

# Editorial Staff

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## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Sydney Hamilton** is a second-year MPA candidate at the Trachtenberg School, focusing on issues of nuclear security policy. She currently works as a Systems Engineer at Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc., working for the U.S. Navy on security policy. Originally from just outside of Pittsburgh, PA, Sydney graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Political Science. When not working or studying, she enjoys reading, playing board games, and catching as much theatre as possible!

## MANAGING EDITOR

**Katie Howell** is a second-year MPP candidate at the Trachtenberg School, with an interest in social policy. Originally from Cary, North Carolina, Katie graduated from Appalachian State University in 2017 with a B.A. in Global Studies. Before taking on the role of Managing Editor, Katie worked as a research and writing intern for Food Tank: The Think Tank for Food, exploring socially and environmentally sustainable ways of alleviating hunger, obesity, and poverty. She also serves as President for The Store, GW's food pantry.

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

**Niloofar Asgari** is a second-year Master of Public Administration (MPA) candidate at the Trachtenberg School. Originally from Indianapolis, she graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. in Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and a minor in International Studies. Before graduate school, Niloofar worked to expand immigrant and refugee access to mental health resources as an AmeriCorps Member, and served as a volunteer tutor helping immigrants in Indianapolis practice their conversational English skills. After graduating from the Trachtenberg School, Niloofar hopes to use her professional and personal knowledge, skills, and experiences to analyze, create, and implement policies and programs that advance the well-being of immigrant and refugee communities in the United States. When she's not working or studying, she enjoys streaming lighthearted shows and movies, laughing with her friends, and teaching herself how to cook.

**Tessa Atkinson-Adams** is currently an MPA student at the Trachtenberg School, as well as a graduate of the Nonprofit Management graduate certificate program. Tessa graduated from University of California- Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Political Science in 2009. With a passion

for nonprofits and politics, Tessa moved to Washington, DC, from her native northern California stomping grounds six years ago in order to be in the thick of the action. When not in pandemic times, you will see her at the Folger Shakespeare Library, soaking up history, language, and live performances.

**Alex Borkholder** is a first-year MPP candidate at the Trachtenberg School, with an interest in foreign policy issues. He currently works in political advertising and has experience working on congressional campaigns, in the United States Senate, and as program manager of a progressive polling firm. Alex graduated from the University of Florida with degrees in Political Science and Economics and a minor in Public Leadership. When not working or studying, he enjoys cooking, listening to audio books, and playing with Kona, his french bulldog.

**Jason Cohn** is a second-year MPP candidate at the Trachtenberg School, focusing on higher education policy analysis. Originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, he graduated from the University of North Carolina in 2018 with a degree in Economics and Public Policy. Jason has previously worked as a Research Intern at the Institute for Higher Education Policy and plans to pursue a career researching policy issues related to college access, affordability, and completion.

**Peter Duyshart** is a second-year MPA candidate at the Trachtenberg School, with a concentration in politics, policy, and administration. Originally from Glendora, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles, he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2016 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Public Affairs. Peter's primary focus is transportation policy; he currently interns for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and previously worked in transportation policy and programming for a local government agency in California prior to attending graduate school. Outside of the academic world, he enjoys hiking, golfing, exploring D.C., and watching his favorite sports teams.

**Shabir Eman** is a second-year MPA and Fulbright candidate at Trachtenberg School, focusing on International Development. Originally from Kabul, Afghanistan, Shabir graduated from Mysore University, India, in 2014 with an MBA in Marketing Management. Before joining graduate school, he worked as the Director of Private Sector Research and Development at the Afghan Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Shabir has taught marketing management at Kateb and Dunya universities in Kabul. He is also the Co-founder and Chair of the Board of the Youth Thinkers' Society (YTS) – a non-profit organization promoting youth engagement and volunteerism in Afghanistan. When not studying, he enjoys walking and cooking.

**Aleida Fernandez** is an Associate Editor for Policy Perspectives and current President of GW's ICMA chapter for 2020-21. Aleida is originally from Salem, Oregon and graduated from Whitman College in 2015 with a B.A. in History and a Minor in Music. After graduation, Aleida moved to Washington, D.C. where she has worked at the Smithsonian, Federal Computer Week and currently at Cambium Assessment, Inc. (formerly American Institutes for Research). At Cambium, Aleida is a staff manager and consultant for state departments of education. In addition to her work, Aleida volunteers at Sitar Arts Center in NW DC. She is a second-year MPA with a concentration in Budget and Public Finance.

**Jack Nicholson** is a first-year Master of Public Policy candidate at the Trachtenberg School. He graduated from University of Richmond with degrees in Leadership Studies and Journalism. After graduating from Richmond, Jack joined Teach for America's Nashville corps, where he taught middle school literacy and composition for four years. While living in Nashville, he also earned a Master's of Education from Lipscomb University and interned for the Nashville Mayors Office. When Jack is not working, he enjoys reading, hiking, and watching sports.

**Sydney Tepper** is a second-year MPA candidate at the Trachtenberg School, focusing on issues of women's and LGBTQIA+ advocacy. She currently works as an issue researcher, writer, and editor for the online political media organization Simplified. Previously, she interned as a data and evaluation intern for GatherDC and as a healthcare/large research institution intern at McAllister & Quinn. Originally from Merrick, New York, Sydney graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with degrees in Government and Sociology. When not working or studying, she enjoys reading, baking, watching everything on Netflix and HBO, and exploring D.C.!