

Science Policy Fellowship Mini-Workshop

July 26, 2023, from 2:00 – 4:30 PM | Hybrid Event

PhD Plus and the Science Policy Initiative (SPI) at UVA will be hosting a 2.5-hour workshop on July 26 for graduate students who are interested in pursuing science policy fellowship opportunities. The event will include an overview of different types of science policy opportunities (summer internships to postgraduate fellowship programs), a panel discussion featuring UVA alums and a national fellowship program manager (bios below), tips on how to get started, and more.

All interested participants should **register before noon on Monday, July 24**. This hybrid event will be in-person in the [Language Commons](#) in New Cabell Hall; snacks and beverages will be provided. If you cannot join in person, you are welcome to join us on Zoom. To learn more, email Sam Lake, Ph.D. (vyg6xs@virginia.edu), Assistant Director of Research Communication.

Register at: phdplus.virginia.edu/events

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

Zoom ID: 211 640 4718

Zoom Password: UVA

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 2:00 PM** **Welcome & Introductions**
- 2:05 PM** **Landscape of Science Policy Opportunities**
Why a Fellowship (benefits vs. a full-time position)
Types of Science Policy Fellowships & Internships
- 3:00 PM** **Panel Discussion (UVA Alums & National Fellowship Manager)**
 - [Tara Illgnar](#) | Global CCS Institute
 - [Maddie Kennedy](#) | NOAA, National Sea Grant Office
 - [Caroline Normile](#) | Bipartisan Policy Center
- 4:00 PM** **Reflections & Recap of Panel Recommendations**
- 4:10 PM** **Next Steps**
How to Find and Learn About Opportunities
Leveraging Informational Interviews
Upcoming SPI & PhD Plus Events
- 4:30 PM** **Event Concludes**

PANELIST BIOS

Tara Illgnar

Tara completed her graduate degree from UVA in atmospheric science, focusing on energy policy, carbon management, and climate solutions. During the last two years, Tara's work includes (1) a COVES fellowship serving as the science-technology advisor for the Virginia legislature, where she initiated carbon management policy discussions that have continued to gain momentum, (2) a Yale environmental fellowship where she was a visiting fellow at the MacArthur Foundation providing guidance on carbon management technologies, policy, public perceptions, and recommendations for community engagement for the Foundation's Climate Solutions Team, (3) authoring a climate science-policy training module with DiploUS to prepare multinational diplomats for their roles at the 2021 UN General Assembly, (4) working with the US Department of Energy's Office of FECM to prepare community engagement products for underserved communities and those impacted by the energy transition. Since 2020, Tara has completed four Fellowships focusing on climate mitigation, carbon management, and low-carbon energy technologies. Tara's currently works at the Global CCS Institute as the Client Engagement and Advocacy Lead.



Maddie Kennedy

Maddie Kennedy (she/her) is the National Student Opportunities Manager for the National Sea Grant College program. She is responsible for the administration of the Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowships, as well as the facilitation of collaboration across NOAA Fellowships. She has extensive knowledge of the federal application process through her experience writing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to reviewing application packages. As a leading member of the Sea Grant DEIJA Committee, she is interested in helping students jump-start their careers and has a passion for supporting diversity, inclusion, and belonging in STEM/STEAM. Prior to her current role, Kennedy was a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow in the National Sea Grant Office, specializing in Disaster Preparedness and Resilience. Maddie earned her Master's degree in Coastal Ecology from The University of South Alabama and The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, where she studied the relationship between winter waterfowl grazing and sea grass. She earned her BA from Ithaca College.



Caroline Normile

Dr. Normile is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Bipartisan Policy Center Energy Program, where she draws on research experience in the earth system and carbon cycle sciences to inform evidence-based climate and energy policy. In this role, she is working to advance coordinated federal carbon management, accounting, and removal. This includes building support for engineered carbon removal approaches like direct air capture as well as nature-based solutions like climate-smart agriculture and forestry, enhanced rock weathering, and the use of biochar.

Prior to joining BPC, she served as a Principal Air Quality Specialist with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, a regional government agency in California. She served as the 2017–2018 Congressional Science Fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, sponsored by the American Meteorological Society and AAAS. During her fellowship, Caroline supported the Senate Task Force on Climate Change and advanced innovative bipartisan legislation related to carbon capture, utilization, and storage; renewable energy; aircraft greenhouse gas emissions; soil carbon sequestration; and the blue economy. Caroline completed her Ph.D. as a NASA Earth and Space Science Graduate Fellow at Penn State University. Her doctoral research assessed land-atmosphere carbon exchange across North American terrestrial ecosystems. She also holds a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science from Penn State and a Bachelor's degree from UVA, where she double majored in Environmental Sciences and Environmental Thought and Practice.

