

PUBLIC SERVICE WEEKEND 2023

Advancing Equity Through Inclusive Leadership and Policymaking

Thursday, June 22–Sunday, June 25

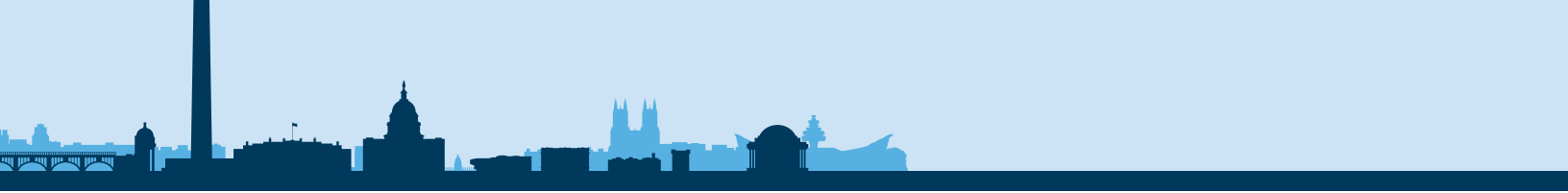
**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

Elliott School of International Affairs

Trachtenberg School of Public
Policy & Public Administration

GW Law



Welcome from Dean Ayres

Dear Members of the 2023
Public Service Weekend Cohort,

Welcome to GW's Public Service Weekend! As Dean of the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, I want to congratulate each of you for your selection into this year's cohort of accomplished leaders with aspirations to pursue future careers in public service and international affairs. I am delighted you will be participating in this program with the GW community.

We are deeply committed to fostering an inclusive community with a particular focus on the impact of inclusion in international affairs. We recognize that diversity and social mobility are considered among our country's greatest assets. This program underscores our commitment to ensuring that the next generation of foreign policy experts and international affairs practitioners reflect the diversity of our nation as we seek to engage with and positively influence the world.

The Public Service Weekend will equip each of you with the tools and knowledge you'll need as you go on to pursue advanced degrees and careers in public service. Our program features GW faculty, graduate students, and alumni who are eager to share their expertise and connect with each of you.

I hope you have a meaningful time this weekend and beyond, and that you take every opportunity to connect with your peers and members of our GW community. As you prepare to continue your education, come visit us in Washington, DC, and please consider the Elliott School for your future graduate studies!

Best Regards,

Alyssa Ayres

Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs





Welcome from Dr. Mary Tschirhart

Dear PPIA Participant:

As the director of GW's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration, I welcome you to George Washington University and this program. As a program participant, you will discuss how policy decisions can change the world. I hope the speakers and activities expand your ideas on how you can make a positive difference with a career in public policy and/or international affairs. The Trachtenberg School community embraces the idea of doing good and doing it well. We are enthusiastic about all the good that you can make possible now and in the future.

As you consider the next steps in your educational and career journey, I hope you'll consider the Trachtenberg School. If you want to pursue a Masters of Public Administration (M.P.A.), Masters of Public Policy (M.P.P.), or Master of Arts in Environmental Resource Policy (M.A.-ENRP) let us know. At the Trachtenberg School, you would engage with classmates, professors and alumni who care as much as you about being part of solutions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the team at tsadmit@gwu.edu. You can learn more about our School at tsppa.gwu.edu.

Best wishes and enjoy your GW public service program experience!

Mary Tschirhart, Ph.D.

Director, Trachtenberg School of
Public Policy and Public Administration

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg
Professor in Public Service





Welcome from Dean Matthew

Dear Students, Who Will Change The World,

I welcome you to George Washington University's Public Service Weekend. Since I bring you greetings from the George Washington University Law School, let me quote two of my favorite lawyers to let you know how much I admire that you have come to spend your weekend with us. The Honorable Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Justice of the United States Supreme Court, said his mentor taught him that "the practice of law could and should serve as a tool for creating equality in society." Who was his mentor? None other than the great attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, who is known as "the man who killed Jim Crow" because of his incredible record attacking racial housing and school segregation in the courts. Charles Houston once said, "A lawyer is either a social engineer or a parasite on society." I believe everyone attending the Public Service Weekend is here to be a social engineer and to make society more equal and just for all. I congratulate you for being here. I cannot wait to see how you will change the world for the better. Thank you to The Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) and all those who made this exciting and transformative weekend possible.

Raise High!

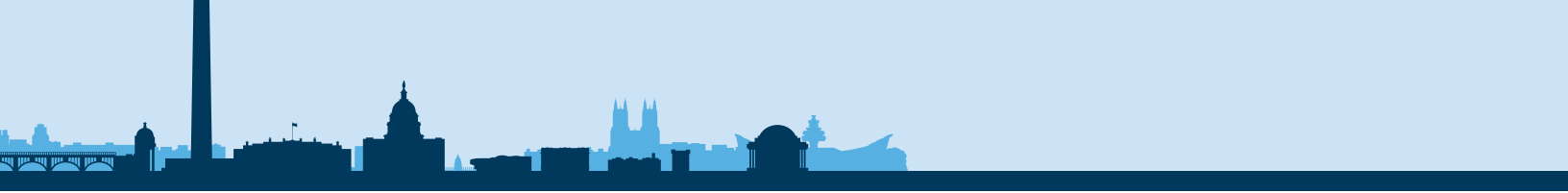
Sincerely yours,

Dayna Bowen Matthew

Dean, GW Law

Harold H. Greene Professor of Law





GENERAL INFORMATION

SPEAKER CANCELLATIONS/SUBSTITUTIONS

The organizers of the GW Public Service Weekend make every effort to offer panels of the highest caliber. In the event of speaker cancellations, organizers reserve the right to modify panel material or substitute speakers without advance notice.

CONNECT WITH US!

Make the most of our social media channels throughout the conference. Share your experience and hear the buzz from others using the conference hashtag, [#PublicServiceWeekend2023](#) and [#GWPSW2023](#).

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 [A GW Themed Zoom Background.](#)



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Table of Contents

Agenda	5
Presenters	7
Program Staff	13



AGENDA / Conference Sessions

Thursday, June 22

5:30 pm Welcome Remarks

Dr. Alyssa Ayres, Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs

Dr. Mary Tschirhart, Director, The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

Assoc. Dean Alan Morrison, Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service Law, GW Law

Saran Sidime, Communications & Outreach Manager, The Public Policy and International Affairs Program

6:00 pm Keynote Address

Olajumoke Obayanju, Esq., Director, The National Racial Equity Initiative (NREI) for Social Justice, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF)

7:00 pm Workshop 1: Introduction to Policy Pitch Challenge

Professor Laila Sorurbakhsh, PSW Faculty Advisor

Professor Erika Pont, PSW Faculty Advisor

Friday, June 23

12:00 pm Community Check-In

Summer Program Leaders

12:30 pm Workshop 2: Developing Policy Proposals

Professor Sorurbakhsh and **Professor Pont**

2:00 pm Break

2:30 pm Workshop 3: Writing for Policymakers

Professor Sorurbakhsh and **Professor Pont**

2:30 pm Workshop 3: Writing for Policymakers

Professor Sorurbakhsh and **Professor Pont**

4:00 pm Working Session 1

PSW cohort will go into their teams/groups to work on their policy pitch

5:30 pm Panel 1: The Value of Being a GW Graduate Student

Brendan Rooks, M.A. Candidate, International Development Studies, ESIA

Danaija Harden, M.A. Candidate, Public Administration, TSPPPA

Anapaula Pérez-Gaitán, J.D. Candidate, Public Interest Law, GW Law



AGENDA / Conference Sessions

Saturday, June 24

- 12:00 pm Community Check-In**
Summer Program Leaders
- 12:30 pm Panel 2: Alums & Career Panel: A Work in Public Service after GW**
Sophia Brown, MIE Impact Fellow, Mission Investors Exchange
Theodore Nastase, Program Analyst, DC Corrections Information Council
- 1:30 pm Break**
- 2:00 pm Workshop 4: Faculty Advisor Office Hours**
Professor Sorurbakhsh and **Professor Pont**
- 3:00 pm Workshop 5: Policy Pitch Practice Rounds**
- 4:00 pm Workshop 6: Generations Dialogue: Confronting Career Anxieties: An Intergenerational Conversation to Learn from Giants Who Blazed the Trail**
Professor Jennifer Brinkerhoff, Professor of International Affairs, International Business, and Public Policy & Public Administration

Sunday, June 25

- 11:00 am Working Session 2**
PSW teams will go into their groups to work on their policy pitches for last-minute edits and refinements
- 12:00 pm Policy Pitch Presentations: Advancing Equity Through Public Policy**
- 1:30 pm Panel 3: Applying and Financing Graduate School**
Erin Heffernan (ESIA)
Mindy Galvan (TSPPPA)
Dean Sophia Sim (GW Law)
- 2:30 pm PSW Closing Session**

**Make the most of your weekend
by joining us on social media**

#PublicServiceWeekend2023

#GWPSW2023



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PRESENTERS *in presentation order*



Dr. Alyssa Ayres // Dean, Elliott School of International Affairs

Ayres is a foreign policy practitioner and award-winning author with senior experience in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors. From 2013 to 2021, she was senior fellow for India, Pakistan, and South Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), where she remains an adjunct senior fellow. Her work focuses primarily on India's role in the world and on U.S. relations with South Asia in the larger Indo-Pacific. She served as the project director for the CFR-sponsored Independent Task Force on U.S.-India relations, and, from 2014 to 2016, as the project director for an initiative on the new geopolitics of China, India, and Pakistan supported by the MacArthur Foundation. From 2010 to 2013 Ayres served as deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asia. During her tenure at the State Department in the Barack Obama administration, she covered all issues across a dynamic region of 1.3 billion people at the time (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) and provided policy direction for four U.S. embassies and four consulates.

Before serving in the Obama administration, Ayres was founding director of the India and South Asia practice at McLarty Associates, the Washington-based international strategic advisory firm, from 2008 to 2010, and served as a part-time senior advisor to the firm from 2014 to 2021. From 2007 to 2008, she served as special assistant to the undersecretary of state for political affairs as a CFR international affairs fellow. Prior to that she worked at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Advanced Study of India and at the Asia Society in New York. Ayres has been awarded numerous fellowships and has received four group or individual Superior Honor Awards for her work at the State Department. She speaks Hindi and Urdu, and in the mid-1990s worked as an interpreter for the International Committee of the Red Cross. She received an A.B. from Harvard College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.



Dr. Mary Tschirhart // Director, The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

Dr. Tschirhart studies the management and governance of non-profit organizations and relationships among organizations in different sectors. She is a Non-profit and Public Management expert and is particularly interested in membership associations. Mary Tschirhart is also a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Professor of Public Service. She teaches Dissertation Workshop. Dr. Tschirhart is a Trustee of the Sall Family Foundation, a Board member of CFRE International, a founding member of the International Research Symposium on Public Management (IRSPM), and an Editorial Board member and Special Issues Coeditor of the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. She was the President of the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) from 2016 to 2018. From 2010 to 2016, Dr. Tschirhart was co-organizer of the Committee 1999-2006 and the Third Sector Track. She received a B.A. in Philosophy from Michigan State University, an M.B.A. from the State University of New York (SUNY), and a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior & Human Resource Management from the University of Michigan.



PRESENTERS *in presentation order*



Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew // Dean, GW Law, and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law

Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, Ph.D., is the Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School. A leader in public health and civil rights law who focuses on disparities in health, health care, and the social determinants of health, Dean Matthew joined GW Law in 2020. She is the author of the bestselling book *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care* and the newly released *Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America*. Dean Matthew previously served on the faculty of the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was Co-Founder and Inaugural Director of The Equity Center, a transdisciplinary research center that seeks to build better relationships between UVA and the Charlottesville community through community-engaged scholarship that tangibly redresses racial and socioeconomic inequality. Dean Matthew also has taken on many public policy roles. In 2013, she co-founded the Colorado Health Equity Project, a medical-legal partnership incubator aimed at removing barriers to good health for low-income clients by providing legal representation, research, and policy advocacy. In 2015, she served as the Senior Adviser to the Director of the Office of Civil Rights for the US Environmental Protection Agency, where she expedited cases on behalf of historically vulnerable communities besieged by pollution. She then became a member of the health policy team for US Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and worked on public health issues. Dean Matthew received her B.A. in Economics from Harvard-Radcliffe College, a J.D. from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. in health and behavioral sciences from the University of Colorado at Denver.



Assoc. Dean Alan Morrison, J.D. // Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service Law; Professorial Lecturer in Law

Alan B. Morrison is the Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest & Public Service at GW Law. He is responsible for creating pro bono opportunities for students, bringing a wide range of public interest programs to the law school, encouraging students to seek positions in the non-profit and government sectors, and assisting students in finding ways to fund their legal education to make it possible for them to pursue careers outside of traditional law firms. For most of his career, Dean Morrison worked for the Public Citizen Litigation Group, which he co-founded with Ralph Nader in 1972 and directed for over 25 years. His work involved law reform litigation in various areas, including open government, opening up the legal profession, suing agencies that fail to comply with the law, enforcing principles of separation of powers, protecting the rights of consumers, and protecting unrepresented class members in class action settlements. He has argued 20 cases in the Supreme Court, including victories in *Goldfarb v. Virginia State Bar* (holding lawyers subject to the antitrust laws for using minimum fee schedules); *Virginia State Board of Pharmacy v. Virginia Citizens Consumer Council* (making commercial speech subject to the First Amendment); and *INS v. Chadha* (striking down over 200 federal laws containing the legislative veto as a violation of the separation of powers). Professor Morrison holds a B.A. from Yale University and an LL.B. from Harvard University.



Saran Sidime // Communications & Outreach Manager, The Public Policy and International Affairs Program

Saran Sidime is the Communications and Outreach Manager for the Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA). Prior to her role at PPIA, Saran worked alongside passionate, talented, and diverse groups of people in federal legislation, financial consumer protection and inclusion, and legal services. She has served as staff Assistant for the Offices of Senator Al Franken and Tina Smith in Saint Paul; she also worked as a program assistant for the Center for Financial Inclusion in Washington DC and served as the executive assistant to the Deputy General Counsel in AMTRAK's legal department. Saran is deeply committed to education and equity, and to supporting and assisting students of all backgrounds, especially underrepresented students, in exploring career paths in public service. Saran received a B.A. in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College and an M.A. in Theological Studies with a focus on Religion, Ethics, and Politics from Harvard University.



PRESENTERS *in presentation order*



Olajumoke Obayanju, Esq. // Director, The National Racial Equity Initiative for Social Justice, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Olajumoke “Jummy” Obayanju is the Director of the National Racial Equity Initiative (NREI) for Social Justice at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF). Passionate about racial justice, leadership development, and educational equity, Ms. Obayanju is a skilled strategist, facilitator, educator, and lawyer. She oversees and manages the NREI to maximize its visibility and sustainability; ensures the implementation of program objectives and initiatives; and focuses on advancing racial equity, human rights, education, and economic development opportunities for the African American community.

Prior to joining CBCF, Ms. Obayanju was the Racial Justice & Juvenile Defense Fellow at the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative, where she worked to improve the systems D.C. youth encounter through policy reform, developed resources to help juvenile defenders incorporate racial justice arguments into their youth advocacy, and created training materials on strategies to identify and correct racial bias. Ms. Obayanju received her B.A. in Communications from Howard University, her J.D. from the George Washington University Law School, and her LL.M. in Advocacy from the Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Obayanju currently serves as President of the GW Law Association of Black Law Alumni, is a member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Governance & Legal Committee, and sits on the Board of Directors for the Educate ME Foundation. She is a current member of the Maryland State Bar.



Dr. Laila F. Sorurbakhsh // Assistant Dean, Academic Programs; Assistant Professor, International Affairs; Director, Online Education, Elliott School of International Affairs

Professor Sorurbakhsh is currently the Assistant Dean of Academic Programs at the Elliott School of International Affairs, where she manages and supervises the academic curricula for the school and ensures the successful development of courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Professor Sorurbakhsh also serves as an Assistant Professor at the Elliott School, teaching quantitative methods, economics, and International Relations courses. Professor Sorurbakhsh specializes in policy innovation, the role of scientific innovation in the development of policies, and the challenges posed by imperfect innovation in policymaking. Professor Sorurbakhsh received a B.A. in Government and English from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Houston.



Erika N. Pont // Interim Associate Director, Fundamentals of Lawyering Program; Coordinator of the Dean’s Fellow Program; Associate Professor of Fundamentals of Lawyering

Erika N. Pont is an Associate Professor in the Fundamentals of Lawyering (FL) Program and currently serves as the Program’s Interim Associate Director. In this capacity, she is FL’s liaison to GW’s Gambrell award-winning Inns of Court Program and is responsible for incorporating principles of professional development and professional identity formation into the FL curriculum. Professor Pont also directs the Dean’s Fellow program, supervising and teaching upper-level students who support FL professors and 1L students. She has experience in all aspects of complex commercial litigation, including bench and jury trials. Professor Pont’s pro bono practice focused on immigration and death penalty issues. In this capacity, she first chaired immigration hearings and filed amicus briefs on behalf of the American Bar Association and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Professor Pont received her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from GW Law.




PRESENTERS *in presentation order*

Current GW Graduate Students Panel



Brendan Rooks

M.A. Candidate, International
Development Studies, ESIA

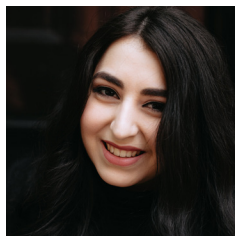
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Danaija Harden


M.A. Candidate, Public
Administration, TSPPPA

 [Connect with *Danaija*](#)



Anapaula Pérez-Gaitán

J.D. Candidate, Public Interest
Law, GW Law

 [Connect with *Anapaula*](#)



PRESENTERS *in presentation order*

Alumni Career Panel



Sophia Brown // MIE Impact Fellow, Mission Investors Exchange

As an MIE Impact Fellow, Sophia (they/them) collaborates with the program team to help create and execute the MIE National Conference. Sophia brings over a decade of experience working in the private sector, philanthropy, and direct service work. After serving as a Senior Consultant at Deloitte, Sophia recently started a consulting practice to support clients seeking to approach data analysis, survey design, and grants management from an equity lens. Sophia has worked with a variety of clients in both the public and nonprofit sectors on growth strategy, project management, workforce transformation, and DEI data analytics. Prior to this work, Sophia worked in the grants management department at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Sophia holds a B.A. from the Ohio State University and a Master of Public Policy from George Washington University and is currently based in Ithaca, New York, learning more about local food systems, BIPOC farmers, and land stewardship practices.



Theodore Nastase // Program Analyst, The DC Corrections Information Council

Theodore Nastase is a Program Analyst for the DC Corrections Information Council. Mr. Nastase completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Biology from Drexel University in 2015, and he received his Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law School in 2019. During his time at Drexel University, he volunteered for a number of hospitals and homeless shelters and assisted with research in an fMRI lab. In law school, he participated in the Prisoner and Reentry Clinic, where he represented incarcerated citizens. Additionally, Mr. Nastase has held internships at the EPA, the Senate, and two law firms. Upon graduating, he worked for Councilmember Robert White on the Committee on Facilities and Procurement. He later worked as an associate for a Philadelphia-based Whistleblower law firm before joining CIC. In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Nastase has done a variety of volunteering for the Washington Council of Lawyers, Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Center for Free, Fair, and Accountable Democracy, Transparency International, and the Homeless Children's Playtime Project.



PRESENTERS *in presentation order*

Generations Dialogue Speaker



Dr. Jennifer Brinkerhoff // Professor of International Affairs, International Business, and Public Policy & Public Administration

Jennifer Brinkerhoff is a professor of public administration and international affairs at the George Washington University. She holds a Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and an M.P.A. from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She teaches courses on public service, international development policy and administration, development management, and organizational behavior. She is particularly keen on encouraging people to pursue service careers, thoughtfully grounding their commitment to change in self-awareness and working in communities. She and her husband, Derick W. Brinkerhoff, published "Working for Change: Making a Career in International Public Service" (Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2005). Dr. Brinkerhoff has expertise in public-private partnerships, governance, NGOs, development management, and diasporas. Her publications include seven books, as well as four co-edited journal issues and over fifty articles and book chapters on topics ranging from institutional reform to evaluation; NGOs; failed states; governance; diaspora identity, development contributions, citizenship, and policy.

Graduate Admissions Panel



Erin Heffernan
Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, Elliott School of International Affairs

[in](#) Connect with [Erin](#)



Mindy Galvan
Associate Director of Admissions & Recruitment, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

[in](#) Connect with [Mindy](#)



Sophia Sim
Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, GW Law

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PROGRAM STAFF



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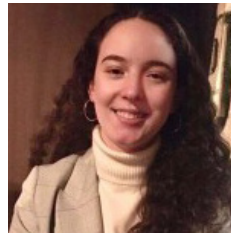
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Gregory Nelson, M.A.
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Sophia Novak
Web Lead, Elliott School
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Robert Proctor, J.D.
Senior Law Career Counselor;
Public Interest Advising
and Programs

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