THE EXCHANGE

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THE MURPHY INSTITUTE

TULANE UNIVERSITY



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LEADING THE CONVERSATION SHAPING THE FUTURE

WELCOME TO *THE EXCHANGE*! The Murphy Institute is proud to highlight the many vital new and continuing initiatives taking place across our community. Our core mission remains steadfast: to advance the study of political economy for our students and scholars at Tulane and across our region, the nation, and the world. I invite you to explore the exceptional work Murphy does, detailed within this year's issue.



Gary "Hoov" Hoover

One of our most significant undertakings was spearheading the Spring 2026 research symposium, "**AI: From Code to Consequences**" (pg 6). To host this landmark event, The Murphy Institute brought together a multidisciplinary coalition that spanned Tulane's campus, uniting the School of Science and Engineering, the A.B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane Law School, the School of Architecture and Built Environment, the School of Professional Advancement, and the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science. Artificial intelligence is fundamentally altering our society, our laws, our economic structures, our thoughts about ethics, and our public institutions. This symposium convened national and international experts and leading scholars from law, technology, policy, and ethics to examine the current state of these emerging technologies. By all metrics, it was our largest and most consequential event to date. The Murphy Institute is proud to partner with these thought leaders as we continue to grapple with once-in-a-generation transformations.

This multidisciplinary approach to understanding the impact of policy frameworks on societal change also anchored our annual Yates Lecture in September 2025 (pg 12). The address was delivered by **Dr. Mona Hanna**, a renowned pediatrician, founder of *Rx Kids*, and Associate Dean of Public Health at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Her talk, "Championing the Cause of Children in Flint and Beyond," examined the intersection of public health, institutional decision-making, and public policy, speaking directly to the heart of our work at The Murphy Institute. Policymakers make decisions, and those decisions carry profound institutional, legal, and moral consequences for society. Her presentation was simultaneously infuriating, uplifting, inspiring, puzzling, and humorous, offering the best kind of intellectual engagement that challenged our audience to remain active participants in public discourse.

The Murphy Institute was also well represented at the New Orleans Book Festival at Tulane in the spring of 2026 (pg 14). **Tulane President Mike Fitts** joined me alongside our jointly appointed Murphy faculty colleague **Douglas Harris** for a panel discussing the Murphy-sponsored project, "State of the Nation." I also had the opportunity to participate in a session to discuss my new book, *Ladder or Lottery: Economic Promises and the Reality of Who Gets Ahead*.

We continue to expand our community of scholars with the addition of several new jointly appointed Murphy faculty members. Over the summer and fall of 2025, we partnered with the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy as well as the Law School to conduct international searches for new faculty. After considering over 300 applications, we are delighted to announce that **Alex Schaefer** (University at Buffalo) and **Jason Byas** (Georgetown University) will join the Department of Philosophy with joint appointments at Murphy. In addition, **Melissa Pavlik** (Yale University) and **William "Bill" Kakenmaster** (University of Notre Dame) will join the Department of Political Science and Murphy. Finally, **Walker Kahn** (University at Buffalo) will join the Law School and Murphy. These additions will directly enrich our Undergraduate Program in Political Economy, where they will teach and mentor our students.

Our political economy majors continue to stand out as recipients of prestigious national awards like Goldwater, Fulbright, and Udall scholarships as well as Tulane's premier awards that recognize academic excellence, leadership, and service (pg 19). These achievements are rooted in the rigorous instruction delivered by our faculty. We are thrilled to welcome our new faculty into our community as they carry on this tradition of excellence.

We are now fully settled into our new home in the Caroline Richardson building on the historic Newcomb campus. The next time you are in New Orleans, please stop by so that we can give you a tour of our space. You will be amazed by the incredible energy and excitement being generated both inside and outside the building. Murphy is growing in the best way possible: deeply grounded in our original political economy mission while keeping an eye firmly focused on the future.

– Gary "Hoov" Hoover, Executive Director

Gary "Hoov" Hoover is the Executive Director of The Murphy Institute and Professor of Economics at Tulane University. A renowned economist, Hoov's research focuses on economic policy and its impact on wealth and income inequality. From 2012 to 2024 he served as co-chair of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP). He is also the current and founding editor of the *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*, past president of the Southern Economic Association, and a fellow at CESifo Group Munich. His latest book, *Ladder or Lottery: Economic Promises and the Reality of Who Gets Ahead* (University of California Press, 2026), addresses the central question of who really gets ahead in a market-based economy.

TULANE UNIVERSITY
The Murphy Institute

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Nicholas Mattei, Associate Professor of Computer Science
Daniel Yudkin, Director of the Beacon Project at More in Common

MURPHY-TULANE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

AI: from code to consequences

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – AND THE BROADER DIGITAL REVOLUTION OVER THE LAST 75 YEARS – HAS UNDENIABLY MADE US MORE CONNECTED, YET IT HAS ALSO CREATED NEW CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS BETWEEN US.

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE CONVENED MORE THAN A DOZEN SCHOLARS, EXPERTS, AND THOUGHT LEADERS on April 17–18, 2026 for a two-day research symposium titled "AI: From Code to Consequences" to explore the multidisciplinary aspects of this digital transformation across society, law, science, and policy.

What is the current state of AI technologies? How can their adoption be guided toward a more beneficial future?

This landmark event was produced in partnership with Tulane University's School of Science and Engineering, the A.B. Freeman School of Business, the School of Architecture and Built Environment, Tulane Law School, the School of Professional Advancement, and the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science.

Participants shed light on these transformative technologies and how they are fundamentally reshaping society by addressing two central questions: What is the current state of these technologies, and how can their adoption be guided toward a more beneficial future?

SETTING THE TONE

Michael Littman (Brown University) opened the symposium with a keynote address moderated by Tulane's **Walter Isaacson** and **Nicholas Mattei**. Littman framed AI as a societal challenge rather than a purely technical one:



(L to R) Nicholas Mattei, Walter Isaacson and Michael Littman set the tone for the symposium with the opening keynote, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugl-AI."

Students relax between panel sessions at the symposium.



> *"Every major technological revolution inspires fear, but this one is different because it reshapes how we think, not just how we work."*
>
> – *Walter Isaacson*

"We released something incredibly powerful before we had clarity about how we wanted to live with it."

Isaacson situated the current AI moment within a longer historical arc of technological disruption, emphasizing its distinct impact on cognition and creativity. "Every major technological revolution inspires fear, but this one is different because it reshapes how we think, not just how we work."



(L to R) Symposium panelists John Levendis, John Dickerson, Mark Geistfeld, Anjana Susarla, and Francesca Rossi after the session, "Responsible and Ethical AI"

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

The symposium's first panel interrogated a deceptively simple question: What do we mean when we say, "artificial intelligence?" Panelists emphasized that AI is not a monolithic entity, but rather a constellation of tools, practices, and institutional choices shaped by human decision-making.

Another panel explored how AI is already restructuring labor markets, noting that disruptions remain uneven across sectors, skill levels, and communities.

One of the conference's most wide-ranging discussions focused on the ethical, legal, and governance challenges posed by AI systems deployed in high-stakes domains, including healthcare, finance, and criminal justice.

Despite differing perspectives on regulation and open-source models, panelists broadly agreed that ethical AI is not a barrier to innovation, but a prerequisite for durable, trustworthy systems.

> *"The people who thrive will be the ones who learn to work with AI, not around it."*
>
> – Jon Krohn



Closing keynote speaker Jon Krohn (left) talks about agentic AI with moderator John Renne to close out Day 1 of the symposium.

THE PACE OF CHANGE

Day one concluded with a keynote featuring **Jon Krohn**, host of the *SuperDataScience* podcast, in conversation with Tulane's **John Renne**. Krohn emphasized that today's agentic AI systems mark a qualitative shift, as models increasingly act autonomously to pursue defined goals.

While acknowledging workplace disruption, Krohn struck a cautiously optimistic note: "Your job isn't necessarily doomed, but parts of it will change. The people who thrive will be the ones who learn to work with AI, not around it."



An attendee poses a question to the panelists during a Q&A session, moderated by Executive Director Gary "Hoov" Hoover.

Renne connected these insights back to the core mission of higher education, stating, "If AI can now do in minutes what once took months of grant-funded research, the role of the university has to evolve."

ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Following day-one sessions downtown at the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), programming continued on Tulane's Uptown campus for a second day of workshops, where experts – including **John Dickerson**, then-CEO of Mozilla.ai – presented their research on topics ranging from smart cities and national security to emerging AI methodologies and machine consciousness.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Murphy Institute Research Symposium remains a free and open-to-the-public forum, dedicated to exploring how research, policy, and practice intersect in shaping political economy. As the "AI: From Code to Consequences" symposium made clear, guiding AI toward a constructive future will require not only technical innovation, but sustained ethical reflection, institutional leadership, and active public engagement. ■

Watch symposium videos @ youtube.com/MurphyTulane or scan:

<KEYNOTES>

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGL-AI

Michael Littman, Associate Provost for Artificial Intelligence (Brown University)
Moderators: **Walter Isaacson**, Professor of American History and Values (Tulane University) and **Nicholas Mattei**, Co-Director of the Center for Community Engaged AI (Tulane University)

AGENTIC AI: DON'T PANIC! … BUT BE PREPARED

Jon Krohn, Host of *SuperDataScience* Podcast, Co-Founder and CEO, Y Carrot
Moderator: **John Renne**, Program Director of Real Estate Development (Tulane University)

<PANEL DISCUSSIONS>

WHAT IS AI? A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

Ahmed Abbasi, Professor of IT, Analytics, and Operations (University of Notre Dame)
Sean McSpaden, Former Oregon Deputy State CIO; Senior Fellow (Center for Digital Government and Public Sector AI)
Susan Schneider, Professor of Philosophy (Florida Atlantic University)
Ari Ezra Waldman, Professor of Law (UC-Irvine School of Law)
Moderator: **Nicholas Mattei**, Co-Director, Center for Community Engaged AI (Tulane University)

AI AND THE LABOR MARKET–DISRUPTION, ADAPTATION, AND OPPORTUNITY

Kevin Hong, Miami Herbert Centennial Endowed Chair (University of Miami)
Gal Oestreicher-Singer, Vice Rector (Tel Aviv University)
Frank Pasquale, Professor of Law (Cornell Tech and Cornell Law School)
Prasanna Tambe, Co-Director of Wharton Human-AI Research (University of Pennsylvania)
Gregg Weiss, Co-Chair of the AI Exploratory Committee (National Association of Counties)
Moderator: **Yi-Jen Ho**, Associate Professor of Management Science (Tulane University)

RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL AI

John Dickerson, Former CEO at Mozilla.ai
Mark Geistfeld, Professor of Civil Litigation (NYU Law School)
Francesca Rossi, IBM Fellow and Global Leader for Responsible AI (IBM)
Anjana Susarla, Faculty Director of the Center for Ethical and Socially Responsible Leadership (Michigan State University)
Moderator: **John Levendis**, Associate Director of Research Services, Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science (Tulane University)

<RESEARCH SESSIONS>

AI AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE

Asaf Lubin, Associate Professor of Law at (IU Maurer School of Law)

SMART CITIES

Thomas Sanchez, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (Texas A&M)

AI CODING REVOLUTION

Harry Wang, Professor of Management Information Systems (University of Delaware)

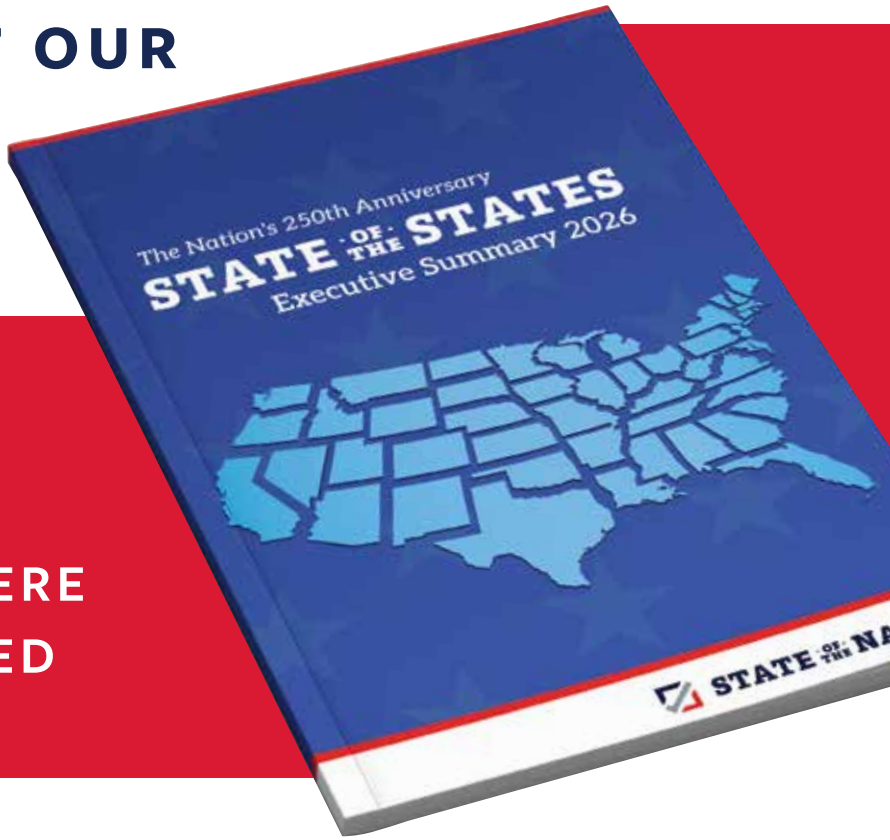
AI AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR MIND

Susan Schneider, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (Florida Atlantic University)

DO THE BORING STUFF TO MAKE OPEN SOURCE AI WIN

John Dickerson, Former CEO at Mozilla.ai

THE STATE OF OUR STATES



WHAT A NEW BIPARTISAN REPORT REVEALS ABOUT WHERE WE'RE REALLY HEADED

AS THE UNITED STATES REFLECTS ON ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY, a comprehensive bipartisan initiative published by the State of the Nation Project and funded by The Murphy Institute offers a rigorous, data-driven look at how we are really doing as a country.

The new *State of the States* report analyzed more than three decades of data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to provide a long-term progress report for each state. Building on the inaugural 2025 *State of the Nation* report that compared the United States with other countries on similar measures, this latest report shifts the lens inward, tracking and comparing individual states and the District of Columbia across 31 distinct and reliable measures dating back to 1990 and encompassing 14 areas, from the economy and education to life satisfaction, civil liberties, workforce, health, children and families, and more. Designed as a progress report, the data was analyzed to determine whether, and where, the U.S. is moving forward.

> THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT OF ITS KIND TO EXAMINE NOT ONLY ECONOMIC OUTCOMES BUT SOCIAL, CIVIC, AND PERSONAL OUTCOMES BY STATE.
>
> *– Douglas Harris*

"At a time of such polarization, misinformation, and pessimism, it's important to get a clear sense of how we're really doing on what matters most. It turns out that states – red and blue – mostly share the same struggles," said **Douglas Harris**, director of the State of the Nation Project and Murphy faculty member. "This is the first report of its kind to examine not only economic outcomes but social, civic, and personal outcomes by state."

That shared reality stems from an intentional, cross-ideological collaboration. The report was built by a bipartisan group of researchers and policy experts from seven of the nation's leading think tanks spanning the political spectrum, alongside advisors to the past five U.S. presidents, Democrats and Republicans. With the national conversation perpetually stuck in a loop of gridlock, pessimism, and red-versus-blue hostility, the State of the Nation Project tests a fundamental question: Beyond the partisan noise, is there more underlying unity than we realize?

KEY QUESTIONS

Motivated by the idea that the United States functions as a "laboratory of democracy," the report examines key questions:

- ▶ Where is my state excelling and where is it falling short?
- ▶ Where are we seeing progress and where are we declining?
- ▶ Are neighboring states doing something different that might explain these patterns?
- ▶ Should my state consider doing the same for improvement?



KEY FINDINGS

▶ **GEOGRAPHY MATTERS – BUT IT ISN'T DESTINY:** New England and the western Midwest claim the highest regional rankings, while the South sits at the low end overall. Yet, Southern states actually placed in the middle of the pack when it comes to personal well-being, including life satisfaction and lower overall depression rates.

▶ **THE PARADOX OF PROGRESS:** While every state is improving in key areas like child mortality and total income, there isn't a single state seeing progress in the core areas like life satisfaction, mental health, economic equality, and trust in institutions. This disconnect exposes a deep contradiction in how we typically measure success.

▶ **DRIFTING APART:** States are increasingly similar on 17 indicators, but they are drifting further apart on 13 others, particularly income and personal and social well-being, which may be fueling our national divisions.

▶ **THE WELL-BEING DROUGHT:** Across 225 state-level trends analyzed for self-reported well-being, only 12 show improvement, while more than half are moving in the opposite direction. With just a 5% improvement rate, the results show that the widespread decline in personal progress isn't just an isolated hiccup in a few troubled states.

▶ **MONEY VS. HAPPINESS:** A stronger economy doesn't necessarily improve personal well-being. Rising incomes don't track with higher life satisfaction or lower anxiety and depression, but they do link to greater social trust in neighbors, government, and science.

HOW IS LOUISIANA DOING?

Louisiana ranks higher on **Civil Liberties (1)**, **Trust (23)**, and **Mental Health (29)**. However, the state faces steep hurdles in **Inequality (49)**, **Environment (49)**, **Education (49)**, **Violence (50)**, and **Work and Labor Force (51)**. Notably, Louisiana outperforms its Southern neighbors in at least one key topic (Civil Liberties) and is improving over time across nine of the 30 tracked measures.

By offering a clear and unvarnished picture of where the nation stands, the State of the Nation Project provides a comprehensive benchmark, mapping out where communities are succeeding, where they are stumbling, and what other states can teach us about our collective path forward. ■

READ THE FULL REPORT AT STATEOFNATION.ORG/SOTS

PRESS COVERAGE

- *The Times-Picayune* | nola.com
- *Biz New Orleans*
- Leaders for a Better Louisiana
- *The New York Times*
- CalMatters

MARY C. PARKER

YATES *Lecture*

FEATURING DR. MONA HANNA

CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF CHILDREN IN FLINT & BEYOND



Murphy Institute Executive Director Gary "Hoov" Hoover with featured guest Dr. Mona Hanna at the 2025 Yates Lecture

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE INTERSECTED THE CRITICAL TOPICS OF ADVOCACY, POLICY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH at the Mary C. Parker Yates Lecture on September 30, 2025. This year's event featured **Dr. Mona Hanna**, renowned pediatrician, scientist, activist, and Associate Dean of Public Health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Dr. Hanna's talk highlighted a core focus of The Murphy Institute: examining the ethical and social consequences when economic policies override democratic systems.

Globally recognized for her pivotal role in uncovering the Flint water crisis, Dr. Hanna's lecture, "Championing the Cause of Children in Flint and Beyond," explored the structural causes and human consequences of the crisis, offering a case study in how state governance and economic decisions directly impact societal welfare. In her talk, Dr. Hanna detailed how the Flint crisis was accelerated by austerity politics. Rather than treating the disaster as an isolated failure of plumbing or engineering, she reframed it as the logical consequence of a broken democratic apparatus.

At the time of the water crisis, Flint was under the control of state-appointed financial emergency management, which was voted down by the people of Michigan but pushed through by the state legislature as an aggressive cost-saving measure. The resulting decisions cut financial corners at the ultimate cost of public health.

Dr. Hanna stated, "Fundamentally what happened in Flint was not just about water poisoning and a public health emergency, but rather a story of what happens when you take away democracy."

Beyond Flint, she highlighted environmental injustices disproportionately affecting underserved communities and underscored the need for systemic change. Offering an example of how creative policy design can reshape the economic environment, Dr. Hanna shared her groundbreaking new program, Rx Kids, the nation's first-ever community-wide prenatal and infant cash prescription program.



Blending humor and insight, Dr. Mona Hanna delivered a thought-provoking lecture that challenged and inspired the audience.



Dr. Hanna chats with an attendee after the lecture.

> "FUNDAMENTALLY WHAT HAPPENED IN FLINT WAS NOT JUST ABOUT WATER POISONING AND A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, BUT RATHER A STORY OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TAKE AWAY DEMOCRACY."

Launched in Flint in 2024, the program reimagines how society can come together to eliminate infant poverty by providing unconditional cash transfers to pregnant women and families during the first year of life. The program, funded through a public-private partnership leveraging TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) federal funds and philanthropic dollars, is designed to improve health outcomes, reduce premature births, and provide economic stability during a critical developmental window.

"It's been said that pediatricians are the ultimate witnesses to failed social policies. In the bodies of my patients – and in their blunted potential – I see the consequences of policies that aren't working for our kids. Be it a change in water source or a disinvestment in public health or a regression in terms of our vaccine policies, pediatricians see the impacts every day," Dr. Hanna explained. She emphasized the importance of persistence, passion, and coalition-building in advocacy work, encouraging young people and professionals to find their "why" and to seek allies across disciplines while remaining steadfast despite setbacks they may encounter.

Addressing questions from the audience, Dr. Hanna highlighted the challenges of communicating science effectively to policymakers and the public, emphasizing that data alone is rarely enough; she urged scholars to use the power of storytelling combined with rigorous data to combat misinformation and influence policy. She expressed a critical need for more scientists in public office and policymaking to raise awareness and secure funding for preventative public health. Concluding the evening, she underscored that protecting public health and welfare ultimately hinges on government functioning properly, diverse representation in decision-making, and an ongoing commitment to ethical, evidence-based policy. ■

Watch Dr. Hanna's lecture @ youtube.com/MurphyTulane or scan:

The annual Mary C. Parker Yates Lecture, Murphy's premier public event, brings leading thinkers and public figures to Tulane's campus to foster university-wide discussion on contemporary issues.

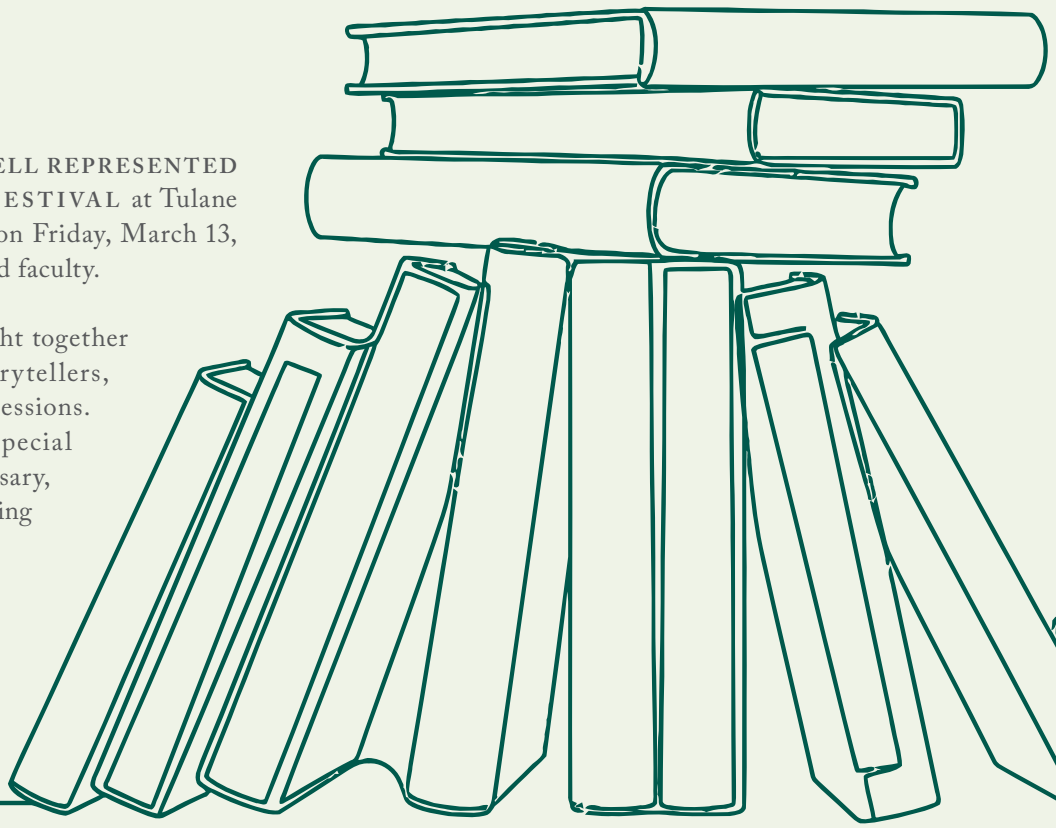
SHAPING CONVERSATION AT BOOK FEST



The New Orleans Book Festival presented "The State of the Nation Project: In Books" featuring Carol Graham, Douglas Harris, and Gary Hoover, moderated by Tulane President Michael Fitts.

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT THE NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL at Tulane University with back-to-back panels on Friday, March 13, 2026, featuring Murphy leadership and faculty.

Held March 12-15, the festival brought together more than 250 authors, artists, storytellers, and moderators across 100 distinct sessions. Programming highlights included special events tied to America's 250th anniversary, an expanded Family Day, and wide-ranging conversations across sectors.



THE STATE OF THE NATION PROJECT: IN BOOKS

Douglas Harris, Director of the Education Policy Research Program in The Murphy Institute's Center for Public Policy Research, joined Murphy Executive Director **Gary "Hoov" Hoover** on the panel "The State of the Nation Project: In Books," moderated by Tulane University President **Michael Fitts**.

The conversation also featured **Carol Graham**, author, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, and College Park Professor at the University of Maryland.

Funded by The Murphy Institute, the State of the Nation Project launched in 2025 as the nation's first widely publicized bipartisan progress report, offering a shared set of facts to assess how the United States is performing across economic, social, and civic dimensions.

During the panel, Harris outlined four central conclusions from the report that captured a complex national paradox and resonated across party lines:

- We are a nation of extremes – marked by both extreme successes and extreme failures.
- National trends are improving in more individual areas than we are declining.
- However, we are declining in more foundational areas than we are improving.
- Our economy is poised for continued success.

Harris, Graham, and Hoover discussed how these findings reflect the nation's economic, social, and psychological condition. Hoover concluded, "Progress must begin with restoring hope and credible pathways to a better tomorrow."

AMERICA AT 250: WHO GETS AHEAD IN AMERICA? AND WHY?

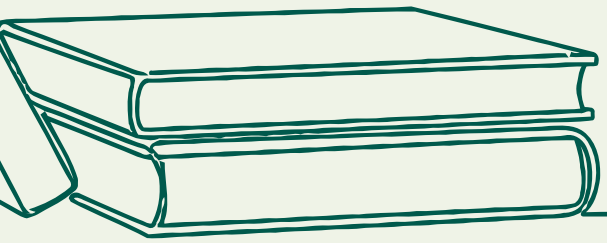
Hoover was featured on a second panel, "America at 250: Who Gets Ahead in America? And Why?" This session featured **Marc J. Dunkelman**, Senior Fellow at the Searchlight Institute and author of *Why Nothing Works*, and was moderated by **Nicholas Lemann**, journalist and professor at Columbia University.

The panel examined whether the American system still delivers on its promise of opportunity or whether stalled economic mobility has turned that promise into a lottery rather than a ladder. Hoover expanded on themes central to his book *Ladder or Lottery*, noting that discouragement emerges when people no longer believe effort leads to advancement.



(L to R) Panelists Marc J. Dunkelman and Gary Hoover discuss "America at 250: Who Gets Ahead in America? And Why?" in a session moderated by Nicholas Lemann.

Together, the two Murphy-affiliated panels highlighted the value of political economy and interdisciplinary scholarship in understanding the nation's challenges. By bringing together perspectives across economics, political science, sociology, and public policy, the conversations displayed how economic outcomes, institutional design, and social well-being are deeply interconnected. ■



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

STUDY ABROAD WIDENS PERSPECTIVES

EACH YEAR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR STUDENTS pursue educational and experiential opportunities through study abroad. The value of their study abroad experiences are inestimable. The opportunity to engage with people, cultures, and institutions in different countries with varied economic and political situations brings new dimensions to our students' understanding of political economy and the larger world.

The graduating cohort of 2026 is no exception, with 65% of our students having pursued study abroad during their time at Tulane and The Murphy Institute. Due to the flexibility of our global education program, students were able to explore many different geographic and educational opportunities. Three of our students studied in Sydney, Australia, while three others were in Copenhagen, Denmark. We were also well represented in traditional favorite locales such as Paris and Madrid.

Senior honors scholar **Alec Riley** pursued study abroad in Bogota, Colombia. This firsthand experience proved crucial to researching his honors thesis, "Grounds of Resilience: How the Colombian Coffee Industry Survived the Crisis of the Late 1990s." Alec's paper examines how the Colombian coffee industry survived the economic and political turbulence of the late 1990s. Despite falling farmer incomes and armed group encroachment, the industry endured and remains a global leader today. He argues that three factors enabled this survival: the Colombian government's reestablishment of state presence in coffee regions, Fedecafé's institutional support, and the strong cultural identification Colombian farmers attach to the practice of coffee farming. Together, these factors illustrate the industry's deeply embedded role within Colombian society and economic development, and underscore the importance of understanding markets in context when forming crisis policy. Getting a firsthand look at the industry in-country gave Alec an edge in his research efforts.

This past academic year, the upcoming Class of 2027 also enthusiastically pursued opportunities to study abroad, with 49 of the 65 members of the cohort (75%) going abroad in the Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 semesters. A new favorite emerged with seven students heading to Lisbon, Portugal.

Spain again proved to be a popular destination with eight students studying in either Madrid or Barcelona. One of the more interesting courses that our students took in Spain is "The Economics of



Alec Riley makes a new friend in Bogota, Colombia.



The sun sets on another day in Bogota.

> THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND INSTITUTIONS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES BRINGS NEW DIMENSIONS TO OUR STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE LARGER WORLD.

Wine," where they learn about the importance of the wine and beverage industry to local European economies, and the broader significance of wine production in international trade and marketing.

The wide range of placements is an indicator of the global reach achieved by our students. In addition to the countries already mentioned, our students spent a semester in the following countries: Denmark, Argentina, Belgium, France, Holland, Japan, Czechia, Brazil, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Italy, Peru, and Switzerland.

While students are usually concerned that their study abroad courses will not be eligible for Tulane credit, the flexibility of our program allows a broad discretion for counting courses as electives in the Political Economy major.

"I was initially nervous that I didn't know upfront whether a credit was going to count towards my major," remarked **Ava Easton**. "I was worried that going abroad was going to set me back in my degree progress, but my Political Economy major advisor ended up being very helpful about ensuring that did not happen."

Because we recognize the immense value of this experience, study abroad will always remain a vital part of the educational journey for our majors.

– John Louis Howard, Director



John Louis Howard is Associate Director of The Murphy Institute and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Political Economy. He also serves as the major advisor for the program. Before joining the faculty at Tulane, he taught at Loyola University, Xavier University, and the University of Mississippi. A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Howard has received numerous honors, most recently the 2023 Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award.

2026 SENIOR AWARDS DINNER SNAPSHOTS








CELEBRATING OUR 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Class of 2026 has set a formidable benchmark for scholarly inquiry and public dedication. This year's award winners reflect the deep intellectual rigor and civic commitment fostered across our undergraduate program.

CHARLES H. MURPHY PRIZE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Awarded to **Porter Hoel**, **Kate Litton**, **Serena Lum**, and **Noah Zelkin** for exceptional academic achievement and advanced analytical work within the discipline.

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Presented to **Beatriz de Castro Troncoso**, **Rory Macdonald**, **Georgia May**, and **Autumn Sommers** for their outstanding dedication to community engagement and public welfare.

SENIOR HONORS SCHOLARS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Earned by **Alec Riley** and **Scarlett Seyler** for completing rigorous, high-level undergraduate thesis research.

These graduates exemplify the core mission of The Murphy Institute, bridging advanced scholarship with a profound responsibility to the public good. We congratulate them on their remarkable achievements and look forward to their continued impact.

CLASS OF 2026 PROFILES

IN MAY 2026, 49 NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE SENIORS were awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Economy. Many received high academic honors, with one student graduating *summa cum laude* and nine students graduating *magna cum laude*. The *summa cum laude* graduate is **Kate Litton**. The *magna cum laude* graduates are **Emily Eckerman**, **Simran Ohri**, **Campbell Ray**, **Alec Riley**, **Penelope Robins**, **Scarlett Seyler**, **Advaith Subramanian**, **Christopher Yarbro**, and **Noah Zelkin**.

In addition to the spring cohort, **Serena Lum** graduated *summa cum laude*, and **Porter Hoel** and **Rachel Weinberg** graduated *magna cum laude* in fall 2025.

Of special note, **Kate Litton** became only the seventh student in program history to graduate with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

The Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy was awarded to **Porter Hoel**, **Kate Litton**, **Serena Lum**, and **Noah Zelkin**. The Murphy Institute Public Service Award was presented to **Beatriz de Castro Troncoso**, **Rory Macdonald**, **Georgia May**, and **Autumn Sommers**. The Senior Honors Scholars in Political Economy were **Alec Riley** and **Scarlett Seyler**.

Other members of the Class of 2026 include **Cole Allison**, **Alexis Alonso**, **Audrey Andel**, **Eghosasere Asemota**, **Katelyn Brandano**, **Aiyana Brumley**, **Greyson Cammarn**, **Jack Dare**, **Ava Easton**, **Naomi Epstein**, **Shea Gillespie**, **Lily Goldman**, **Carley Goldstein**, **Reagan Hickey**, **Andrew Hirshberg**, **Jude Hutkin**, **Raynah Jacobs**, **Spencer Linn**, **Charles Lundberg**, **Shannon Maguire**, **Maiya Mangum**, **Matt Mason**, **Charlie McLawhorn**, **Sara McLeod**, **Natalie Mendelsohn**, **Sarah Neupert**, **Crystal Ni**, **James Odell**, **Keona Patel**, **Risha Reddi**, **Olivia Segura**, **Mary-Kate Seley**, **Ben Siegal**, **Nelson Spiegel**, **Toby Stanton**, **Samantha Trimmer**, and **Sam Tuchscherer**.

COLE ALLISON was a double major in Homeland Security Studies, with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. He was a Government Affairs Intern with the Georgia Ports Authority and a Sales and Trading Intern with AJC International.

ALEXIS ALONSO was a double major in Homeland Security Studies, with a minor in Political Science. She was Community Service Chair for Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity. She interned as a Litigation Assistant at Bergman Bergman Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP in New York. She will attend law school at Loyola College of Law in New Orleans.



AUDREY ANDEL graduated *cum laude* and was a double major in History, with a minor in French. She received departmental honors in History and an Honorable Mention for the Mary B. Scott Memorial Prize, awarded for a chapter of her honors thesis. She was Executive Director of Women and Youth Supporting Each Other and Associate Producer of the podcast team for the *Tulane Journal of Policy and Political Economy*. She was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity and worked as an Economics and Statistics Tutor for the Tulane Academic Learning & Tutoring Center. Audrey will enter the Master of Arts in Political Economy with Data Analytics program at The Murphy Institute.

EGHOSASERE ASEMOTA was a Posse Scholar and a double major in Portuguese, with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. He was presented with a Newcomb-Tulane College Dean's Service Award and was recognized with a Top 25 Leaders in Service Award by the Center for Public Service. He received the PolicyLink We Are the Founders Fellowship and was a New Orleans Clean Energy Fellow. He was Executive President of Black Queer Collective and a member of the Dean of Liberal Arts Advisory Board. He was a Professional Mentor for Alpha Kappa Psi Business fraternity. He was a Peer Advisor for the Office of Study Abroad and Community Engagement Advocate for the Center for Public Service. He was a Housing Policy Intern for the Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, and a Reproductive Rights and Policy Intern for the Louisiana Coalition for Reproductive Freedom. He was also a Greenwood Initiative Intern for Bloomberg Philanthropies. He will complete his fellowship with PolicyLink, a public policy think tank, and will present his capstone project at the 2026 PolicyLink Equity Summit. After his fellowship, he will work in Los Angeles in urban planning.



The Murphy Institute celebrated the Class of 2026 at the annual Senior Awards Dinner on May 13, 2026.

KATELYN BRANDANO was a double major in English. She was a Resident Assistant for Tulane Housing, and a Student Administrative Aide at the Center for Engaged Learning & Teaching. She will enter the 4+1 master's program in English at Tulane.

AIYANA BRUMLEY completed an honors thesis and graduated with departmental honors in Political Economy. She was a double minor in Philosophy and Public Health. She was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity and an inaugural member of the Newcomb Leadership Cohort Program (Newcomb Leaders). Aiyana was an Investigative Intern at the Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office in New Orleans and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office in New York City. She was Operations Manager at the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce and a Civic Activism Intern working on voter registration for TurnUp. She will enter the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Pennsylvania Fels Institute of Government.

GREYSON CAMMARN was a double major in History, with a minor in Philosophy. He will attend law school to study maritime law at the Tulane University School of Law.

JACK DARE was a double major in Economics. He was a Congressional Campaign Finance Intern for the 2022 congressional campaign of Mondaire Jones in New York's 10th congressional district. He was a Trials Bureau Intern for the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney in Staten Island, New York, and a Risk Management Intern for EY (formerly Ernst & Young).



BEATRIZ DE CASTRO TRONCOSO was a double major in Philosophy. She was a co-recipient of The Murphy Institute Public Service Award. She was on the board of the Tulane University Ethics Bowl collegiate team, as well as being Team Captain, and President of the Tulane Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America. She was also a member of the School of Liberal Arts Dean's Advisory Board. She started a project for underprivileged children in El Seibo, Dominican Republic, and worked with the Louisiana Language Access Coalition to help expand language services and accessibility for pregnant women in Louisiana. She also worked with Tulane in India, partnering with multiple organizations including Lha Charitable Trust and Waste Warriors. She held internships at the Dominican Ministry of Industry and Commerce as a Trade Intelligence Intern and in the Dominican Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Multilateral Affairs Intern. She will be an incoming first-year Philosophy PhD student at Tulane University, focusing primarily on social and political philosophy.



AVA EASTON was a minor in Public Health. She was a Health Policy Intern at the United States Senate and a Policy Intern for the City of New Orleans Health Department. She will pursue a Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy at Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine at Tulane.



Beatriz de Castro Troncoso, Peter Carroll, and Justin Cook chat at the Senior Awards Dinner at Gautreau's.

EMILY ECKERMAN graduated *magna cum laude*; she was an Altman Scholar and a dual degree double major in Finance with a minor in French. She was presented with the prestigious Tulane 34 Award in recognition of her strong academic achievement and global engagement during her time at Tulane. She made the Dean's List every semester while maintaining a rigorous course load of 18 to 21 credit hours per semester, achieving a final total of 160.5 credit hours. Emily also pursued extensive international study, spending the summer of 2023 in Mérida, Mexico through the Altman Program and her entire junior year in Strasbourg and Toulouse, France. While in France, she developed fluency in French by taking courses at local universities alongside international and French students, including philosophy coursework conducted entirely in French. She was selected to serve as an Investment Research Manager for the Burkenroad Reports after completing the course as a sophomore, contributing to three published equity research reports on small-cap public companies in the Gulf South. Emily also participated in multicultural service-learning experiences, assisting in a French immersion classroom at Ecole Bilingue in New Orleans and working on a sustainable development project in Yaxuná, Mexico. After graduation, Emily will join Morgan Stanley in New York City as part of their investment banking shareholder activism group.

NAOMI EPSTEIN was a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was a Wealth Management Intern for Northwestern Mutual and a Sales Strategy and Business Development Intern for Live Nation Entertainment.

SHEA GILLESPIE was a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was a Financial Intern for All Ages Read Together in Sterling, Virginia; an Investment Intern for M & M Real Estate in Great Falls, Virginia; a Legislative Intern for the United States House Republican Conference; and a Legislative Intern for then-House Republican Conference Chair, Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY-21).

LILY GOLDMAN graduated *cum laude* with a double major in Philosophy and a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was awarded a Tulane Leadership Medallion and was recognized at the annual Greek Leadership Awards. She was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity and was an Executive Board member for the Panhellenic Council. Her many internships include Judicial Intern for the Brown County Circuit Court in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Triage Team Intern for the New Orleans City Hall Office of Criminal Justice Coordination; Court Watcher for Court Watch NOLA; Executive Office Intern for the United States Chamber of Commerce; and Congressional Intern in the Office of United States Senator Bill Cassidy. She plans to attend law school in the future but for the next two years she will be working as a Project Assistant at Sidley Austin LLP's Washington, D.C. office. This is a two-year practicum program that mimics the work of a paralegal and allows insights into law firm operations and various practice areas of the law.

CARLEY GOLDSTEIN was a double minor in Real Estate and Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She will be joining SL Green Realty Corporation as a Property Assistant in their Operations Department in New York City.



REAGAN HICKEY was a double major in Psychology and Early Childhood Education with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was awarded a Tulane Leadership Medallion and was recognized as one of the Top 25 Leaders in Service by the Center for Public Service. She was a Congressional Intern in the United States House of Representatives. She was a Teaching Assistant for Compass Schoolhouse in Westfield, New Jersey, and a Behavioral Analysis Intern for Play And Talk With Us in Westfield, New Jersey, designing and implementing inclusive, developmentally appropriate play and social skill activities for neurodiverse and neurotypical children aged 18 months to 14 years. She will be a Student Teacher at the Willow School in New Orleans, teaching first and second grade while working toward her teaching license.



ANDREW HIRSHBERG was a double major in Digital Media Practices with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. His short film, *Sunrise*, won best screenplay at the Tulane Film Festival. He was the Director of Film at the Tulane Entertainment Business Network and interned at the Austin Film Festival and The Gotham Group. He is moving to Los Angeles to begin a career in film development and production.



PORTER HOEL graduated *magna cum laude* in fall 2025 with minors in Real Estate and Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. He was a co-recipient of the Charles H. Murphy Prize. He was Vice President of the Tulane Interfraternity Council, a member of the Ironman Triathlon Club, an editor for the *Tulane Undergraduate Law Review*, and a Tour Guide for Green Wave Ambassadors. He is moving to New York City to work at Blackstone as an analyst on their Private Credit legal team.

JUDE HUTKIN was a double major in Environmental Studies. He was the Captain and Treasurer of the Tulane Men's Rugby Club, and a member of Tulane Energy Club. He was a Coastal Leader for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and a Policy and Communications Intern for the Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association. He worked as a Research Project Manager for Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales in Quito, Ecuador. He has been admitted to the Master of Management in Energy program at the Tulane University A.B. Freeman School of Business.

RAYNAH JACOBS graduated *cum laude* with a minor in Jewish Studies. She was a Staff News Writer for *The Hullabaloo*, and Treasurer and Executive Board member for the Feminist Alliance of Students at Tulane. She interned at MyPolis in Lisbon, Portugal. She will study for and take the LSAT while seeking a full-time position working as a legal assistant at a social interest law firm or research assistant at a policy institute before attending law school.



Kate Litton, recipient of the Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy, shares a video message during the Senior Awards Dinner.

SPENCER LINN graduated *cum laude* with a double major in Digital Media Practices. He was the Production Chair at Green Wave Films and a Department Assistant for the Digital Media Practices Department. He was a Digital Marketing Intern at Newcomb-Tulane College Career Services and for Average Joes Entertainment in Nashville, Tennessee. He is returning to Nashville to pursue work within the music business industry from a media-related perspective.



KATE LITTON graduated *summa cum laude* with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and a dual Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree. She was a co-recipient of the Charles H. Murphy Prize. She was an Ockert Scholar and visiting researcher at Washington University in St. Louis. She was a member of Delta Omega National Honor Society in Public Health. She is interning at Ochsner Health with the Community Benefits Department and is seeking opportunities concerning healthcare policy, health equity, mental healthcare, and social work.

SERENA LUM graduated *summa cum laude* in Fall 2025 with a minor in Philosophy. She was a co-recipient of the Charles H. Murphy Prize and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She was the Treasurer for Mortar Board Honor Society. She completed numerous internships with various organizations including the Oregon Pediatric Society, CLS Financial Advisors, and the Next Up Action Fund. She is currently working at a tax firm as an office manager while studying for the LSAT.

CHARLIE LUNDBERG majored in the Law, Economics, and Policy track in Political Economy. He interned for United States Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA). He is seeking a position in policy research.

RORY MACDONALD graduated in Fall 2025 with a double major in History. They were a co-recipient of The Murphy Institute Public Service Award and a Tutor for the Tulane Community Tutor Program for four years. They worked tirelessly to promote social justice both on campus and across the New Orleans area, engaging with different communities throughout the city.

SHANNON MAGUIRE received a dual Bachelor of Science in Management degree in Legal Studies in Business with a minor in Finance. She was a Peer Mentor and a Desk Services Coordinator for Tulane Housing and Resident Life. She was a Business Analytics Intern for Native American Technology Corporation in Leesburg, Virginia. She will be a Compliance Analyst for Clark Construction in Los Angeles, California.



MAIYA MANGUM was a double major in Environmental Studies with a minor in Latin American Studies. She was an Environmental Intern at Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a finalist for the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Corps program in Maryland.

MATT MASON graduated *cum laude* with a dual Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree and a minor in Sociology. He was a Research Assistant in the Social Relations and Wellness Lab in the Psychology Department. He is moving to Seattle, Washington to explore cultural and creative opportunities.



GEORGIA MAY was a Newcomb Scholar and graduated *cum laude*. She was a co-recipient of The Murphy Institute Public Service Award. She was an outstanding Peer Mentor and served on the Honor Board. She was a contributing writer for the Civic Engagement Coalition newsletter, and a volunteer for Operation Restoration and Habitat for Humanity. She was an Investigative Intern for the Orleans Public Defenders Office in New Orleans. She is moving home to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to work for the Kootenai County District Court as the Court Services Float Clerk.



Alec Riley, Ben Siegal, Emily Eckerman, Keona Patel, and Beatriz de Castro Troncoso attend the Senior Awards Dinner.

CHARLIE MCLAWHORN was a Cowen Scholar and graduated with a dual Bachelor of Science in Management degree in Finance. He was a Global Real Estate Investments Intern at Project Destined and a Commercial Property Intern at Sompo in Chicago, Illinois. He will be moving to Chicago to work as a Commercial Property Middle Market Underwriter at Sompo.

SARA MCLEOD was a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She also earned a Paralegal Certificate from the University of Georgia's Center for Continuing Education & Hotel. She was an Investigative Intern for the Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office in New Orleans, and a legal Intern for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services. She will be interning at Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta, Georgia, while studying for the LSAT and preparing for law school.

NATALIE MENDELSOHN was a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was a Growth and Development Intern at Soli in Tel Aviv, Israel, and a Consulting Intern with Blue Laurel Advisors in Tel Aviv. She was a Lifestyle Intern with PURPLE in Los Angeles, California, and an Integrated Marketing and Strategy Intern for AX Beauty Brands in New York City. She will be joining the Leadership Development Program at Bloomingdale's as a Store Buyer Trainee.



SARAH NEUPERT was a minor in Entrepreneurial Business. She earned a certificate in Securities Industry Essentials from FINRA. She volunteered at Green Light New Orleans and Zeus' Rescues. She was a Tutor at the Academic Services Center for Student Athletes, teaching macroeconomics, and was a Green Wave Ambassador. She was a Capital Markets Intern for Fidelity Capital Markets in Boston, Massachusetts. She is seeking a position working on securities analytics, prime brokerage product development, and AI strategy for capital markets.



CRYSTAL NI was a first-generation student with a double major in Sociology. She was a Research Lead for Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales in Quito, Ecuador, and a Teaching Fellow for the TIERA Program for Community-Engaged Conservation Research Design. She is currently a Social Enterprise Intern at Eden Centers for Hope and Healing. She was awarded a Fulbright ETA Fellowship for 2026–2027 to teach English in New Taipei City, Taiwan.

JAMES ODELL majored in the Economics and Public Policy track in Political Economy. He was a member of the Pickleball Club, the Rock-Climbing Club, and the Ballroom Dance Club. He placed first in the Tulane Intramural Fencing Tournament. He volunteered at the Harry Tompson Center for the homeless. He is moving to Washington, DC, and applying for entry-level jobs with federal agencies.

SIMRAN OHRI graduated *magna cum laude* and was a dual degree double major in Finance. She was Senior Vice President of Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity, and a member of Jazbaa, Tulane's Bollywood Fusion Dance Team. She was awarded a Leadership Medallion. Simran interned at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum and was a Business Analyst Intern at FTI Consulting. She will be a TMT Strategy Consultant at FTI Consulting in New York City.



Keona Patel and Emily Eckerman celebrate with fellow graduates at the Senior Awards Dinner.

KEONA PATEL was an Altman Scholar and a dual degree double major in Finance. She was a Lepage Student Fellow and a member of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity. She completed internships with iDecisionGames, Vanguard, and Deloitte. She was a Newcomb Institute grant recipient and an Analyst for the Burkenroad Reports. In the next year she will be continuing to work on her funded startup, Papertrail, a social layer for academics to network, track their reading, and disseminate their work. She will be moving to New York City to build a career in management consulting, joining Deloitte Consulting as an incoming analyst and seeking international experience on projects across the finance and healthcare industries, while also becoming a member of Deloitte's pro-bono consulting team for small and/or distressed businesses.

CAMPBELL RAY graduated *magna cum laude* with a dual Bachelor of Science in Management degree in Finance and a Master of Accounting degree. She was a Teaching Assistant and Supplemental Instructor for various Accounting courses at the Business School. She was a member of Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity. She was an Accounting Intern at Waste Connections, and an Audit and Assurance Intern at Deloitte. She will be an Audit Associate at Deloitte in Dallas, Texas.



RISHA REDDI graduated with minors in International Development and Psychology. She was a member of the Tulane Undergraduate Assembly, a TIDES Peer Mentor, a Civic Engagement Fellow, a University Tour Guide, and a Peer Advisor in the Office of Study Abroad. She was a Community and Outreach Intern for the Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative. She volunteered for Community Partners of Dallas, and Big Easy EC. She is a Research Assistant at the Bureau of Governmental Research in New Orleans.

ALEC RILEY was an Altman Scholar and a dual degree double major in Legal Studies in Business; he graduated *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Political Economy. He was the co-recipient of the Senior Honors Scholar Award in Political Economy for his thesis "Grounds of Resilience: How the Colombian Coffee Industry Survived the Crisis of the Late 1990s." He won the Boyette Memorial Award for exceptional undergraduate writing, awarded by the Tulane English Department. He was a Legal Intern at Reichman Jorgensen Lehman Feldberg LLP, a law firm based in San Francisco, California, and a Customer Service Intern at Captive Capital Corporation in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. After working in the Washington, DC office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP shadowing in their Latin America Practice Area, he will attend law school at George Washington University School of Law in Washington, DC in the fall.



PENELOPE ROBINS graduated *magna cum laude* with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law fraternity. She was a Green Wave Ambassador and a Spring Scholar Ambassador. She was a Judicial Intern for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

OLIVIA SEGURA was a double major in English with a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. The English Department presented her with the Award for Service to the Literary Community as well as the Senior Achievement Prize for Excellence in Creative Writing. She was Editor-in-Chief of *The Tulane Review*, the literary and art journal of the Tulane Literary Society. She was a Green Wave Ambassador and a member of the Korean Student Association. She was an Editorial and Digital Outreach Intern for Soapbox Inc., a Marketing Intern for the National Women's History Museum, and an Admissions Intern for the Tulane Office of Admissions.

MARY-KATE SELEY was a double major in English with a minor in Spanish. She was a Policy and Data Intern for the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights in New Orleans. She was a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity.



Graduating seniors Andrew Hirshberg, Charlie Lundberg, Jack Dare, and Charlie McLawhorn at the Senior Awards Dinner



SCARLETT SEYLER graduated *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Political Economy. She was the co-recipient of the Senior Honors Scholar Award in Political Economy for her thesis "DeCentral Park: The Impact of Private Spending on Urban Public Parks." She was President of the Tulane Chapter of the International City/County Management Association, and Project Lead of the Youth Advisory Board for the Center for Restorative Approaches in New Orleans. She was a Community Engagement Advocate and a Peer Schedule Advisor. She was an Economic Mobility Intern at Greater New Orleans, Inc. She will pursue a PhD in Economics at Tulane University.

BEN SIEGAL was an Altman Scholar and a dual degree double major in Legal Studies in Business. He was on the Campus Global Board of the American Jewish Committee. He interned in the Office of Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and the Office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL 25). He was a GPS Consulting Intern for Deloitte. He will be an incoming Government and Public Services Consultant at Deloitte in Rosslyn, Virginia.

AUTUMN SOMMERS graduated *cum laude* with a double major in Philosophy. She was a co-recipient of The Murphy Institute Public Service Award and received a prestigious Tulane 34 Award. She won the Anne Butler Hess Award from the Department of Philosophy. Autumn is a Civic Engagement Coalition Fellow and has worked for The Innocence Project. Her student leadership significantly includes being Editor-in-Chief of the undergraduate *Tulane Journal of Policy & Political Economy*. In addition, she is deeply involved in the Tulane University Ethics Bowl program, as both a Site Lead Instructor and a member of Tulane's Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team. She was the recipient of a Tulane Legislative Scholarship, Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Scholarship, Tulane Community Service Fellows Scholarship, and Warrick Dunn Hearts for Community Service Scholarship. She won a First-Place Research Award at the University of San Diego Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Law Research Competition in 2024, and a Second-Place Research Award at the same competition in 2025. She received a job offer from the United States House of Representatives in Washington, DC, and is hoping to use that position to build a career in lobbying to protect First Amendment rights before applying to law school in the fall of 2027. She is also considering returning to Tulane for a Master of Arts in Political Economy with Data Analytics or a Master of Arts in Philosophy.



NELSON SPIEGEL graduated with a minor in Business. He won a Boyette Memorial Award from the Department of English. He was a member of the Club Tennis Team and President of Chabad. He was Managing Editor of the undergraduate *Tulane Journal of Policy and Political Economy*, as well as Editor-in-Chief of the *Tulane Undergraduate Law Review*. Nelson was a Research Intern at the Taub Center for Israel Studies at NYU. He was an Asset Management Intern and will be an incoming Analyst at Infrastructure Capital Advisors in New York City.



Eghosasere Asemota celebrates with classmates and Murphy faculty.

TOBY STANTON was a double major in Philosophy on the Law, Morality, and Society track.



ADVAITH SUBRAMANIAN graduated *magna cum laude* with a double major in Asian Studies and Departmental Honors in Asian Studies. He was the Senior Honors Scholar in Asian Studies. He won a Newcomb-Tulane College Dean's Service Award and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He won a Gordon Fellowship, a Founders Scholarship, and a Goldwater Scholarship for Research in Neuroscience. Advaith was Founder and President of Cracking the Wonder Code, a nonprofit organization to increase STEAM education access through robotics camps. He directed an initiative that mobilized Tulane Asian American students to mentor local Asian American high school students through academic support and cultural identity. He was the Treasurer of Culinary Medicine, where he organized workshops on nutrition and food science to teach New Orleans youth about healthy eating and preventative medicine, while also leading campus club meetings and initiatives to advance nutritional literacy among peers. He will be attending Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia.



Murphy Institute staff members (from left) Erika Cooperman, Jennifer Beers, Norah Lovell, John Louis Howard (seated), Katherine Mosier, Brittany Doucette, and Justin Cook celebrate at the Senior Awards Dinner.

SAMANTHA TRIMMER was a minor in Strategy, Leadership and Analytics. She interned for the campaign of David Pan for Congress in California's 46th Congressional District in Orange County, California.



SAM TUCHSCHERER was a double major in Environmental Studies. He was a member of the Badminton Club and played intramural soccer. He was Vice President and a Contributing Writer for the *Tulane Undergraduate Law Review*. He volunteered for Farming New Orleans in the Lower 9th Ward. He was an Investigative Intern for the Orleans Public Defenders Office and Legal Intern in the Office of Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota. He will continue working in the governor's office while preparing to attend law school next year.

RACHEL WEINBERG graduated *magna cum laude* in Fall 2025 with a double major in Economics. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She was a Finance Intern for the Campaign of Sam Liccardo for Congress in San Jose, California. She was an intern in the office of California State Assembly Member Ash Kalra, and a Legal Intern for Silicon Valley Power. She was an Investigative Intern for the Orleans Public Defenders Office in New Orleans.

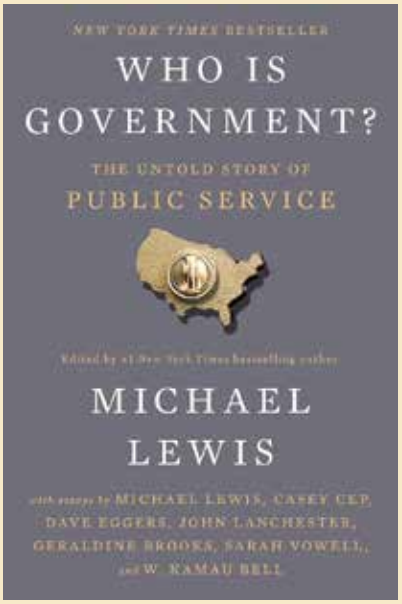
CHRISTOPHER YARBRO graduated *magna cum laude* as a dual degree double major with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He will be an incoming Business Intelligence Intern at Turner Construction Company in Memphis, Tennessee.



NOAH ZELKIN graduated *magna cum laude* with a double major in Philosophy. He was a co-recipient of the Charles H. Murphy Prize and a member of the William Wallace Peery Society. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Noah is a founding member and Editor-in-Chief of the *Tulane Undergraduate Law Review*. He interned at the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights and the Juvenile Justice Initiative. He was an Investigative Intern for the Orleans Public Defenders Office in New Orleans. He was a Legal Intern at Benjamin & Shapiro, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois. He will attend law school at Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

WHO IS GOVERNMENT?



EACH YEAR WE INVITE SELECT ALUMNI FROM THE POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAM AND THE MURPHY INSTITUTE to be featured in our alumni spotlight. Our focus this year is *Who Is Government?*, explicitly referencing the recent book edited by **Michael Lewis** that showcases true and inspiring stories of public service. To this end, we invited alumni to participate by sharing their stories in their own words, describing their life and work in public service.

THE SCOPE OF PUBLIC GOOD

BY EMMA L. HAAS (CLASS OF 2019)



WALKING THE HALLS OF ANGOLA'S FEDERAL DEATH ROW in 2017 was the moment that first clarified why I was called to public service. I looked into the faces of men who had never stood a chance – men whose lives had been shaped by untreated mental illness, generational poverty, and a criminal legal system designed to punish rather than heal. On paper, we were nothing alike. I was young, white, educated, and able-passing. Yet I carried a truth that bound us: I live with a psychiatric disability, the same condition that had propelled me to academic success while pushing so many of them toward criminalization. That realization – that identical symptoms can lead one person to praise and another to prison – ignited my determination to work in systems capable of delivering justice, dignity, and care.

My understanding of systemic failure began long before Angola. I grew up in the Rust Belt during the Great Recession, where federal policy was not an abstraction but a daily force shaping survival. My stepfather's construction business collapsed in the wake of the financial crisis; my mother juggled multiple unaffordable mortgages; addiction, incarceration, and mental illness touched those closest to me.

At 15, I gave up playing sports to work and keep my dreams of college afloat. Even before I knew terms like "credit default swap," I understood that economic policy and public well-being were inseparable – and that when policy fails, families like mine pay the price.

College was a hard-won privilege. Studying Political Economy and Public Health at Tulane gave me the analytical tools to

understand the forces that had shaped my childhood. My internships – especially with the Orleans Public Defenders – revealed how poverty, addiction, and mental illness intersect with the criminal legal system. In 2017, when the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) intervened in my family's mortgage dispute, days before I had to decide whether to withdraw from school, I witnessed firsthand the power of government to restore opportunity. That moment solidified my commitment to federal service.

As a fellow at the CFPB, I tracked state and local consumer protection policies, coordinated policy development, and contributed to interagency work on climate-related financial risk. But in 2020, during the COVID 19 pandemic, my own mental health unraveled, as I experienced two hospitalizations for my disability. I saw how thin the line is between stability and crisis – and how profoundly outcomes depend on access to care, employment, and community. I survived because I had support. Many do not.

These experiences taught me the most significant lessons of my life: that my resilience is not a moral achievement but a structural privilege; that empathy is a form of expertise; and that policy must be designed with the lived realities of vulnerable communities at its center. They also taught me that public service is not theoretical – it is deeply personal.

My path eventually led me to contracting at NASA, where I now support long-range strategic planning and mission execution. At first glance, it may seem like a departure from financial regulation or public health. But to me, NASA represents the same core truth: that government, science, and technology can materially improve human life. Space exploration drives medical innovation, climate monitoring, disaster response, and technological breakthroughs that shape daily life. Working alongside scientists, engineers, and policymakers, I see how federal investment in science and technology becomes a public good – one that protects communities, expands opportunity, and inspires collective possibility.

My undergraduate training in Political Economy prepared me for this journey in ways I could not have predicted. It taught me to interrogate incentives, power structures, and the distributional consequences of policy. It taught me that systems – whether financial, legal, or scientific – are only as just as the people who design, implement, and uphold them. It taught me that the intersection of economics, health, and technology is where some of the most consequential public policy decisions are made.

Today, I carry forward the lessons of Angola, the Rust Belt, my disability, the CFPB, and NASA. They shape my belief that public service is not simply a career – it is a responsibility. I hope my story encourages others to recognize both the privilege and the obligation that accompany our education, and to approach policy not as an abstract exercise, but as a tool for redemption, protection, and human dignity.

THESE EXPERIENCES TAUGHT ME THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LESSONS OF MY LIFE: THAT MY RESILIENCE IS NOT A MORAL ACHIEVEMENT BUT A STRUCTURAL PRIVILEGE; THAT EMPATHY IS A FORM OF EXPERTISE; AND THAT POLICY MUST BE DESIGNED WITH THE LIVED REALITIES OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AT ITS CENTER.

WHERE TRADE MEETS PUBLIC TRUST

BY JOHN NUTTLI (CLASS OF 2022)



AFTER GRADUATING FROM TULANE WITH MY POLITICAL ECONOMY DEGREE in May of 2022, I joined the Jesuit novitiate, the introductory stage of discernment for the Society of Jesus, a Catholic religious order. Before eventually discerning another path, I was blessed with a number of opportunities for public service throughout my one and a half years with the order. Whether helping as a substitute teacher at a school for low-income students in Los Angeles, cooking and cleaning for adults with disabilities in Kansas, or assisting migrants in border shelters in El Paso, Texas, and Matamoros and Reynosa, Mexico, I was able to put into action what I had learned from my Political Economy studies about people, resources, and institutions in multicultural, multilingual, and international contexts. Reflecting on my time with the order, I learned a lot about the variety of the world – both in its joys and its exigencies – and in turn my own place in it: small yet still of consequence, but not to be taken too seriously.

My path since then has led eventually, after attaining a post-baccalaureate certificate of accounting, to my current role as an accountant for the Port of New Orleans. I was inspired to work at the Port both out of genuine interest in the organization but also by a desire to serve the community with the skills and abilities fostered through my studies and experiences.

Working at the Port, I have assisted in various financial services roles including payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, inventory, preparation of journal entries, account reconciliation, and the creation of related financial reports. My political economy background has helped me immensely in understanding the diversity of the Port's operations, labor pool, and revenue streams spanning cargo, rail, cruises, and industrial real estate.

In my senior-year Political Economy capstone class, I gave a presentation on the ways in which a region's geography can in turn influence its economic and political structure. The Port of New Orleans, with its unique geographical placement at the confluence of the Mississippi River and the Gulf, has proven an excellent case study for my capstone. The Port's organizational structure – as a self-sustaining political subdivision of the State of Louisiana that follows the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reporting rules while operating more like a business, funded by its own revenue rather than state taxes – positions it at another confluence: this time, not of water and geography, but of politics and economics.

My major in Political Economy at Tulane and my post-baccalaureate studies have given me the education necessary to pursue licensure as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). I am currently studying for the CPA exams while gaining the necessary accounting work experience at the Port of New Orleans, where I hope to continue working and serving after earning the certification.

I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE VARIETY OF THE WORLD – BOTH IN ITS JOYS AND ITS EXIGENCIES – AND IN TURN MY OWN PLACE IN IT: SMALL YET STILL OF CONSEQUENCE, BUT NOT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF GOVERNMENT

BY SARA SANDS FRANCIS, PhD (CLASS OF 2010)



THE IDEA TO WORK IN GOVERNMENT CAME TO ME THE SUMMER AFTER THIRD GRADE. It was 1997 and I was nine years old. Girl power, with all its retro '60s flower patterns, yellow smiley faces, and butterfly clips, was *en vogue*. Hillary Clinton was First Lady and had two years before declared to the United Nations and the world that "women's rights are human rights." I went to sleepaway camp with a stack of books about women who changed the world, many of whom eventually found their way into government. They were guided by the belief that if you wanted to do the most good for the greatest number of people and implement the conditions for lasting impact, a career devoted to public service was the way forward. I came home from camp ready to run for president – an early version of "go big or go home."

Fast-forward to 2005, my senior year at Grace King High School in Jefferson Parish. Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans the second week of school. My family and I returned to our home six weeks after the storm. Over the next year, I would watch government in action and inaction. I'd see the power of people to act in unison for the greater good, and I'd also watch as groups fought for control over power, resources, and the right to determine what would come next. As a student, I saw this play out in the school system firsthand. It was no secret that the educational system had been failing students and communities for a long time before the storm. Now, the question of what should become of our schools was at the forefront of debate. This raised bigger philosophical and political questions: Who is seen and unseen by government? For whom is policy designed to help and at what cost to groups? When does government act and what are the policy options it pursues?

My sophomore year at Tulane, I walked into Dr. Howard's office at The Murphy Institute, sat down amongst the stacks of books, and knew I was home. My time at Tulane, specifically my service-learning experience tutoring at Green Charter School and then researching the nexus of education policy and teaching, changed how I thought about the way research can inform government and practice, and the way government service could inform research. I began to understand how investigating big problems, examining them from all sides, and then using research and data as inputs into policy reform could be a tool for turning big ideas into concrete policies. Dr. Howard encouraged me to see a doctorate in Public Policy as a real alternative to law school and a viable pathway to developing the skills, knowledge, mindsets, and capabilities necessary to proactively change public institutions for the public good. In 2023, I graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University with my PhD in Politics and Education – an achievement that started in the halls of The Murphy Institute.

Through the twists and turns of my career, from the board room of IBM to the halls of New York City schools, my commitment to public service, rooted in a firm belief that we each have something to contribute to advancing the public good, remains steadfast. Today, as the Managing Director, Research, Data, and Impact at Good Reason Houston, I am inspired by community leaders, educators, and families that I have the privilege of working alongside, as my team and I leverage research and data to ensure that every child, in every neighborhood, has access to a high-quality public school and the opportunity to pursue a meaningful life.

Sixteen years into my career, there are three lessons I return to often:

► **Work moves at the speed of relationships.** So often we turn to structural solutions to problems – more meetings, more frameworks, a new project management tool – when what we need is a cultural or relational approach. Build in time to "learn" people, particularly their desired outcomes, interests, and concerns. The human side – the "who" in "who is government" matters. There's no replacing the trust, care, and shared understanding needed to move the work forward.

> THE HUMAN SIDE – THE "WHO" IN "WHO IS GOVERNMENT" MATTERS. THERE'S NO REPLACING THE TRUST, CARE, AND SHARED UNDERSTANDING NEEDED TO MOVE THE WORK FORWARD.

► **Build with evaluation in mind.** Too many times, we start to design programs without thinking about how we'll know if they are achieving their intended goals, and how we got there if we do. Designing with evaluation and continuous improvement in mind helps everyone clarify in advance what our vision and goals are, the actions we'll take together, the outcomes we hope to achieve, and the indicators of success that will help us know if we achieved them. Our impact, the change we want to see in the world, is not by accident. We need to care about how we got there. Bonus lesson: This is not just quantitative data! The qualitative data is equally important here. How was the policy or program actually experienced by those we hoped to impact and influence? This is as important as whether you achieved the outcome. We need to hold both.

► **Collaboration is a full-time job.** If I had a dollar for every time someone said, "We should break out of our siloes and collaborate more," I would have paid off my student loans by now. Collaboration takes time and effort. People don't come to the table ready to work together and, when they get there, it takes commitment to sustain. Building networks that can actually achieve collective goals requires investment of resources: humans, money, and time. Fund the roles needed to do this work and reward the people in them.

There are so many accomplishments that I'm proud of from my work in public service – all of them possible through the time, talents, and treasures of incredible people. A few highlights:

► **Leading a department that puts research to work.** At Good Reason Houston, I lead the research, data, and evaluation function for a nonprofit working on behalf of 700,000 students across 900 public schools, overseeing an annual portfolio that includes more than $1.4 million in externally funded studies connecting Houston-area students to good jobs.

► **Building the data infrastructure that lets research inform real decisions.** I've negotiated data governance frameworks and data sharing agreements with school districts, higher education institutions, and nonprofit partners, so that research can move fast enough to be useful.

► **Directing evaluation for one of the country's largest teacher leadership programs.** As Research & Data Manager for the NYC Department of Education, I directed research and evaluation, and supported the allocation of a $5 million annual budget for Teacher Career Pathways, a program supporting over 2,000 teacher leaders across 900 schools.

► **Managing a national portfolio of investments in educators.** At the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, I managed a portfolio of more than 54 grants valued at $41 million dedicated to identifying, training, and supporting high-quality teachers and school leaders.

► **Putting research in front of the people who need it.** My research and analysis on state takeovers and school performance have been featured in the *Houston Chronicle* and other local outlets, helping shape how the public and policymakers understand what's working in Houston schools.

I will forever be grateful to the students and faculty of The Murphy Institute for the commitment to public service and cultivating within me the capability to pursue it. ■

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY WITH DATA ANALYTICS

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY WITH DATA ANALYTICS, launched in 2022, pairs rigorous economic reasoning with state-of-the-art data science. Students work at the intersection of public policy, quantitative research, and applied analytics, drawing on The Murphy Institute's long-standing strengths in political economy while leveraging the latest tools in coding, visualization, and causal inference.



2026 master's graduates Sam Lewis, Lyra Hernandez-Lyons, Peter Carroll, and Luke Volpe

This past year was one to celebrate: nine students completed their degree requirements across the Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026 terms, our largest graduating class to date. Roughly half of these graduates stepped directly into careers as private-sector data analysts, putting their training to work almost immediately after commencement, while others are preparing to continue on to doctoral study.

Their capstone projects showcase the range of the program. **Luke Volpe** asked whether governments loosen monetary policy to win elections, assembled a monthly cross-country panel, and found that money supply growth does climb in election months; although, contrary to his own hypothesis, a country's exchange rate regime does not amplify the effect. **Sara Cavallone** turned to census microdata from 1900 to 1930 to trace women's entry into the labor force around the Nineteenth Amendment, finding a meaningful rise in participation after enfranchisement. **Peter Carroll** focused on a pressing local concern, mapping a decade of short-term rental growth across New Orleans census tracts to measure how it reshaped rents, home values, and long-term housing availability. Together their projects underscore the practical orientation of the curriculum in answering political economy questions.

MASTER'S CAPSTONE PROJECTS



LUKE VOLPE

Luke asked if governments loosen monetary policy to win elections, assembled a monthly cross-country panel, and found that money supply growth does climb in election months.



SARA CAVALLONE

Sara turned to census microdata from 1900 to 1930 to trace women's entry into the labor force around the Nineteenth Amendment, finding a rise in participation after enfranchisement.



PETER CARROLL

Peter mapped a decade of short-term rental growth across New Orleans census tracts to measure how it reshaped rents, home values, and long-term housing availability.

Demand for the program is growing, and twelve students arrived in August 2026 for our largest incoming cohort ever, including talented Tulanians entering through our accelerated 4+1 track. Their diverse academic backgrounds in economics, political science, and engineering promise a vibrant, interdisciplinary community.

With a growing reputation, tailored curriculum, and engaged alumni network, the MA in Political Economy with Data Analytics is well on its way to becoming a premier destination for students who seek to turn data into insight and insight into impact.

– Justin Cook, Director



C. Justin Cook is an Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the MA Program in Political Economy with Data Analytics, as well as a core faculty member at The Murphy Institute. His research focuses on understanding long-running, persistent patterns in economic growth and development. His current work focuses on understanding the persistence of populations and economic output from the historical locations of past civilizations and explores the aggregate impacts of redistributive policies.

HONORS, AWARDS + SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR MARKED A PERIOD OF EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION for our faculty and scholars. Here we highlight the recent publications, appointments, and professional honors that exemplify The Murphy Institute's commitment to impactful, evidence-based inquiry.



RICARDO ANG (Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Public Policy Research) published "Medicare Part D and Hospital Admissions due to Antimicrobial Resistance" in *Economics & Human Biology*.



ELVIRA BASEVICH (Associate Professor, UC-Davis and Faculty Fellow, Center for Ethics) has a forthcoming book, *Counterpublics: Du Bois and Democratic Practice behind the Color Line*, under contract with Oxford University Press.



BRANDON DAVIS (Assistant Professor of Political Science and Murphy Core Faculty) was awarded a $50,000 Faculty Fellowship from the Institute for Humane Studies for his project, "We Dare Defend Our Rights: Strategic Legal Mobilization and the Alabama Democratic Conference."



LILA DUARTE, a Posse Scholar double majoring in Political Economy and Environmental Studies with minors in Spanish and Native American and Indigenous Studies, was awarded the Udall Undergraduate Scholarship, which identifies future leaders in environmental, Tribal public policy and healthcare fields. Duarte becomes only the fourth Tulane student to receive this national honor.



ADAM FEIBELMAN (Sumter Davis Marks Professor of Law and Director, Center for Law and the Economy), received the Oliver Fund Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring. He also published "Defining the Field of Law and Macroeconomics" in *Minnesota Journal of International Law* (authored with Nikita Aggarwal), and "Institutional Determinants of Monetary Sovereignty" is forthcoming in the *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law*.



DANIEL FRIESS (Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Director, Center for Public Policy Research) delivered an address on international cooperation for marine restoration policy at the United Nations in June 2026 for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. His recent research exploring the climate resilience and carbon dynamics of coastal "blue carbon" ecosystems was also published in *Nature Geoscience and Nature Communications*.



MATEUSZ GROCHOWSKI (Associate Professor of Law and Murphy Affiliated Faculty) was named the 2026 Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar. This award supports scholarship that advances justice through comparative and transnational legal inquiry.



HUSSAIN HADAH (Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Public Policy Research) received a $140,746 grant from the J-PAL Social Policy Research Initiative to advance his research on school choice discrimination.



DOUGLAS HARRIS (Professor and Chair of Economics and Director of Education Policy, Center for Public Policy Research) received the Policy Field Distinguished Contribution Award from the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) for his significant and long-term contributions to the field.



MARIO JUAREZ-GARCIA (Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Murphy Core Faculty) published "The Cognitive Corruption of Markets" in *Political Philosophy*, "Giving Up" in *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, and "Legal Inflation and Defective Laws" in *Economics & Philosophy*.



CARLA LAROCHE (Felder-Fayard Associate Professor of Law and Murphy Core Faculty) was selected to present "Voter Zoning" at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Civil Rights Section, New Voices in Civil Rights panel. She also published "Voter Emancipation in Slavery's Afterlife" in *Seton Hall Law Review* and received the Dr. Norman C. Francis Award from the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society for her work in legal education, legal advocacy, and mentorship.



NICHOLAS MATTEI (Associate Professor of Computer Science and Murphy Affiliated Faculty), published "The Illusion of Fairness: Auditing Fairness Interventions in Algorithmic Hiring with Audit Studies" in the *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, and "Co-Designing Organizational Justice Indicators for Algorithmic Systems" in the proceedings of *FAccT* (ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency).



MATÍAS MORALES CERDA (Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Public Policy Research) has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at Universidad Andrés Bello in Chile.



DARCY ROAKE (Graduate Fellow, Center for Ethics) received the Chateaubriand Fellowship to conduct research at Université Paris Cité in spring 2026, where she also presented at an international history conference supported by Newcomb and Lurcy grants. Additionally, she received the Tulane Barry H. Shafer Fellowship at Cornell University's School of Criticism and Theory.



PATRICK TESTA (Associate Professor of Economics and Murphy Core Faculty) co-authored "Political Foundations of Racial Violence in the Post-Reconstruction South" in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*.



DANIEL YUDKIN (Founding Director, the Beacon Project and Murphy Affiliated Scholar) co-authored "The Four Types of Trump Supporter" in *The Atlantic*.



CENTER FOR ETHICS

AN IMPORTANT PERIOD OF GROWTH

THE CENTER FOR ETHICS (CE) IS IN AN IMPORTANT PERIOD of programmatic and community growth, including expansion of our Tulane University Ethics Bowl (TUEB) program. Ethics Bowl is a high school and college competition where teams of students grapple with difficult ethical issues. The format is like debate, but with key differences to foster respectful engagement with other teams and nuanced analysis of the issues. In working with the teams, we especially emphasize the political economy issues involving polycentric decision-making, as with national and local government regulation, entrepreneurial and business decisions, and individual consumer choice all playing roles. TUEB supported Tulane's Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team by providing coaching and hosting practices to prepare the team to participate in the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl's regional competitions and the National Bioethics Bowl.

TUEB also works to establish and support High School Ethics Bowl programs in the Greater New Orleans area. In collaboration with Tulane's Philosophy Department, CE facilitates a service-learning program through which Tulane students studying ethics support local high school Ethics Bowl teams, and CE hosts local scrimmages and the Louisiana Regional competition for the National High School Ethics Bowl.

As part of increasing involvement in the broader academic community, CE represents The Murphy Institute at the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society's Annual Meeting held each November in New Orleans. The PPE Society is an international organization encouraging interaction and intellectual cross-fertilization among these historically interconnected disciplines.

The Faculty Fellows program is a long-running centerpiece of CE. Each year, CE has a globally competitive application process to select faculty from any discipline researching areas connected to ethics and political economy for the Center's Visiting Faculty Fellowship. Selected scholars spend an academic year in residence at Tulane, working on their own research projects, engaging in the intellectual life of the Institute by attending its public lectures, and presenting their work through talks given at Tulane's Department of Philosophy's seminar series, co-sponsored by The Murphy Institute. The fellowship offers visiting academics a forum for developing new ideas with other top scholars and the opportunity for sustained, focused work on their own research.

The 2025–2026 CE Public Lecture Series featured two lectures at Tulane from internationally prominent scholars: **Carl Hart** (Mamie Phipps Clark Professor of Psychology at Columbia University) discussed the science and politics of drugs; and **Fabio Rojas** (Virginia L. Roberts Professor of Sociology at Indiana University Bloomington) defended increasing focus of social scientific research on what reliably works in contrast to current emphasis on social pathologies. These events brought students and faculty from across Tulane, as well as from other universities and members of the wider community, for multidisciplinary discussion of fundamental issues in political economy.

CE's programming seeks to engage a broader audience and promote collaboration with partners who share the Institute's commitment to promoting informed, interdisciplinary discussions about economic, moral, and political problems.

– Chad Van Schoelandt, Director



Chad Van Schoelandt is an Associate Professor of Philosophy, Chair of Tulane University's Department of Philosophy, and Director of The Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics. His research is in social and political philosophy – particularly the public reason and social contract traditions – and at the intersections of philosophy, politics, and economics. His current book, *The Open Community*, argues that liberalism provides the institutional framework for community formation rather than destroying it.

BUILDING CIVIL DISCOURSE: CAMPUS + COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THE **TULANE UNIVERSITY ETHICS BOWL (TUEB)** PROGRAM BRINGS TOGETHER COLLEGIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS to engage in structured civil discourse on pressing moral questions. From scrimmages and summer high school programs on Tulane's Uptown campus to regional tournaments and national collegiate competitions, TUEB cultivates habits for interpersonal connection and reflection that extend well beyond the competition floor. Teams are evaluated on the clarity and organization of their presentations, the depth and rigor of their analysis, and most crucially, their ability to engage thoughtfully and respectfully with perspectives that challenge their own.

Participants don't debate: they deliberate – leveraging differences to interrogate complex ethical dilemmas, consider their own reasoning, and push one another toward clearer, more honest arguments. In this way, the program trains students in something foundational to democratic life: the capacity to reason carefully in public, within their communities, and across differences.

THE COLLEGIATE TEAM: A YEAR OF COMPETITION AND GROWTH

TUEB's collegiate team opened the 2025–2026 academic year in Boston, where they competed in the **Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl**, hosted by Northeastern University. TUEB faced a field of 19 teams, winning two of three rounds and earning high praise from judges for their confidence, strong team synergy, and the clarity and impact of their arguments. Across six cases, the team deliberated ethical questions ranging from a Massachusetts bill proposing that incarcerated individuals be permitted to donate organs or bone marrow in exchange for sentence reductions to questions of literal representation in film industry casting.

In April, TUEB traveled to Pennsylvania to compete in the **National Bioethics Bowl**, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health. The tournament pressed students to grapple with questions at the intersection of medicine, science, and society.

Several team members graduated in May 2026 and will remain at Tulane to pursue graduate studies. Two TUEB alumni will join the Center for Ethics as Graduate Assistants, where they will continue to support the program's growth. Their transition from competitors to program leaders is, in many ways, exactly what Ethics Bowl is designed to produce.



National Bioethics Bowl deliberation

APPE Regional Tournament at Northeastern University



National Bioethics Bowl at the University of Pittsburgh



Get involved with TUEB! Email Chad Van Schoelandt at cvanscho@tulane.edu or scan:

CENTER FOR ETHICS

TUEB ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JAMAHRI WILLIAMS

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL, TULANE CLASS OF '29



JAMAHRI WILLIAMS FIRST ENCOUNTERED ETHICS BOWL during junior year at Frederick Douglass High School, when an AP Seminar teacher passed along an invitation to compete. What followed was something he hadn't expected: a space where conversation was genuinely two-sided. "It's like debate, but better," he says. "You put out an idea or framework and keep building on it with an open mind to where you might actually change your opinion." That spirit of open dialogue extended beyond the competition floor. For Jamahri, one of the program's most meaningful dimensions was the community it built across schools: "It was cool connecting with other schools and becoming close. Every competition had great conversation."

Now a Political Science major at Tulane, Jamahri credits Ethics Bowl with shaping how he approaches complex problems beyond any single class or competition. It introduced him to philosophical thinking and a habit of engaging across differences that has stayed with him. He hopes to see the program expand with more high schoolers on Tulane's campus, deeper involvement from university students and faculty, and broader visibility through social media. ■

HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT BUILDS COMMUNITY & CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

In January 2026, TUEB and the Center for Ethics hosted the second **National High School Ethics Bowl Louisiana Regional Tournament** on campus with the help of Tulane service-learners and volunteers. Eight teams from schools across Southeastern Louisiana competed to advance to the National High School Ethics Bowl divisional competition. First-time competitors from Berchmans Academy earned first place and secured a spot at the divisional playoffs, with Sacred Heart Grand Coteau placing second and Frederick Douglass High School taking third place.

Outside of the competition, the high school teams experienced campus life guided by current Tulane undergraduates and TUEB collegiate team members – touring campus buildings, dining in the Malkin Sacks Commons, and visiting the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Academy of the Sacred Heart Grand Coteau
Bard Early College New Orleans
Berchmans Academy of the Sacred Heart
Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School
Booker T. Washington High School
Frederick A. Douglass High School
G.W. Carver High School
McDonogh 35 College Preparatory School

Coaches and teams alike described the regional tournament as a highlight of the academic year, and for many students, a defining milestone of high school. Students described the Ethics Bowl experience as intellectually energizing and personally transformative, citing "the rush of having a new idea," "the pure adrenaline of thinking deeply with friends," and meaningful boosts to their confidence.

In April, Ethics Bowl interns, service-learners, and volunteers hosted five area high school teams for a scrimmage at Tulane. While teams spent weeks preparing for competition by studying a set of possible cases for the tournament, they didn't know which question they would face until they were seated across from an opposing team.

Cases this year pushed students to wrestle with real-world ethical issues with local stakes – including the ethics of expanding the petrochemical industry in Louisiana and the tension between job market growth and community well-being.

In June, the Center for Ethics partnered with Tulane's Office of Pre-College Programs to host 17 Louisiana-based high schoolers for **Debating Ethics**, a one-week summer program focused on collaborative communication and ethical reasoning. Led by a team of graduate and undergraduate volunteers, campers reflected on their own communication habits to develop as community members and thinkers. ■

PUBLIC LECTURES

CE PUBLIC LECTURES SERVE AS A VITAL PLATFORM FOR INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE, where scholars and practitioners from a broad range of intellectual and professional disciplines and concerned citizens can engage with pressing ethical questions. Since 2001, the Center for Ethics has hosted more than 200 guest speakers discussing contemporary topics in ethics.

The 2025–2026 series kicked off in the fall, with a talk by neuroscientist, psychologist, and Columbia University professor **Dr. Carl Hart**. The event, "Drug Use for Grown-Ups: Where Liberty, Policy and Science Collide," was co-sponsored by the Tulane School of Medicine's MS Program in Bioethics and Medical Humanities and Tulane's Department of Psychology. In the spring, Virginia L. Roberts Professor of Sociology at Indiana University Bloomington, **Fabio Rojas**, envisioned what a good society science might look like in his talk "A Plea for Good Society Science."

Their inclusion highlights the Center's ongoing commitment to promoting rigorous dialogue on complex moral, economic, and social problems across the university and the broader community.



Murphy CE Graduate Fellow Joseph Keegin poses a question at Dr. Carl Hart's lecture.



Audience members share a lighthearted moment during the lecture.



Dr. Carl Hart speaks with a student after his lecture.

DR. CARL HART

DRUG USE FOR GROWN-UPS: WHERE LIBERTY, POLICY AND SCIENCE COLLIDE



Recipient of the 2022 Abraham L. Halpern Humanitarian Award for his contributions to human rights and drug policy reform, Dr. Carl Hart examined the historical and scientific foundations of U.S. drug policy in his public lecture on October 9, 2025. His research translates laboratory findings into humane, evidence-based public policies while challenging common myths surrounding drug use and addiction.

In his lecture, Hart highlighted how legislation has often preceded empirical research, suggesting that political pressures and public fear have shaped drug laws more than scientific consensus. Central to his talk was the concept of bodily autonomy – a principle he linked to democratic values and constitutional protections. Rather than prohibition, he advocated for the regulation of known substances, arguing that such an approach could reduce harm and improve public health outcomes.

Intertwining scientific data, historical context, and ethical philosophy, Hart challenged entrenched narratives surrounding drug use and policy in America. He concluded with a call for a fundamental shift in drug policy from criminalization to regulation, urging policymakers and the public to weigh liberty, dignity, and scientific evidence in shaping future legislation.

FABIO ROJAS

A PLEA FOR GOOD SOCIETY SCIENCE



Widely recognized for his writings on social movements, political change, and economic sociology, Professor Fabio Rojas visited Tulane's campus on March 11, 2026, to deliver the series' spring public lecture. He opened his lecture with a candid admission: He himself has spent much of his career studying what he called the "bummer" topics like HIV, the Black Power movement, and the Iraq War. That personal reckoning became the launching point for a broader critique about the social sciences as a whole and the deep and disproportionate fixation on social problems.

Rojas was careful to draw a clear distinction. He is not calling for the elimination of social problems research, but rather for greater intellectual pluralism, inclusive of studying what makes societies flourish – as he noted, "sociology without social problems is like medicine without illness."

In concluding his presentation, Rojas returned to his core claim: The goal is not to silence critique, but to build a discipline – and a culture – broad enough to document both what is broken and what works in our society.

To view these and all Murphy Institute lectures, visit youtube.com/MurphyTulane or scan:

FACULTY FELLOWS

THE FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF THE CENTER FOR ETHICS (CE), drawing distinguished scholars in ethics from around the world into the Institute's vibrant intellectual community since 2003. Now in its third decade, the program continues to support path-breaking scholarship, with the 2025–2026 cohort building on the momentum of last year's milestone 70th CE Faculty Fellow.

Selected scholars spend a full academic year in residence, dedicating their time to advancing their own research while immersing themselves in the life of the Center through workshops, public lectures, and seminar series in Tulane's Departments of Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics. Through this sustained engagement, CE Faculty Fellows cultivate long-lasting professional relationships with fellow scholars, Tulane faculty, and graduate students.

This year's cohort of faculty fellows brought distinct research projects and perspectives to the Center for Ethics, but their reflections on their time in residence at The Murphy Institute converged on a shared theme: the combination of intellectual rigor and mission alignment that defines the Institute.

Both fellows pointed to the experience of daily life at The Murphy Institute as central to what made the year so productive. Basevich described the value of spontaneous intellectual exchange: "I enjoyed having opportunities for informal discussion with visiting faculty and invited speakers. It allowed for a deeper engagement with the presentation and facilitated the informal development of



ELVIRA BASEVICH

Elvira Basevich, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis, spent her residency exploring a question with deep philosophical stakes: how individuals develop moral agency under nonideal circumstances, particularly when subjected to mistreatment by others or struggling against their own self-doubt. Basevich explains, "If philosophers can provide an adequate account of moral agency in nonideal circumstances, we can have a better picture of the nature of moral progress," describing the throughline that connected the year's research to broader questions about how societies – and the people within them – move forward in the face of injustice.

That research translated into remarkable output. Over the course of the fellowship, Basevich completed a major book project, *Counterpublics: Du Bois and Democratic Practices behind the Color Line*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press, and advanced significantly on a second book, *A Political Theory of Reconstruction: Du Bois at the Intersection of Kant and Marx*, completing four of its six chapters for submission to Columbia University Press. Alongside these, she has an article and two book chapters forthcoming, plus two journal articles currently under revision for resubmission. Reflecting on the scope of this work she engaged with during the fellowship, Basevich called it simply "one of the most research-productive years of my academic life."

Basevich still found opportunities to share her work with audiences across the country, delivering talks at Colorado College, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Princeton University, as well as presentations at the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) Society Annual Meeting and the North American Kant Society Reading Group.



ERIC SCHLIESSER

Eric Schliesser, Professor of Political Science in the University of Amsterdam's Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, arrived with an entirely different project taking shape: an exploration of how specialization in the sciences and emerging technologies – artificial intelligence chief among them – creates barriers to communication, and how those barriers might be governed. The project drew together political theory, science studies, normative theory, and economics into a single, ambitious inquiry. "CE was a perfect place for it," Schliesser says, pointing to the Institute's interdisciplinary character as essential to getting the project off the ground, noting that he has several publications bearing The Murphy Institute's affiliation in the pipeline.

Schliesser's year was also marked by an extraordinary breadth of invited engagements: he delivered lectures at Villanova, the University of Pennsylvania, Northeastern, Roosevelt University, the University at Buffalo, Washington University in St. Louis, LSU, Purdue, UCLA, Wabash College, Tulane, Roma III, and Oxford University, alongside a presentation at the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) Society's Annual Meeting and participation in a Liberty Fund event in Palo Alto.

my professional network." Schliesser echoed this sense of a distinctive scholarly environment, describing the Center's programming as ensuring "a wide variety of intellectual and professional perspectives in a relatively intimate environment, so you can really focus on learning and the exchange of ideas."



CE Faculty Fellow Eric Schliesser and Murphy Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Kushagr Bakshi (CLE) in the audience at the 2025 Mary C. Parker Yates Lecture

That cross-pollination between faculty fellows and the Institute's graduate fellow community was felt on both sides. **Joseph Keegin**, a Center for Ethics Graduate Fellow for 2025–2026 and PhD candidate in the Department of Philosophy, singled out his conversations with Schliesser as a defining feature of his own year at the Institute. "The major highlight for me this year was getting to know Eric Schliesser, a Murphy faculty fellow, who is a generous interlocutor and a kindred spirit interested in basically everything," Keegin says. "We had many great conversations this year about philosophy, politics, the university, and so forth. I also learned a lot from him about his work on the origins of liberalism. I imagine we will be in touch for a long time."

Both Schliesser and Basevich praised The Murphy Institute staff as welcoming and generous, making it easy to stay focused on projects while building community. New Orleans itself emerged as more than just a backdrop to the year's work. Schliesser, in particular, pushed back on the city's reputation as primarily a party town. While acknowledging that "they know how to party, not the least during Mardi Gras," he found New Orleans to be "a very low-key and safe city ... full of many hidden delights," with a vibrant arts scene and excellent food at every turn. Basevich also enjoyed her time experiencing New Orleans and Tulane. Spending a year in residence as a CE Faculty Fellow "was a pleasurable and a life-changing experience." ■

GRADUATE FELLOWS

THE CENTER FOR ETHICS GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM AWARDS ONE-YEAR FELLOWSHIPS to outstanding Tulane PhD candidates whose dissertation research engages ethical questions relevant to political economy. Fellows receive financial support to pursue their research full-time while participating in Murphy's vibrant intellectual community, attending CE seminars and Murphy events. Through this engagement, graduate fellows build lasting connections with Murphy's affiliated faculty and visiting scholars.

The 2025–2026 graduate fellows' research addressed ethical issues in the fields of philosophy, history, linguistics, and sociology. The multidisciplinary perspectives of the graduate fellows reflect the Center's conviction that addressing urgent ethical questions demands intellectual breadth from across the academy.



DARCY ROAKE

Darcy Roake is a PhD candidate in the Department of History with a research focus on reproductive health and justice movements in the U.S. and France. Roake's dissertation, *"Whose moral property?": A social, economic and legal history of RU-486: Testing and distribution in France and the United States from 1980–2000*, is written under the direction of Prof. **Karissa Haugeberg**.



MATHIAS SCHWAB

Mathias Schwab is a PhD candidate in the Department of French and Italian. His research interests include critical sociolinguistics and education, social justice, language didactics, French in Louisiana, and sociolinguistics in soccer. Schwab's dissertation, *L'oral scolaire, un instrument de justice sociale? (Teaching Oral Skills, an Instrument for Social Justice?)*, is written under the supervision of **Dr. Thomas Klingler** of Tulane and **Dr. Sylvie Wharton** of Université Aix-Marseille (France).

"THOUGH THERE ARE MANY HIGHLIGHTS, I FOUND AN INFORMAL MURPHY MEMORY HAS STAYED WITH ME THE MOST. IN AN IMPROMPTU GATHERING, MURPHY STAFF AND FACULTY, POST-DOCS, AND GRADUATE FELLOWS CAME TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT ALL MANNER OF THINGS IN A CONVIVIAL SPIRIT. I CAME AWAY HEARTENED BY THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ENGAGED WITH EACH OTHER – INVIGORATED AND NOT INTIMIDATED BY COMPLEX CONVERSATIONS AND REALITIES."

– Darcy Roake



JEFFREY COLGAN

Jeffrey Patrick Colgan is a PhD candidate in the Department of Philosophy working on his dissertation, *The Limits of Language and Philosophy*, under the direction of Prof. **Richard Velkley**. Colgan's research interests include ethics, philosophy of language, political philosophy, post-Kantian European philosophy (especially Wittgenstein and Heidegger), ancient philosophy, and Buddhist philosophy.

"WITH MY PEERS, FACULTY FELLOWS, AND TULANE FACULTY, I WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS CURRENT RESEARCH AS WELL AS TEST OUT IDEAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATIONS. MURPHY SCHOLARS COME FROM VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS AND HAVE DIVERSE INTERESTS AND APPROACHES, WHICH LED TO FRUITFUL CONVERSATIONS."

– Jeffrey Colgan

"THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHT FOR ME WAS GETTING TO KNOW ERIC SCHLIESSER, A MURPHY FACULTY FELLOW, WHO IS A GENEROUS INTERLOCUTOR AND A KINDRED SPIRIT INTERESTED IN BASICALLY EVERYTHING. WE HAD MANY GREAT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, THE UNIVERSITY, AND SO FORTH. I ALSO LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM ABOUT HIS WORK ON THE ORIGINS OF LIBERALISM. I IMAGINE WE WILL BE IN TOUCH FOR A LONG TIME."

– Joseph Keegin



JOSEPH KEEGIN

Joseph Keegin earned his PhD from the Department of Philosophy in August 2026. His dissertation, *Hegel's Critiques of Morality*, written under the direction of Prof. Richard Velkley, focused on the moral and political philosophy of G.W.F. Hegel and what these aspects of Hegel's thought reveal about his relationship to the so-called "quarrel of the ancients and moderns."



CHEN WANG

Chen Wang is a PhD candidate in the Department of Philosophy. His dissertation, *What We Owe Each Other in Chains of Contempt*, is written under the direction of Prof. **Chad Van Schoelandt**. His research interests include existentialism, ethics and metaethics, moral philosophy, and moral psychology.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDING

Looking ahead, The Murphy Institute is expanding its graduate fellowship programming through the Center for Public Policy Research (CPPR) Dissertation Fellowship program. In Fall 2026, the incoming cohort of graduate fellows has grown to include PhD candidates whose dissertation research projects bring innovative and insightful approaches to addressing how public policy impacts complex societal challenges. We are excited to expand our funding opportunities for Tulane PhD students working on themes in political economy through the lenses of ethics and policy. ■

APPLIED ETHICS WORKSHOP

ON AUGUST 19, 2025, THE CENTER FOR ETHICS KICKED OFF THE ACADEMIC YEAR by hosting an Applied Ethics Workshop titled "Ethical Considerations in Policy," bringing together five scholars from across the country to discuss their works-in-progress. This working group, composed of guest scholars and select Murphy affiliates, created a collaborative environment where participants received constructive feedback as they prepared chapters in monographs, journal articles, and conference presentations.

The workshop was led by **Chad Van Schoelandt**, Director of the Center for Ethics and Chair of Tulane's Department of Philosophy, with opening remarks from **Gary "Hoov" Hoover**, Executive Director of The Murphy Institute and Professor of Economics. Attendees included Murphy faculty, graduate students, and Institute affiliates, all of whom had the opportunity to engage with and contribute to the presenters' work.

Project progress varied from early conceptual stages to final refinements, exploring a wide range of ethical questions. Topics included the moral implications of using AI in legislation, freedom of choice in IVF screening, unintended consequences of healthcare regulations, and a compelling debate on the role of blackmail in markets.

This dynamic exchange exemplifies what The Center for Ethics aims to facilitate throughout its programming and looks forward to cultivating in future Applied Ethics Workshops.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Jessica Flanigan (University of Richmond)
"Genetic Screening and Reproductive Freedom"

Lauren Hall (Rochester Institute of Technology)
"Healthcare Regulations as Structural Injustice(s): Regressive Effects of Healthcare Regulations on Patients and Providers"

Javier Hidalgo (University of Richmond)
"AI Rule: A Defense"

Jake Monaghan (University of Southern California)
"Policing and Disorder in the City"

James Stacey Taylor (The College of New Jersey)
"Consent and Well-being in Market Regulation"



Jessica Flanigan, Chad Van Schoelandt, and Lauren Hall collaborate during the workshop.



Workshop participants Javier Hidalgo, Jessica Flanigan, James Stacey Taylor, Chad Van Schoelandt, Jake Monaghan, and Lauren Hall

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS SOCIETY MEETING

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, THE CENTER FOR ETHICS WAS A PROUD SPONSOR of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society's (PPES) Annual Meeting, held November 13–15, 2025, at the Westin New Orleans. The Ninth Annual Meeting drew roughly 500 professors and graduate students from diverse academic disciplines and hosted over 140 sessions where scholars considered a broad range of topics, many directly related to important themes in political economy. CE's director, core faculty from The Murphy Institute, and our current and former faculty and graduate fellows were well-represented at the meeting, presenting papers and moderating sessions throughout the weekend.

MURPHY PARTICIPANTS

Chad Van Schoelandt (CE Director, Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy)

- Session: Economic Knowledge (and Ignorance) in Classical Athens (Moderator)

Elvira Basevich (CE Faculty Fellow, 2025–2026)

- Paper: "Transitional Justice and Ideal Theory: Implications of Charles Mills's Ideology Critique"
- Session: The Paradoxes of Racial Progress

Jason Lee Byas (Murphy Core Faculty and Assistant Professor of Philosophy)

- Paper: "Distributed Justice"
- Paper: "The Vocabulary of Society"
- Session: Immigration and the Rule of Law (Moderator)

Jeffrey Colgan (CE Graduate Fellow, 2025–2026)

- Session: Communication Norms & PPE (Moderator)

Mario Juarez-Garcia (Murphy Core Faculty and Assistant Professor of Philosophy)

- Paper: "Institutional Oblivion"
- Paper: "Developing Systems: Fighting Corruption by Reducing Complexity"

Alex Schaefer (Murphy Core Faculty and Assistant Professor of Philosophy)

- Paper: "Social Philosophy as an Emergentist Perspective"
- Session: Modern Approaches to Socialism (Moderator)

Eric Schliesser (CE Faculty Fellow, 2025–2026)

- Paper: "The Centrality of Monopoly to the Intellectual Debate Between Marxist Economists and the Non-Marxist Mainstream"
- Session: Marx's Ethical Critique of Exploitation (Moderator)

Chen Wang (CE Graduate Fellow, 2025–2026)

- Paper: "Harm to Self-Esteem, Agency, and Conditional Moral Rules"

David Ween (CE Graduate Fellow, 2026–2027)

- Paper: "A Penny for Your Thoughts: How AI Changes Intellectual Property Ownership"
- Session: Messy States: Ethics and Order in Imperfect Institutions (Moderator)



CENTER FOR LAW & THE ECONOMY

POLICY, PERSPECTIVE, AND PROGRESS

THE CENTER FOR LAW AND THE ECONOMY HAD ANOTHER EXCITING AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR. In addition to our ongoing workshops and the activities of our affiliated faculty, the Center organized two major events. In October 2025, we hosted the **Louisiana's Insurance Crisis: From Risk to Reform** conference, featuring a keynote address by former Louisiana Governor **John Bel Edwards**. The symposium brought together scholars, activists, and policymakers, including Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance **Tim Temple** and Louisiana State Senator **Kirk Talbot**, to explore Louisiana's residential insurance crisis. In March 2026, the Center hosted the 10th annual Corporate and Securities Roundtable, a daylong symposium that features leading scholars and practitioners on corporate and securities law.

The Center's workshop series continued each semester, featuring a wide array of visiting scholars as well as faculty from the Law School and across the university. The Fall 2025 series featured a diverse array of perspectives on the economy, ranging from consumer protection in the platform economy and homeowner wealth to the legal underpinnings of contract law and the complexities of higher education policy. The spring workshop was convened by Murphy Visiting Assistant Professor, **Kushagr Bakshi**, and focused on his dual research interests: comparative constitutional law and international economic law. These sessions fostered interdisciplinary exchange and laid the groundwork for several upcoming research publications.

Looking ahead, the Center is excited to welcome **Carliss Chatman** as a Murphy Guest Scholar in the fall, a collaboration with the Center for Public Policy Research. Professor Chatman is a leading U.S. scholar of commercial law and legal history, whose work examines the role of commercial and corporate law in reinforcing racial capitalism and systemic inequality. During her residency, Professor Chatman will conduct historical research on the relationship between slavery, commerce, and the development of modern contract law. She will also present her work in progress, "A Tale of Two Contracts: Plessy vs. Lochner," as part of our Fall 2026 workshop series.

The Center's impact continues to grow, bolstered by our faculty's active engagement in global research forums and their ongoing scholarly contributions to their respective fields. In addition to our collective efforts, I have continued my own research into international monetary law, financial regulation, and bankruptcy, with several forthcoming publications, including two book chapters and work in the *Minnesota Journal of International Law* and the *Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law*. I presented work in various forums over the year, from the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco to the Emerging Markets Conference in Mumbai. I was also deeply honored to receive Tulane's Oliver Fund Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring, an award that reflects the value our community places on peer mentoring among our faculty. As we look ahead to the upcoming academic year, the Center remains deeply committed to fostering this same culture of rigorous inquiry across all our programs.

– Adam Feibelman, Director



Adam Feibelman is the Sumter Davis Marks Professor of Law at Tulane University Law School and the Director of the Center for Law and the Economy at The Murphy Institute. His teaching and research focus on bankruptcy law, regulation of financial institutions, legal issues related to sovereign debt, and international monetary law.

LOUISIANA'S INSURANCE CRISIS: FROM RISK TO REFORM



(L to R) Ben Riggs, Nicole Barnes, Andreanecia Morris, and Amy Bach (via Zoom) listen as Sam Karlin (center right) moderates the conference's opening panel discussion.





Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance Tim Temple offers his perspective on the insurance crisis.

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR LAW AND THE ECONOMY (CLE) WELCOMED POLICYMAKERS, ADVOCATES, AND LEADING SCHOLARS to campus on October 28, 2025, for a research conference exploring the residential insurance crisis affecting Louisiana and other states.

Led by CLE Director and Tulane Law Professor **Adam Feibelman**, the **LOUISIANA'S INSURANCE CRISIS: FROM RISK TO REFORM** conference provided a platform for participants to examine the challenges affecting hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents and to explore a range of potential reforms.

Following welcome remarks by Feibelman and Murphy Institute Executive Director **Gary "Hoov" Hoover**, the opening panel examined the scope and nature of the insurance crisis, including the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance in Louisiana. Moderated by *The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate* reporter **Sam Karlin**, the panel featured **Andreanecia Morris** of HousingNOLA, **Amy Bach of United Policyholders** (via Zoom), **Nicole Barnes** of Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, and **Ben Riggs** of Real Reform Louisiana.

Following the first session, Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance **Tim Temple** delivered a plenary address, offering his perspective on the crisis and outlining proposed regulations aimed at lowering costs for policyholders.

The second panel featured a discussion of policy reforms available to address the insurance crisis. Moderated by

> **"THE INSURANCE CRISIS IS THE SINGLE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO THE FUTURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA."**
>
> *– John Bel Edwards, former Governor of Louisiana*



Former Governor of Louisiana John Bel Edwards delivers the keynote address to close out the conference.



(L to R) Adam Feibelman, Dan Schwarcz, Liz Russell and Kirk Talbot discuss insurance crisis policy reforms during the second panel.

Feibelman, the conversation included State Senator and Senate Insurance Committee Chair **Kirk Talbot**, **Dan Schwarcz** of the University of Minnesota Law School, and **Liz Russell** of the Environmental Defense Fund and Tulane School of Architecture.

Closing the day with a keynote address, former Louisiana Governor and current Fishman Haygood Special Counsel **John Bel Edwards** shared firsthand accounts of the devastation he witnessed during Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Harvey while serving in office.

"The insurance crisis is the single biggest challenge to the future of the state of Louisiana," Edwards said. "I've walked through wreckage and seen the complete devastation these powerful storms leave in their wake. There's nothing more gut-wrenching than when that basic promise, that basic obligation, just fails. I had grown people, senior citizens, literally cry, telling me that they couldn't stay in the home they had lived in for 50 years. They couldn't get the insurance companies to perform."

The event, held in partnership with Tulane Law School, concluded with a broad consensus that reflects The Murphy Institute's commitment to bridging rigorous academic inquiry with actionable public policy: Policymakers must continue exploring ways to mitigate insurance risks and reduce the hardships residents face during recovery. Shortly after the conference, Commissioner Temple announced progress toward implementing a rule requiring insurers to provide discounts for fortified roofs, offering a hopeful step forward for Louisiana's insurance market. ■

CORPORATE & SECURITIES LAW ROUNDTABLE

THE 10TH ANNUAL CORPORATE AND SECURITIES LAW ROUNDTABLE, a one-day academic conference, was hosted by The Murphy Institute's Center for Law and the Economy (CLE) and Tulane Law School on March 21, 2026. The milestone event was convened by former Murphy Core Faculty **Anne Lipton** (Chair of Business Law, University of Colorado Law School) and CLE Director **Adam Feibelman** (Professor of Law, Tulane Law School).

Held annually on the heels of Tulane's Corporate Law Institute, the roundtable brought together a stellar group of scholars and nationally prominent participants from the judiciary, the national financial press, and top-level private practice in the fields of corporate law and securities regulation.

Participants examined timely and complex issues of the day through in-depth discussion and critique of current and ongoing research. Sessions tackled broad governance trends – such as shareholder power, private equity growth, and fiduciary obligations under Delaware law – alongside specific, pressing topics like the secrecy of banking supervision, how the Federal Reserve's conduct of monetary policy impacts racial inequality, and evolving trends in investor activism.

SOMETHING ABOUT GOVERNANCE

Discussant: **Mohsen Manesh** (Oregon)

- **Yaron Nili** (Duke)
  The Activism Gap
- **Gabriel Rauterberg** (Michigan)
  Why Has PE Grown So Large?
- **Anne Tucker** (Georgia)
  Control Rights or Wrongs? Active versus Index Governance

WHAT FINANCIAL REGULATION MISSES

Discussant: **Adam Feibelman** (Tulane)

- **Patrick Corrigan** (Notre Dame)
  Is Confidential Supervisory Information Material to Investors? Evaluating the Conflict between Banking and Securities Law
- **Nakita Cuttino** (Georgetown)
  Affirmative Monetary Policy

STANDARD OF CONDUCT VS. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Discussant: **Lori Will** (Vice Chancellor, Delaware Court of Chancery)

- **Ryan Bubb** (USC)
  The Anatomy of M&A Governance
- **Christine Hurt** (SMU)
  Fiduciary Duty Without a Remedy

THAT'S SO META

Discussant: **Ann Lipton** (Colorado)

- **Jessica Erickson** (Richmond)
  Is Delaware Different? Stockholder Lawyering in the Court of Chancery
- **Andrew Jennings** (Emory)
  What Matters in Corporate and Securities Scholarship?
- **Andrew Verstein** (UCLA)
  The Corporate Census

BREAD AND ROSES

Discussant: **George Geis** (Virginia)

- **Dhruv Aggarwal** (Northwestern)
  Self-Binding Corporations
- **Aneil Kovvali** (Cardozo)
  Corporate Resistance
- **Kish Parella** (Washington & Lee)
  Corporate Governance as National Security Strategy: Supply Chain Resilience and Oversight Duties





SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: KUSHAGR BAKSHI

THE MURPHY VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP (VAP) IN LAW is a centerpiece of CLE's programming, offering exceptional early-career legal scholars the opportunity to build a body of research in a collaborative environment. As faculty, VAPs teach courses in their area of expertise and participate in the intellectual life of The Murphy Institute and Tulane Law. We are proud to share that every one of our visiting assistant professors has secured a tenure-track position at a U.S. law school upon completion of their CLE professorship.



In fall 2026, we welcomed **Kushagr Bakshi**, whose scholarship bridges constitutional, comparative, and international law, to CLE and Tulane Law. Bakshi earned his LLM and is completing his SJD at the University of Michigan Law School. He holds a BA and LLB from the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences in India.

Professor Bakshi brings his experience as a foreign law clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, a research assistant for the U.N. Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, and a visiting lecturer at Jindal Global Law School to this role. His teaching and research explore structural themes across constitutional law, focusing on the distribution and allocation of power. Using insights from comparative law and history, his work explores the mechanisms of institutional and federal design. We're thrilled to welcome Kushagr and look forward to his second year with us! ■

WORKSHOP SERIES

THE CENTER FOR LAW AND THE ECONOMY ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES brings together Tulane and guest faculty from law, economics, and political science to share their latest research on pressing issues at the intersection of law and political economy. Led by CLE Director and Sumter D. Marks Professor of Law **Adam Feibelman**, the workshops offer a vital intellectual forum for faculty, students, and the wider Tulane community.

The 2025–2026 series featured an array of renowned scholars at Tulane Law School, with workshops centered primarily on themes in consumer law, broadly construed. The sessions were co-convened by **Mateusz Grochowski**, Tulane Associate Professor of Law, Murphy Faculty Affiliate, and a leading scholar in comparative private law and law and technology.

TRADE UNILATERALISM FROM AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM TO AMERICA FIRST

Julian Arato, Professor of Law (Michigan Law)

FORM AND SUBSTANCE IN TRADE LAW ADJUDICATION: SUBSIDIES, STATE ACTION, AND A COSMOPOLITAN VISION OF TRADE REGULATION

Kushagr Bakshi, Murphy Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (Tulane Law School and The Murphy Institute)

RECLAIMING HOMEOWNER WEALTH: A CONVERSATION WITH BARRY, FRIED AND HATFIELD

Prentiss Cox, Professor of Law (University of Minnesota Law School)

NONDISCRIMINATION AS DISCRIMINATION: THE MFN OBLIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

Sannoy Das, Assistant Professor of Law (Vanderbilt Law School)

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN AMERICAN CONTRACT LAW

Sarah Dadush, Professor of Law (Rutgers Law School)

DISCURSIVE CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE PLATFORM ECONOMY

Mateusz Grochowski, Associate Professor of Law (Tulane Law School and The Murphy Institute)

WE THE GOOD PEOPLE

Yuvraj Joshi, Associate Professor of Law (Brooklyn Law School)

MR. OTAIBA GOES TO WASHINGTON: MECHANISMS OF FOREIGN LOBBYING AND IMPLICATIONS FOR KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Andrew Leber, Assistant Professor of Political Science (Tulane University)

COMMERCIAL LAW AGAINST REGULATION

Vijay Raghavan, Professor of Law (Brooklyn Law School)

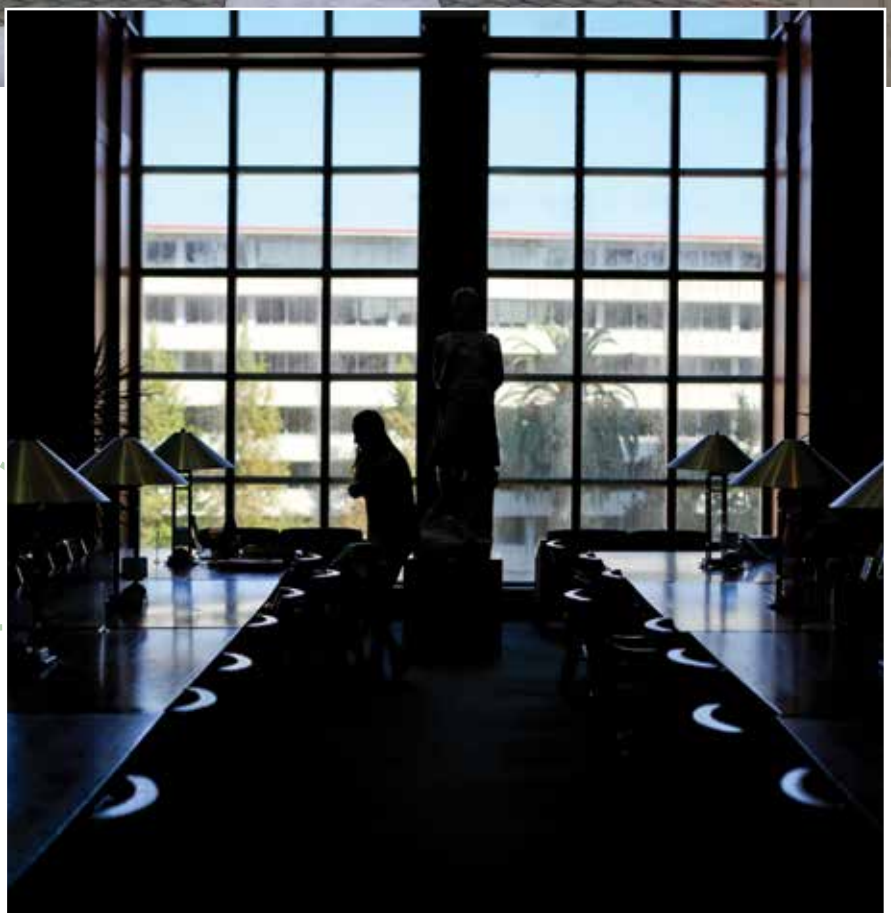
THE SHADOW COURT: RESCUING DEMOCRACY FROM THE SUPREME COURT

Julie Suk, Professor of Law (Fordham School of Law)

HOW CONSTITUTIONS FAIL

Mila Versteeg, Professor of Law (University of Virginia Law School)







CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH (CPPR) PROMOTES MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH on the impacts of public policy on the market environment. This year, we have made steps to broaden our scope across Tulane through new and expanded initiatives that bring together students and colleagues from different fields and schools.

CPPR has long promoted academic exchange through events such as the Health Policy Working Group seminar series. Our Education Policy Research Program continues to lead groundbreaking work on educational policy and student outcomes through the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans. To complement those strengths, we are excited to launch a new Science Policy Pillar that will establish working groups to draw together colleagues from across campus on topics such as climate, coastal studies, biomedicine, and AI.

The Science Policy Pillar will also house our existing Science Policy and Communication Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship provides an educational curriculum and research opportunities that train future leaders to bridge the gap between scientists and other societal stakeholders when advocating for ethical, science-based policy changes. We've also created student opportunities through the launch of a new Dissertation Fellowship. This supports graduate scholarship in political economy and public policy, and provides fellows with an intellectual home in The Murphy Institute. We welcomed three inaugural fellows from the School of Liberal Arts and the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Our Seed Grant program continues to provide our Tulane colleagues with an opportunity to engage with political economy for the first time or explore new academic directions for future external funding. This academic year saw the highest number and most diverse seed grant applications received since the program began, representing the broad spectrum of political economy and public policy.

Access to data is key to facilitating collaborations and intellectual advancement, and CPPR supports this through funding Tulane's access to the Atlanta Research Data Center (ARDC). This provides the Tulane community with access to confidential microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau and partner agencies. Current Tulane projects at the ARDC span topics such as tax policy, immigration, and education.

To further support research across disciplines, CPPR hosts a well-established Postdoctoral Scholars Program, providing support for early career scholars in political economy. This year, we hosted five scholars from the Schools of Business, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering. Three scholars recently completed their fellowships, two scholars are halfway through and will be joined by two new scholars in Fall 2026.

It's been an exciting year of expanding the mission and profile of CPPR across our university community, and we look forward to continuing to serve as the crossroads of public policy-related research at Tulane and beyond.

– Dan Friess, Director



Dan Friess is the Cochran Family Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the Director of The Murphy Institute's Center for Public Policy Research. His research focuses on the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, and the potential for using policy and market mechanisms to protect wetlands through "blue carbon" credits and accounting.

BRIDGING SCIENCE + POLICY: TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH (CPPR) IS EXPANDING ITS EFFORTS TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTIFIC LEADERS at the intersection of science, public policy, and the economy through the Murphy **SCIENCE POLICY AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**. This collaboration with the Tulane School of Science and Engineering (SSE) and the School of Medicine (SOM) equips future scientists and engineers with the tools to effectively engage with policymakers, industry leaders, and public stakeholders.

Launched in fall 2024, the Graduate Fellowship was established in response to a critical need for researchers who understand how political and economic forces shape public trust and policy decisions regarding scientific enterprise.

The fellowship continues to expand its reach across the university, supporting exceptional doctoral candidates from diverse disciplines. CPPR aims to cultivate leaders in science and political economy by providing exceptional PhD students with a hands-on research opportunity designed to maximize their societal impact. Fellows in the program focus on core objectives: conducting interdisciplinary research at the nexus of science policy, ethics, and communication; actively combating misinformation to counter negative narratives; and driving policy reform by advocating for evidence-based solutions.

The program is led by Co-Directors **Heather Machado** (Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, SOM) and **Marie Dahleh** (Associate Dean for Master's Programs, SSE), alongside **W. Susan Cheng** (Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine), who serves as the Murphy Professor in Science Policy and Communication. Recently, the program celebrated the accomplishments of its foundational cohort, which included fellows **Abdulhafeez Lukmon** (Materials Physics and Engineering) and **José Irizarry Ayala** (Biomedical Informatics).

After completing his fellowship, Ayala was appointed to the American Medical Informatics Association's Public Policy Committee for a two-year term starting in summer 2026 as the sole student selected among mid-career and senior appointees. Reflecting on this achievement, he noted, "I definitely couldn't have done that without everything I learned as a part of the fellowship. I'm looking forward to sharing our work with the community!"

Looking ahead, current plans include expanding the program to welcome a larger cohort of fellows from across Tulane. ■



HEATHER MACHADO
Co-Director

Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine



MARIE DAHLEH
Co-Director

Associate Dean for Master's Programs, School of Science and Engineering



W. SUSAN CHENG
Murphy Professor in Science Policy and Communication

Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

SCIENCE POLICY & COMMUNICATION GRADUATE FELLOWS



KAETLYN ARIANA RODRIGUEZ

Kaetlyn Ariana Rodriguez is a PhD student in Earth and Environmental Sciences researching climate change, sea level rise, and ocean oxygenation across Tulane's Quaternary Research Group and Geochemistry and Paleoceanography Lab. Her previous experience includes the United States Geological Survey and data collection at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her work has taken her to the 15th International Conference of Paleoceanography in Bengaluru, India.



KAMYAR SHARIFI

Kamyar Sharifi is a PhD student in the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences studying biomedical informatics and genomics. His work bridges health informatics and community health through projects that translate complex health data into a toolkit addressing adult asthma awareness and care access. He received an NIH research training award at the National Human Genome Research Institute to develop a community education booklet on pulmonary fibrosis rooted in community-centered science.

FROM NANOSCALE OPTICS TO PUBLIC POLICY: ABDULHAFEEZ LUKMON

INSIDE TULANE'S CLEANROOM LABS, PhD student **Abdulhafeez Lukmon** engineers structures 1,000 times thinner than a human hair – manipulating light at the nanoscale with advanced materials like vanadium dioxide to build next-generation photonic chips.



While his daily research pushes the boundaries of materials physics and optical technology, Lukmon's scope extends beyond the lab. As a member of CPPR's inaugural Science Policy and Communication Fellowship cohort (2024–2026), he has spent the last two years bridging the gap between scientific discovery and public policy. By translating complex, microscopic innovations into accessible insights, Lukmon exemplifies how foundational scientific research can inform the policies shaping our technological future. ■

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

THROUGH THE POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, promising early-career scholars from a wide range of disciplines receive up to two years of support for full-time research, writing, and teaching under the mentorship of Tulane faculty primary investigators. During the 2025–2026 academic year, the program supported five researchers across the Schools of Business, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering. Our current and incoming scholars span scholarship in political economy across the Schools of Business, Science and Engineering, and Public Health. Importantly, we are now seeing our scholars collaborating closely on new independent projects that have been devised since they arrived at CPPR.

As we celebrate the achievements of our departing scholars and the ongoing research of our current fellows, CPPR looks forward to welcoming two new postdoctoral scholars to our community starting in the fall of 2026, hailing from the Department of International Health and Sustainable Development and the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Their addition continues our tradition of fostering the advancement of political economy research across Tulane.

CELEBRATING RECENT SCHOLARS



HUSSAIN HADAH (Economics, 2023–2026) focused his research on labor, health, and education economics using causal inference methods and administrative data. His work examined policy interventions and their influence on firearm suicides, as well as the role of ethnic perceptions in Hispanic self-identification. His research has been published in the *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy* and the *Southern Economic Journal*. Hadah received a $140,746 grant from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Social Policy Research Initiative to advance his research on school choice discrimination.



RICARDO "JR" ANG (Economics, 2024–2026) specialized in health economics and policy. His fellowship research explored health policy and political economy, particularly prescription coverage and opioid use, and Medicaid expansion. His findings have appeared in *Health Economics* and been presented at prominent national conferences like APPAM and SEA. Ang was also a member of the CPPR Health Policy Working Group.



MATÍAS MORALES CERDA (Economics, 2024–2026) examined critical questions on the economics of education, including a study on the effects of school vouchers on entry and exit rates in private and public schools, co-authored with Professor **Douglas Harris** and presented at the 2025 APPAM Fall Research Conference. Morales has since been appointed as an Assistant Professor at Universidad Andrés Bello in Chile.

WELCOMING NEW SCHOLARS



YI HAO (Business and Finance, 2025–2027) is hosted through the A.B. Freeman School of Business. Her research focuses on the intersection of economic policies, capital markets, and nonprofit healthcare provision, particularly concerning socially disadvantaged populations.



ERFAN HOSSEINI SERESHGI (Computer Science, 2025–2027) is appointed through the Department of Computer Science. His research centers on developing a real-time and rigorous monitoring and analysis platform to support transparency and equity in the criminal legal system.

RESEARCH & COLLABORATION

BY SUPPORTING RESEARCH INNOVATION AND VITAL ACADEMIC INFRASTRUCTURE, the Center continues to expand the intellectual boundaries of political economy across disciplines, from health and education to science, technology, public finance, and the environment. Through strategic programming, the Center provides funding to support new projects, advance ongoing research, sponsor access to data, and foster external collaboration. Through this targeted seed funding, premier data infrastructure, and vibrant scholar exchanges, CPPR remains committed to driving rigorous, policy-relevant scholarship across Tulane University and beyond.

SEED GRANTS

The Seed Grant program fosters creative, cross-disciplinary inquiry, providing the initial support necessary to secure future external funding. This academic year marked a record high for engagement, attracting 12 competitive applications from eight departments across four Schools. CPPR awarded eight new projects – in addition to the four ongoing projects currently receiving support – representing the broad spectrum of public policy and political economy:

- CHANGWOOK JU (Political Science) investigates the impact of compulsory military service and war on tax progressivity.
- WEI LONG (Economics) examines the consequences of police violence on municipal bond markets.
- ZOE LU (Marketing) explores how balancing psychological ownership and infringement perceptions can optimize government incentive designs.
- YANG PAN (Business) studies the interplay between tech giants and new entry threats using venture financing and market dynamics data.
- RACHEL SCHONER (Political Science) focuses on the political economy of international children's rights.



Dan Friess, Yanxu Zhang, Zoe Lu, and Yang Pan at the 2026 Murphy Fall Reception

- FELIPE GÓMEZ TREJOS (Economics) analyzes the role of information uncertainty and transaction costs in cap-and-trade and carbon tax programs.
- BRANDON DAVIS (Political Science) utilizes seed grant resources to secure data from the 2024 Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey.
- ADAM FEIBELMAN (Law) gains access to a unique, comprehensive dataset tracking insolvency cases in India.

ATLANTA RESEARCH DATA CENTER

Access to robust, granular data is essential for breakthrough empirical research and policy analysis. To facilitate this, CPPR funds Tulane's institutional access to the Atlanta Research Data Center (ARDC). This vital resource provides the Tulane research community secure access to restricted, confidential, economic, demographic, and public health microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau and partner federal agencies. Active Tulane projects leveraging the ARDC span critical societal issues, including tax policy, immigration dynamics, and educational outcomes.

GUEST SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sustaining a dynamic academic community requires an ongoing exchange of perspectives. To facilitate this, CPPR's Guest Scholars Program brings leading scholars to campus for short residencies that foster deep intellectual collaboration with Tulane faculty. By supporting visiting scholars across disciplines – from entrepreneurship and inequality to international trade and environmental policy – the initiative enriches the university's research ecosystem and deepens engagement with the complex realities of contemporary policymaking. ■

HEALTH POLICY WORKING GROUP

THE CPPR HEALTH POLICY WORKING GROUP BRINGS TOGETHER AN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM of researchers and professionals from both Tulane's Uptown and Downtown campuses to explore critical healthcare policy issues. This collaboration aims to produce research that informs policy decisions and improves healthcare outcomes. Participants and guest speakers present their latest research and receive feedback from group members.

The seminar series is the centerpiece of CPPR's Health Policy Program and is convened by Murphy core faculty members **Mary Olson** (Economics) and **Kevin Callison** (Health Management and Policy). Professor Olson's expertise spans health economics, the political economy of health policy, regulation, and the study of bureaucracy. Professor Callison's research focuses on health economics, labor economics, and applied econometrics, with a particular emphasis on evaluating policy interventions.

This year, the working group hosted five seminars on topics ranging from immigration enforcement and suicide to hospitalization outcomes and employer-sponsored health insurance.

THE WEEKEND EFFECT ON INPATIENT OUTCOMES: EVIDENCE FROM DELAYED PROCEDURES IN EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS

Ricardo "JR" Ang, CPPR Postdoctoral Scholar in Economics

SPENDING TO SAVE: THE SUBSCRIPTION MODEL FOR ERADICATING HEPATITIS C IN LOUISIANA

Kevin Callison, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND RISING SUICIDE RATES AMONG HISPANIC YOUTH

Hussain Hadah, CPPR Postdoctoral Scholar in Economics

THE EARNINGS INCIDENCE OF EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH INSURANCE

Jonathan Holmes, Assistant Professor of Economics

T'CHER TAKE CHARGE: A PEER NAVIGATION RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL TO INCREASE PrEP UPTAKE AMONG TRANS WOMEN IN LOUISIANA

Charles Stoecker, JP Morgan Chase Professor in Health Care Finance

Interested in participating in the Health Policy Working Group? Contact conveners Mary Olson at molson3@tulane.edu or Kevin Callison at kcallison@tulane.edu.

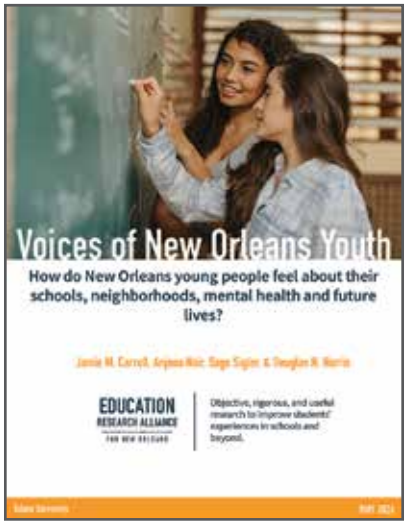


EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAM

UNDERSTANDING HOW POLICY CAN BETTER SUPPORT NEW ORLEANS YOUTH REQUIRES MORE THAN ISOLATED OBSERVATION – it demands sustained, multidisciplinary research. CPPR's Education Policy Program seeks to explore the complex dynamics shaping educational outcomes, institutional accountability, and student development. To achieve this, CPPR supports the work of the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans (ERA-New Orleans).

Led by Murphy Faculty and Tulane Professor of Economics **Douglas Harris**, ERA-New Orleans collaborates with local education stakeholders to produce objective, rigorous research to inform the community's understanding of how to improve students' experiences in schools and beyond.

In May 2026, ERA-New Orleans released findings from its third Citywide Youth Survey through its latest report, *Voices of New Orleans Youth: How Do New Orleans Young People Feel About Their Schools, Neighborhoods, Mental Health, and Future Lives?* Conducted during the 2024–2025 school year, the survey offers a comprehensive look at how adolescents in the city's public middle and high schools are faring both in and outside the classroom and is intended to inform policymakers, educators, and community leaders working to better support local youth.



According to the findings, New Orleans students possess remarkable academic and entrepreneurial aspirations, frequently outpacing national peers in their drive to start businesses and pursue higher education. Yet, these lofty goals exist side-by-side with profound everyday challenges – particularly regarding mental health, emotional safety, and navigating the transition from classroom to career.

> NEW ORLEANS STUDENTS POSSESS REMARKABLE ACADEMIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ASPIRATIONS, OUTPACING NATIONAL PEERS IN THEIR DRIVE TO START BUSINESSES AND PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION.

The findings paint a vivid portrait of New Orleans youth:

- **Bold Aspirations:** Students across the city exhibit strong desires to pursue higher education at rates comparable to national averages, coupled with a distinctively high interest in launching their own enterprises and ventures.

- **Persistent Barriers:** Unlike youth nationally – who frequently cite external logistical hurdles – New Orleans students often internalize their barriers, pointing to personal motivation, academic achievement gaps, and uncertainty about navigating future career pathways as their primary points of anxiety.

- **The Mental Health Landscape:** Emotional safety, feelings of belonging, and student well-being emerge as critical factors influencing academic success. Differences in school climate and neighborhood perceptions highlight that ambition alone is not enough; students require robust, systemic support systems to thrive.

The data points to a clear takeaway: The city's students have high hopes for their futures, but many also report challenges with mental health, school support, and resources needed to reach their goals. Through its ongoing support of ERA-New Orleans, CPPR remains committed to translating data into actionable insight and fostering dialogue among educators, policymakers, and university researchers, ensuring that local students are equipped not just to dream big, but to find clear, supported pathways to success. ■

SEMINARS + LECTURES

RIGOROUS INQUIRY REQUIRES A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE. At The Murphy Institute, we believe the most vital intellectual work happens at the intersections of disciplines. Our seminar series serves as a bridge between Tulane researchers and leading scholars from economics, philosophy, and political science. We invite the entire Tulane community to join these discussions as we explore contemporary issues in political economy through a multidisciplinary lens.

SEMINARS IN ECONOMICS

POLICY COMPETITION IN A SPATIAL ECONOMY

David Agrawal, Professor of Economics (University of California at Irvine)

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF EXPANDED TAX CREDITS ON THE WELLBEING OF PUERTO RICAN FAMILIES

Jacob Bastian, Assistant Professor of Economics (Rutgers University)

ROLE MODELS AND THE FORMATION OF LONG-RUN GENDER NORMS

Antoine Deeb, Economist (World Bank)

ECONOMETRICS OF INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY

Michael Geruso, Associate Professor of Economics (University of Texas at Austin)

MICRO-INEQUITIES AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS: EVIDENCE FROM A LARGE-SCALE FIELD EXPERIMENT

John Holbein, Associate Professor of Public Policy (University of Virginia)

LIMITS OF DISCLOSURE IN SEARCH MARKETS

Silvana Krasteva, Associate Professor of Economics (Texas A&M University)

THE SLOPE OF THE PHILLIPS CURVE AND THE MANDATE OF THE CENTRAL BANK

Jean-Paul L'Huillier, Associate Professor of Economics (Brandeis University)

A PATHWAY TO MOBILITY: SHIFTING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS TO HIGHER-QUALITY DEGREES

Katherine Michelmore, Professor of Public Policy (University of Michigan)

REPRESENTATION, INNOVATION, AND PRODUCT ADOPTION

Tamar Oostrom, Assistant Professor of Economics (The Ohio State University)

POLLUTION PRICING IN EQUILIBRIUM: PRODUCTION, REALLOCATION, AND AGGREGATE IMPACTS

Ivan Rudik, Professor of Applied Economics and Public Policy (Cornell University)

WELFARE AND THE ACT OF CHOOSING

Dmitry Taubinsky, Associate Professor of Economics (University of California at Berkeley)

AGRARIAN ORIGINS OF INDIVIDUALISM AND COLLECTIVISM

Dietrich Vollrath, Professor of Economics (University of Houston)

EXTREME POVERTY IN WEALTHY NATIONS: EVIDENCE FROM FRANCE

Nicolas Werquin, Senior Economist (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

ENGINEERING ECONOMICS AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT IN A LOW CARBON ELECTRICITY MARKET

Frank Wolak, Professor of Economics (Stanford University)

SEMINARS IN PHILOSOPHY

THREE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PROTEST AND SELF-RESPECT

Elvira Basevich, Associate Professor of Philosophy (University of California at Davis)

GROUNDING FAIR PLAY

Brookes Brown, Assistant Professor of Philosophy (University of Toronto)

DIGNITY NEEDS NO APOLOGY

Remy Debes, Professor of Philosophy (University of Memphis)

HOW DOES PHILOSOPHY BEGIN? KANT ON COMMON REASON

Shterna Friedman, Assistant Professor of Government (Harvard University)

IMAGINATION, FANTASY, AND DESIRE

Amy Kind, Professor of Philosophy (Claremont McKenna College)

OF CORRUPTION AND CLIENTELISM IN MONTESQUIEU, HUME, AND ADAM SMITH IN THE RULE OF LAW

Eric Schliesser, Professor of Political Science (University of Amsterdam)

SHOULD WE RULE OUT GEOENGINEERING?

Anna Stilz, Professor of Political Science (University of California at Berkeley)

JUSTIFIABLY FOLLOWING UNJUST ORDERS: ON THE RELATION OF AUTHORITY AND RIGHTS

Daniel Viehoff, Associate Professor of Philosophy (University of California at Berkeley)

SEMINARS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

BARGAINING AND PROTEST ACTIONS: HOW WORKERS' ADVERSARIES SHAPE LABOR CONTENTION

Renzo Aurazo Diaz, PhD candidate in Political Science (Tulane University)

CLIMATE POLITICS FROM THE MARGINS: HAZARD EXPERIENCE, INFORMATION, AND CLAIM-MAKING IN INDIA'S SLUMS

Alicia Cooperman, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs (The George Washington University)

HOW TAIWANESE MEDIA LEGITIMIZES CHINA'S DOMESTIC PROPAGANDA

Andrew Devine, PhD candidate in Political Science (Tulane University)

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: HOW VARIATION IN PARTY SIZE IMPACTS THE ORIGINS, EVOLUTION, AND DURABILITY OF COMMUNIST REGIMES

Martin Dimitrov, Chair in Political Science (Tulane University)

CAN DIGITAL AID DELIVER DURING HUMANITARIAN CRISES? EVIDENCE FROM FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Mike Findley, Professor of Government (University of Texas at Austin)

GENDER UNDER ATTACK: GENDER EQUALITY AND REBEL SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Changwook Ju, Assistant Professor of International Relations (Tulane University)

REPLICATION FOR LANGUAGE MODELS

Alexis Palmer, Associate Professor of Linguistics (University of Colorado at Boulder)

BINDING THROUGH IDEAS: BUREAUCRATIC STATECRAFT AND GERMANY'S DEBT BRAKE

Milena Petrovic, PhD candidate in Political Science (Tulane University)

RISKY POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION UNDER AUTHORITARIAN RULE

Bryn Rosenfeld, Associate Professor of Government (Cornell University)

GENDER AND LAW-MAKING IN NONDEMOCRACIES: THE CASE OF RUSSIA

Valeria Umanets, Assistant Professor of Political Science (Tulane University)

PEAJJES: ILLUMINATING THE BENCH

THE 4TH ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR (PEAJJES), hosted by The Murphy Institute, brought together 17 sitting and retired judges alongside 11 expert speakers January 16–17, 2026, for two days of innovative and interdisciplinary training workshops and presentations focused on judicial education. Guided by this year's theme, "Shine a Light On It," the interactive training sessions explored vital innovations improving modern court systems and access to justice. Murphy Executive Director Gary "Hoov" Hoover opened the event, setting the stage for in-depth discussions on complex legal and societal challenges – including homelessness, human trafficking, competency law, and artificial intelligence. ■



To learn more or explore last year's program, visit peajjes.com.

ABOUT

THE MURPHY INSTITUTE

The Murphy Institute's centers and programs provide an education focused on political and economic dynamics; foster ethical reflection on social values; promote research and outreach on public policy; and support top legal scholarship on critical issues. These initiatives and programs are united by their focus on research, teaching, and engagement with both the Tulane community and beyond.

CENTER FOR ETHICS

Established in 2001, the Center for Ethics (CE) supports research, teaching, and scholarly discussion of ethics across a wide range of disciplines and intellectual perspectives. Faculty, students, and visitors broadly examine critical issues of justice and injustice, citizenship and community. To provide an advanced research infrastructure that attracts and rewards outstanding faculty and students, CE offers both visiting faculty fellowships and graduate fellowships. CE also hosts the Tulane University Ethics Bowl program, which encourages rigorous ethical reasoning, rewards careful thinking, and promotes civil discourse for undergraduate students at Tulane and high school students in the Greater New Orleans area.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Launched in 2010, the Center for Public Policy Research (CPPR) is a multidisciplinary research center that balances academic research with applied work in the areas of healthcare, public finance, education, and science policy. This Center focuses on promoting public policy research, supporting external grant opportunities, and expanding campus and community outreach. CPPR is grounded in the systematic and rigorous analysis of multidisciplinary perspectives and connections across Murphy's other programs.

CENTER FOR LAW AND THE ECONOMY

Founded in 2019, The Murphy Institute and Tulane Law School established the Center for Law and the Economy (CLE) to promote multidisciplinary research and collaboration on issues confronting policymakers and private markets in both developed and developing economies. CLE is a rich resource for graduate, professional, and undergraduate students at Tulane who are interested in issues related to the regulation of economic and financial activity.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Since 1984, the Political Economy major at Tulane has aimed to promote sustained reflection on the interconnections of politics and economics. It provides students with basic skills of economic analysis and a multidisciplinary understanding of the moral and historical foundations of economic institutions and political structures.

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY WITH DATA ANALYTICS

The Master of Arts in Political Economy with Data Analytics provides a rigorous and multidisciplinary education centered around contemporary themes in political economy. Students learn about interactions between economics and politics and develop the quantitative skills necessary to apply their knowledge in academic research, government, and industry.

KEEP IN TOUCH

ENGAGE ON SOCIAL

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Undergraduate Program: John Louis Howard, jhoward2@tulane.edu

Master's Program: Justin Cook, ccook7@tulane.edu

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TULANE UNIVERSITY
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