

MICHAELA CUSHING-DANIELS

Ph.D. Student in Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

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OBJECTIVE

My goal in pursuing a Ph.D. concentrating in American public policy is to develop the skills to be a professional researcher capable of conducting in-depth program evaluations for state and local government, heading a policy analysis team in the public or private sector, and teaching courses on American public policy and politics and the development of the American carceral state. My main academic objective is to develop an abolitionist framework for public policy that builds on activist practice and policy theory. This framework will serve as an operational guide to developing and implementing public policies with abolition as a primary goal.

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA
Ph.D., Public and International Affairs
Public Policy
Current, 4.0 GPA

Boston University Boston, MA
B.A./M.A., Political Science
American Politics
May 2018, Magna Cum Laude – 3.79 GPA

RESEARCH

Works In Progress

- Cushing-Daniels, Michaela I. "Government Responsiveness to Social Movements: The Case of Police Budgets" *Working Paper*.
- Cushing-Daniels, Michaela I., Brooke N. Shannon, Daniel B. Jones. "Read between the (District) Lines: Effects of Reform on Local Representation" *Working Paper*.

M.A. Thesis

- Cushing-Daniels, Michaela I. "Felon Disenfranchisement and Black Voter Turnout." ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2018.

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting – Presenting Author

- Cushing-Daniels, Michaela I., Brooke N. Shannon, & Daniel B. Jones. "Read between the (District) Lines: Effects of Reform on Local Representation"
2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference – Presenting Author
- Cushing-Daniels, Michaela I., Social Movements as Drivers of Policy Change: The Case of City Police Budgets

AWARDS/HONORS

Recipient of the Scholarship for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs to participate in the 2023 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan

EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh

Teaching Assistant | August 2023-Present | 20hrs/wk.

- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (taught in R). Duties include leading two recitation sessions for students each semester, grading homework and exams, and holding office hours for students.

Graduate Student Research Assistant | August 2022-April 2023 | 20hrs/wk.

- Work with supervising faculty on co-authored research projects. Duties include data collection and cleaning, data analysis (using Stata), development of theory and background research for final paper, and preparing for conferences. Current projects:
 - "Read between the (District) Lines: Effects of Reform on Local Representation"; Supervisor: Dr. Daniel Jones, University of Pittsburgh
 - Council Agendas Project: Pittsburgh City Council; Supervisor: Dr. Brooke Shannon, University of Pittsburgh

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Student Trainee | May 2023-August 2023 | 40hrs/wk.

- Worked in the Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT) division. Tasked with automating USCIS HRIT client intake and interdepartmental request processes, assisting with data management, creating policy briefs for managers, interacting with HRIT stakeholders, and developing SOPs for improved workflow efficiency.

Boston University

Research Assistant | January 2018-May 2018 | 10hrs/wk.

- Data collection and analysis for supervising professor on the immigrant/ethnic backgrounds of members of Congress, working toward a project analyzing members' attitudes on immigration policy (as measured via roll call votes) based on their generational separation from their family's immigrant status.

SERVICE

Chairperson and founding member – Doctoral Student Peer Mentorship Initiative, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Ph.D. Program Representative – University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Student Cabinet

Ph.D. Program Representative – University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Planning and Budget Committee

Student Representative for the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs – University of Pittsburgh Council on Graduate Studies

Student Representative – Internal Search Committee for Tenure-Stream Faculty Position at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced Skills in Microsoft Excel

Skilled in Stata and R

Proficient in GIS

Intermediate Spanish speaking, reading, and writing skills

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management – Member

American Political Science Association – Member