

Master of Arts in Policy Studies Graduate Research Conference

May 3, 2013

Presentation Abstracts (*by alpha*)

Jonathan Boyette: The Cost of Coercion: Prospect Theory and Self-Deportation

Attrition through enforcement (ATE) was developed as a response to large-scale undocumented immigration to the United States over the last three decades. It is a two-pronged approach to regulating undocumented immigration by decreasing the probability of securing employment in the United States while increasing the risk of detention and deportation. Where the policy relies on increasing the enforcement threat to undocumented residents, it operates coercively. Advocates promote the policy as an inexpensive and effective method by which illegal immigrants may be induced to make a rational decision to self-deport. The current study interrogates the assumption of rationality in the context of coercive ATE by contrasting two models of decision-making under coercive pressure; one in which rationality is assumed, and one that integrates the systematic departures from rationality described by prospect theory. The theoretical analysis presented here finds that abandoning the assumption of rationality reduces the expected cost-effectiveness of coercive ATE. The paper concludes by suggesting strategies for testing the models against empirical data.

Nathanael Brown: Measuring Educational Resilience in the Era of International Assessment: A case study of U.S. and Taiwan education systems

This paper briefly reviews the current status of the United States education system as depicted in the comparative and international education literature. It then evaluates the results of a comparative case study between the U.S. and Taiwan; measuring the degree to which variation in student math achievement is explained by student background, school and teacher characteristics. Longitudinal and nationally representative survey data from the U.S. and Taiwan suggests that the U.S. has markedly larger income disparity between top and bottom income quartiles. Furthermore, while the U.S. and Taiwan do exhibit notable differences, there are also a number of interesting similarities in the pattern of student, school and teacher characteristics.

Bob Congleton: The Tribal Energy Program: Wind Power and Human Development within Native American Communities

In the mid-1900s the United States government facilitated unfettered energy-company access to Native American lands for the extraction of natural resources such as uranium and coal. Outcomes were generally characterized by minimal financial tribal benefit, while often creating high levels of environmental degradation and exposure to toxic health risks. Since 1975, the federal government's official relationship with Native Nations shifted to one of "self-determination," which allowed tribes to assert greater sovereignty. Consistent with this policy, the DOE's Tribal Energy Program, in 2002, began providing grants to tribes pursuant of sustainable-energy projects within reservations, with the goal of advancing human capacity in Native American communities. Focusing on grants awarded for wind-energy projects, this research incorporates theories of developmental justice and a concurrent policy-analysis perspective to assess the program's capability of fostering human and economic development within impoverished populations. Successful deployment of wind installations has proven difficult.

Nevertheless, this study advocates the continued pursuit of tribal wind-energy endeavors by addressing extant barriers at the federal level and through the channeling of available resources toward the development of small-scale projects.

Shaila Davis: An Evaluation of King County School District's Wellness Policies

The aim of this study is to evaluate the wellness policies in King County's nineteen school districts. The evaluation of current wellness policies (2013) was compared to an evaluation done in 2009 by University of Washington public health students. To supplement, a small number of King County principals were asked to complete a short survey. Results of the evaluations showed many changes regarding district's policies from 2009 to present. For example, regarding the items "nutrition education teaches skills that are behavior-focused" and "nutrition education quality addressed," both were reported to be strong in 2009, however their emphases in current policies have gone down. In contrast, the item "nutrition education integrated into other subjects beyond health" increased from 2009 to present. In addition to nutrition education, meal programs, food standards, physical education and physical activity were explored. Policy implications will be discussed.

Megan Dunn: Empirical Measurements of Human Well-being to Determine an Environmental Policy Impact

This research project examines the question: Did a buyback policy instrument impact the human well-being of fishing communities in Washington State? The study will calculate and compare measurements of human well-being using social indicators before and after a policy implementation over a 30-year period of time for select fishing communities as compared to non-fishing communities. Economic indicators are insufficient for measuring human well-being as there are multiple elements of well-being, including health, education and social interactions as well as relative importance of each element. A buyback program is an economic policy to purchase fishing permits or vessels to restrict the allowable fishing of threatened fish species. This policy protects the fish population, but it is unclear if the policy has impacted the well-being of the human population.

Isaac Harrison: A Case Study Analysis of the Racial Disparities within Criminal Enforcement and Sentencing

The war on drugs and mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for drug related crimes have been suspected of having a causal, if not direct relationship with recent increases in prisoner populations. Primarily, these policies and their tertiary functions have been suggested to be one of the primary causes of the disparate incarceration rates for people of color. In addition, the cost-related problems of the mass imprisonment of mandatory-minimum convicted offenders demands a study, as well as the questionable ethics of enacting punishments that target communities of color.

The issue of the disparate impact of these policies on minority communities is a concern that this study will address. The argument has been made that mandatory minimum sentencing has the effect of preventing disparate punishments by judges and juries. There is some logic to this; a mandatory minimum sentence has the effect of preventing judiciaries from delivering penalties softer than the mandatory to some rather than others. The inverse argument of mandatory minimum sentencing having a much harsher impact on vulnerable communities compared to others has also been raised. While a potentially subjective question, the questionable constitutional legitimacy of mandatory minimum sentencing requirements, as well as the legislative and policy changes brought about by the war on drugs are also issues that will be analyzed in the study. Finally, a clarification of the intention of

the war on drugs and mandatory minimum requirements must be made, in order to gauge via comparison any revealed effects. These issues will be researched and analyzed in this policy study.

Michael Irons: Promising Artists In Recovery Program Evaluation: A Study of Pro-social Group Mentoring within Snohomish County's Juvenile Justice Population

This study used a mixed-methods approach to assess the impact of the Promising Artists in Recovery program (PAIR) on youth participants within Snohomish County, Washington. The program evaluation relied upon an empirically based risk assessment, a post-intervention youth survey focusing on risk and protective factors, and qualitative data from interviews with program deliverers. This study intends to answer whether there are significant differences in the risk and protective factors of youth involved in PAIR, as measured by the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). Study participants were juvenile justice involved youth with a chemical dependency diagnosis. A paired-samples t-test was used to measure changes in PACT risk and protective factor scores from Time 1 (pre-PAIR) to Time 2 (post-PAIR). Participant survey results were analyzed to determine correlations between youth attendance and changes in risk and protective factors. The study findings indicated youth involvement in PAIR significantly increased positive adult non-family relationships and pro-social community ties in the study group. Findings showed correlations in PAIR attendance and youth participant increases in the number of encouraging adults in their lives, youth interest in positive activities, and participant motivation to abstain from drug and alcohol use.

Christophe Jamot: DACA or DREAM Act: Economic Impact for Washington State

The US counts about 11 million undocumented immigrants. It is often believed these undocumented immigrants are a drain on U.S. taxpayers. Although reform might see the light of day this year, Congress was unable to pass any significant immigration reform for the better part of three decades, in part due to the persistence of this stigma. My interest in this issue was to investigate this claim by focusing on young undocumented immigrants.

Currently, potential DREAMers can find work legally under the Deferred Action for Childhood Removals (DACA) by obtaining 2-year, renewable work permits. DACA requires children to graduate from high school to be eligible; it also provides some incentives to go to college. Under the DREAM Act (legislation has not yet passed), there is a stronger incentive for undocumented students to pursue higher education in order to have a path to citizenship, the trademark of that legislation.

My analysis focuses on the financial impact of these youths over a 20-year period in the state of Washington and shows that Washingtonians have more to gain from passing the DREAM Act. My results are not generalizable to other states but they suggest that investment in these students will pay off in the long run.

Jung Lee: What are the roles of a local human rights agency in incorporating international human rights treaties into local policies?: A Case Study of the Seattle Human Rights Commission

The federal government is responsible for the consequences of not complying with the international human rights treaties that U.S. Senate has ratified. The implementation of the international treaties, however, completely depends on the state and local governments. The lack of implementation and monitoring human rights norms (on both local and federal levels) has often led to human rights infringement. Since the implementation of the international treaties depends on the work of local governments, local human rights agencies have taken important roles to promote equality in policy-making procedures by exercising their four major activities; 1. advocate human rights issues and policies

2. monitor and report human right issues 3. assess local human rights policy and practices and 4. engage in education and training. The main purpose of this research is to look at the roles of a local human rights agency (the Seattle Human Rights Commission) in incorporating international human rights norms in the City of Seattle. Another purpose is to research international human rights conventions and treaties, which the SHRC uses to examine existing local human rights problems and to change local policies.

Jason Malinowski: The Impact of City Council Electoral System on Campaign Finance

A subtle link between the progressive era of the early twentieth century and the civil rights movement is that they sparked changes in how many large US cities elect their council members. Progressive reformers advocated at-large (citywide) elections in order to combat political machines, while civil rights reformers urged district elections to promote the political influence of minority communities. These movements have contributed to a diverse landscape in which city council members are elected, as well as provided an opportunity to assess the impact of electoral system on aspects of governance. In particular, this study investigates whether winning candidates for at-large seats expend greater campaign funds than those for district seats. This open question relates to the influence of moneyed interests and accessibility for new candidates, and may be of specific interest to residents of Seattle and other large cities with councils that are elected at-large.

Alison McNee: The Use of Exclusionary Discipline in Southeast Seattle Public Schools: Challenges and Opportunities for Reducing Exclusion

Momentum is gaining nationwide to reconsider the use of exclusionary discipline in schools in the face of educational achievement and opportunity gaps. Much concern surrounds the overuse of exclusion with minority youth, especially among African-American males, who nationwide are excluded from school three times more than their white peers. This study looks at this issue in the context of Seattle Public Schools and its own achievement gap to identify to what extent disproportionality occurs in Southeast Seattle, how changes at the school level can lead to lower suspension rates, and to what extent they can be successful. It finds that the use of exclusionary discipline is higher in Southeast schools than the rest of the district, as is disproportionality. It then focuses on reductions in the rates of exclusionary discipline at two schools that experienced reductions in suspensions from 2010-11 to 2011-12—Rainier Beach and Cleveland high schools—and asks what these schools have done to achieve it within the context of strict district policy, which mandates suspension for a variety of offenses. While schools can reduce the use of exclusionary discipline to some extent with the development of positive school climates, they are left with the challenge of much more deeply rooted problems that are expressed in more serious forms of misbehavior. Given the severity of the consequences of exclusion for students and its constitution of a civil rights violation, schools need greater support and resources from the district to minimize exclusions and ensure educational equity for Southeast students.

Michael K. Y. Ng: An experimental study of an energy conservation intervention on energy use by UWB students in Husky Village

UWB has made great strides in reducing energy consumption on campus, but the addition of residential housing has greatly increased the campus's energy budget. This project examines the effectiveness of two interventions (goal setting and feedback) in encouraging residents to reduce energy consumption in Husky Village. Twenty-seven 640 sq. feet apartments were randomly allocated to receive one of four intervention treatments while their energy use was monitored over four weeks. The interventions included a control group with no interventions, goal setting as an antecedent strategy, feedback as a consequence strategy, and the combination of goal setting with feedback. Energy use was measured

and student behaviors were surveyed prior to the beginning of the experiment, and behaviors were resurveyed after the end of the experiment. The impact of the intervention on reducing energy use and/or changing energy use behaviors was evaluated, with the goal of providing a framework to help UWB manage residential energy consumption in Husky Village in the future.

Andrew P. Nguyen: Crime and Privacy in the Age of Drones: Applying the Coase Theorem to Fourth Amendment Case Law

This Capstone recommends a system for determining the appropriate use of UAVs by law enforcement agencies based on an economic theory of crime and punishment and the Coase Theorem. UAVs not only pose a problem for various concepts of privacy but threaten the optimal level of crime and most efficient level of deterrence. Criminal law should minimize the social cost of crime, which equals the sum of the harm it causes and the costs of preventing it. This requires comparing the cost of privacy to justify the use of UAVs against the cost of crime to society. This Capstone proposes a measurement system for privacy based on the Coase Theorem, saying privacy is also bundle of rights over property and valued based on the price individuals and society are willing to pay for it. Applying these concepts to the facts in various Fourth Amendment cases related to technology and police surveillance illustrate various "privacy" costs, and the interference of how individuals exercise their property rights. Identifying these costs creates a starting point for policymakers to gather data on the value of privacy. This is a step forward in answering whether UAVs can reduce the total cost of crime to society.

Emily A. Olson: Reproductive Rights on Lockdown: A State-by-State Policy Analysis of Reproductive Rights and Access

This study investigates how and to what extent the normative need for transparency is being met through online sources of correctional policy relating to pregnancy during incarceration. Today, anyone with a smartphone can access the internet; it has become the most efficient source of obtaining information. Looking at each state's corrections website, noting what is and is not available online, there are few states that have explicit policy on reproductive access; and the reason for these policies appear to be due to litigation. Transparency of policies enables knowledge of rights and to create a checks-and-balances system. Though policies are not perfect, California's requirement to post policies in detention centers and online appears to be the best way to ensure knowledge of the policy by inmates, guards, and the public.

Rachel Phillips: The Hunt for the Gray Wolf: A Case Study in Top-Predator Management Policy in Washington State

Gray wolf recovery in WA State is happening more quickly than originally anticipated. In May of 2011, gray wolves were delisted federally in the Eastern third of Washington State, leaving those packs under the management of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Once gray wolves statewide reach recovery goals, the species will be delisted from state endangered status and re-listed as a game species, resulting in a public hunting season. To ensure continued persistence of wolves in Washington State, it is imperative that a hunting plan is carefully designed with the best information and is adaptive to policy needs. This qualitative study examines the impacts of hunting on wolf pack social structure while accounting for current public attitudes about wolf recovery and harvest to make policy recommendations for the future hunting season. Hunting wolves can lead to dissolution of territories, decreased pup survival, and decreased generational learning. These impacts can lead to increased depredation on livestock, increased wolf-human conflict, and decreased ability to maintain sustainable pack numbers; these impacts have the potential to lead to negative population trends over time. Current social attitudes demonstrate support for wolf recovery and minimal lethal management. Gray

wolf management policy must consider all these factors when creating a hunting season. Based on the scientific data, public opinion polls, and literature on incorporating stakeholder values in the policy process, there are six policy recommendations to ensure the goals of WDFW are met with regard to wolf recovery: (1) Inclusion of a scientific panel, (2) Designated hunting zones; buffer zones, (3) Strict restrictions on hunting season, (4) Managing above minimum target recovery levels, (5) Agency resources favor non-lethal preventative measures, and (6) Wolf hunting policy formation should be a collaborative effort.

Andrea Sweerus: Perception of Effective Programing

This research analyzes the reasons Emotional/Behavioral Disorder (EBD) teachers continue to work in the EBD field. Research indicates a high level of professional turnover, minimal amount of impact by a teacher, and a low level of success for students. My study looks at the intrinsic reasons a given teacher continues to work with such a high needs population. This study survey teachers and their program styles and compares their responses and self-reported perception of effectiveness against the supported research of what causes or minimizes burn-out. The results will give the special education population more information about the supports needed in order to retain effective EBD teachers and increase student success.

Meghan Wright: Supply Chain Transparency: Comparative Analysis on Government Policy and NGO Advocacy

Slavery and Human Trafficking are crimes under state, federal, and international law. Legislative efforts have been made to address the market for goods and products tainted by slavery and trafficking by providing transparency for consumers, in hopes that the consumer will make social conscious decisions. My capstone is a policy analysis on the *California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010*. The research will focus on the effectiveness of a state-run policy on supply chain transparency and whether there is a relationship with top performing companies and compliance with labor standards in their supply chains. The research will examine the compliance provisions and requirements in the state-run policy in comparison to Non-Government Organizations Advocacy. This research aims to determine whether the provision of law, simply stating transparency, is an effective policy aimed to educate the consumer on violations of human-trafficking and forced labor within a supply chain.