

Isaiah Wright

PhD Candidate, Public Policy & Management

Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Poverty, social and economic mobility, race, class, demography, voting behavior, inequality, place-based policy, nonprofit human services, social policy.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Public Policy & Management	2021-Present
<i>University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance</i> Seattle, WA	
Dissertation: From Exposure to Opportunity: How Neighborhood Poverty and Institutional Context Shape Economic Mobility	
Committee: Dr. Scott Allard (Chair), Dr. Heather Hill, Dr. Raheem Chaudhry, Dr. Kyle Crowder	
M.S., Public Policy	2025
<i>University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance</i> Seattle, WA	
Master of Public Policy, Concentration in Urban Policy	2018-2020
<i>University of California, Riverside</i> Riverside, CA	
Capstone: Understanding Latina Entrepreneurship in the Inland Empire; Advisor: Dr. Qingfang Wang	
B.A., Economics	2013-2018
<i>University of California, Riverside</i> Riverside, CA	

PUBLICATIONS, WORKING PAPERS, AND POLICY REPORTS

Working Papers

Wright, Isaiah, and Scott Allard. **Civil Society and Upward Mobility: Examining the Relationship Between Nonprofit Human Service Investment and Place-Based Economic Opportunity**. APPAM 2025 Conference Paper. Manuscript in preparation for journal submission.

Wright, Isaiah. **From Exposure to Opportunity: How Neighborhood Poverty and Institutional Context Shape Economic Mobility**. Dissertation paper. Working paper.

Allard, Scott, Jacob Grumbach, Claire Jahn, Maria Francis, Lauren Owen, Will Quesebery, Fernando Sanchez, Jose Valera, and Isaiah Wright. **Understanding Patterns and Trends in Rejected Mailed Ballots in Washington State**. Ongoing research manuscript and policy report.

Policy Reports

Allard, Scott, Jacob Grumbach, Claire Jahn, Maria Francis, Lauren Owen, Will Quesebery, Fernando Sanchez, Jose Valera, and Isaiah Wright. (2024). **Understanding Patterns and Trends in Rejected Mailed Ballots in Washington State: A Research Study by the Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)**.

Serna, C., and Wright, I. (2020). **Understanding Latina Entrepreneurship in the Inland Empire**.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Wright, Isaiah, and Scott Allard. (2025). **Civil Society and Upward Mobility: Examining the Relationship Between Nonprofit Human Service Investment and Place-Based Economic Opportunity**. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference. Presenter.

Allard, Scott, et al. (2024). **Understanding Patterns and Trends in Rejected Mailed Ballots in Washington State**. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference.

Nemati, M., and Wright, I. (2019). **Pricing Structure and Urban Water Demand in California**. APPAM California Regional Student Conference. Presenter.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher	2021-Present
<i>University of Washington</i> Seattle, WA	

- Conduct research on social mobility, poverty exposure, place-based inequality, and nonprofit human service investment in collaboration with faculty in the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance.

- Support large-scale research projects examining voting behavior, ballot rejection, and election administration in Washington State in partnership with state leaders and the Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC).
- Compile, clean, and analyze administrative, ACS, IRS 990, and geospatial data using R, Stata, Python, SQL, ArcGIS, and QGIS.
- Conduct literature reviews across social policy, mobility, race and inequality, voting behavior, and nonprofit sector research.
- Produce policy reports, research memos, data visualizations, and conference papers for academic and policy audiences.
- Conduct interviews and process interview data for themes to better understand voter experience in Washington State.
- Assist with research design, data management, and empirical strategy development across multiple faculty-led projects.

Graduate Student Researcher

2018-2020

University of California, Riverside | Riverside, CA

- Conducted research on water economics, affordability, and urban resource policy with emphasis on pricing structure and consumer demand.
- Collected original longitudinal pricing data by contacting more than 200 California water agencies and compiling agency-level rate structures.
- Cleaned and analyzed pricing and consumption data in R and Stata to examine price elasticity of urban water demand.
- Conducted literature reviews on water affordability, conservation policy, and pricing reform over a twenty-year period.
- Used GIS and regression methods to analyze socioeconomic and spatial patterns related to water access and affordability.
- Presented findings and policy recommendations to inform public discussions surrounding state and local water pricing reform.

Research Projects

Capstone Project: Understanding Latina Entrepreneurship in the Inland Empire

- Conducted mixed-methods research combining stakeholder interviews and ACS demographic analysis to inform local policy recommendations for advancing Latina entrepreneurship.
- Transcribed, translated, coded, and organized qualitative interview data for thematic analysis.
- Cleaned and aggregated ACS data in Stata, applying survey weights and demographic measures to examine patterns of business ownership across the Inland Empire.

Graduate Research Project: Pricing Structure and Urban Water Demand in California

- Collected original data for a longitudinal study examining price elasticity of water demand across California.
- Conducted summary statistical analysis and policy interpretation to evaluate implications of alternative pricing structures for equity and conservation outcomes.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Public Policy

2026

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Served as instructor of record for a 120-student undergraduate course introducing core concepts in public policy and governance.
- Designed and delivered lectures on policy design, bureaucracy, implementation, nonprofits, policy networks, economics of public policy, and cost-benefit analysis.
- Developed course assessments including policy memos, examinations, essay assignments, and structured debate exercises.
- Mentored students on analytical writing, policy communication, and pathways into graduate education and public service careers.

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Public Policy

2025

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Taught undergraduate introductory public policy courses averaging 80 students per quarter.
- Built lecture materials and applied classroom activities to strengthen student understanding of policy analysis and institutional design.
- Created assignments emphasizing policy writing, problem definition, and evidence-based argumentation.

Teaching Assistant, Public Policy Analysis (MPA Core)

2026

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Supported graduate instruction in rigorous policy analysis for master's students in the MPA program.
- Guided students through policy problem definition, development of policy alternatives, evaluative criteria construction, and recommendation writing.
- Facilitated workshops on cost-benefit analysis, implementation feasibility, equity-centered analysis, and evidence-based policy design.
- Provided substantive feedback on policy memos, analytical writing, and final policy analysis projects.

- Helped students strengthen professional presentation skills for communicating recommendations to policymakers and institutional stakeholders.

Teaching Assistant, Politics and the Policy Process (MPA Core)

2026

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Supported graduate instruction on leadership, governance, and strategic management in public and nonprofit institutions.
- Led discussion sections on stakeholder engagement, institutional power, policy implementation, and collaborative governance.
- Facilitated case study analysis and workshops connecting theory to real-world public management challenges.
- Guided students in developing leadership reflection, teamwork, and strategic writing skills central to professional public service practice.
- Assisted in evaluating case analyses, collaborative projects, and policy memos.

Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Methods II

2024

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Supported graduate instruction in econometrics, causal inference, and program evaluation methods.
- Led discussion sections covering regression analysis, hypothesis testing, OLS, DiD, IV, RCTs, regression discontinuity, and maximum likelihood models.
- Developed review materials and reinforced applied statistical reasoning through problem-solving workshops and assignment support.

Instructor of Record, Microeconomic Theory, Junior Summer Institute

2022-2024

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Served as instructor of record for introductory microeconomic theory for students preparing for graduate study in public policy.
- Delivered lectures on opportunity costs, comparative advantage, supply and demand, elasticity, welfare analysis, and public sector applications.
- Designed assessments and mentored students pursuing graduate education and policy careers, with emphasis on access for underserved communities.

Teaching Assistant, Economics

2018-2020

University of California, Riverside | Riverside, CA

- Supported undergraduate economics courses serving more than 300 students per quarter through discussion sections, office hours, and exam review sessions.
- Provided academic coaching and mentoring to students across introductory microeconomics and related coursework.
- Developed supplemental instructional materials to strengthen student understanding of economic theory and quantitative reasoning.
- Assisted with exam preparation, proctoring, grading, and evaluation of written assignments and problem sets.
- Worked closely with instructional teams to coordinate grading standards and student support across multiple sections.

Policy Hackathon Facilitator

2026

Highline College

- Designed and delivered a policy workshop introducing students to public policy, policy analysis, and pathways into public service.
- Led a hands-on policy analysis exercise where students developed policy responses to issues of personal and community importance.
- Mentored participants in problem definition, policy evaluation, and communicating recommendations to decision-makers.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Policy Camp Workshop Facilitator

Seattle Central College Region | Seattle, WA

- Facilitated a values-based workshop for students interested in public policy and public service careers.
- Guided students in examining how personal values, institutional priorities, and power structures shape policy decisions.
- Supported student reflection on leadership, representation, and the role of values in governance and policy advocacy.

Doctoral Program Workgroup

2023-2024

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

- Contributed to doctoral program service and governance within the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance.
- Participated in discussions concerning doctoral student experience, program structure, and graduate training needs.
- Represented doctoral student perspectives in school-level conversations about program development and support.

POLICY EXPERIENCE

Research Analyst I

2021

Rady Children's Hospital in partnership with County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), 2018-Present

National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), 2024-Present

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Software: Stata, R, ArcGIS, QGIS, Python, SQL, Power BI, EViews

Applications: Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, WordPress

Methods: Quantitative and qualitative research methods, geospatial analysis, data cleaning and visualization, regression, fixed effects models, difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, logit/probit models, hierarchical models, interview coding, survey development, and policy analysis.

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (proficient)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.