

CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEMO

History Department

TO: Dr. Geoffrey M. Hicks

FROM: Richard Brooks

DATE: November 20, 2016

RE: Professional Improvement Program Report

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I would like to thank you, the Clarence Central School District, and the Professional Improvement Program committee for the opportunity to attend the Organization of American Historians' Meeting. This conference is a meeting of policy experts, authors of public policy and public administration papers, professors and researchers of public policy and administration, and government department. The information and materials presented at the conference will provide our department, and therefore Clarence High School, with new ideas for instruction and research that will directly benefit our students and faculty.

The conference was organized into hundreds of presentations and discussions held during a four-day period. Concurrent sessions were scheduled during two morning time periods and two afternoon time periods. There were also tours, off site sessions in Washington, receptions, and roundtable discussions. Each session involved three to six presenters and/or panelists. The Association for Public Policy & Management organized a full schedule of sessions tailored to teachers and their collaboration with higher education institutions. The sessions began on Wednesday November 2nd however I arrived Thursday morning and therefore could not begin attending sessions until Thursday.

In addition, Syracuse University was represented. The new dean of the Maxwell School was honored, Dr. David Van Slyke, who also has worked with our PAF 101 program at Clarence.

Session Selection: I selected sessions that spoke specifically to the course I presently teach. Public Affairs, PAF 101, offered through the Syracuse University Project Advance instructs and prepares students for civic participation by developing public policy in a specified societal area. The sessions I attended were those that fit into one of the societal categories studied in PAF 101. In addition, Syracuse University was

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**SESSION I – *Poverty & Inequality: Understanding and Addressing the Problems***

**Thursday morning session:**

Panel Organizers: Katie Fitzpatrick, Seattle University

Panel Chairs: Cynthia Osborne, University of Texas at Austin

Discussants: Bradley Hardy, American University and Lisa Dettling, Federal Reserve - Board of Governors

Inequality in 3-D: Income, Consumption, and Wealth:

Jonathan Fisher, Stanford University, David Johnson, University of Michigan, Timothy Smeeding, Institute for Research on Poverty and Jeffrey Thompson, Federal Reserve Board

Do Rising Top Incomes Lead to Increased Borrowing in the Rest of the Distribution?  
Jeffrey Thompson, Federal Reserve Board

The Effect of Childhood Savings Accounts on Household Spending.  
Katie Fitzpatrick, Seattle University

Evaluating Differential Response in Child Welfare: An Intervention to Interrupt Child Maltreatment and Poverty?

Kerri Raissian, University of Connecticut

**SESSION II – *Legislative Politics, the Media, and Policy***

**Thursday early afternoon session:**

Panel Chairs: Stephane Lavertu, The Ohio State University

Discussants: Vladimir Kogan, The Ohio State University

Elite Education, Liberalism, and Effective Lawmaking in the U.S. Congress:

Craig Volden, University of Virginia, Alan E. Wiseman, Vanderbilt University and Jonathan Wai, Duke University

Politics, Policy & Media Consolidation:

Danilo Yanich, University of Delaware

Media Bias, Campaign Contributions, and Policy:

Alberto Ortega, University of Florida

Party Performance: Does the Political Party in Power Affect Policy Outcomes?

Adam Dynes, Brigham Young University and John B. Holbein, Duke University

**SESSION III – Politics and Implications for Policy Making**

**Thursday late afternoon session:**

Panel Chairs: Craig Volden, University of Virginia

Discussants: Stan A. Veuger, American Enterprise Institute

Mining for Favors: The Impact of Lobbying on Safety Regulations:

Anastasia V. Shcherbakova, University of Texas at Dallas

The Shelf Life of a Statute: Congressional Accountability and Government Regulation, 1950-1987:

Simon Haeder, University of Wisconsin – Madison and Susan Webb Yackee, University of Wisconsin

Who Governs the Federal Reserve Banks? Elite Participation in Economic Policymaking

Gabrielle Elul, University of California, Berkeley

Is Central Bank Independence Always a Good Thing?

Michaël Aklin, University of Pittsburgh and Andreas Kern, Georgetown University

**SESSION IV – Policing & Crime Reduction in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Evidence from**

**Experiments**

**Friday early morning session:**

Panel Organizers: Anita Ravishankar, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia

Panel Chairs: David Yokum, District of Columbia Government

Discussants: Kevin Donahue, District of Columbia Government and Clarence L. Wardell, The White House

Policing and Crime

Jens Ludwig<sup>1</sup>, Philip Cook<sup>2</sup>, Douglas L. Miller<sup>3</sup> and Max Kapustin<sup>1</sup>, (1) University of Chicago, (2) Duke University, (3) University of California, Davis

Police Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) in Washington, DC: Evaluating the Effects of BWCs on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Outcomes:

Cathy Lanier<sup>1</sup>, Katherine Barnes<sup>2</sup>, Alexander Coppock<sup>3</sup>, Ralph Ennis<sup>1</sup>, Heidi Fiesemann<sup>1</sup>, Donald P. Green<sup>4</sup>, Derek Meeks<sup>1</sup>, Anita Ravishankar<sup>1</sup>, David Yokum<sup>5</sup> and Peter Newsham<sup>6</sup>, (1) Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, (2) University of Arizona, (3) Yale University, (4) Columbia University, (5) District of Columbia Government, (6) Metropolitan Police Department

Promoting Officer Integrity through Early Engagements and Procedural Justice in the Seattle Police Department

Emily Owens, University of Pennsylvania, David Weisburd, George Mason University, Karen Amendola, Police Foundation and Geoffrey Alpert, University of South Carolina

**SESSION V – *The Effects of Policies Aimed at Improving College Going & College Readiness***

**Friday late morning session:**

Panel Organizers: Mark Long, University of Washington  
Panel Chairs: Colin Chellman, City University of New York  
Discussants: Rajeev Darolia, University of Missouri and Kerstin Gentsch, City University of New York

The Effects of Early Math Coursework on College Readiness: Evidence from Targeted Middle School Math Acceleration

Joshua Goodman, Harvard University, Shaun M Dougherty, University of Connecticut, Darryl Hill, Wake County Public School System, Erica Litke, University of Delaware and Lindsay C. Page, University of Pittsburgh

Effects of Advanced Placement Science Courses on Students' Science Interest and Ability: Evaluation from a Randomized Control Trial

Mark Long, University of Washington, Dylan Conger, George Washington University and Raymond McGhee Jr., SRI International

Who's Ready? College Readiness in California Under Common Core Standards

Michal Kurlaender, Scott Carrell and Paco Martorell, University of California, Davis

College Advising at a National Scale: Experimental Evidence from the Collegepoint Initiative

Benjamin L. Castleman<sup>1</sup>, Eric Bettinger<sup>2</sup> and Zach Sullivan<sup>1</sup>, (1) University of Virginia, (2) Stanford University

**SESSION VI – *Estimating the Early Effects of the Affordable Care Act Coverage Expansions***

**Friday afternoon session (note: only one session offered due to the awards dinner and reception):**

Panel Organizers: Sherry Glied, New York University

Panel Chairs: Katherine Swartz, Harvard University

Discussants: Heidi Allen, Columbia University

Using Variation in the Marketplace Rollout to Identify the Effects of the ACA on Coverage, Access, and out-of-Pocket Spending

Sherry Glied, New York University

Early Effects of Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions on Hospital Costs and Revenues

Sayeh Nikpay, Vanderbilt University

The Effect of State Medicaid Expansions on Prescription Drug Use: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act

Kosali Simon, Indiana University, Ausmita Ghosh, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis and Benjamin Sommers, Harvard University

The Effect of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansions on Financial Well-Being

Robert Kaestner, University of California, Riverside

**SESSION VII – How Do Policymakers Find and Interpret Research to Inform Evidence-Based Decisions?**

**Saturday early morning session:**

Panel Organizers: Emily Sama-Miller, Mathematica Policy Research

Panel Chairs: Emily Schmitt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Discussants: Lauren Supplee, Administration for Children and Families

Who Do Bureaucrats Believe? A Randomized Controlled Experiment Testing Perceptions of Credibility of Policy Research

Carey Doberstein, University of British Columbia

Systematic Evidence Reviews As a Tool to Inform Evidence-Based Policy and Future Research Decisions

Emily Sama-Miller, Mathematica Policy Research

How Transparency and Reproducibility Can Connect Research and Policy: A Case Study of the Minimum Wage Cost Estimates

Fernando Hoces de la Guardia, Pardee RAND Graduate School

**SESSION VIII – Roundtable – The 2016 Elections; Prospects for Public Policy**

**Saturday late morning session:**

Roundtable Organizers: Eric Patashnik, Brown University

Moderators: Eric Patashnik, Brown University

Speakers: Sarah Binder<sup>1</sup>, William Galston<sup>1</sup> and James Morone<sup>2</sup>, (1) Brookings Institution (2)Brown University

**SESSION IX – Impacts of Programs and Policies to Increase Employment and Wages**

**Saturday early afternoon session:**

Panel Chairs: Nan Maxwell, Mathematica Policy Research

Discussants: Scott Davis, IMPAQ International, LLC and Adrienne Edisis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Are German Apprenticeship Programs a Realistic Model for Boosting Middle Skill Employment in the US?

Ofronama Biu, The New School

Impact of State-Level Countercyclical Fiscal Policy on Employment  
Yilin Hou and Yusun Kim, Syracuse University

The Impact of Right-to-Work Laws on Employment and Wages  
Samuel Rowe, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Manitoba Works: Evaluating the Effectiveness of a New Workforce Development Program for Social Assistance Clients with Multiple Barriers  
Karen L. Myers<sup>1</sup>, Max Palamar<sup>2</sup>, Mark McKerrow<sup>2</sup>, Jan Forster<sup>3</sup> and Reuben Ford<sup>2</sup>, (1) Social Research Demonstration Corporation, (2) Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, (3)Government of Manitoba

**SESSION X – Roundtable – Conditions of Government and the Impact of Policy-Relevant Research**

Saturday late afternoon session:

Roundtable Organizers: Gail Cohen, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Moderators: Maryann Feldman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Speakers: Brian Scholl, IZA-Bonn, Ann Keller, University of California, Berkeley and Margaret Taylor, Stanford University

**OVERALL BENEFITS AND APPLICATIONS:**

The sessions attended will directly enhance the History Department in the following:

- The teaching of public policy in all senior classes. This includes PAF 101, A.P. Government, and Participation in Government. The materials presented will enhance use of digital databases for reading assignments, essay assignments, term paper assignments, projects, and curriculum development in Government and Civics.
- The development of new and innovative designs for professional development and research.
- The establishment of a post-secondary relationship with post-secondary institutions that includes, but is not limited to, the Syracuse University.
- The teaching of research techniques.
- Best practices in preparing students for postsecondary education.