



a guide to faculty thought leadership in Cornell's MPA



Cornell University

As one of the nation's original land-grant institutions, Cornell University has been training leaders at the cutting edge of public affairs since its founding. Within the University, the [College of Human Ecology](#) offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs, all dedicated to preparing students to lead change by exploring, shaping, and improving human connections to natural, social, and built environments.

Cornell's two-year Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program is offered through the [Institute for Public Affairs](#) (CIPA), a department within the College of Human Ecology. Providing a solid foundation of core coursework in management, economics, finance, and quantitative analysis, Cornell's MPA prepares graduates for mission-driven leadership roles in public policy and public affairs. Offering [eight concentration](#) options for students to choose from, CIPA prepares its graduates to enter the workforce with a specialized skill set, customized to the area of focus they are most passionate about.

Research and faculty thought leadership is incredibly important to your growth — academically and personally. Cornell's MPA offers you a unique opportunity to connect with leading policy experts in your field of interest. Allow us to showcase some of our faculty and their innovative research and teaching portfolios.

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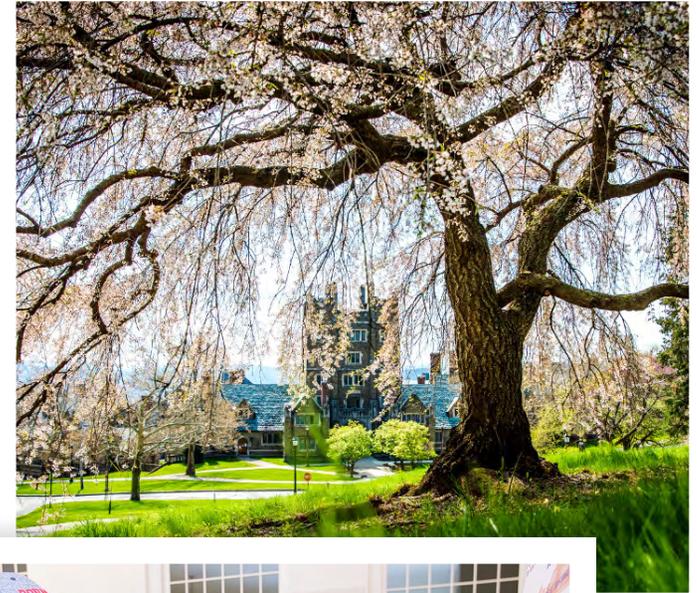
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CIPA:
a unique
faculty community



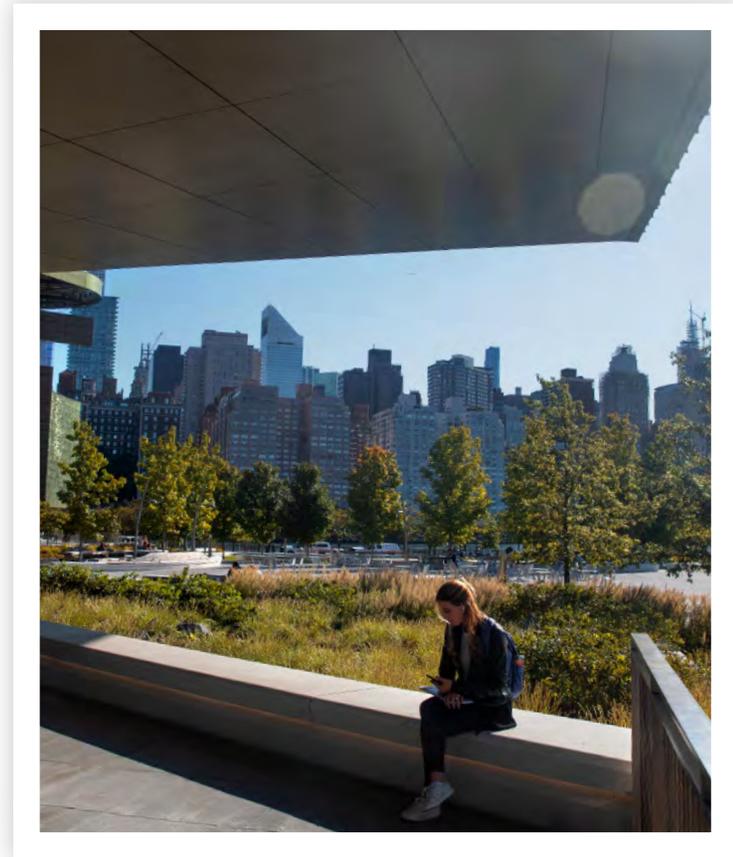
Cornell's MPA features an interdisciplinary curriculum. This means that, within your concentration, you may take courses through the College of Human Ecology, as well as from a variety of world-class faculty representing disciplines from across the university. **Why is this important?** It's important because as you refine your concentration goals, you will have the flexibility to choose coursework with experts who are conducting research and publishing in your chosen area of study, regardless of which Cornell school or college they belong to.

For instance, if you want to study infrastructure policy, for example, you will discover that there are CIPA faculty affiliates in City and Regional Planning, Economics, Engineering, and Policy Analysis and Management who offer expertise on the topic. If Public and Nonprofit Management is your intended area of specialization, you will discover affiliates from CIPA, the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, the S.C. Johnson School of Business, and the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.



[Faculty at CIPA](#) are grouped into two main entities: those who are on the Faculty Advisory Board and those who are Teaching Faculty. CIPA **Faculty Advisory Board** members provide cohesion to the program and coherence in academic advising. They also teach core courses, which serve as the academic foundation of the program. Teaching Faculty provide supplemental coursework, enhancing the program offerings available to students. CIPA also employs **Field Faculty** who represent colleges, departments, and related disciplines across campus; in addition to offering policy coursework specific to their particular field of study, these field members also serve as thesis advisors for students.

Fueled by a dedication to academic excellence, the faculty who contribute their time and skills to our MPA coursework are both practitioners and thought leaders. They offer experience with on-the-ground policy implementation coupled with solid research. At Cornell, you will find an environment where future leaders in public affairs can learn the skills necessary to make a tangible difference in the lives of others — no matter your chosen area of focus and passion.



faculty spotlights
achievements in
public policy



maria fitzpatrick

**director of the Cornell Institute for
public affairs**

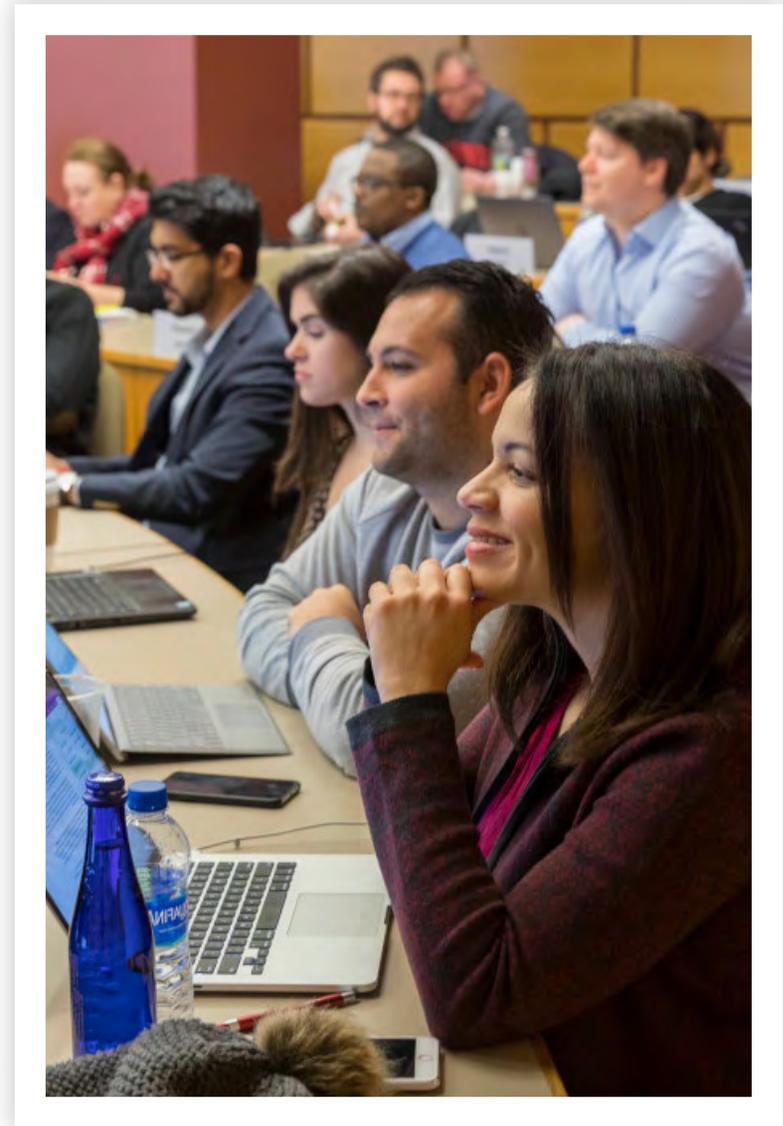


In addition to serving as the Director of the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs and serving on the Faculty Advisory Board, Maria D. Fitzpatrick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Policy and Management, Associate Director of Data for Evidence-Based Policy and Milman Fellow at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is also an Affiliate in the CESifo Research Network, the Cornell Populations Center, the Center for the Study of Inequality, and the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. Her research focus is on child and family policy, with a particular interest in the economics of education. Specific research studies have focused on early childhood education policies, higher education, teacher compensation, benefits and labor supply, teacher pensions and retirement, child maltreatment, incarceration's effects on children and mothers, and the effects of retirement on the health of older Americans.

Before arriving at Cornell, Maria Fitzpatrick was a Searle Freedom Trust postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University. She received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Virginia, where she was both an Institute for Education Sciences and Spencer Foundation Predoctoral Fellow. She obtained her B.A. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since being at Cornell, she spent one year as a visiting scholar at the National Bureau of Economics Research.

Courses Taught by Fitzpatrick:

- PAM 5010: Education Policy
- PAM 6370: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis
- PAM 6471: Economics of Education
- PAM 2550: Waiting for Superman? Perspectives on the “Crisis” in American Education



Maria Fitzpatrick Research Activities:

In her research, Dr. Fitzpatrick focuses on several broad themes:

Early childhood education policies:

Recent decades have seen increased interest in early childhood education and care programs as a way to promote children's development and family well-being. This increased interest has led to increased government intervention of various forms, from regulation to government provision. Fitzpatrick's work has examined the effects of government provision of early childhood education (namely universal pre-k) on children's long-term academic achievement and family decision making about child care use and parental labor supply. More recently, Fitzpatrick and her colleagues are examining the effects of both government provision in and regulation of the early childhood care industry on the supply side (workers and firms) of the industry.

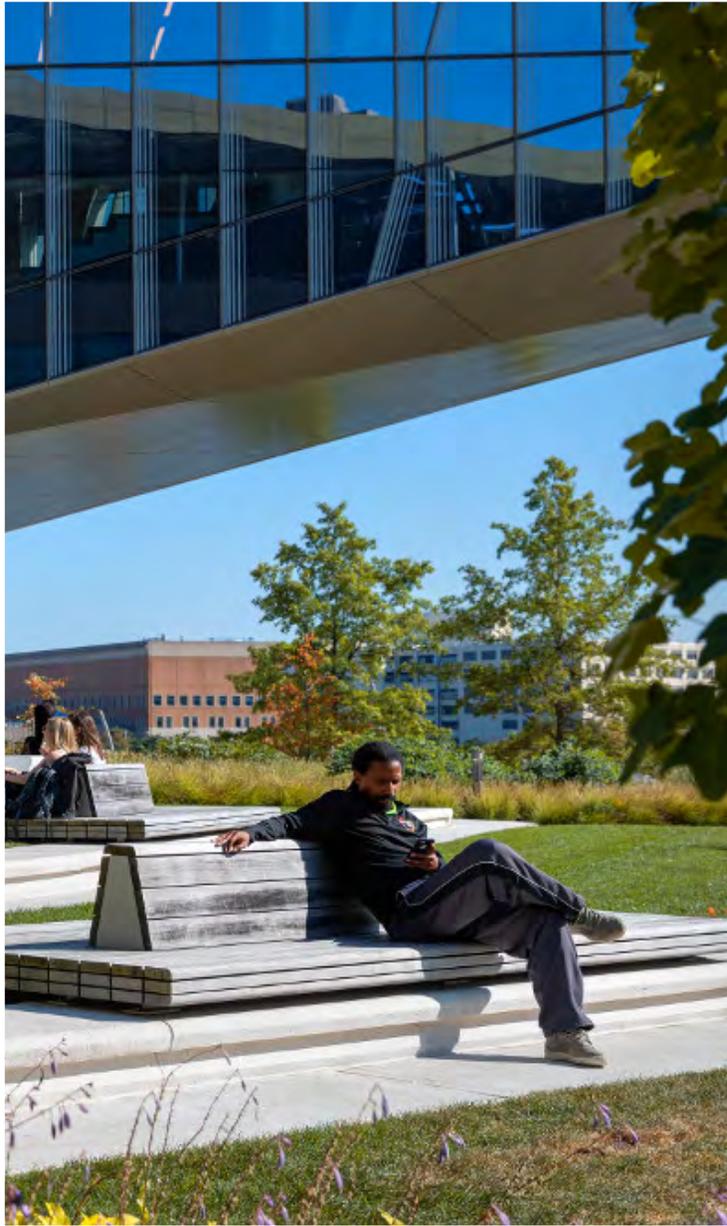
Higher education: Human capital investment provides protection against labor market risk and uncertainty. Designing and implementing efficient policies for encouraging and subsidizing postsecondary enrollment and attainment is crucial for effectively improving workforce quality. With colleagues, Fitzpatrick has examined the efficiency and long run effects of merit aid programs, which offer scholarships for in-state postsecondary attendance.

Teacher labor markets: The quality of children's schooling experiences has been closely linked to the quality of the individuals students receive as teachers. Many local, state and federal policies are putting increased focus towards improving schools while the recent downturn has put the fiscal decisions of the public sector under close scrutiny. Understanding how teachers make decisions about where to work and how long to work, particularly in response to their government provided wages and benefits, is therefore an

imperative. Fitzpatrick's work has focused on whether public school employees value their retirement benefits at the same level it costs taxpayers to provide them. She is investigating how incentives between state and local governments that arise implicitly in the structure of teacher compensation affect the pattern of teacher wages. With colleagues, she has also examined how responsive teachers are to retirement incentives and what effect the removal of senior teachers has on children's academic achievement.

Retirement and health: There is enormous interest in the effect of retirement on health, especially given the aging of the population and reforms to retirement policies underway in the United States and other developed countries. However, the interdependence between health outcomes and retirement status, which commonly leads individuals in poorer health to retire earlier, which means that it is difficult to disentangle this relationship. With Tim Moore, Fitzpatrick contributed to this literature by examining how mortality changes in the U.S. at age 62, when most individuals become eligible for Social Security Retirement and Survivors Insurance ("Social Security"). They found that mortality increases most at age 62 for those that are most likely to leave the workforce, leading them to conclude that, for men, deciding to retire at age 62 may have negative consequences for their health.





Incarceration's effects on families: Nearly 1 in 10 children will have experienced a parent's incarceration in prison by age 14, and there are large racial disparities in the probability of having a parent incarcerated (Wildeman 2009). Parental incarceration reduces family financial resources and parental contributions to family life and has the potential to severely harm child wellbeing. With coauthors, Fitzpatrick is working to examine how both maternal and paternal incarceration affect infant mortality, a particularly important indicator of child well-being.

Child maltreatment: Estimates suggest that nearly 4 in 10 children experience maltreatment before turning 18. Early detection is important to mitigate maltreatment and engender children's recovery from its negative effects. Yet factors that drive early detection remain understudied. With coauthors, Fitzpatrick investigates the role of schools and teachers in reporting child maltreatment. Also, in other research, Fitzpatrick is examining how data-driven decision-making can help aid child welfare agencies in making decisions that are better for child outcomes.



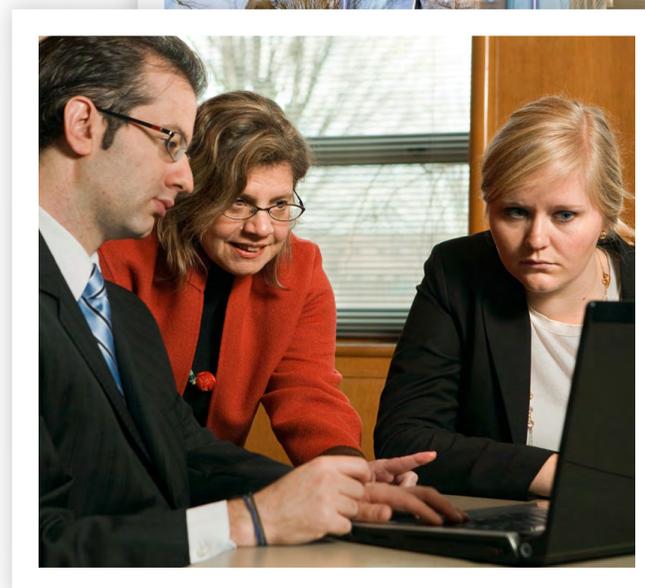
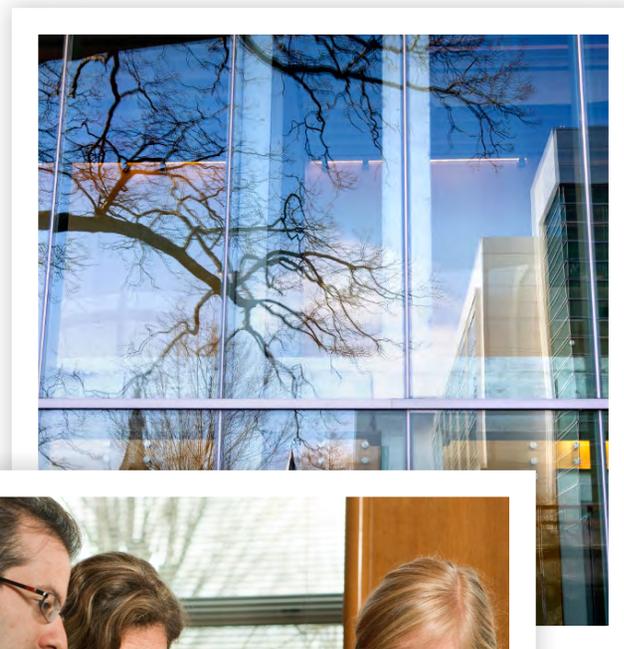
laurie miller

associate director for cipa public engagement

A CIPA Teaching Faculty member, [Laurie Miller](#) teaches at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), the MPA program at Cornell University. Laurie is the Associate Director for CIPA Public Engagement and coordinator and instructor of the CIPA Capstone and Consulting for Government and Nonprofit Consulting courses. Laurie holds a BA degree from the University of Massachusetts and graduate degrees in education and human development from Harvard University and public policy and administration from Columbia University.

Prior to joining Cornell, Laurie was the Senior Associate at Children's Defense Fund in Washington D.C. and Child Care Action Campaign in New York City, where her research was funded by the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Mailman Family Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and others. Laurie conducted research on local implementation and administration of federal programs; communication, awareness, knowledge, and understanding of government programs and services within different communities; the development of public-private partnerships; state-level and community collaborations to improve education, early childhood, health, and social services; and stakeholder engagement in the policy, program development, and legislative processes.

Laurie also worked on funding and policy for federally-funded programs for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development during the Dinkins and Giuliani administrations and was a liaison to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Her research, government and independent consulting experience in the public sphere informs her work with CIPA students as they engage with public agencies, NGOs, and other partners to address public concerns internationally, in the United States, and here in Ithaca and Tompkins County.



Courses Taught by Miller:

- PADM 5900 Consulting for Government and Nonprofit Organizations
- PADM 5910 CIPA Domestic Capstone
- PADM 5950 International Capstone

Laurie Miller's Research Activities:

With Cornell MPA students and partners from the private and public sectors, Laurie conducts research on **health, education, and economic development** in the United States, Central America, and sub-Saharan Africa. Laurie uses mixed methods and participatory research approaches.

Current domestic research projects include studies of water contaminants, effects of wildfires on air quality, and infrastructure research in consultation with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO); an impact evaluation for a college readiness program in several school districts in central

New York state; a review of administrative process and efficiency for the NY State Education Department's Office of College and University Evaluation; research on criteria for allocating federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to developers in New York City and 10 states; and compensation and administration studies for a public school system in Massachusetts, and the Town of Dryden in central New York.

Laurie is also working on several international projects related to: climate migration in Mexico; refugee resettlement and mental health in Greece; health facility quality in Belize; transportation infrastructure and tourism in Colombia; best practices to reduce human trafficking; and increasing education, job training and employment opportunities in Uganda and Tanzania.



raza ahmad rumi

visiting lecturer

Raza Ahmad Rumi is a Pakistani policy analyst, journalist, and an author. Currently, he is a Teaching Faculty member at CIPA. Earlier, he taught at Ithaca College and Gallatin School, NYU. He is also editor of the Daily Times (Pakistan) and a regular contributor for leading publications in South Asia and beyond.

Rumi was Director at Jinnah Institute, a public policy think tank and Executive Director of Justice Network, Pakistan. In March 2014, he moved to the United States after surviving an assassination attempt. He has been a fellow at the United States Institute for Peace, National Endowment for Democracy, Berkley Centre for Religion Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University. Prior to his foray in journalism and public affairs, he worked for the Asian Development Bank as a governance specialist and an officer in Pakistan Administrative Service.

Rumi is the author of [Delhi by Heart: Impressions of a Pakistani Traveller](#), [The Fractious Path: Pakistan's Democratic Transition](#) and [Identity and Faith and Conflict](#). His most recent collection of essays Being Pakistani: Society Culture and the Arts was published in June 2018 by Harper Collins, India.

Courses Taught by Rumi:

- PADM 5100: Applied Econometrics
- PADM/SOC 6140: Immigrant Incorporation





matthew hall

associate professor

[Matthew Hall](#) is an Associate Professor of Policy Analysis & Management and (by courtesy) Sociology, faculty affiliate of the Cornell Population Center, and a member of the Faculty Advisory Board of the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA).

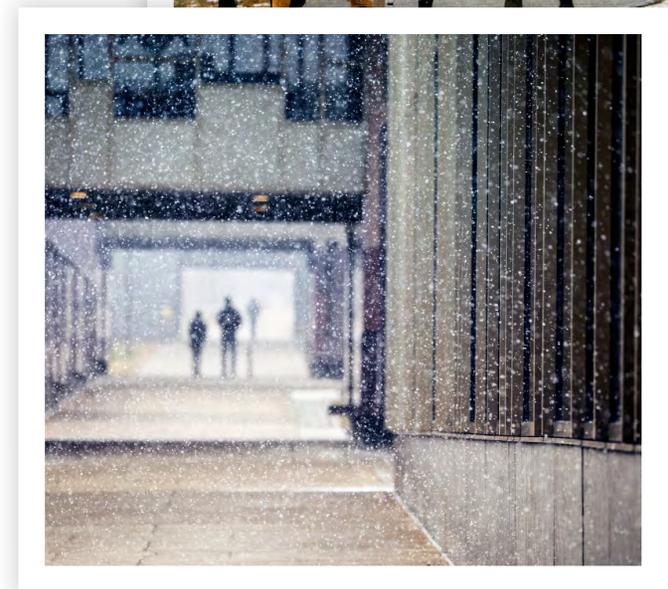
Hall is a social demographer whose research focuses on racial/ethnic inequality, immigration, and neighborhood change. He has contributed to research assessing the economic and social impacts of unauthorized migration, to work on the emergence of Latino boom towns and other new destination areas where immigration has been recent and rapid, and to research exploring the changing nature of racial stratification and segregation in housing and neighborhoods.

Courses Taught by Hall:

- PADM 5657: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Challenges in International Development - and -
- PADM 5634: Corruption, Governance, and Development

Matthew Hall Research Activities:

Current research projects are focused on the intensification of **interior immigration enforcement**, the link between legal status and child development and family formation, and describing patterns of racial discrimination in U.S. housing markets.

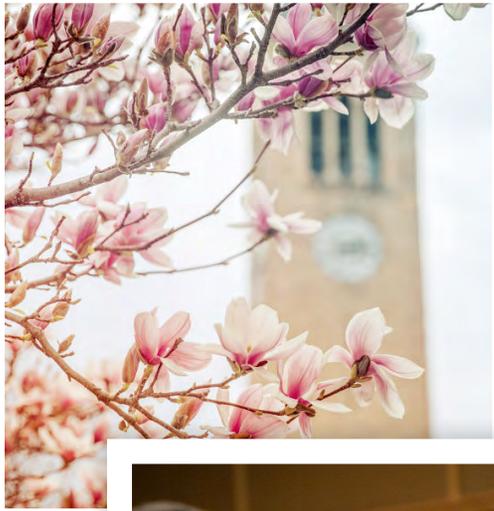


john tobin



[Professor John Tobin-de la Puente](#) is a professor of practice at Cornell's Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. Professor Tobin is an environmental biologist and attorney by training. He has over two decades of private sector experience, having practiced corporate law and worked in the international finance industry for most of his career. Tobin is a member of the Teaching Faculty and is also the Program Director for the EFII ([Environmental Finance and Impact Investing](#)) Certificate Program offered by CIPA.

His recent professional experience has been focused on corporate sustainability, including the management of environmental, social, and reputational risks, stakeholder engagement and communications, business ethics, sustainability strategy, and the development of financial products and services that aim to address broad societal challenges. In addition, he has substantial leadership and governance experience in not-for-profit entities at the board level, particularly in the areas of environment, science, and education.



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Courses Taught by Tobin:

- AEM 4090: Environmental Finance and Markets
- PADM 5570: Corporate Responsibility
- PADM 5579: EFII Project Course

John Tobin Research Activities:

[Tobin's research](#) focuses on **corporate sustainability**, **conservation finance**, and related topics. In the past three years, he has lectured or participated in panel discussions at a number of events including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, The Future of Forestry Investment conference in Sydney, Conferência Ethos 360 in São Paulo, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) World Ocean Summit in Bali, and others.



seth harris

distinguished scholar

Former Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris joined CIPA as an Executive in Residence during the 2016-2017 academic year. Since then, Harris has developed a highly-regarded course on “Leadership for Public Affairs” that is taught from Washington, D.C. This course blends theoretical content on leadership, cases from Harris’ experience in government, and guest lectures by senior public affairs leaders. The course is available to CIPA students participating in the CIPA Washington Externship Semester, as well as CIPA students in Ithaca via distance-learning. Harris has also published extensively on the subject of strategic planning in government, labor policy and law, and labor economics.

“As a Cornell alumnus, I have been looking for opportunities to help students advance their careers and connect more fully with public policy,” says Harris. “CIPA generously offered me this opportunity, which has been a perfect platform for lecturing to groups of students and counseling students individually. After one semester, I already know that it will be a fulfilling experience for me and, hopefully, a helpful one for the school and the students.”

The Executive in Residence Program allows CIPA to engage distinguished practitioners who are not able to commit extended periods of time working on campus. “It’s another exciting way to bring practical experience into the program and give students the opportunity to interact with distinguished leaders in public affairs,” says CIPA Director Sharon Tennyson. “Seth has been well received by our faculty and students and has had a big impact in a short period of time,” she added.

Harris made his first visit to campus mid-September, when he presented a colloquium entitled, “Managing for Social Change: Improving Labor Department Performance in a Partisan Era.” He offered a case study of the U.S. Labor Department under his leadership, looking at how a large and complex federal agency overcame challenges to accountability and efficiency.

First-year CIPA Fellow Jonathon Cummings attended Harris’ colloquium and followed up with a one-on-one visit with him during office hours. “As a student concentrating in the area of government, politics, and policy studies, I couldn’t ask for a better mentor,” said Cummings. “We discussed several topics, including the key role that intergovernmental relations plays in influencing and advancing policies. He also recommended that I pursue an externship opportunity in Albany, NY or Washington, D.C.”

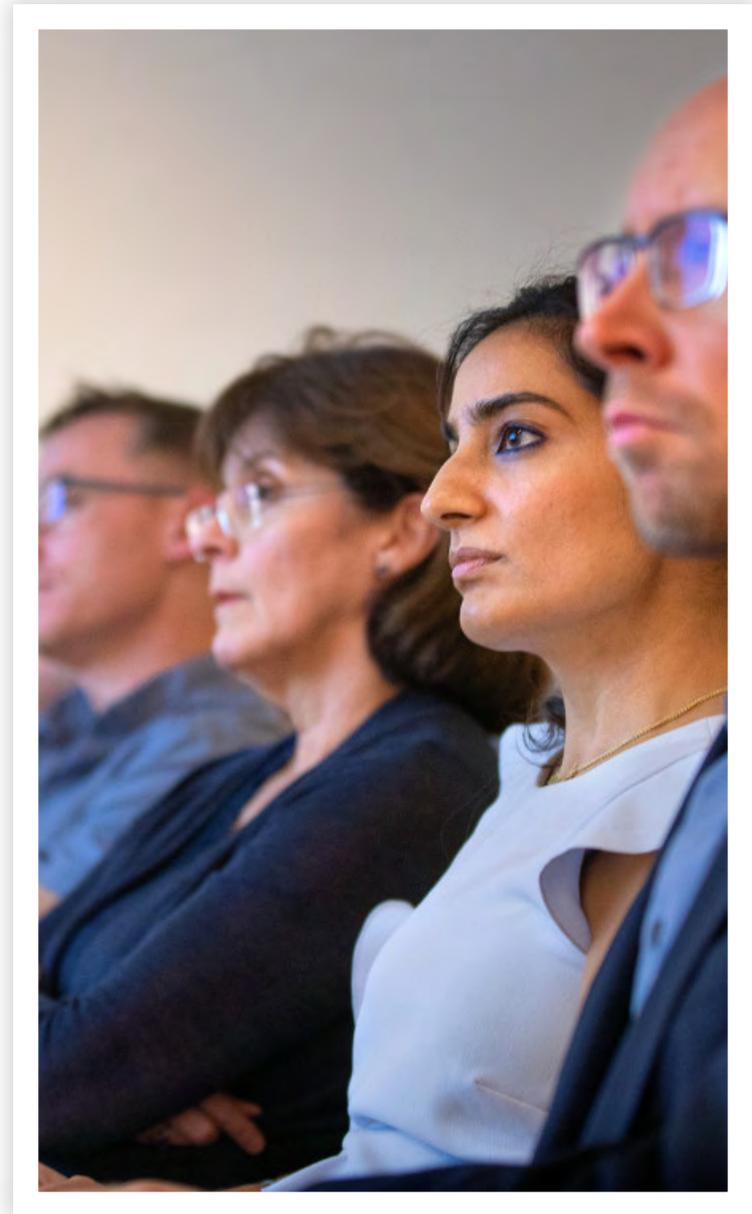
When not sharing his time with CIPA students, Harris is a full-time member of the Public Policy and Regulation practice at Dentons, a global law firm. A nationally recognized leader in his field, Harris counsels clients on matters relating to labor, employment and immigration law and policy, as well as government performance, regulatory policy and practice, public policy and national politics.

Prior to joining Dentons, Harris served as deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor from May 2009 until January 2014, managing 19 agencies and four adjudicatory boards. He oversaw functions ranging from strategic planning and performance management to legislation and policy development and implementation. He became the acting secretary on January 22, 2013, and served in President Obama's Cabinet until late July 2013.

Harris is a graduate of the New York University School of Law. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University in 1983.

Courses Taught by Harris:

- PADM 5118: Leadership in Public Affairs



ROI
of getting an MPA



With the cost of education inflating at an alarming rate, deciding to invest in a graduate degree can come with a lot of questions and concerns. Specifically, every prospective student considering [getting an MPA](#) is hoping for some assurance that upon graduation, the investment of time and money spent will result in real return on investment (ROI).

At Cornell University, we have **measurable data** that shows the real, marketable [value of our MPA degree](#) — both professionally and personally.

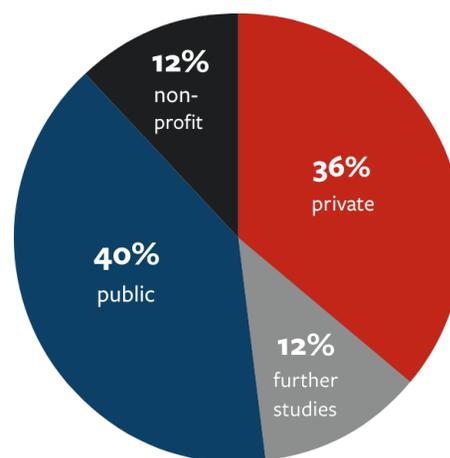
Professional ROI: Our Cornell MPA students are poised to enter the job market with a competitive edge. Historically, more than 90 percent have found full-time employment in the field or have moved on to further graduate study within nine months of graduation.

Personal ROI: Fueled by the expert faculty teaching the curriculum at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, [graduates of our MPA programs enter the workforce](#) with real-world

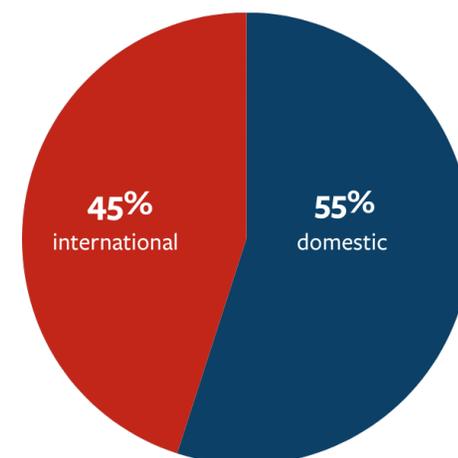
experience and practical expertise needed to succeed in a variety of professional landscapes. The [experiential learning](#) opportunities woven into the MPA curriculum make graduates of the MPA highly marketable in the workforce.

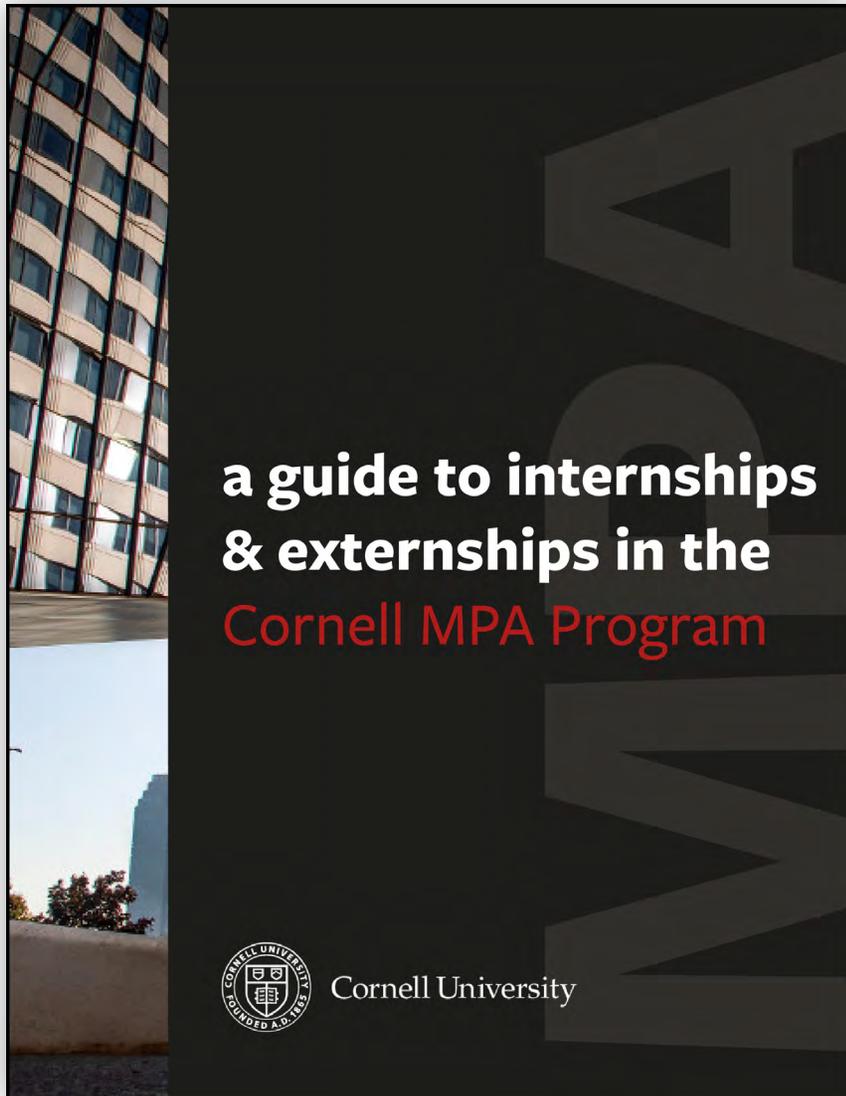
Cornell’s Master of Public Administration degree gives students a variety of opportunities to augment their education with experiential learning activities and in turn, provides students with the relevant materials needed to build an impressive, robust résumé — before and after graduation.

Employment Breakdown by Sector/Further Education



Employment Distribution by Location





a guide to internships & externships

**in the Cornell MPA Program
distinguished scholar**

At Cornell University, we recognize the value of learning-by doing. For that reason, we make a variety of experiential learning opportunities available to our MPA students. Download and explore this Internship & Externship Guide to learn more about your options.

[Download the Guide](#)

financing
an ivy league education



Because Cornell is the only Ivy League school with land-grant status, CIPA’s MPA program is more affordable than some other Ivy League schools and various other renowned universities offering the same degree. Combined tuition, fees, and overall living expenses range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 less than our competitors.

Despite CIPA’s affordable costs, a [variety of funding opportunities](#) are available to pay for your Ivy League tuition at Cornell, including merit-based fellowships, part-time campus employment, federal loans, CIPA-supported fellowships, and external funding.

Comparison of Program Costs: 2019-2020

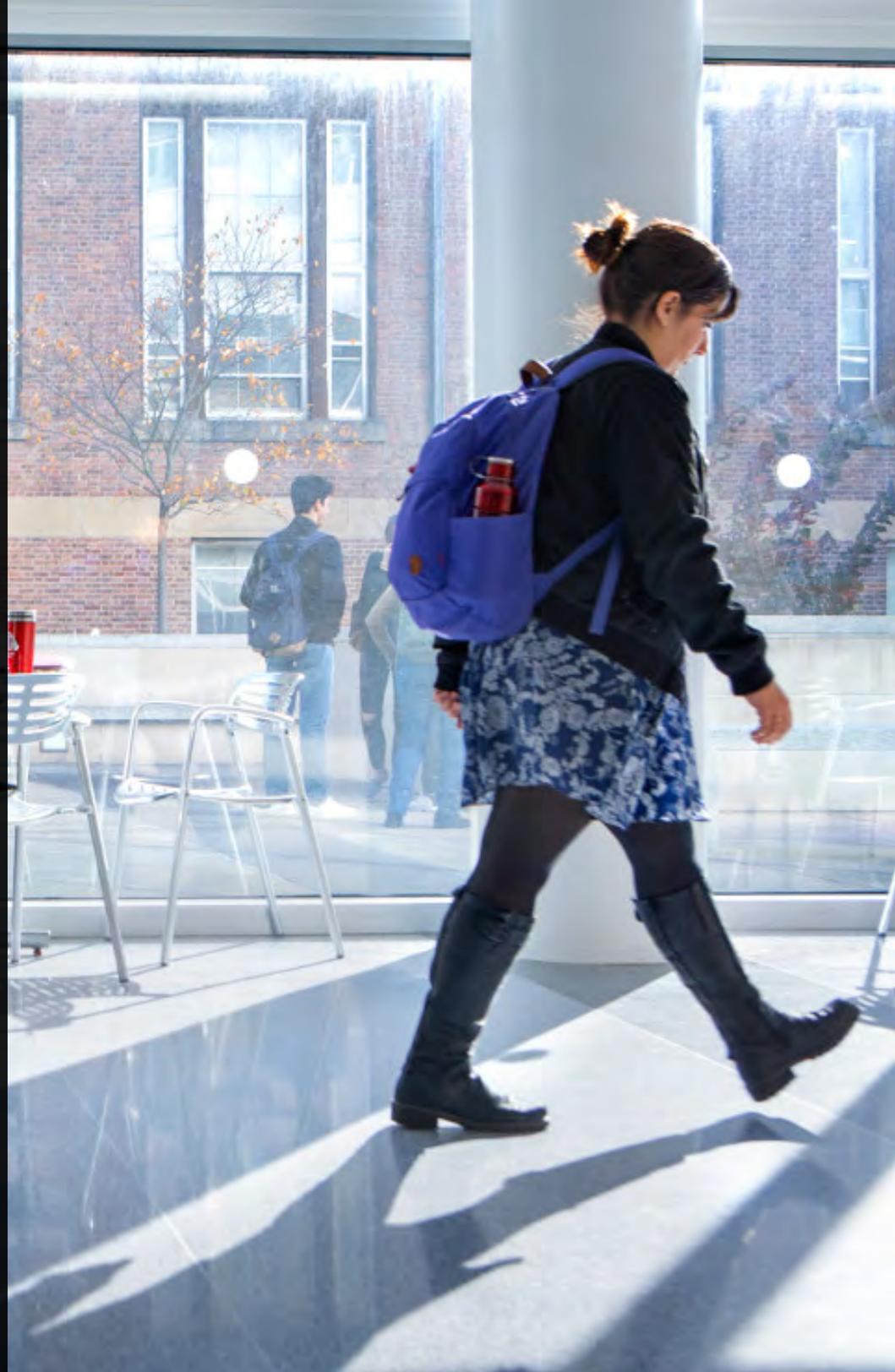
Cornell Institute for Public Affairs	
Tuition (12 CR)	\$37,022
Insurance	\$2,832
Misc Student Fee	\$85
Direct Costs Total	\$39,939

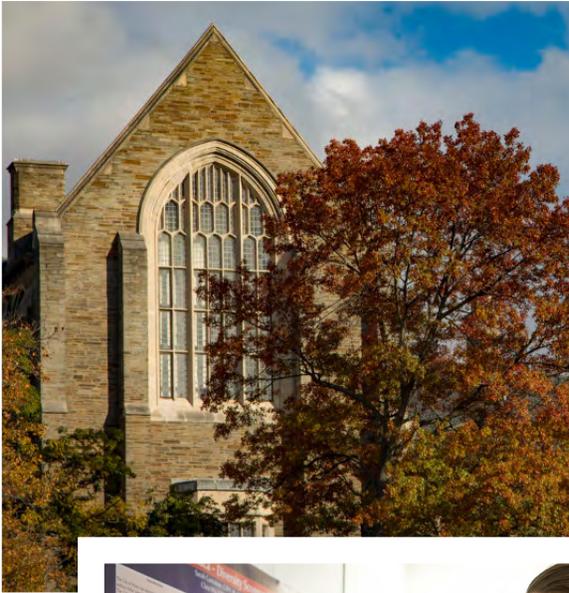
Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy	
Tuition (12 CR)	\$51,336
Insurance	\$2,900
Misc Student Fee	\$334
Direct Costs Total	\$54,570

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs	
Tuition (12 CR)	\$57,746
Insurance	3,433
Misc Student Fee	\$2,674
Direct Costs Total	\$63,583

Note: The Cost of Living varies greatly depending on a graduate student’s personal lifestyle, family size, and choice of location

application
& admissions information





It's exciting that you're considering transforming your life and the lives of others with a Master of Public Administration degree at Cornell University. If you have questions about Cornell's admissions process or about the Cornell MPA, our Admissions team is available to help you every step of the way. You have the option of speaking with an Admissions Professional, a Student Ambassador, or both!

[Contact the Admissions Office](#)

[Schedule a Visit](#)

Or, if you're ready to jumpstart your MPA journey today, we encourage you to start your online application today.

[Apply Now](#)

[Explore MPA Curriculum](#)

Note: As a prospective MPA student, you should know that Cornell's MPA program offers rolling admissions. Our [rolling admissions policy](#) means that we offer a larger window for prospective students to submit their applications as opposed to institutions who don't offer rolling admissions.



connect with us

The Cornell Institute for Public Affairs is looking for students of exceptional quality who have the analytical, leadership, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a career serving the public in government, nonprofit, or for-profit sectors. If you're ready to take on some of the world's most complex policy challenges, you're in the right place. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!

[Click Here to Apply Now!](#)