexual orientation on expression and experiences of discrimination. For example, she investigates gender stereotype threat in the LGBTQ community, explores the violence and aggression experienced by women of different races, and grapples with the current theoretical understandings of intersectionality within the field of social psychology.

Prior to coming to Harvard, she received her bachelor’s degree in Biology and Psychology from Williams College in 2011 under the tutelage of Dr. Jennifer Randall Crosby. After graduating, she spent two years as a lab manager for Dr. Jenessa Shapiro in the Social Interaction and Social Stigma Lab at UCLA.
Sarah is a PhD candidate in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University.

She studies American politics, particularly at the state and local level, social policy, political recruitment, and the impact of government interactions on civic engagement.

Her dissertation research explores when and how state-levels public officials recognize and respond to failed social policies.

Sarah is a fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, and a graduate affiliate of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science.

She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009 with a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government. Her senior thesis, Does Content Matter: An Examination of Civics Curriculum’s Effects on Political Participation, won the William Jennings Bryan Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis.

Prior to Harvard, Sarah spent five years as a high school teacher and then high school principal at Boston Preparatory Charter Public School. While teaching, Sarah earned my Masters in Education (MEd) from Boston University in Curriculum and Instruction.
KANEESHA JOHNSON

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RESEARCH INTERESTS
American politics, inequality, criminal justice

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BIO
Kaneesha R. Johnson is a PhD candidate in the department of government at Harvard University and a Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice.

Kaneesha's research focuses on inequality, the criminal justice system, and identity politics, specifically focusing on the intersection of race and class. She is the co-author of Deadly Justice: A Statistical Portrait of the Death Penalty, and has co-authored articles appearing in Oxford Bibliographies and the Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy, and has contributed to multiple articles appearing in the Washington Post.

Kaneesha is a doctoral Fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, a 2017-2018 American Political Science Association Minority Program (MFP) Fellow, and a 2015 Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Fellow. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2016 with a BA in political science and philosophy.

In addition to her doctoral studies, Kaneesha has served as a teaching fellow in the 2017 Freedom Summer Collegiate program.
Andrew Byrne Keefe is a JD/PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University.

Prior to enrolling at Harvard, Andy served as an Albright Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, where he studied barriers to accessing federal programs, including Head Start and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. As a member of the steering committee for the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families, he directed department-wide discussion panels on research methods for assessing dual language learners and policies for enhancing the cultural responsiveness of service providers.

At Harvard, Andy has become fascinated by social movements. He uses ethnographic methods to study how radical movement organizations in Boston work together despite wide-ranging ideologies, cultures, and identities. His research has led him to innovate a novel theory of collaboration in organizational networks, which he is currently testing with national administrative data from the Office of Head Start and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This work promises to contribute to literature on movements, ideology, American democracy, and cultural frames.

Andy's dissertation brings his fieldwork to the legal arena, where he is interested in the professional ethics of attorneys in the U.S. What makes these ethics distinctive? How have they evolved over time? How do they shape U.S. legal institutions and strategic litigation campaigns? In taking on these questions, Andy hopes to advance research in the sociology of law, political sociology, and legal studies.

Andy earned his B.A. in media and cultural studies from Macalester College, where he also received a Harry S. Truman Scholarship for his commitment to public service. He is originally from Minneapolis, MN.
MITCHELL KILBORN

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Politics. Descriptive and substantive representation of social class in federal and state legislative institutions, campaign finance reform, and interest group politics.

Top-end income inequality, perceptions of relative affluence, and attitudes towards economic redistribution.

BIO

Mitchell Kilborn is a PhD candidate in the Department of Government and a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration in the Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Program.

He is interested in how social class and wealth inequalities among office holders and interest groups affect policy outcomes and trust in government among the non-wealthy, and corrective institutional reforms such as public campaign financing.

A second line of research considers how media portrayals of top-end wealth have historically shaped American perceptions of relative affluence and attitudes towards economic redistribution.

Mitchell’s research has been published in State Politics and Policy Quarterly and has been funded by the Bobst Center for Peace and Justice at Princeton University, the Center for American Political Studies, and the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard University.

Prior to graduate school, he worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with a children’s literacy non-profit, DIBS for Kids, in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska. He holds a AB in Politics from Princeton University.

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Curtlyn Kramer is a PhD student in Government and Social Policy.

In the course of her PhD, Curtlyn plans to study how policy choices in the United States shape, and are shaped by, social, spatial, demographic, and economic inequities. In particular, she is interested in studying this question within the context of food and agriculture related policies. She hopes to be able to find creative ways to leverage data science methods to build and analyze novel data sets.

Curtlyn received her BS in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in May of 2015, where she completed an independent thesis project titled “A Century of American Agricultural Policy: Seminal Legislation and Modern Implications.” For that project, she reviewed major pieces of legislation that have shaped the agricultural industry in the United States, and connected them to their implications for the environment, nutrition, and world trade using data from the USDA’s Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service.

Prior to attending Harvard, Curtlyn spent three years working at the Brookings Institution as a Research Analyst supporting Vanessa Williamson, Molly Reynolds, and Sarah Binder. Her work spanned a wide array of topics, including congressional rules and capacity, congressional gridlock, citizens attitudes regarding taxation in the United States, political donor consortia, and the Black Lives Matter protest movement.
AUDREY LATURA
HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative early childhood care and education politics, social policy preference formation and change, work-family conflict, and gender and politics

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BIO

Audrey Latura is a PhD candidate in Government and Social Policy and an Inequality & Social Policy doctoral fellow.

Her research focuses on how social policy attitudes change at the individual level, comparative work family policy, and female professional advancement, particularly in Latin America, the Iberian Peninsula, and the United States.

Audrey received an MA in International Relations from Yale University and a BA in Latin American Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with Departmental Distinction. She is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish.
Angela Lee is a PhD student in Sociology and a Malcolm Wiener PhD Scholar.

Her dissertation research explores how the gender wealth gap has changed over time in the United States and also examines how parenthood affects wealth accumulation for men and women.

She is also currently working on projects on the work-crime relationship for juvenile offenders and on racial disparities in solitary confinement. Her past work has been published in the *Journal of Drug Issues*.

Her research is supported by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and by the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard University. She holds a BA in sociology from Yale.
Nicholas Lillios is a doctoral student in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University. His research interests include health policy, inequality, representation, institutions, and political discourse. His recent work focuses on examining how social and economic inequality affect political influence and representation.

Raised in Chicago, Nicholas received a BA in Political Science and Biochemistry with comprehensive honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a Truman Scholar, Nicholas spent a year at the Department of Health and Human Services, primarily working in the Office of Rural Health Policy and for the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services.
HEIDI LIU

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  PUBLIC POLICY
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Judgment and decision making; behavioral law and economics (especially in employment); randomized control trials in the law; gender inequality

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BIO

Heidi Liu is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy. By applying behavioral economics to employment law and public policy, she seeks to understand the ways in which situational and individual factors might reinforce, or reduce, gender and racial disparities in the campus and workplace — across issues such as diversity, equal pay and harassment.

Her dissertation considers how individuals choose to present themselves in professional settings and take risks, drawing from both laboratory experiments and data from job seekers. In addition, Heidi examines how workplace features such as social norms, diversity programming, or access to other resources might change one’s self-presentation.

More broadly, Heidi examines how information is targeted toward and received by specific groups, from people receiving bad news and the “shooting the messenger” effect, to the recruitment of distributors in multilevel marketing companies and their subsequent quasi-employment relationship.

Her work has been supported by Pivotal Ventures and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, as well as the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, the Women and Public Policy Program, the Mind, Brain and Behavior Program, and the John M. Olin Fellowship at Harvard.

Prior to her doctoral studies, she was a research assistant for Cass Sunstein’s and Richard Thaler’s book *Nudge* and worked at Cornerstone Research, an economic consulting firm. She also has experience at a Silicon Valley law firm.

Heidi received her AB in economics *magna cum laude* from Harvard and her JD from Harvard Law School, as part of Harvard’s coordinated JD/PhD program.
Gabrielle E. Malina is a PhD candidate in Government and Social Policy. Her dissertation focuses on the connection between religion and politics in the contemporary US.

Specifically, her work examines how and when politics influences individuals’ religious beliefs and behaviors. She is also interested broadly in the politics of American clergy, and particularly interested in understanding how political considerations constrain the leadership of clergy in the US.

Her joint work with Eitan Hersh on the political affiliations of religious leaders has been featured in The New York Times, The Atlantic, and Huffington Post. His work has been supported by the Center for American Politics and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University.

She holds a BA in Political Science and Spanish Language from Indiana University, as well as an AM in Political Science from Harvard.
Robert Manduca is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University and a Fellow at the Center for Spatial Data Science at the University of Chicago.

His research explores the consequences of rising income inequality for US society and the determinants of economic prosperity for cities and regions.

In one line of work he documents how changes to the US income distribution have affected various aspects of American society. He shows that rising income inequality is a major driver of continued economic disparities between blacks and whites, and between regions of the country. Related projects track trends in absolute income mobility—the fraction of children who grow up to out-earn their parents—in the US and other developed countries over time.

A second line of research studies how city economies develop and what that means for the people who live in them. Projects in this vein examine the spatial structure of employment within US metro areas and the forces that shape the location decisions of college graduates.

Robert's research has been published in Science, Sociological Science, Geographical Analysis, and City and Community. His work has been supported by the Russell Sage Foundation and by the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy and the Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University.

Prior to beginning his PhD, Robert earned a Master's in City Planning from MIT and a BA in Economics from Swarthmore College.
ABIGAIL MARIAM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Policy, Neighborhoods, Community Institutions, Homelessness and Housing, Poverty, Race and Ethnicity, Local Social Networks, Volunteerism, Local Policymaking.

BIO

Abigail Mariam is a PhD student in Sociology and Social Policy. Her current research interests include volunteerism and community engagement at the local level, poverty and homelessness, and neighborhood dynamics in urban contexts.

Specifically, Abigail is interested in researching the mechanisms by which volunteers and community partners bridge the gap in providing key social services to those experiencing poverty or living on the streets.

Prior to beginning her PhD program, Abigail was the Communications Coordinator and Housing Policy Assistant for Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson in Oakland, California. Abigail provided policy updates for constituents and community partners, as well as helped design and conduct an assessment of existing services offered to those experiencing homelessness, the first of its kind for Alameda County.

As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, she pursued several research projects, culminating in her senior thesis entitled “Facebook and Frames: The role of social media in the Ethiopian diaspora mobilization of November 2013.” Her project focused on analyzing the role of social media in facilitating a transnational protest within the Ethiopian diaspora in 2013. Her research was later published in the International Journal of Ethiopian Studies.

Abigail holds a BA in Government from Harvard University.
RESEARCH INTERESTS

Historical Political Economy, American Politics, and Political Methodology.

Whether and how violence and coercion, both directly and indirectly, shape the politics of social identity.


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BIO

Shom Mazumder is a PhD candidate in Government at Harvard University and a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

His dissertation book project, *Immigrants into Americans: The Political Origins of National Assimilation, 1880-1930*, explores the ways in which European immigrants assimilated into becoming white, Americans in the late 19th and early 20th century. It places particular emphasis on the role of mass warfare in forging immigrants into Americans while also exploring the role of other state policies such as mass schooling and citizenship.

More broadly, Shom’s dissertation work fits into a larger research agenda that seeks to understand whether and how violence and coercion—both directly and indirectly—shape the politics of social identity. To study this, he uses novel historical and archival “big” data combined with rigorous attention to causality. By putting American politics in historical perspective, he seeks to understand how the American experience may not be so different from that of other nations.

A secondary research agenda seeks to understand the causes and consequences of inequality. He examines a wide array of contexts including collective action, unions, automation, and the welfare state within advanced industrialized countries using a combination of new data, natural experiments, and field experimental methods.

Shom’s work is published or forthcoming in the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, and the *Review of International Organizations*.

Prior to coming to Harvard, he worked at Palantir and National Public Radio. He received a BSFS in International Political Economy from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Education policy and inequality.
College access and success of first-generation and low-income students.

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BIO

Preeya Pandya Mbekeani is an advanced doctoral student in Quantitative Policy Analysis in Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

Her research focuses on education policy and inequality related to college access and success of first-generation and low-income students. Her research has been published in Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis and AERA Open.

Prior to beginning her doctoral studies, she worked at the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She spent five years as a teacher-counselor in a college access program for low-income youth and three years as a French teacher.

She holds a Master's degree in Education Policy and Management from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago.
RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy of development, state formation, Russian and post-Soviet politics.

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BIO

Brendan McElroy is a PhD candidate in Government, specializing in political economy of development.

His research and teaching interests include state formation and political development over the long run, with a regional focus on Russia, central and eastern Europe.

His current research examines the state’s role in the transition to modern economic growth, asking how early modern states developed the capacity to carry out far-reaching economic and social reforms – to regulate the performance of peasant labor obligations to their lords, for instance. In particular, he seeks to explain why some states, but not others, were able to “enlist the cooperation” (Marc Raeff) of local corporative communities, such as guilds and towns, in the realization of their development goals.

Brendan is currently a graduate student associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. Previously he held a visiting fellow position at the Center for the Study of Institutions and Development based at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

Before coming to Harvard, Brendan received his BA in Political Science and Russian, summa cum laude, from Georgetown University, and his MA from Georgetown’s Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies.
ALEXANDRA MITUKIEWICZ

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Aging; Inequality; Labor Markets and Institutions; Social Policy; Demography; Economic Well-being.

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BIO

Alexandra (Olenka) Mitukiewicz is a PhD student in Sociology and Social Policy. Alexandra’s research interests center on how economic and labor market inequalities shape the experiences of older workers.

Prior to graduate school, Alexandra worked in Washington, DC, as a Research Associate at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. There she conducted original research on work-family policy, the labor market, and human capital. Prior to joining Equitable Growth, Alexandra worked at the Center for American Progress and Abt Associates, and interned at the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Alexandra graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in economics.
Margot Moinester is a doctoral candidate in sociology and a Law and Inequality doctoral fellow at the American Bar Foundation.

She is broadly interested in immigration; health inequalities; law and society; and crime and punishment.

Margot’s current research charts the expansion of the immigration enforcement system in the United States over the past several decades and investigates how and why immigration apprehensions, detentions, and deportations vary between demographic groups and across the elaborate jurisdictional landscape of the United States. Her scholarship combines analysis of administrative data on immigration court proceedings, detentions, and removals with qualitative fieldwork in several locales.

Margot’s work has appeared in American Behavioral Scientist, Demography, Disability Studies Quarterly, Postgenomics, and Reimagining (Bio) Medicalization, Pharmaceuticals and Genetics.

Her work has received awards from the American Sociological Association and has been supported by the American Bar Foundation, the Tobin Project, as well as the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University.

Margot holds an AM in Sociology from Harvard University as well as a BA in Health: Science, Society and Policy from Brandeis University.
BIO

Michael Morse is a PhD candidate in political science at Harvard University and a JD candidate at Yale Law School.

Michael is broadly interested in race, voting rights, and mass incarceration. He has written about felon disenfranchisement, voter identification laws, voter fraud, and fines and fees in the criminal justice system, among other current topics.

His research, which often uses administrative data gathered from public records requests, has been published in both political science journals and law journals, cited in multiple federal civil rights lawsuits, and featured on This American Life.

Michael grew up in South Florida and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. While at Harvard, he has participated in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy as a doctoral fellow. Beginning in Fall 2019, he will clerk for Judge Myron H. Thompson of the Middle District of Alabama and Judge Marsha S. Berzon of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
NOZOMI NAKAJIMA

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN EDUCATION POLICY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The dynamics between education policy and family life in maintaining and reducing inequality.

Economics of education, causal inference, inequality, international development

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BIO

Nozomi Nakajima is a PhD candidate in Education Policy & Program Evaluation at Harvard University and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Her research examines how education policy interacts with family life to reduce and maintain inequality. One strand of work examines how education policies shape parent’s beliefs about education. Another strand of research examines how features of the education system impact and respond to parent’s work. Her work uses administrative data, surveys, and field experiments. Nozomi aims to produce research that informs evidence-based policies in education.

Nozomi’s work has been supported by the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, the Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University.

Prior to her doctoral studies, Nozomi worked at the World Bank where she conducted research and provided technical assistance in the education sector. Born and raised in Japan, Nozomi holds a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University and a M.A. in International Education & Policy Analysis from Stanford University.
AYUSHI NARAYAN

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Phd Student in Economics
James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration

Research Interests
Inequality, Labor, and Education

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BIO
Ayushi is a PhD student in the Department of Economics, a James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, and a graduate student affiliate at Opportunity Insights.

She studies various topics related to labor, education, and inequality.

Her earlier work has examined how educational decisions respond to labor demand shocks, using the case study of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) which increased the demand for less-skilled labor. A separate paper explores the barriers preventing low-income students from attending college, assessing how much the complexity of the FAFSA inhibits financial aid receipt and college enrollment.

Her more recent projects seek to understand workplace interactions between managers and employees and the ways in which those interactions contribute to labor market inequalities.

Prior to starting her PhD at Harvard, Ayushi worked as a Research Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers, specializing in education and labor policy. She graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College in 2014 with high honors in economics.
Kadeem Noray

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics, public economics, and applied theory. Kadeem’s interests also overlap with law and economics and economic history.

For previous and ongoing work, see the research page on his website.

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BIO

Kadeem is currently a PhD student in Public Policy at Harvard University and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

He earned his MS in Applied Economics from Montana State University in 2017 and his BS in Mathematics, Economics, and Physics at Hillsdale College in 2015. He is also a graduate student affiliate at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), a Considine Fellow in Law and Economics at Harvard Law School, a Health Policy Research Scholar at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and a resident tutor at Adams House.

Currently, Kadeem is working on a couple of research projects related to human capital development. In an NBER working paper entitled STEM Careers and Technological Change, Kadeem and David Deming document that the return to majoring in STEM diminishes quickly after labor market entry. Furthermore, they provide evidence that this pattern is driven by rapid technological change in STEM occupations that make STEM skills obsolete.

Kadeem is also in the process of exploring the long-run human capital formation effects of early-life exposure to various public health interventions including water supply treatments (e.g. chlorination, filtration, etc.) and milk pasteurization requirements.

Additionally, Kadeem is interested in analyzing the implications of redistributing income from those who were fortunate enough to have been born into a high-quality neighborhood to those who were not so lucky through a place of birth tax. To do this, he plans to develop a dynamic model that accounts for the migration such a tax might produce and the spillover effects of migrants on residents in relatively worse off.
CHIKA O. OKAFOR

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN ECONOMICS
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor economics, law and economics, and political economy.

His most recent research combines economic theory, empirical methods, and legal analysis to inform policies that support vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on uncovering mechanisms of—and informing solutions to—aspects of socioeconomic inequality (e.g., economic inequality, education, and criminal justice).

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BIO

Chika Okafor is a PhD candidate in Economics at Harvard University and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration. He is a Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellow, a Terence M. Considine Fellow in Law and Economics at Harvard Law School, and a Senior Resident Tutor at Leverett House in Harvard College. He is also a graduate student affiliate at Opportunity Insights and at the Institute of Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) at Harvard University.

Chika’s research interests include labor economics, law and economics, and political economy. His most recent research combines economic theory, empirical methods, and legal analysis to inform policies that support vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on uncovering mechanisms of—and informing solutions to—aspects of socioeconomic inequality.

Chika has served in public service leadership roles spanning local, national, and international issues. In his hometown, he managed an arm of the Chicago Public School’s “Culture of Calm” initiative, a violence prevention effort featured in The New York Times and NPR tasked with improving school climate and reducing student victims of gun violence. Later, as an Education Pioneers Fellow with the same school system, he developed the first College Persistence Toolkit—a district-wide guide to increase the rate students persist to college graduation. Also, just before beginning his Ph.D. program, Chika served as the Tom & Andi Bernstein Human Rights Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (in the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide). In this role, he supported the efforts of the Early Warning Project, former Ambassador Stephen Rapp, and former Special Assistant to the President Stephen Pomper.

He is a former consultant with McKinsey & Company and former attorney in the London Office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

Chika earned a BA in Economics (with Honors) from Stanford University and a JD from Yale Law School. He is a proud graduate of the Chicago Public Schools for elementary and high school.
FELIX OWUSU

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN PUBLIC POLICY
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social policy, inequality, race, and discrimination.
Institutions affecting social and racial stratification, including the criminal justice system, education, and labor markets.

BIO

Felix Y. Owusu is a doctoral candidate in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Research Fellow at Harvard Law School’s Criminal Justice Policy Program.

His training is primarily focused in labor economics and econometric methods, and his research interests focus on the role of social policy in influencing poverty and inequality across race and class, and national origin.

His research has focused on the role of institutional features of the court system in influencing criminal justice outcomes and disparities across race and class. His current work uses administrative data from the Massachusetts Trial Court and the MA Department of Criminal Justice Information Services to identify and measure the sources of racial disparities within MA’s criminal justice system. Another project seeks to understand how court resource constraints can influence judicial decision-making, defendant outcomes, and racial disparities in the justice system.

Prior to attending Harvard University, Felix worked as an economic consultant at Cornerstone Research and was involved in research at the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office of Research, and UC Berkeley’s Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.

Felix holds a BA in economics and political science from Williams College and an MPP from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

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Amelia Peterson is a PhD candidate in Education Policy and Program Evaluation at Harvard.

Her dissertation seeks to explain variation in the contemporary decline of secondary vocational education. She is also currently part of a small team studying uses of design-based methods in K-12 school districts, funded by the Spencer Foundation. Her work on the combination of evaluation and improvement methods has been published in the *International Journal of Research and Methods in Education* and her research on school credentials received an award for best paper in Comparative Public Policy from the American Political Science Association.

Amelia’s research draws on her experience working with education policymakers in different countries as an Associate at Innovation Unit, a nonprofit consultancy based in London, UK. With Innovation Unit and as a freelance consultant Amelia has worked with practitioners and system leaders in several countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, India, and New Zealand. She is the author of the public-facing report *Personalizing Education at Scale* and a co-author of the books *Redesigning Education: shaping learning systems around the globe* and *Thrive: Schools Reinvented for the Real Challenges We Face*.

Amelia has been a Presidential Fellow and Inequality and Social Policy Fellow at Harvard, and a Junior Visiting Scholar at Nuffield College, Oxford. Her holds an EdM in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Oxford.
CASEY PETROFF

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JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy, economic history, health, cultural economics, long-run inequality

BIO

Casey Petroff is a PhD candidate in Political Economy and Government and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Her main research focuses are political economy and economic history. Her secondary areas of interest include the political economy of health, cultural economics, and long-run inequality.

Her current projects address long-run trends in morbidity and mortality in the United States and the formation and transmission of beliefs about health and science. She is also a collaborator on projects on the long-run growth of urban centers and on the political economy of commodity markets.

Casey holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and economics with minors in finance and history from American University in Washington, DC, and an MSc in economic history from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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Daniel Prinz is a PhD student in Health Policy and Economics and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

He is broadly interested in the economics of social insurance programs, conducting empirical research on disability insurance programs in the U.S. and the Netherlands, and on the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

His research has documented the screening behavior of insurance companies in the health insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act and the consequences of Medicaid privatization in Texas and New York. His ongoing work develops new evidence on the employment sources of disability insurance claims, the consequences of plan design in Medicare Part D, the role of liquidity constraints in prescription drug consumption, and variation in program generosity and targeting in state Medicaid programs.

Daniel’s research has received support from Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard and from the Social Security Administration through the Retirement and Disability Research Center at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His work on screening in health insurance exchanges was awarded the Mark A. Satterthwaite Award for Outstanding Research in Healthcare Markets in 2017.

Daniel holds a BA in Mathematical Economics from Brown University.
CRESA PUGH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY  INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transnational and global sociology; historical sociology; imperialism; refugee and forced migration; war; violence and conflict; race, ethnicity and immigration; qualitative methods

BIO

Cresa Pugh is a doctoral student in Sociology & Social Policy. Her research interests include the social legacies of imperialism, ethnic and religious conflict in Southeast Asia, and the role of collective memory and identity in shaping peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict societies.

Cresa is currently working on a project that examines the effects of British imperial capitalism on the formation of ethnoreligious tensions in colonial Burma. She has done extensive fieldwork in Southeast Asia, particularly Myanmar (formerly Burma), and works with local civil society organizations to support the development of their peacebuilding efforts.

Cresa’s dissertation will focus on the imperial origins of the contemporary global refugee crisis. A native of Nashville, TN, she holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Religion from Bates College and a Masters of Science in Migration Studies from the University of Oxford.

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ETHAN RAKER

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MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social and spatial inequality, migration, demography, natural environment, and health

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BIO

Ethan Raker is a PhD student in sociology at Harvard, a Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice, and a graduate affiliate of the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.

He is building a research agenda that focuses on social and spatial inequality, migration, and the natural environment, deploying primarily quantitative methods.

His current work is focused in two main areas. One research strand seeks to understand the demographic and social consequences of natural hazards and disasters in the United States, using both large scale datasets and a mixed-methods panel study of low-income mothers after Hurricane Katrina (RISK Project). A second research strand focuses on ethno-racial health disparities in the United States. This work seeks to uncover temporal trends, geographic heterogeneity, and the contextual determinants of health.

Ethan is originally from Indianapolis and holds a BA in sociology and business management from Columbia University. He previously held research positions at NORC at the University of Chicago and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University.
BIO

Nefara Riesch is a doctoral student in Sociology and Social Policy. Her work focuses on inequality, race and ethnicity, criminal justice reform policy, and policing.

Prior to her doctoral studies, Nefara worked in policy research, focusing on homelessness and vulnerable populations. She also has extensive experience working in college access and retention. Nefara is from East Palo Alto, California.

Nefara received a BA in History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an MPP from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.
NATHAN ROBINSON

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Criminal justice, prisons, sociology of law, architecture and urban planning

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BIO

Nathan Robinson is a PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University.

Nathan is interested in criminal justice policy, particularly in Louisiana. His research focuses on adult education in U.S. prisons and on the politics of indigent legal defense.

Nathan graduated from Brandeis University with a BA in African American Studies and a BA/MA in Politics. He earned his JD at Yale Law School, where he co-directed the Green Haven Prison Project and worked for the New Orleans public defender and the ACLU’s National Prison Project.

He is also the author of The Man Who Accidentally Wore His Cravat to a Gymnasium, a children’s book about fashion and conformity.
Hailing from Boston, Massachusetts, Cierra Robson is a doctoral student in the Sociology and Social Policy program.

Broadly, she is interested in the ways in which technological advancements both reinforce and revolutionize the American racial order. She tends to ask how modern public-private collaborations both solidify and make profitable existing power hierarchies. Her most recent project explores how governments collaborate with private companies to surveil racialized populations. She aims to use her research to conceptualize what meaningful regulation of Big Tech looks like.

She holds a BA in African American Studies from Princeton University, where she specialized in studies of race and public policy and pursued a minor in Technology and Society.

Prior to beginning her PhD program, Cierra worked with Facebook on their Digital Rights Operations team, researching ways that the company could operationalize new international laws protecting the rights of users online.
David Romney is a PhD Candidate in Government at Harvard University, where he is also a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, a Fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, and a Graduate Student Affiliate of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

His primary research interest is in the psychology of intergroup relations, particularly in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the United States. However, David’s interests span many methodological and substantive areas, including experimental political science, social media, and text analysis.

David received his BA in Middle East Studies and Arabic Language from Brigham Young University in 2013.
Adrienne Sabety is a PhD candidate in Health Policy and Economics at Harvard University and a doctoral fellow in Inequality & Social Policy. Adrienne’s research explores how disadvantaged patients access care in the primary care setting and how non-physician providers affect patient outcomes.

Adrienne is supported by the National Bureau of Economic Research’s Fellowship on the Economics of an Aging Workforce and the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship.

Adrienne graduated with honors from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Economics.

Following graduation, she worked as a research assistant for Jonathan Gruber at the National Bureau of Economic Research on a variety of projects pertaining to health care exchanges as well as decomposing individuals’ health plan choices. In a different role, Adrienne also advised hospitals on how to improve their clinical effectiveness and comply with payment reform.
JARED SCHACHNER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN  SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY  INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL POLICY PHD SCHOLAR

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban sociology, social stratification, sociology of education, social policy, spatial analysis, and quantitative methods.

Neighborhood effects, residential mobility, educational policy, income and wealth inequality

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BIO

Jared N. Schachner is a PhD candidate in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy.

His research interests include urban sociology, social stratification, sociology of education, social policy, spatial analysis, and quantitative methods. At the core of his research program is the intuition that liberalization and regional fragmentation upend fundamental tenets underlying the prevailing urban inequality paradigm, which emerged from classic studies of Rust Belt cities during the late twentieth century.

One stream of research examines the implications of regional fragmentation on the assumption that neighborhoods’ socio-demographic compositions are highly persistent and predominantly shaped by racial dynamics. A coauthored piece published in *RSF: Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* evaluates whether neighborhood economic conditions are as durable and racially stratified in Los Angeles as they are in the paradigmatic Rust Belt metropolis of Chicago. His master’s thesis extends this work by determining the degree of, and sources underlying, variation in neighborhoods’ economic trajectories across all U.S. metropolitan areas.

Another stream of research explores the implications of liberalizing opportunity structures on the assumption that race, class, and economic resources dictate who gains access to advantaged neighborhoods. His dissertation examines whether choice-oriented urban policies render parents with higher cognitive and socioemotional skill levels more likely to sort into high-status neighborhoods and schools with features perceived to propel children’s skill development (e.g., high K-12 test scores). This project has received funding from Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies and Center for American Political Studies.

Prior to his doctoral studies, Jared completed first-year MPP core coursework at Harvard’s Kennedy School and received a BA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics and Urban Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
Andreja Siliunas

Harvard University  PhD Student in Sociology and Social Policy
Inequality and Social Policy PhD Scholar

Research Interests
Family Demography;
Stratification; and Social Policy

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BIO

Andreja is a PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University.

Her research interests span family demography, stratification, and social policy. She is particularly interested in kinship networks and hopes to continue exploring ways in which public institutions impact resource distribution among/between extended family members.

Her dissertation research, “Post-Soviet Graffiti Wars: Decisions to Produce, Commission, Deter, and Remove Graffiti in Urban Lithuania,” is supported by the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University.

Andreja grew up in a suburb of Chicago and completed her bachelors degree at the College of Wooster with a sociology major and math minor. As an undergraduate, she wrote a thesis exploring cross-county variation in child welfare agencies' willingness and ability to support the grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, and other kinship caregivers who take in their relatives' abused or neglected children to divert them from traditional foster care.

After graduating, she worked at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, assisting sociologists with projects pertaining to intergenerational transmission of wealth, intimate partner violence/unintended pregnancy, and correlates of children's telomere length (a biomarker of accumulated stress).
HANNAH SHAFFER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS
Law and Economics; Game Theory. Discretion in the Criminal Justice System; Rape Law Reform

BIO
Hannah Shaffer is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics and a JD candidate at Harvard Law School.

Her current work centers on the causes and consequences of prosecutorial discretion in the criminal justice system—specifically how structured sentencing impacts prosecutors’ choices and plea deal outcomes.

She received her undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, with majors in political theory and economics. Before beginning the PhD program, she worked as a Research Assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

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NICHOLAS SHORT

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

BIO

Nick is a PhD student in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Nick’s research focuses on the relationship between changes in industrial policy—patent, antitrust, and trade policy—and changes in economic structure marked by rising economic inequality, declining economic mobility, and increasing industrial concentration.

Nick has an MS in Technology and Policy from MIT and a JD from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Before coming to Harvard, Nick spent seven years practicing law as an associate attorney at two prominent law firms with an emphasis in intellectual property litigation.

Nick hopes to utilize his legal background to investigate whether (and how) changes in these relatively complex legal domains have influenced economic opportunity in the United States since the late 1970s. Nick studied physics as an undergraduate, and he is also interested in developing new ways of using the tools of statistical physics to better model political and economic trends.
ANNA STANSBURY

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN ECONOMICS  
JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Macroeconomics and labor economics, particularly aspects relating to income and wealth inequality, poverty and unemployment in advanced economies.

Currently, research focuses specifically on labor market power of workers and firms in the US and its effects on rent-sharing, wages, capital income and inequality; and firm incentives to comply with labor law.

Other areas of interest include determinants of rising top 1% and 0.1% labor income, persistent unemployment, the natural rate of unemployment and hysteresis, and the boundaries of the firm and the fissured workplace.

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BIO

Anna Stansbury is a PhD candidate in Economics and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration. Her research interests are at the intersection of macrconomics and labor economics, in particular on areas related to income and wealth inequality, poverty, and unemployment.

She is currently working on an analysis of market power in the US labor market, developing a framework which defines market power explicitly in terms of workers’ and firms’ outside options, and using granular occupational and geographic mobility data to estimate these outside options and their relationship with wages across occupations and regions in the US. She is also working on quantifying firms’ incentives to comply with US labor laws.

She has recently published on the divergence between productivity and pay in the US with Larry Summers (forthcoming in Facing Up to Low Productivity Growth from the Peterson Institute for International Economics); and on central bank independence with Ed Balls and James Howat.

Prior to the Economics PhD, Anna worked as a research and teaching assistant for Larry Summers, Martin Feldstein and the Harvard Center for International Development, where she worked on the divergence between productivity and pay, the mismeasurement of productivity growth, and the diffusion of productive knowhow, respectively. Anna has a BA in Economics from Cambridge University in 2013, where she graduated joint first in her year, and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School, where she was a Kennedy Scholar.
LAUREN TAYLOR

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JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Stratification and Inequality, Demography, Labor Markets, the Welfare State

BIO

Lauren Taylor is a doctoral student in Sociology and Social Policy and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

Her research interests include employment, household finance, intergenerational social mobility, and social welfare programs. In particular, she is interested in studying the effects of government interventions on inequality in the United States and how specific institutional policies interact with systems of inequality.

She is from Van Wert, Ohio, and received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, where she studied mathematics and sociology. Prior to pursuing her graduate degree, Lauren worked for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as a research assistant. At the CFPB, she studied consumer use of high-cost, small-dollar products, which informed the CFPB’s proposed rule on payday, vehicle title, and certain high-cost installment loans.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor, public, and behavioral economics.

Empirical and theoretical tests for racial discrimination in policing and the labor market.

Causal identification of the fiscal externalities associated with common legal practices (e.g. severity of charges filed by District Attorney offices, or court-imposed fees and fines).

Leveraging natural experiments to improve police management policy, taking into account principle-agent incentive structures.

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BIO

Jonathan Tebes is a PhD candidate in economics, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, and a Stone Scholar in the Inequality and Social Policy program.

John's research broadly examines the causes and consequences of urban poverty in the United States. He is particularly interested in understanding how components of the criminal justice system, racial discrimination, and mental health contribute to the persistence of urban poverty.

One strand of his current research seeks to better understand the root of racial differences in the use of force by police, while another examines the causal effects of legal fines and fees on recidivism and labor market outcomes.

John holds a Bachelors of Science from MIT in economics, where he was awarded the MIT Undergraduate Economics Association Journal Award for his senior thesis.
ELIZABETH THOM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American politics, social policy and political parties.

The dynamics of welfare state development and social policy given changing demographics, family structures and work arrangements. American political party platforms and policy reform.

BIO

Elizabeth Thom is a PhD student in Government and Social Policy.

She studies the effects of changing demographics, family structures and work arrangements on the development of the American welfare state. She is also interested in how political parties respond to the policy needs and welfare concerns of marginalized groups. Her current research examines social policy benefits and insurance programs for women and children at the state level.

Elizabeth holds a BA in Political Science and Hispanic Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSc in Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford where she was a Thouron Scholar in St Cross College. Prior to her studies at Harvard, Elizabeth was a Senior Project Coordinator and Research Assistant in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution.

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Mo Torres is a PhD candidate in sociology and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration.

His research interests include race, politics, social stratification, democratic institutions, and the role of elite actors in producing and maintaining systems of inequality.

Mo’s dissertation project concerns post-industrial decline, urban renewal, and the rise of emergency politics in the U.S. Rust Belt. Combining survey data, original in-depth interviews with state lawmakers, and archival investigation, his dissertation traces the causes and consequences of Michigan’s experiment with “emergency financial management” (a comprehensive form of state takeover for fiscally distressed cities, including Detroit and Flint) from 1980 to 2015.

In a second, early-stage project, Mo seeks to understand the politics of prison privatization and criminal justice reform in Brazil. This project is funded through a Fulbright research grant and is advised by faculty at the University of São Paulo.

At Harvard, Mo’s research has been funded by the Center for American Political Studies, the FAS Division of Social Science, the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, and the Taubman Center for State & Local Government. In 2018, Mo participated in the Tobin Project’s Graduate Student Workshop on the History of American Democracy.

Mo holds a master’s in sociology from Harvard, a master’s in public policy from the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy, and a bachelor’s in history and Chicano Studies from the University of California, Davis. A first-generation college student, Mo is originally from Sacramento, CA.
ADAM TRAVIS

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Housing, poverty, urban sociology, and public policy.

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BIO

Adam Travis is a PhD student in Sociology and Social Policy and a doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

Adam’s research interests include housing, poverty, urban sociology, and public policy. Broadly, Adam’s current projects examine the behavior of developers, homeowners, and landlords in urban housing markets. His research seeks to expand upon Jane Jacobs’ insight that, “private investment shapes cities, but social ideas (and laws) shape private investment.”

Prior to graduate school Adam worked in Kenya as a Michael C. Rockefeller Fellow and in Washington D.C. for the U.S. Senate. He holds a BA in Social Studies and AM in Sociology from Harvard University.
Tom Wooten is a PhD student in sociology and an Inequality & Social Policy doctoral fellow.

Tom studies the transition to adulthood for ambitious young Americans at opposite ends of the opportunity spectrum. He is particularly interested in the work young adults do to try to secure life opportunities for themselves. By studying students on the cusp of joining the workforce and the high schools and colleges they attend, he discovers previously unidentified ways America’s staggeringly immobile and unequal class structure reproduces itself.

His dissertation project is based on two years of ethnographic fieldwork about the transition to college for a small cohort of low-income Black men in New Orleans. The project has implications for sociology's understandings of attempted upward mobility, the process of leaving college, and the interpersonal causes and consequences of urban gun violence.

Tom’s other project examines extracurricular life at Harvard College, showing how students use college-sponsored outside-of-class activities to construct desirable, marketable, seemingly “authentic” selves.

Before entering graduate school, Tom wrote two historical books about disasters. His first book, co-written with Utpal Sandesara, is called No One Had a Tongue to Speak (Prometheus 2011). It is a narrative history of the 1979 Machhu Dam Disaster in Gujarat State, India. His second book, We Shall Not Be Moved: Rebuilding Home in the Wake of Katrina (Beacon 2012), follows five neighborhood-based recovery efforts in New Orleans.
ALICE WU

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JAMES M. AND CATHLEEN D. STONE PHD SCHOLAR IN INEQUALITY AND WEALTH CONCENTRATION

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Econometrics, Career Progression, Wage Polarization, Impacts of Top-end Inequality on Lower-skilled Workers, Labor Market Discrimination.

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BIO

Alice Wu is a PhD candidate in Economics and a Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration at Harvard University. Her research interests include labor economics and econometrics, with a focus on the causes and implications of labor market inequality.

She aims to study the career progression of workers from less advantaged backgrounds, and further understand the role of firms and institutions in driving income inequality.

Her research also documents bias against women and minorities in various settings, and draws insights from multiple disciplines to interpret her findings. In the future, she will also test for mechanisms that reduce bias and foster diversity at the workplace.

Alice is a proud graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to Harvard, she also spent a year at Princeton doing research on mental health and gender discrimination.
LILLY YU

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PHD STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY
MALCOLM HEWITT WIENER PHD SCHOLAR IN POVERTY AND JUSTICE

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Social inequality, criminal justice policy, and punishment. The impact of criminal justice reform and justice-based interventions and their intersection with issues of gender, race, and immigration.

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BIO
Lilly Yu is a PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy at Harvard University. Her research interests lie broadly in criminal justice policy and practice, particularly how local justice reform efforts and the proliferation of system-based interventions alleviate or perpetuate social inequality. She is particularly interested in the impacts of justice reform on victims of crime, immigrants, and women and girls. Her research is supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Prior to beginning her PhD, Lilly was a researcher in the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center for four years where she worked on a wide portfolio of studies in partnership with government agencies, practitioners, and community-based organizations. Her prior research focused on crime victimization and victim services, as well as the justice involvement of young people in a variety of settings and interventions. She also extensively studied human trafficking and its related issues, including the criminalization of trafficking survivors and survivor perceptions of justice.

Lilly earned her BA from Rice University, where she majored in sociology and minored in the program in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities.
Michael Zanger-Tishler is a PhD student in Sociology & Social Policy. He is interested in understanding the relationship between race, ethnicity, and the criminal justice system in a comparative context, specifically looking at the United States, Israel, and Europe.

As an undergraduate, he wrote his senior thesis on criminal justice contact among diverse populations using an original survey and coauthored an article entitled “The Great Decoupling: The Disconnection Between Criminal Offending and Experience of Arrest Across Two Cohorts” with Vesla Weaver and Andrew Papachristos. He also conducted summer math research through the Yale SUMRY program, and was a research assistant for economist Robert Shiller.

Before beginning his graduate study, Michael studied at a Hebrew speaking Israeli religious seminary (2013-2014) and was a CASA Arabic fellow in Amman Jordan (2018-2019) where he studied Formal and Levantine Arabic and worked as a volunteer translator for the International Refugee Assistance Project.
MICHAEL ZOOROB

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  PHD STUDENT IN GOVERNMENT
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

American politics, policing, and public health.

The differences in behavior between elected and appointed law enforcement executives, the political and law enforcement consequences of police unions, the contemporary drug epidemic, and the health consequences of increased inequality and economic change.

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BIO

Michael is a PhD candidate in Government and an AM candidate in Statistics. He holds a BA in Political Science and Economics from Vanderbilt University.

Michel is broadly interested in crime and policing policy, street-level bureaucracy, and organizational networks in American politics. Separately, he is interested in understanding the individual and community-level factors which predict resilience to overdose to inform policy responses to the contemporary drug crisis.

Michael’s prior work has been published in the journals Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, and PS: Political Science & Politics. His work has been supported by the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy and the Center for American Political Studies.