

SCIENCE POLICY

Bootcamp



Agenda & Bios

January 8, 9, & 10, 2025

PhD Plus and the Science Policy Initiative (SPI) at UVA are excited to welcome you to the 2025 Science Policy Bootcamp. This 3-day event is *free* for graduate students and postdocs from across the Commonwealth.

The 2025 Bootcamp will include a Science Policy 101 overview led by Toby Smith (Association American of Universities), sessions centered on *transitions in government*, conversations about hot-button topics such as *governance around Artificial Intelligence* featuring Victoria Rubin (U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology), a *science policy-focused workshop* taught by Jackie Goodrum (UVA Batten School of Public Policy), and much more. To learn more, visit the Science Policy Bootcamp webpage (link below) or email Sam Lake (vvg6xs@virginia.edu).

In-person Location: New Cabell Hall (NCH), Language Commons, Suite 298

Zoom ID: 211 640 4718

Zoom Password: UVA

Website: phdplus.virginia.edu/2025-Science-Policy-Bootcamp

Sponsoring Organizations

Science Policy Initiative at UVA

SPI is a student-led organization empowering scientists and engineers to be more informed and involved in science policy. We seek to enhance awareness about fellowship and career opportunities, provide support and professional development events to prepare students and postdocs for careers in science policy; and facilitate community outreach that supports evidence-based policies.

PhD Plus

PhD Plus is a university-wide initiative to prepare graduate students and postdocs across all disciplines for long-term career success. Our goal is to enable versatile academics who are deeply engaged with society's needs to become influential professionals in every sector.



**SCIENCE POLICY INITIATIVE
AT UVA**



UVA PhD Plus

Wednesday, Jan. 8

- 9:00 AM | **Welcome and Introduction** led by Mark Schwartz, SPI at UVA
- 9:15 AM | **Science Policy 101** led by Toby Smith, Association of American Universities
- 10:30 AM | BREAK
- 10:45 AM | **Federal Transitions & University Federal Relations** led by Julia Smith, UVA
- 11:10 AM | **Facilitated Discussion** moderated by Zach Dawson, SPI at UVA
 - Toby Smith, AAU
 - Julia Smith, UVA
- 12:30 PM | **Ways to Engage in Science Policy** led by Kenn Dela Cruz, SPI at UVA

Thursday, Jan. 9

- 9:00 AM | **Welcome and Recap of Day 1** led by Kenn Dela Cruz, SPI at UVA
- 9:10 AM | **State-Level Transitions** led by David Toscano; moderated by Carreen de Cárdenas
- 10:10 AM | BREAK
- 10:20 AM | **Short- to Medium-Term Transitions: Insights from Federal Agencies & Offices** moderated by Savannah Lynn, SPI at UVA
 - Jesse Dunietz, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
 - Chris Hayes, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - Erik Olson, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- 11:20 AM | BREAK
- 11:30 AM | **Long-Term Transitions: Changes to Legal Precedents** led by Erik Olson, NRDC; moderated by Mark Schwartz, SPI at UVA
- 1:00 PM | **Science Policy Networking Event*** organized by Carreen de Cárdenas and Kenn Dela Cruz, SPI at UVA (NCH, Conference Room 236)

Friday, Jan. 10

- 9:00 AM | **Welcome and Recap of Day 2** led by Olivia Morren, SPI at UVA
- 9:10 AM | **Governance Around Artificial Intelligence** led by Victoria Rubin; moderated by Savannah Lynn, SPI at UVA
- 10:00 AM | **Facilitated Discussion** moderated by Savannah Lynn, SPI at UVA
- 10:30 AM | BREAK
- 10:45 AM | **Science Policy Communication Workshop** led by Jackie Goodrum, UVA; moderated by Olivia Morren, SPI at UVA
- 1:00 PM | End of the Bootcamp



Jacqueline (Jackie) Goodrum, JD

Lecturer in the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at UVA
Conservation Policy Associate at Wild Virginia

Jacqueline Goodrum has 20 years of experience working in environmental law and policy. Her work has spanned international, federal, state, and local levels of environmental decision-making. Prior to her current consulting role with Wild Virginia, she launched a buy local food campaign for the Piedmont Environmental Council, promoted community sustainable development projects for the United Nations Environment Program, advised communities on novel legal approaches to protect public water rights with the Water & Justice Initiative, clerked for the United States Department of Justice's Environmental Enforcement Section, and protected a National Wildlife Refuge from harmful development as a Law Fellow for a public interest environmental law practice. She holds Bachelor's of Arts degrees in Foreign Affairs and Environmental Thought & Practice from the University of Virginia, as well as a Master of Environmental Law & Policy degree, *summa cum laude*, and a Juris Doctor degree, *cum laude*, from Vermont Law School. She is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia. She is also a published author of three law review articles, and a Lecturer at the University of Virginia Batten School of Public Policy where she teaches courses on effective public commenting and environmental advocacy.

Erik Olson, JD

Senior Strategic Director
Health & Food at the Natural Resources Defense Council

Erik D. Olson is Senior Strategic Director for Health the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has 40 years of experience and helps to lead NRDC's strategy on toxic chemicals and on drinking water. Previously, Erik oversaw key health projects at The Pew Charitable Trusts, including campaigns to address toxic chemicals in food and to enact the first overhaul of FDA's food safety law in 70 years. Prior to Pew, he was General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, focusing on addressing environmental health threats and on climate change. Prior to his Senate stint, he led NRDC's health program, advocacy center, and campaigns to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act and pesticide law. He has litigated precedent-setting cases on drinking water, Superfund, pesticides, toxics and other issues at NRDC, the National Wildlife Federation and EPA. His law degree is from the University of Virginia and his Bachelor's is from Columbia University.

Victoria Rubin, PhD

Senior Professional Staff Member with the
U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and
Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology

Victoria Rubin is a Senior Professional Staff Member with the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology, where she is the lead staff member on the National Science Foundation, STEM Education, research security, open access, and related research and development policy issues. Previously, she was a Professional Staff Member with the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Space and Science in 2022 and a NOAA Sea Grant John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow for the Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Weather and Manufacturing in 2021. While pursuing her policy career on the Hill, she completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia in 2024, where she also received her BS in Environmental Sciences.



Julia Smith

Executive Director for Federal Relations and
Special Assistant to the President at the UVA

Julia Smith serves as the University of Virginia's (UVA) Executive Director for Federal Relations and Special Assistant to the President. In this role, she oversees all federal advocacy and lobbying efforts for the University with Congress, the White House, and federal research agencies. She is an expert in science communication and is dedicated to promoting the incredible work of federally funded researchers across federal networks and the broader science advocacy community. On higher education priorities, Julia advocates for robust support for federal student aid programs, comprehensive immigration reform, and the development and implementation of federal-level equity and inclusion policies and principles. She is dedicated to sharing the powerful stories of UVA faculty, students, and staff to help shape and inform federal policies impacting our community.

Julia served as the University of Arizona's Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations before joining UVA in 2022. Prior to her work at the University of Arizona, she served as Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations at the Association of American Universities where her responsibilities for research funding and policy issues covered the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Humanities. Her portfolio also included research costs, scientific openness and security, and communicating science effectively to broader audiences. Julia served as a founder of and chair for the Golden Goose Award from 2012 to 2018. The Award recognizes federally funded basic research that may have been obscure when originally funded but has since gone on to have an enormous societal impact. She holds a BA in Philosophy from Dickinson College.

Tobin (Toby) Smith

Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy
at the Association of American Universities

Tobin (Toby) Smith is Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy at the Association of American Universities (AAU). In this role Toby oversees AAU's government relations activities and advocacy efforts, matters related higher education and science and innovation policy, and AAU's international activities. Toby previously worked as a federal relations representative for the University of Michigan and MIT. He began his career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant to Congressman Bob Traxler (D-MI).

Toby writes and speaks widely on issues of science policy. He is the co-author of a 2008 book on national science policy titled, *Beyond Sputnik – U.S. Science Policy in the 21st Century*. Toby serves on the Advisory Board for AESIS and is a member of the Council of Experts for the NSF sponsored Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS). He is active in AAAS, where he is an honorific fellow and officer of the Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering section (Section X).

Toby holds a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University, and a Bachelor's degree in General Studies (BGS) from the University of Michigan.



David Toscano, JD

Former Mayor of Charlottesville (1994-1996)

Minority Leader in the Virginia House of Delegates (2011-2018)

Representative for the 57th District of Virginia (2006-2020)

Attorney at Buck, Toscano, and Tereskerz

David J. Toscano served 14 years (2006-20) in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 57th District, which included all of Charlottesville and parts of Albemarle County. First elected in 2005, David's priorities included education, renewable energy, environmental protection, affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, expanded services for the disabled and poor, and reforms to Virginia's adoption and foster care laws. He was the Democratic leader in the House of Delegates from 2011 to 2018. Prior to serving in the state legislature, he served 12 years on Charlottesville's City Council, including a stint as Mayor. Toscano received his bachelor's degree from Colgate University and his Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston College. After moving to Charlottesville in 1981, he earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. He is a practicing attorney with MichieHamlett in Charlottesville, the author of two books, and writes on the Substack platform.