

Elizabeth Burland

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Connecticut	
Assistant Research Professor, School of Public Policy	2023-present
External Affiliations	
Affiliate, Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaboration	2023-present
Sponsored Affiliate, Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan	2023-present
Affiliate, Poverty and Inequality Research Lab, Johns Hopkins University	2019-present

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy	
Ph.D. in Public Policy and Sociology	2023
University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration	
M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy	2015
B.A. (Honors) in Public Policy, University of Delaware	2015

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Micheltore, Stephanie Owen, and Shwetha Raghuraman. "The Power of Certainty: Experimental Evidence on the Effective Design of "Free Tuition" Programs." *American Economic Review: Insights*. [\[Link to paper\]](#)
- 2019 Elizabeth Burland. "Wealth and Well-Being in the United States." Pp. 221–45 in *Wealth(s) and Subjective Well-Being*. Vol. 76, Social Indicators Research. Springer, Cham.

WORKING PAPERS & MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- 2025 **Elizabeth Burland**, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Kelcie Ferrara-Gerson, Xavier Fields, Katherine Micheltore, Nathan Sotherland, Kevin Stange, Marissa Thompson, and Megan Tompkins-Stange. "Bureaucracy and Burden: Understanding Take-up of a Need-Based Financial Aid Program." Annenberg Institute EdWorkingPaper: 25-1283. *Under Review*. [\[Link to paper\]](#).
- Elizabeth Burland**. "Following in Their Footsteps or Avoiding Their Mistakes? The Role of Older Siblings in Shaping Access to Educational Opportunity." *Under Review*.
- Elizabeth Burland** and Stefanie DeLuca. "'Colleges that obviously don't have what you need': Financial Aid Policy and the Risky Postsecondary Transitions of Low-Income Students."

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Elizabeth Burland, Nora Delaney, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Leu, CJ Libassi, Katherine Micheltore, Stephanie Owen, Mary Quiroga, Elizabeth Salinas. "Experimental Evidence on the Effects of College Quality on Educational Attainment and Labor Market Outcomes."

Elizabeth Burland, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Xavier Fields, Nathan Sotherland, and Megan Tompkins-Stange. "Systems 'Built by Adults for Adults': How high school counselors shape access to financial aid."

Elizabeth Burland and Jasmina Camo- Biogradlija. “Diverging Perceptions of Family Support: Comparative Evidence of Parent and Students Differences in the Experience of Educational Decision-Making.”

Elizabeth Burland. “Varying Contexts, Varying Consequences: The Role of Geographic Variation in Shaping Educational Inequality.”

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

External Grants Awarded

- 2023-2025 Russell Sage Foundation Grant, for: “How Do High-Achieving Low-Income Students Make Postsecondary Decisions? Identifying Mechanisms and Understanding Heterogeneity in the HAIL Financial Aid Intervention.” (Co-PI with Stefanie DeLuca - \$182,867).
- 2022-2026 Institute of Education Sciences Grant, for “Early First-Dollar Categorical Need-Based Aid: A New Model for Making College Affordable?” (Key Researcher; PI: Kevin Stange - \$2,702,034).

University of Michigan Grants and Awards

- 2022 Robert Kahn Fellowship for the Scientific Study of Social Issues, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (\$25,000).
- 2022 Doctoral Graduate Student Research Assistant Funding Competition: Research on Strategies to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty, Poverty Solutions, University of Michigan. (\$11,598, declined)
- 2017-2021 Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Training Fellowship
- 2020 Weinberg Graduate Student Award, University of Michigan Population Studies Center (\$4,000).
- 2020 Sarri Family Foundation Fellowship, University of Michigan Center for Political Studies (\$6,000).

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut

Teaching (as Instructor of Record)

- 2025 Applied Research Design, School of Public Policy (PP5370)
- 2023, 2025 Social Equity in Higher Education Policy, School of Public Policy (PP5397)
- 2024 Cases in Public Policy and Management, School of Public Policy (PP3020W)
- 2024 Introduction to Public Policy and Management, School of Public Policy (PP5340)

Mentorship

- 2024-2025 Research Supervisor (Graduate Assistant: Vanessa Reineke), UConn School of Public Policy.
- 2024-2025 Advisor (12 students), UConn School of Public Policy, MPA and MPP Programs.
- 2023-2025 Research Supervisor (5 undergraduate, pre-doctoral, and doctoral research assistants), HAIL Qualitative Research Group, Poverty and Inequality Research Lab.

University of Michigan

Teaching (as Graduate Student Instructor)

- 2021 Evaluating Public Policies (Program Evaluation for Public Policy), Ford School of Public Policy (PubPol479).

Guest Lecturer

- 2021, 2022 Causal Inference in Education Policy Research, Ford School of Public Policy (PubPol 712). Title: *Mixed Methods Research: Implementing a Qualitative Study within a Randomized, Controlled Trial.*

2021 Children and Youth Services and Social Policies, School of Social Work (SSW 633). Title: *Education Policy and Funding Higher Education*.

Mentorship

2021-2023 Training Lead, Qualitative Interview Methods and Qualitative Coding in MAXQDA.

2020-2023 Project Manager, Postsecondary Student Decision Making Study. (10 research assistants).

2019 Graduate Student Preliminary Exam Mentor, Department of Sociology. Subject area: Demography: Inequality, Family, Health and Aging, and Demographic Methods. (4 PhD students).

2019 Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity (SURO) supervisor. *Project*: “The Effects of Expanding Financial Aid: Higher Education Act Re-Authorization of 1992.” (1 research assistant)

University of Delaware

Teaching (as Teaching Assistant)

2015 Working and Learning in Washington, DC., Co-listed Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Administration (POSC 483/UAPP 433/UAPP 733-010).

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

**Presenting Author | + Invited Talks*

2025 Elizabeth Burland*, Nathan Sotherland, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Xavier Fields, and Megan Tompkins-Stange, “Systems ‘Built by Adults for Adults’: How high school counselors shape access to financial aid.” Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).

2025 Elizabeth Burland*, Nathan Sotherland, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Xavier Fields, and Megan Tompkins-Stange, “‘Built by Adults for Adults’: How front-line administrators shape access to state need-based financial aid.” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference.

2025 Elizabeth Burland*, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija*, Xavier Fields, and Megan Tompkins-Stange, “Bureaucracy and Burden: Understanding Variation in Take-up of Need-Based Aid.” Sociology of Education Association (SEA) Annual Conference.

2024 Elizabeth Burland, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Xavier Fields, Kelcie Gerson, Nathan Sotherland, Kevin Stange, Megan Tompkins-Stange, and Marissa Thompson. “Bureaucrats and Burden: Understanding Variation in Take-up of a Need-Based Aid Program.” APPAM.

2023 Elizabeth Burland*. *Following in Their Footsteps or Avoiding Their Mistakes? Qualitative Evaluation of Postsecondary Decision Making*. Public Policy Practicum: Interview Research Project on Urban Education, University of Chicago. +

2023 Elizabeth Burland* and Stefanie DeLuca. “New Insights into the Postsecondary Choices of College-Ready Students from Families with Low Income.” Ed Policy Talks Series, University of Michigan. +

2023 Elizabeth Burland* and Stefanie DeLuca. “Postsecondary Choices and Tradeoffs: Treatment Heterogeneity in College Access Interventions.” APPAM.

2023 Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Micheltore, Katherine Leu, CJ Libassi, Stephanie Owen, Mary Quiroga*. “Experimental Evidence on the Effects of College Match on Educational Attainment.” APPAM.

2023 Elizabeth Burland* and Stefanie DeLuca. “New Insights into the Postsecondary Choices of College-Ready Students from Families with Low Income.” ASA.

2023 Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Leu*, CJ Libassi, Katherine Micheltore, Stephanie Owen, and Mary Quiroga. “Experimental Evidence on the Effects of College Quality on Educational Attainment and Labor Market Outcomes.” Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP).

2023	Elizabeth Burland*. “Following in Their Footsteps or Avoiding their Mistakes: The Role of Older Siblings in Shaping College Decision Making.” AEFP.
2023	Elizabeth Burland*, “Following in Their Footsteps or Avoiding their Mistakes: The Role of Older Siblings in Shaping College Decision Making.” SEA Annual Conference.
2022	Elizabeth Burland*, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Micheltmore, Stephanie Owen, and Shwetha Raghuraman. “The Power of Certainty: Experimental Evidence on the Effective Design of “Free Tuition” Programs.” TransferBOOST Webinar hosted by HCM Strategists.+
2022	Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski, Katherine Micheltmore, Stephanie Owen*, and Shwetha Raghuraman. “The Power of Certainty: Experimental Evidence on the Effective Design of Free Tuition Programs.” National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Public Economics Program Meeting, Fall 2022.
2022	Elizabeth Burland*. “Trust in the System: College Choice and Tension between Institutional Logics and Student Decision Making.” American Educational Research Association (AERA).
2021	Fabian Pfeffer* and Elizabeth Burland*. “Unequal Effects of Expanding Student Financial Aid? Effects of the 1992 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.” Michigan State University.+
2021	Fabian Pfeffer and Elizabeth Burland*. “Unequal Effects of Expanding Student Financial Aid? Effects of the 1992 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.” Population Association of America (PAA).
2021	Elizabeth Burland*. “How Do Students Make Postsecondary Decisions? A Qualitative Analysis of the Role of Financial Aid Interventions in Shaping Student Choices.” AEFP.
2021	Elizabeth Burland, Susan Dynarski*, Katherine Micheltmore, Stephanie Owen, and Shwetha Raghuraman. “Large-scale policies to reduce income gaps in college enrollment: Evidence from the HAIL Scholarship and the Go Blue Guarantee.” AEFP.
2020	Fabian Pfeffer and Elizabeth Burland*. “Unequal Effects of Expanding Student Financial Aid? Effects of the 1992 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.” PAA. <i>Meeting cancelled due to COVID19.</i>
2019	Fabian Pfeffer and Elizabeth Burland*. “Unequal Effects of Expanding Student Financial Aid? Effects of the 1992 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.” AEFP.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Public Scholarship and Service to the Community

- Panelist at the Hartford Foundation’s giving circle. Panel title: “Understanding the Landscape of Post-Secondary Success in 2025.”
- Presentation at the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) Annual College Access Process. Title: “Take-Up and Take-Aways from the Tuition Incentive Project Evaluation” (2024).

Service to the Profession

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Annual conference submission peer review, 2025)
- Association for Education Finance and Policy (Annual conference submission peer review, 2025)
- Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility (Communications Committee 2018-2019)
- Section on Sociology of Education (Newsletter Editor, August 2018)
- Occasional journal reviewer: American Economic Review: Insights; Social Forces; Higher Education; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy.

University of Connecticut Service

- UConn IDEA Grant Program (Student Grant Reviewer, 2025)
- Research Seminar Committee Member, School of Public Policy (Summer 2024-present)
- School of Public Policy Awards Committee Member (2024-2025)

- MPA Fellows Curriculum Committee Member (2024-2025)
- Research Faculty Search Committee Member, School of Public Policy (Summer 2024)
- MPP Committee Member, School of Public Policy (Summer 2024-present)

University of Michigan Service

- Education Policy Initiative Antiracism Working Group (Participant 2020-2023)
- Ford School of Public Policy, Ph.D. Admissions Committee (Committee member 2017-2019, 2022)
- Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar Climate & Inclusion Working Group (2019-2023)
- Virtual Inequality Brownbag, Center for Inequality Dynamics (Organizing Committee 2021)
- Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar (Co-coordinator 2019-2021)
- Sociology Department Graduate Student Recruitment Coordinator (2020-2021)
- Inequality, Demography and Family Workshop (Co-coordinator 2018-2019)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware

Administrative Coordinator, Wilmington Education Improvement Commission January 2015- August 2016

- Coordinated research and administrative support for commission and community-led subcommittees (for WEIC and its predecessor, the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee).
- Delivered solutions to community-identified problems through written and oral communication.
- Oversaw development of legislative policy change.
- Supervised five undergraduate and graduate-level research assistants.

Washington, DC Experience, Program Coordinator

August 2014-January 2015

- Coordinated and supervised 20 undergraduate students in Washington, DC internships.
- Arranged lectures and 4 guest speaker visits to support student learning.
- Developed an alumni networking program to facilitate network development and student career goals.

Delaware General Assembly

Legislative Fellow

January 2014-June 2014

- Generated research-driven answers for key policy stakeholders to support constituent relations and legislative decision-making.
- Facilitated productive discussions among policy actors and inclusion of community voices.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Association for Education Finance and Policy
- American Sociological Association
- Sociology of Education Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Stefanie DeLuca, Johns Hopkins University
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Dr. Susan Dynarski, Harvard University
dynarski@g.harvard.edu

Dr. Fabian Pfeffer, Ludwig-Maximilians-University
 (LMU) Munich
fabian.pfeffer@lmu.de

Dr. Katherine Micheltore, University of Michigan
kmichelm@umich.edu