

GW INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

SPRING 2009
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

805 21ST STREET, NW
MEDIA & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
6TH FLOOR

THE GWIPP REPORT



IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	1
WHAT CAN GWIPP DO FOR YOU?	2
POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM	3
PROFILING GWIPP PROJECTS	
THE DELEGATED STATE: MEDICARE, MARKETS, AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN GOVERNANCE	4
UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	5
SELECTED ONGOING GWIPP PROJECTS	6-7
PROFILING GWIPP AFFILIATES	
POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROFILE: PAUL WAHLBECK	8
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFILE: ALICE LEVY	9
NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP	10-16
STAFF AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES	17

COPY EDITOR
DR. GARRY YOUNG

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS
DR. KIMBERLY MORGAN, DR. GARRY YOUNG, AND KATIE BRUDER

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
KATIE BRUDER

All rights reserved. Produced by the George Washington Institute of Public Policy (GWIPP).
The George Washington University; Washington, DC. Spring 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



As GWIPP begins its ninth year, it's a good time to bring everyone up to date on our activities. GWIPP and The Center for Washington Area Studies (CWAS), a center within GWIPP, have been selected by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia to provide medium- to long-term economic and fiscal analysis for the District. This is a four-year contract with specific tasks negotiated between the District and GWIPP. We discuss the first set of tasks in this newsletter.

We continue to work with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (LILP) on our property tax project, which includes data collection, research, and annual publication of a book consisting of papers from our Property Tax Roundtable with LILP. The first book is due to be published in summer 2009. Additionally, we held our second annual conference on Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects in early June. The conference was co-sponsored by the Brookings Institution, GWIPP, the George Washington Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the Urban Institute. The first book from these conferences - *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects, V. 1* - was published by the Brookings Institution Press this past year.

Our work on "What Happens When Manufacturing Jobs Disappear," funded by the Sloan Foundation and conducted with the Brookings Institution, is proceeding, and we recently signed a contract to work with Brookings and Cleveland State University on a study of Regional Economic Resilience. The study is funded by the MacArthur Foundation through the University of California-Berkeley, to which our team is a sub-contractor.

We were pleased to be notified that our Research Enhancement Fund grant from the University has been renewed and that our status as one of the University's Selective Excellence Programs has also been recognized and continued.

Finally, we have had some notable staff changes. Dr. Nancy Augustine, our senior research associate, now works at the Pew Institute. Dr. Richard Green, the Director of CWAS, left us to take the position as Director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the University of Southern California. Dr. Garry Young has replaced Dr. Green as CWAS Director. Dr. Andrea Sarzynski, who was previously at Brookings working on environmental and energy policy, has joined GWIPP as a Research Professor. Meanwhile, Dr. Julia Friedman retired and resigned her position as a GWIPP Research Professor. And Katie Bruder replaced Olive Cox, who graduated with her Masters degree, as GWIPP's Executive Coordinator.

Sincerely yours,

WHAT CAN GWIPP DO FOR YOU?

GW FACULTY

GWIPP provides assistance to GW faculty in generating and administering externally funded policy research in several ways, including:

FINDING research teams by identifying and recruiting other faculty with similar interests or useful skills.

FUNDING the Policy Research Scholar Program, which offers targeted assistance for faculty members pursuing policy research.

IDENTIFYING potential external funding sources, many of which already have a funding relationship with GWIPP.

MONITORING databases for research opportunities that may be of interest to GWIPP-affiliated faculty.

DESIGNING funding proposals, developing budgets, and submitting the proposals.

PROVIDING substantive and methodological assistance, when desired and appropriate, through consultation and proposal review. These are provided by the Director and Associate Director, who are available to read drafts of concept papers, letters of inquiry, and proposal drafts, to refer faculty to other sources and experts, both on and off campus, and to organize workshops where draft proposals can be discussed.

ADMINISTERING and managing grants once awarded.

GW GRADUATE STUDENTS

GWIPP hires many graduate students from across campus each year to be research assistants on its public policy research projects. Many employers look for graduates who have experience with funded or client-centered research. Students benefit from working closely with policy researchers on a wide range of current policy issues; learning firsthand how to design, implement, and convey the findings of research projects. Some projects provide opportunities to present at conferences and submit articles for publication in academic journals as well as the provision of useful background research for the student's own research interests, including dissertation work.

For more on GWIPP projects, visit www.gwu.edu/~gwipp. For information on applying to be a research assistant with GWIPP, contact Garry Young at YoungG@gwu.edu.

EXTERNAL FUNDING PARTNERS

GWIPP can call upon the full range of skills of University faculty and research assistants to carry out research projects. Many GWIPP researchers have extensive experience in the academic, government, and nonprofit areas, and can bring their experience in these areas to projects. GWIPP researchers have published extensively in their fields of expertise. Students with notable experience in policy research are eager to learn from their academic mentors and often bring a fresh perspective to research projects.

POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Policy Research Scholar program is a critical part of GWIPP's effort to encourage and facilitate public policy research at GWU. In an annual competition, GW faculty submit proposals for policy-based research. Those selected are given the title of Policy Research Scholar and serve in that capacity for one year. Each Scholar is required to develop their project during the year and submit a proposal for external funding. Scholars receive a variety of resources from GWIPP, including a \$10,000 for summer stipend or course releases and assistance in finding potential funders, developing proposals, constructing budgets, submitting proposals, and administration the once the research is funded.

The ten Policy Research Scholars (page 12) who commence their term in Fall 2009 constitute the ninth cohort of Policy Research Scholars. Scholars come from all campus schools and many of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences departments. They have worked on a wide range of policy-related projects, bringing in more than \$2.1 million in external funding to GWU.

For more information about GWIPP's Policy Research Scholar program, consult the GWIPP website (www.gwu.edu/~gwipp) or contact Dr. Garry Young at YoungG@gwu.edu or (202) 994-6494.

GWIPP RESEARCH CENTERS

CENTER FOR WASHINGTON AREA STUDIES

CWAS undertakes and promotes policy research directly relevant to the District of Columbia and the Washington metropolitan area. Directed by Garry Young, the center is multi-disciplinary and university-wide. Current and recent research carried out at CWAS include an analysis of the factors that affect the economic competitiveness of the District of Columbia, a comparison of bicycling policies in three area counties, an analysis of the commercial property market in the District, a study of the policy impact of the District's lack of representation in Congress, two studies comparing Washington, D.C. to other nation's capitals, and an examination of D.C.'s infrastructure needs. Recent funders of CWAS projects include the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Trellis Fund, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Our Nation's Capital. Aside from the research carried out at CWAS, the center also supports efforts by GW faculty to seek external funding for research on the Washington region or that includes the Washington region in more general research. For example, CWAS participates in the Policy Research Scholar program by funding a Scholar doing Washington-relevant research.

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL POLICY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Directed by David Brunori, the staff of the State and Local Fiscal Policy Research Program (SLFPRP) engages in research on state and/or local tax and expenditure policy. In addition to the ongoing program on significant features of the property tax, the Program's research has included studies of fiscal disparities in metropolitan areas, the effect on fiscal disparities of changing to a site value-only property tax, the impact of local government fiscal cutbacks on non-profit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, the effect of state and local fiscal policy on local economic growth and development, future trends affecting state and local fiscal conditions, and a study and review of the state of Iowa tax system. Recent funders of SLFPRP research include the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Brookings Institution, and the National Center for Real Estate Research.

THE DELEGATED STATE: MEDICARE, MARKETS, AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN GOVERNANCE

BY: DR. KIMBERLY J. MORGAN

On December 8, 2003, President Bush signed into law the largest increase in social spending since the Great Society. The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) added a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. The reform also made important changes to the governance of the Medicare program, using private insurance companies to deliver drug benefits and augmenting the role of commercial insurers in providing overall Medicare coverage. With Andrea Louise Campbell of the Department of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I have been analyzing this reform as the latest chapter in what we call “delegated governance” – the use of publicly-funded private authorities to achieve collective aims. Other recent examples include the contracting out of reconstruction tasks to firms like KBR both at home (Louisiana) and abroad (Iraq), the use of commercial firms to run prisons across the United States, and reliance upon for-profit and non-profit organizations to provide social services for welfare recipients. The phenomenon has deeper roots, however, as policy-makers since the Second World War have repeatedly turned to private actors to deliver public services rather than building up direct administrative capacities at the federal level.

Why has the US delegated so many of its collective responsibilities to private actors? What consequences does this have for beneficiaries, the quality of social provision, and the functioning of our political system? Our project uses the 2003 Medicare reform to address these questions, placing this recent law within a larger historical and cross-policy context. During my term as a Policy Research Scholar, Andrea and I applied for and received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigators Award. The project also has attracted support from the National Science Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. We have amassed an array of original data, including a panel survey of Medicare beneficiaries, policy-maker interviews, and other primary sources. In our book manuscript, currently in progress, we examine the evolution of delegated governance in Medicare and other social welfare programs since the Second World War and look in-depth at the 2003 reform.

We find that delegated governance has been a way to overcome opposition to expanded government involvement by awarding private interests a stake in public programs. Although this mode of administration has been particularly popular among conservatives, liberals have often favored it as a way to build broad political coalitions around social programs. Structuring programs in this way has lasting consequences as it truncates the growth of state capacity and empowers private actors who often exert considerable leverage over subsequent policy-making. Delegating governance also lengthens the chain of public accountability and undercuts the efficiency and effectiveness of public interventions, reinforcing cynicism about the ability of government to solve social problems. The most recent variant of delegated governance – consumer choice reforms that require people to select their welfare benefits from private markets – possesses the additional defects of unrealistically assuming people are capable of making such choices, whereas we find that the functioning of these markets is undermined by the lack of informed, “rational” decision-making by citizen-consumers. In sum, short-term political expediency has often inspired program advocates to delegate governance to private entities, but this mode of administration has often undercut the effectiveness of public programs, fostered discontent about the role of government, and generated a self-fulfilling prophecy of bureaucratic weakness and permeability to organized interests.

Kimberly Morgan was a GWIPP Policy Research Scholar from 2004-2005. She is Associate Professor of Political Science at GW. A specialist in West European politics, Professor Morgan's research and teaching interests include women and politics, the welfare state in Europe and the U.S., and health care policy. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton University in 2001.

UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BY: DR. GARRY YOUNG



As part of an ongoing relationship, GWIPP recently began designing several projects directed towards understanding issues related to the District of Columbia economy. Our funding partner in these projects is the Office of Revenue Analysis in the District's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Aside from some corollary work, such as literature reviews, the current distinct set of tasks focus on understanding 1) the factors that affect the District's economic competitiveness; 2) the factors that affect the employment of District residents; and 3) the factors that affect the commercial property market. In this brief description we focus on the first of these – the project on the District's economic competitiveness.

What affects the economic competitiveness of the District of Columbia and why do business establishments locate (or not locate) in the District? The District itself is not an economy but rather a political jurisdiction embedded in a greater regional economy. For example, the main campus of GWU is within the District but the staff and faculty who work at GWU reside throughout the region. The labor market for an employer in the District – be it GWU, the federal government, or a Starbucks – is regional and not constrained to the District itself.

Thus, our analysis must consider the factors that affect the overall regional economy and then take into account the factors that affect the District, given the state or nature of the regional economy. To begin, we will create a profile of the overall District economy as it relates to both the Washington metropolitan regional economy and the national economy. For example, we want to know the industrial sectors in which the District has a competitive advantage relative to the region and the nation, and we want to know how that advantage has changed over time. In addition, we will interview establishments that have recently located or opened within the Washington region to explore the various factors (e.g., land costs, business regulations, taxes) that influenced the decision to locate in the region and the further decision to locate at a specific spot within the region (either within or outside the District).

Finally, the project will produce a set of statistical models that predict economic performance for the region, and then for the District, that take into account the wide-range of factors that we know affect the economy, such as the nature of the local labor market, land costs, energy costs, taxation, transportation infrastructure, and so on. These models will give us the capacity to predict how changes in local conditions – including policy changes in areas such as taxation, education of the labor force, and business regulation – is likely to affect future economic performance.

Garry Young is the Associate Director of GWIPP and the Director of the Center for Washington Area Studies.

SELECTED ONGOING PROJECTS

ASSESSING THE DESIGN, ADOPTION, AND IMPACT OF STATE SOLAR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

SUPPORTED BY: GW INSTITUTE FOR ANALYSIS OF SOLAR ENERGY

INVESTIGATORS: ANDREA SARZYNSKI, GARRY YOUNG, AND TYLER RUTHVEN

This project has three parts. The first catalogues and assesses the design and variation of state incentives for solar technology, providing a research base for further analysis. The second assesses the impact of existing state incentives, in terms of program participation and project costs. This research will allow us to identify the characteristics of incentive design and implementation that are most likely to be successful in encouraging program participation and adoption of solar technology, while keeping down costs. The third part probes the diffusion of policy incentives across states, offering insights for advocates seeking expansion of state programs.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MANUFACTURING JOBS DISAPPEAR? NON-MANUFACTURING ALTERNATIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL REGIONS

SUPPORTED BY: SLOAN FOUNDATION

INVESTIGATORS: HAL WOLMAN, PATRICIA ATKINS, NANCY AUGUSTINE, LISA LOWRY, TRAVIS ST. CLAIR, PAM BLUMENTHAL, AND HOWARD WIAL

The continued loss of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. is a well-known and well-studied phenomenon that continues to be a concern to business, labor, elected officials and policy makers at all levels of government, and researchers. Yet, we know relatively little about what happens in places that have lost manufacturing jobs. Have other jobs filled the vacuum, or is there a net loss of employment? If other jobs have replaced manufacturing jobs, what sectors have they been in, and how do wages in sectors where jobs have been gained compare to wages in the manufacturing sectors where jobs have been lost? What steps have the public sector, business, and other sectors taken to change the industry, technological, and/or product mix of the metropolitan area economy, and how effective have those steps been?

The study focuses on U.S. metropolitan areas that had concentrations of manufacturing jobs above the national average in 1980 and that lost manufacturing jobs between 1990 and 2005. It will describe the patterns of manufacturing job loss and non-manufacturing job gain (or, in a few cases, loss) that occurred in these areas. Through a set of case studies of eight metropolitan areas, it will then examine various policies and strategies by which government, business, and/or civic institutions sought to replace lost manufacturing jobs with new jobs in non-manufacturing industries.

SELECTED ONGOING PROJECTS

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE PROPERTY TAX

SUPPORTED BY: LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY

INVESTIGATORS: PAT ATKINS, MICHAEL BELL, DAVID BRUNORI, CHARLOTTE KIRSCHNER, HAL WOLMAN, AND GARRY YOUNG

This collaborative multi-year undertaking by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and GWIPP promotes research in the areas of property tax policy and administration. A data collection team at GWIPP continues to compile and classify a wide range of material characterizing property tax structures and processes in all fifty states. Efforts thus far have produced the dataset Significant Features of the Property Tax. The dataset will soon be made available at the Lincoln website: <http://www.lincolninst.edu>.

The project also features a research component with commissioned papers by GWIPP researchers and other top scholars around the nation. In October 2007 GWIPP hosted a roundtable on the “Erosion of the Local Property Tax Base: Trends and Consequences”. Papers from the roundtable are forthcoming in a 2009 volume published by Lincoln and edited by Nancy Augustine, Michael Bell, David Brunori, and Joan Youngman. In February 2009 GWIPP hosted the second roundtable, this one on “The Property Tax and Local Autonomy.” An edited volume of the papers from this conference will be published in 2010.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

SUPPORTED BY: MACARTHUR FOUNDATION (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY)

INVESTIGATOR: HAL WOLMAN, TRAVIS ST. CLAIR, PAM BLUMENTHAL, LEAH CURRAN, AND PAT ATKINS

As part of the MacArthur Foundation’s project on regional resilience, the primary goals of this study are to identify through rigorous quantitative analysis economically resilient and economically non-resilient regions, to explore the differences between the two (why are some resilient and others not), and to come to some conclusions about the way in which regional economies can become more resilient. In particular, we are examining whether regions that have experienced negative economic shocks recover and, if so, how. We are also exploring through a set of intensive case studies the role of economic agency (private sector decision making in markets, hierarchies, and networks) and public policy, planning, and politics, in that process.

POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROFILE

DR. PAUL WAHLBECK

BY: KATIE BRUDER

Paul Wahlbeck lived in the Chicago area through grade school, and his family moved to Wichita, Kansas during his junior high and high school years. He attended Wheaton College, where he met a professor who would direct him towards his current field of expertise. According to Paul, this professor had an “infectious love” of politics, public policy, and the empirical testing of both. Paul received his Bachelor’s of Arts in Political Science from Wheaton, and then his J.D. from the University of Illinois in 1986, all the while being encouraged by this professor to pursue an advanced degree in public policy. After spending two years as a staff attorney for the Illinois state legislature, Paul realized that he wanted to follow his mentor’s advice, and eventually received his PhD from Washington University in 1993.

Paul has worked with GWIPP for almost five years, first as a Policy Research Scholar (2004-2005 cohort), and now as a research affiliate. He teaches classes in judicial politics and research methods in the Department of Political Science. He is currently involved in several research projects. One project focuses on the institutional development of the legal system, including the norm of stare decisis--the policy of the court to stand by precedents established in prior decisions. One aspect of this research is the study of the development of legal reporters--bound volumes that contain a court’s decisions. Paul presented this part of his research at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in 2008. Another aspect of this research is citation patterns, or the ways in which courts at the local, state, and federal level treat Supreme Court precedents. A second project is a database that chronicles the decision-making process of roughly 2,300 court cases during the Burger court (1969–86). This database contains all the memoranda and draft opinions circulated among the justices as they deliberate. These documents, found in the retired justices’ personal papers, help make clear the strategic choices made by the justices, including bargaining and coalition formation. Paul hopes to make this database available to the public within the next six months. Paul plans to continue with the same sort of research to even better understand judicial policy-making.

Studies of decision making is what interests Paul the most in the realm of public policy. He truly enjoys studying the reasons behind the decisions that justices make, and sees public policy as a “window into why human beings make the decisions that they do.” He co-authored a book with Forrest Maltzman and James Spriggs on this subject, called *Crafting Law on the Supreme Court: The Collegial Game* (Cambridge, 2000). He has also been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Political Research Quarterly*, among others.

Out of all of his accomplishments, Paul takes the most pride in the work that he has done to bring to bear the empirical evidence of strategic decision-making in the Supreme Court. Within GWIPP, Paul has worked with Kimberly Rycroft on his submissions to the National Science Foundation (NSF), and says she has been a fantastic help.

Katie Bruder is the Executive Coordinator at GWIPP.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFILE

ALICE LEVY

BY: KATIE BRUDER



Alice Levy grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended the University of Maryland - College Park, and received a cum laude B.A. in Government and Politics as well as minors in Economics and Spanish, and a University Honors Citation. She was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, and the Golden Key Honor Society. She went on to pursue and complete her Master's of Public Policy at GW in 2005 with a specialty in Health Policy. Currently, Alice is working on her PhD in Public Policy and Public Administration with a specialty in Budget and Finance.

Alice has a great deal of employment experience in the field of public policy. In 2000, she interned at the Maryland State Senate Finance Committee where she wrote a policy analysis on insuring people with preexisting medical conditions, "Insuring the Uninsurable". The findings of this policy analysis were incorporated into law, and Alice describes this as her proudest accomplishment to date. In 2002, she served as the Committee Secretary and Vice Assistant to the Chairman of the Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings committee. In this position, she created and maintained a legislative database, generated Committee reports, and reconciled different versions of bills that passed in the Legislature. Her experience with both of these committees inspired her to pursue public policy further.

In terms of her research for GWIPP, Alice's contributions have been formidable. She has worked for GWIPP since July of 2008, and is currently working on the District's Economic Competitiveness and Residential Employment project. Her responsibilities include writing several different literature reviews, assisting with research design, creating databases, and much else. Previously, she worked as a research assistant on the Budget Concepts project and the Government Performance project, led by Professors Marvin Phaup and Phillip Joyce, respectively. She also served as research team leader on the Government Performance project, the results of which were published in *Governing* magazine. In addition to her remarkable academic and research pursuits, Alice has taught and assisted in teaching graduate-level classes at GW and has guest-lectured as well. Alice has published several papers and is active in professional conferences and graduate student events.

Alice truly enjoys the fact that her work has bearings on real-world issues, as well as possible influence on policy decisions that might have genuine benefits to individuals. She is most interested in the area of public finance, and hopes to publish more journal articles during her time at GWIPP. She currently works with Hal Wolman and Garry Young, though she has collaborated with Nancy Augustine, Charlotte Kirschner, and Andrea Sarzynski as well. GWIPP greatly enjoys and appreciates Alice's many contributions, and hopes to continue to work with her in the future.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

GWIPP HOSTS ROUNDTABLE ON THE PROPERTY TAX AND LOCAL AUTONOMY

As part of its ongoing project on Significant Features of the Property Tax, GWIPP and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy recently hosted a roundtable on The Property Tax and Local Autonomy. Following up on the 2007 conference that covered trends in the erosion of the property tax, this conference addressed why the erosion matters. How and why does access to a strong and vibrant local property tax matter to local governance?

Held February 13-14, 2009 at GWU, the roundtable featured papers and commentaries from some of the nation's foremost scholars. An edited volume from the conference will be published by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in 2010. Papers and participants at conference included:

Local Government: An Economic Perspective

Author: Wallace E. Oates, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, College Park

Discussant: William A. Fischel, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College

Centralizing the Financing of Education at the State Level

Authors: Kim Rueben and Carol Rosenberg, Urban Institute

Discussant: Daphne Kenyon, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

The Median Voter Model and School-Finance Reform: How Tax-Base Sharing Undermines the Efficiency of the Property Tax

Author: William A. Fischel, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College

Discussant: Richard Green, Lusk Center for Real Estate, University of Southern California

Local Government, Local Autonomy and Accountability

Authors: Hal Wolman, Robert McManmon, Michael E. Bell, David Brunori, George Washington Institute of Public Policy

Discussant: Carol Weissert, Department of Political Science, Florida State University

Are State and Local Finances Becoming More or Less Decentralized and Should We Care?

Authors: Katrina Connolly, David Brunori, and Michael E. Bell, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, Discussant: Timothy Conlan, School of Public Policy, George Mason University

An Overview of the Implications of Eliminating the Property Tax: What Do Recent State Debates and Prior State Experience Tell Us?

Authors: Ronald C. Fisher, Andrew Bristle and Anupama Prasads, Department of Economics, Michigan State University, Discussant: David Sjoquist, Department of Economics, Georgia State University

What Will the Future Property Tax Look Like and What Will Take Its Place?

Author: Richard Dye, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Discussant: David Brunori, George Washington Institute of Public Policy

States and Fiscal Policy Space

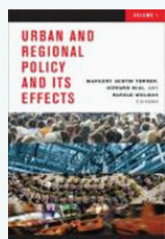
Authors: Michael A. Pagano, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago and Christopher W. Hoene, National League of Cities, Discussant: Andrew Reschovsky, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Closing Discussion: Overview and Policy Responses

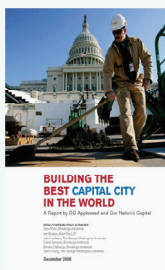
Discussant: Robert D. Ebel, District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Discussant: Bob Ward, Rockefeller Institute of Government, State University of New York at Albany

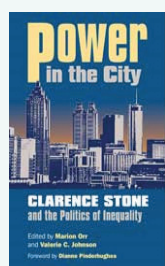
NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP



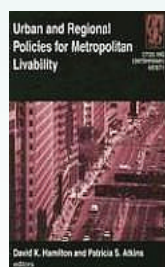
Announcing the release of *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects, Volume I*, edited by Margery Turner, Howard Wial, and Hal Wolman, and published by the Brookings Institution Press. The book is the first in a series stemming from an annual conference on Urban and Regional Policy, hosted by GWIPP, the Brookings Institution, and the Urban Institute. Read more about the book at www.brookings.edu/press/Books/2008/urbanandregionalpolicyanditseffects.aspx.



Drs. Garry Young and Julia Friedman of GWIPP participated in the creation of the report *Building the Best Capital City in the World*. Our Nation's Capital and DC Appleseed funded the project. Dr. Young's chapter compares the fiscal relationship between Washington, D.C. and the United States government with the fiscal relationships between other prominent capitals and their national governments. Dr. Friedman addresses the dramatic fiscal health transformation that the District has managed to accomplish over the last decade, despite major burdens and limitations. The report also features chapters by Alice Rivlin of the Brookings Institution, Brooke DeRenzis and David Garrison of the Brookings Institution, and Jon Bouker of Arent Fox LLP. The research team released the report at a press event on December 11, 2008 featuring comments from DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes-Norton, DC Mayor Adrian Fenty, DC City Council Chair Vincent Gray, DC Council member David Catania, and DC Appleseed Director Walter Smith. A copy of the report is available at www.dcappleseed.org.



Clarence Stone, one of GWIPP's research professors, has written a book called *Power in the City and the Politics of Inequality*, edited by Marion Orr and Valerie C. Johnson, with a foreword by Dianne Pinderhughes. The book collects ten classic articles and essays by Dr. Stone to create a succinct reader in urban politics. It encompasses theoretical work on urban political power, examinations of political leadership in community politics, considerations of race, class, and political power in Atlanta, and writings on the politics of social reform and urban regeneration. These pieces provide a model for integrating empiricism with theory and offer Stone's own reflections on his theory, as well as demonstrate the evolution of his thought. The book may be purchased through University Press of Kansas or Amazon.



Pat Atkins, another of GWIPP's research professors, edited (along with David K. Hamilton) *Urban and Regional Policies for Metropolitan Livability*. The book provides a concise, up-to-date, and systematic treatment of the problems and issues involved in urban and regional policy concerns. Each policy chapter is written by a respected expert in the area, and the book covers key policy issues that confront contemporary metropolitan areas, including transportation, the environment, affordable housing, crime, employment, poverty, education, and regional governance. Each chapter outlines an issue, which is followed by current thinking on problem diagnosis and problem solving, as well as the prognosis for future policy success. The book is available for purchase at M.E. Sharp.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

CONGRATULATIONS, 2009-2010 POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLARS!

Introducing the 2009-2010 GWIPP Policy Research Scholars:

Susan Aaronsen, Associate Research Professor of International Affairs, Elliot School of International Affairs
The Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative

Alasdair Bowie, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Decentralization, Democracy, and Local Governance

Fran Buntman, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Challenging Mass Imprisonment: Policy Continuity and Change from Grassroots to Governance

Jennifer Brinkerhoff, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Diasporas, Indigenous Governance, and Development

Angela Gore, Assistant Professor of Accountancy, Graduate School of Business
Municipal Debt Costs and Governance

Hiromi Ishizawa, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Trajectories of Civic Engagement Among Children of Immigrants

Jennifer Lee, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine and Health Sciences
The Prince William County Anti-Immigrant Resolution: Effects on Immigrant Health Care Utilization

Cynthia Rohrbeck, Associate Professor of Psychology, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Psychological Consequences of Terrorism: The Role of Terrorism Preparedness

Michelle Stock, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
The Impact of Racial Discrimination and Masculinity on Health Disparities

Paul Wahlbeck, Professor of Political Science, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
Shaping Legal Policy: The Role of Information and Persuasion in the Courts

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

COMING TO A BOOKSTORE NEAR YOU

Urban and regional policy debates are often long on rhetoric, short on evidence about policy impacts. To redress this imbalance, the Brookings Institution, GWIPP, the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the Urban Institute held the second in a series of annual conferences on Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., on June 5-6, 2008. Chapters were commissioned for the conference from distinguished social scientists and practitioners. The conference sought to engage authors and discussants in a cross-disciplinary dialogue focused on the central theme—evidence of policy effects. The resulting papers are being compiled into *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects, Volume 2*, forthcoming at the Brookings Institution Press.

Edited by Margery Turner, Howard Wial, and Hal Wolman, the book will be organized around six key policy challenges that most metropolitan areas and local communities face. Each of the chapters addresses a specific policy topic under one of these challenges:

- Creating quality neighborhoods for families, represented in this volume by “Retail Trade as a Route to Neighborhood Revitalization,” by Karen Chapple and Rick Jacobus
- Governing effectively, represented by “Correlates of Mayoral Takeovers in City School Systems,” by Jeffrey R. Henig and Elisabeth Thurston Fraser
- Building human capital, represented by “The Education Gospel and the Metropolis: The Multiple Roles of Community Colleges in Workforce and Economic Development,” by W. Norton Grubb
- Growing the middle class, represented by “Living Wage Laws: How Much Do (Can) They Matter?” by Harry J. Holzer
- Growing a competitive economy through industry-based strategies, represented by “The Effects of Transportation and Warehousing on Metropolitan Economic Development” by Susan Christopherson and Michael Belzer
- Managing the spatial pattern of metropolitan growth and development, represented by “How Might Inclusionary Zoning Affect Urban Form?” by Rolf Pendall.

The goal of this volume is to inform scholars, policymakers, and practitioners about the state of knowledge on the effectiveness of the selected policy approaches, reforms, or experiments listed above in addressing key social and economic problems facing central cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

EROSION OF THE PROPERTY TAX BASE: TRENDS, CAUSES, AND CONSEQUENCES

Coming this Summer 2009 is *Erosion of the Property Tax Base: Trends, Causes, and Consequences*, published by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. The book will be edited by Nancy Augustine, Michael Bell, and David Brunori of GWIPP as well as Joan Youngman of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. The book features revisions of the papers given at the first GWIPP-Lincoln roundtable on the property tax, held in October, 2007.

Several of the GWIPP staff contributed to book chapters; including Nancy Augustine, Michael Bell, David Brunori, Richard Green, Hal Wolman, and Garry Young. Joe Cordes of GWU'S Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (TSPPPA) contributed to the book as did TSPPPA graduate students Kelly Brown, Jessica Menter, Lori Metcalf, Meghan Salas Atwell, Elaine Weiss, and Bing Yuan. The book's table of contents will include:

- Chapter 1: The Property Tax under Siege – Nancy Augustine, Michael Bell, David Brunori, and Joan Youngman
- Chapter 2: Overview of the Trends in Property Tax Base Erosion – Jennifer Gravelle and Sally Wallace (Commentary by Richard Bird)
- Chapter 3: Property Tax Exemptions, Revenues, and Equity: Some Lessons from Wisconsin Richard Green and Elaine Weiss (Commentary by Robert Schwab)
- Chapter 4: Residential Property Tax Relief Measures: A Review and Assessment – John Bowman (Commentary by John Anderson)
- Chapter 5: Assessment Limits as a Means of Limiting Homeowner Property Taxes – Terri Sexton (Commentary by Jon Sonstelie)
- Chapter 6: Tax and Expenditure Limitations and Local Public Finances – Bing Yuan, Joseph Cordes, David Brunori, and Michael Bell (Commentary by Tracy Gordon)
- Chapter 7: Efforts to Override School District Property Tax Limitations – Garry Young, Margaret Salas, Kelly Brown, and Jessica Menter
- Chapter 8: Tax Abatement as a Means of Promoting State and Local Economic Activity – Robert Wassmer (Commentary by Nathan Anderson)

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

- Chapter 9: Preferential Tax Treatment of Property Used for Social Purposes: Fiscal Impacts and Public Policy Implications – Woods Bowman, Joseph Cordes, and Lori Metcalf (Commentary by Julia Friedman)
- Chapter 10: The Politics of the Property Tax Base – John Witte (Commentary by Michael Pagano).

ARTICLES

GWIPP Graduate Research Assistant Pam Blumenthal, GWIPP Director Hal Wolman, and Ned Hill of Cleveland State University are co-authors of “Understanding the Economic Performance of Metropolitan Areas in the United States,” an article recently published in the March 2009 issue of *Urban Studies*. You can access the article at <http://usj.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/46/3/605>.

Research Professor Andrea Sarzynski co-authored a report published by the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program. The report proposes a scaling up of federal dollars for energy research and development as well as a new paradigm for conducting critical energy research that builds on expertise found throughout academia, federal labs, industry, and nonprofits. More information on this report is available at http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2009/0209_energy_innovation_muro.aspx.

YOUNG SPEAKS AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

On May 15, 2008, GWIPP Associate Director Dr. Garry Young participated in the congressional briefing “Biking Your Way to a Healthier Community”, sponsored by the Congressional Bike Caucus and Robert Wood Johnson’s Active Living Research program. Chaired by Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Tom Petri (R-WI), the Congressional Bike Caucus actively promotes an important role for bicycling in national transportation policy. During the briefing, Dr. Young argued that the key to biking as transportation is connectivity and safety, and that these factors vary dramatically from community to community. He reviewed some of his research explaining why the variation occurs and argued that the federal government can play a much larger role in building bicycling infrastructure in three ways: 1) using other transportation projects, such as a highway expansion, as a “window of opportunity” to improve or create biking facilities; 2) providing fiscal incentives to local governments for building biking infrastructure; and 3) by coordinating and facilitating action among the different interests at the state and local level.

NEWS AND EVENTS AT GWIPP

WOLMAN CHAIRS POLICY TASK FORCES FOR OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

GWIPP Director Hal Wolman served as a member of President Obama's urban policy committee during the campaign. In that capacity, he chaired a task force for creating an Office of Urban Policy in Bruder. Dr. Sarzynski is serving as an assistant research professor, focusing on environmental and energy policy. Charlotte is taking over many of Nancy Augustine's responsibilities on the Lincoln project as a research associate. Katie has replaced Olive Cox as the GWIPP executive aide.

NEW CWAS DIRECTOR

In the wake of Richard Green's departure to UCLA, Garry Young became the director of the Center for Washington Area Studies (CWAS). CWAS is a research center within GWIPP that focuses on policy research relevant to the District of Columbia and the surrounding Washington region.

WELCOME TO GWIPP

GWIPP proudly announces three new employees, Dr. Andrea Sarzynski, Charlotte Kirschner, and Katie Bruder. Dr. Sarzynski is serving as an assistant research professor, focusing on environmental and energy policy. Charlotte is taking over many of Nancy Augustine's responsibilities on the Lincoln project as a research associate. Katie has replaced Olive Cox as the GWIPP executive aide.

Also, GWIPP is pleased to be hosting Dr. Isabel Rodriguez-Tejedo this Spring. Dr. Rodriguez-Tejedo is an Assistant Professor at the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. She received her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland-College Park, working with Professor Wallace Oates. Her dissertation was a study of rainy-day funds in the U.S. In the course of her work, she studied the variations in the structure of these funds across the states and how this impacted their performance, as well as why some states configured their funds differently from others. State rainy day funds are a subject of substantial interest to GWIPP's State and Local Fiscal Policy Research Program, and Isabel will be presenting a seminar on that topic while she is here. During her visit, Isabel is continuing her study of rainy-day funds with some attention to their potential role for subnational governments in Spain.

FOND FAREWELLS

We at GWIPP will greatly miss our Senior Research Associate, Dr. Nancy Augustine. She has served as SRA for three years, and will now be working as a program manager in the research and development section at the Pew Center on the States. We wish her the very best in these new endeavors, and will be keeping in touch!

GWIPP bids a fond farewell to Richard Green. Aside from his appointment in the Business School, Richard served as the Director of CWAS. We wish him the best in his new positions as Professor of Policy, Planning, and Development and Director of the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate.

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

GWIPP CORE STAFF

Hal Wolman, Director
Garry Young, Associate Director
Kimberly Rycroft, Manager, Research Services & Fiscal Affairs
Charlotte Kirschner, Research Associate
Katie Bruder, Executive Coordinator

GWIPP RESEARCH PROFESSORS

Patricia Atkins
Michael Bell
David Brunori
Andrea Sarzynski
Clarence Stone
Michael Wiseman

STEERING COMMITTEE 2008-2009

Joseph Cordes, CCAS
Jonathan Deason, SEAS
Martha Finnemore, ESIA
Charis Kubrin, CCAS
Yas Nakib, GSEHD
Kathy Newcomer, SPPPA
Donald Parsons, CCAS
Vanessa Perry, Business
Sara Rosenbaum, SPHHS
Robert Stoker, CCAS
Nick Vonortas, ESIA

EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Don Borut, National League of Cities
Alan Ehrenhalt, Governing Magazine
Royce Hanson, Montgomery County (MD) Planning Board
Jeff Henig, Columbia University Teachers College
William Hudnut, Urban Land Institute
John Kingdon, University of Michigan
Faith Mitchell, Grantmakers in Health
David Robertson, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
James Robinson, GWU
Bob Schwab, University of Maryland
Margery Turner, The Urban Institute

For more information on GWIPP, please visit us online:

Events	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/events.htm
Publications	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/pubs.htm
Research	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/research.htm
Research Scholars	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/prs.htm
Research Services	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/grs.htm
Staff	http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/staff.htm

GW

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

805 21ST STREET, NW :: SIXTH FLOOR :: WASHINGTON, DC 20052
TEL. 202.994.0970 :: FAX. 202.994.8913 :: WWW.GWU.EDU/~GWIPP

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Great Falls, MT
Permit No 66



MAIL TO: