

SUSAN L. MOFFITT

Brown University
Department of Political Science
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

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APPOINTMENTS

John Hazen White Professor of Public Policy
Chair, Department of Political Science
Brown University

July 2024–Present

Professor
Department of Political Science
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University

July 2023–Present

Director, Academic Programs
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University

July 2022–July 2024

Director, Master of Public Affairs Program
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University

January 2022–June 2023

Director, Taubman Center for American Politics & Policy
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University

July 2017–June 2020

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University

July 2016–June 2023

Mary Tefft and John Hazen White Sr. Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science, Taubman Center for Public Policy
Brown University

July 2009–June 2016

Fellow, Center for American Political Studies
Harvard University

Fall 2008–Fall 2009

Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research
Harvard University

Fall 2006–Fall 2008

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Michigan, Department of Political Science, December 2005
- M.P.P. University of Michigan, Institute of Public Policy Studies, May 1994
- B.A. University of Rochester, Department of Political Science, May 1992, *Summa Cum Laude*, winner of the James McGill Prize in Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Susan L. Moffitt, Michaela K. O'Neill, David K. Cohen. 2023. *Reforming the Reform: Problems of Public Schooling in the American Welfare State*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Susan L. Moffitt. 2014. *Making Policy Public: Participatory Bureaucracy in American Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

David K. Cohen and **Susan L. Moffitt**. 2009. *The Ordeal of Equality: Did Federal Regulation Fix the Schools?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Articles

Maya Chanel Nuñez, Cameron Arnzen, Hannah Rosenstein, Jonathan Collins, **Susan Moffitt**. 2026. Administrative Designs and Access to Political Arenas in Public Education. *Governance* 39 (1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.70086>

Susan L. Moffitt, Cadence Willse, Kelly B. Smith, and David K. Cohen. 2023. Centralization and Subnational Capacity: The Struggle to Make Federalism Work Equitably in Public Education. *Perspectives on Politics* 21 (4): 1283-1303.

Margot Jackson, Susanna Loeb, and **Susan Moffitt**. 2023. Introduction to Overlapping Public Investments in Child Well-Being: A Reconsideration of the Social Safety Net. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 706 (1): 7-13.

Susan L. Moffitt. 2023. Policymaker and Practitioner Perspectives. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 706 (1): 89-92; 159-164; 276-279.

Paul Manna and **Susan L. Moffitt**. 2021. Traceable Tasks and Complex Policies: When Politics Matter for Policy Implementation. *Policy Studies Journal* 49 (1): 190-218.

Susan L. Moffitt. 2020. Introduction: The Politics of the Opioid Epidemic. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 45(2).

Paul Testa, **Susan L. Moffitt**, and Marie Schenk. 2020. Public Preferences for New Information on Opioids. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 45(2).

Margot I. Jackson and **Susan L. Moffitt**. 2017. The State of Unequal Educational Opportunity: The Coleman Report 50 Years Later. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* vol. 674: special issue.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles (continued)

Susan L. Moffitt. 2016. The State of Educational Improvement: The Legacy of ESEA Title I. *History of Education Quarterly* 56 (2): 375-381.

Susan L. Moffitt and David K. Cohen. 2015. The State of Title I: Building Capability for Instructional Improvement. *RSF: Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 1(3): 187-202.

Daniel P. Carpenter, Jacqueline Chattopadhyay, **Susan Moffitt** and Clayton Nall. 2012. The Complications of Controlling Bureaucratic Timing: FDA Review Deadlines and Postmarket Drug Safety. *American Journal of Political Science* 56 (1): 98-114.

William H. Shrank, Niteesh K. Choudhry, Angela Tong, Jessica Myers, Michael A Fischer, Kellie Swanton, Julie Slezak, Troyen A. Brennan, Joshua N. Liberman, Chris Roebuck, **Susan Moffitt**, Jerry Avorn, Daniel Carpenter. 2012. Warnings without Guidance: Patient responses to an FDA warning about Ezetimibe. *Medical Care* 50 (6): 479-484.

Susan L. Moffitt. 2010. Promoting Agency Reputation through Public Advice: Advisory Committee Use in the FDA. *Journal of Politics* (72) 3: 880-893.

Daniel P. Carpenter, **Susan Moffitt**, Colin D. Moore, Ryan T. Ryanbrandt, Michael M. Ting, Ian Yohai, Evan James Zucker. 2010. Early Entrant Protection in Approval Regulation: Theory and Evidence from FDA Drug Review. *The Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 26 (3): 515-545.

David K. Cohen, **Susan L. Moffitt** and Simona Goldin. 2007. Policy and Practice: The Dilemma. *American Journal of Education* 113 (4): 515-548.

Book Chapters

David K. Cohen, **Susan L. Moffitt**, and Kelly B. Smith. 2017. The Influence of Policy on Practice. In *Shaping Education Policy: Power and Process*, 2nd edition, Douglas E. Mitchell, Robert Crowson, and Dorothy Shipp (eds). Taylor and Francis.

Daniel Carpenter, Jeremy Greene and **Susan Moffitt.** 2015. The Drug Efficacy Study and its Manifold Legacies. In *FDA in the 21st Century: The Challenges of Regulating Drugs and New Technologies*, Holly Fernandez Lynch and I. Glenn Cohen (eds). New York: Columbia University Press.

Susan L. Moffitt. 2012. The Policy Impact of Public Advice: The Effects of Advisory Committee Transparency on Product Safety. In *Regulatory Breakdown: The Crisis of Confidence in U.S. Regulation*, Cary Coglianese (ed). Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press.

David K. Cohen and **Susan L. Moffitt.** 2011. The Influence of Practice on Policy. In *Shaping Education Policy: Power and Process*, Douglas E. Mitchell, Robert Crowson, and Dorothy Shipp (eds). Taylor and Francis.

David K. Cohen, **Susan L. Moffitt**, and Simona Goldin. 2007. Policy and Practice. In *The State of Education Policy Research*, Susan Fuhrman, David K. Cohen and Fritz Mosher (eds). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters (continued)

Heather C. Hill, David K. Cohen, and **Susan Moffitt**. 2003. Instruction, Poverty and Performance. In *Hard Work for Good Schools*, Gary Orfield and Elizabeth DeBray (eds). Century Foundation.

David K. Cohen and **Susan L. Moffitt**. 2001. Title I: Politics, Poverty and Knowledge. In *The Future of the Federal Role in Elementary and Secondary Education*, Jack Jennings (ed). Washington, DC: Center on Education Policy.

Policy Reports

Lindsey Kaler, Michaela Krug O’Neill, Patricia Strach, **Susan Moffitt**. 2026. California’s System of Special Education Staffing, Technical Report. *Getting Down to Facts III*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford, SCALE Initiative.

Nathaniel Schwartz, Hanseul Kang, Susanna Loeb, Jason Grissom, Brendan Bartanen, Jennifer Cheatham, Olivia Chi, Morgaen Donaldson, Renata Freitas Lemos, Greer Mellon, **Susan Moffitt**, Aizat Nurshatayeva, Jayanti Owens, Edieal Pinker, Rachel White, Seth Zimmerman. 2023. Studying the Superintendency: A Call for Research. Providence, RI: Annenberg Institute at Brown.

Susan L. Moffitt and Neal Finkelstein. 2018. Implementing the Common Core State Standards in California Schools: A Work in Progress. *Getting Down to Facts II*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford PACE.

Jeffrey R. Henig, Melissa Arnold Lyon, **Susan Moffitt** and David Plank. 2018. Creating Coherent Systems to Support Education Improvement. *Getting Down to Facts II*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford PACE.

Susan L. Moffitt, Matthew J. Lyddon, Michaela Krug O’Neill, Kelly B. Smith, Marie Schenk, Cadence Willse, and David K. Cohen. 2018. Frontlines Perspectives on Instructional Improvement in the Common Core Era. Technical Report, *Getting Down to Facts II: Current Conditions and Paths Forward for California Schools*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford PACE.

Susan L. Moffitt, Matthew J. Lyddon, Domingo Morel, Michaela Krug O’Neill, Kelly B. Smith, Cadence Willse, and David K. Cohen. 2018. State Structures for Instructional Support in California. Technical Report, *Getting Down to Facts II: Current Conditions and Paths Forward for California Schools*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford PACE.

Paul Manna and **Susan Moffitt**. 2014. *New Education Advocacy Organizations in the U.S. States: National Snapshot and a Case Study of Advance Illinois*. New York: Wallace Foundation Report.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kaler, Lindsey, Cameron Arnzen, Alejandro Contreras, Bryan Natividad, Niamh Stull, and Susan Moffitt. (2026). The Politics of Administrative Ease: Public Access to Local Special Education Information. (EdWorkingPaper: 26-1447). <https://doi.org/10.26300/s2br-zh02>

Dovilė Rimkutė, Adriana Bunea, and **Susan L. Moffitt**. “Introduction to the Special Issue: Making Bureaucracy Public: Democratic Policymaking in Bureaucratic Realms,” special issue of *Governance*, in preparation.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS (continued)

Susan L. Moffitt, Marie Schenk, and David Herrera. Pharmaceutical Regulation. In *Who Wins, Who Loses: The Distribution of Regulatory Impacts in the United States*, Cary Coglianese (ed). Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Michaela O'Neill, Patricia Strach, Niamh Stull, Hannah Rosenstein, Lindsey Kaler, **Susan Moffitt**. Administrative Ease and Impediments: Implementing High Impact Tutoring, in preparation for submission.

Lindsey Kaler, Cameron Arnzen, Niamh Stull, **Susan Moffitt**. Shifts in the U.S. Education Labor Market and Impacts on the Education Ecosystem, in preparation for submission.

Lindsey Kaler, Andrew Camp, and **Susan Moffitt**. The Paraeducator Labor Market: A Text Analysis of Job Advertisements, in preparation for submission.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Brown University

Data Science Institute Seed grant: **\$25,000** with Lindsey Kaler, Cameron Arnzen and Niamh Stull, 2026

Brown University

Watson Institute, **\$300,000 grant** (\$100,000 over three years) to support the Realizing Rights Research Lab, 2024-2027

Brown University

Watson Institute Birkelund Fund, for "Realizing Rights," with Jonathan Collins: **\$19,500 grant**, 2022-2023

Stanford University

Governance Section Leader, "Getting Down to Facts II" study of California Schools: **\$40,000 research contract**, 2017-2018

Spencer Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation

"Under Construction: The Rise, Spread, and Consequences of the Common Core State Standards Initiative in the U.S. Educational Sector," Co-PI, with Brian Rowan (project director), David K. Cohen, and Sean Reardon: **\$4.9 million grant** (for all portions of the study)

Brown University

Seed Award: **\$50,000 grant**, 2016-2017

Brown University

Watson Institute Faculty Collaboration Grant for "Women in Politics and Policy Initiative," with Emily Oster, Jayanti Owens, and Wendy Schiller: **\$10,000 grant**, 2016-2017

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (continued)

Brown University

Watson Institute Faculty Collaboration Grant for “The Legacy and Enduring Challenge of *Equality of Educational Opportunity*: The Coleman Report 50 Years Later,” with Margot Jackson: **\$5000 grant**, 2015-2016

Wallace Foundation

Paul Manna (PI) College of William & Mary, "Cultivating and Supporting Excellent School Principals: Considerations for State Leadership and Policy": **\$113,600 research contract**, 2015

Wallace Foundation

Paul Manna (PI) College of William & Mary, “New Education Advocates”: **\$85,000 research contract**, 2013

Brown University

Salomon Faculty Research Grant: **\$15,000 grant**, 2011-2012

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, 2003-2004

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Herbert Simon Award, Midwest Political Science Association, awarded to a mid-career scholar who has made a significant contribution to the scientific study of bureaucracy, 2025

President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance, Brown University, 2025

Graduate School Faculty Award for Mentoring and Advising, Brown University, 2024

Early Career Research Achievement Award, Brown University, 2017

Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 2014-2015

Fellow (in residence), Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Research Lab, Harvard University, 2014-2015, *declined when accepted Radcliffe Fellowship for 2014-2015*

Winner of the Public Policy Section “Best Paper Presented at the 2010 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting” award for “The Politics of Bad News: Policy and Practice in K-12 Education” (with David K. Cohen, University of Michigan)

National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2011-2012

Fellow, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University, 2008-2009

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Scholars in Health Policy Research Program, Harvard University, 2006-2008

Spencer Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Spencer Foundation of Chicago, 2002-2003

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Stanford University: 2019, 2025

University of Wisconsin: 2018, 2025

European Consortium of Political Research/Sciences Po Toulouse: 2023

Yale University, Collaboration for Regulatory Rigor, Integrity, and Transparency: 2023

Yale School of Management: 2023

Harvard University

John F Kennedy School of Government: 2023

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study: 2015

Graduate School of Education: 2010

Medical School: 2008

Institute for Quantitative Social Science: 2008, 2007

Policy Analysis for California/Getting Down to Facts II: 2017, 2018

American Academy of Political and Social Science/AERA Capitol Hill Briefing: 2018

New York University: 2017

University of Pennsylvania Law School: 2011, 2017

University of Virginia: 2016

London School of Economics: 2015

History of Education Society: 2015

Russell Sage Foundation: 2014

Ohio State University: 2011

American Political Science Association: 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2005, 2002, 2001, 2000

Midwest Political Science Association: 2022, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2001

New England Political Science Association: 2023, 2024

Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management: 2025, 2013, 2012, 2010

Policy History Conference: 2014, 2012

Law & Society: 2013

Consortium for Policy Research in Education: 2005

Southern Political Science Association: 2016, 2001

Center for Education Policy: 2000

LEADERSHIP

Chair, Department of Political Science, July 2024-Present

Lead and oversee all curricular, research, and service responsibilities for a department of 33 faculty, 3 staff, 50+ PhD students, and 120+ undergraduate students.

Director, Academic Programs, July 2022–July 2024

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Led, oversaw, and coordinated four academic programs and their staffs for the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.

Director, Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy, July 2017–June 2020

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Oversaw all aspects of the Taubman Center's vision, administration, and financial management.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Graduate Courses

MPA 2160/PLCY 2160, Management and Implementation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PPAI 2000, Institutions and Policymaking
POLS 2065, Public Bureaucracy
POLS 2100, Proseminar in American Politics
POLS 2210, Governing Federalist Systems
POLS 2580, Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods
POLS 2590, Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

Undergraduate Courses

IAPA 1701U, What Makes Policies Work
IAPA 1701D, Turning Rights into Realities
PPAI 1701J, Policy Implementation
POLS 1600, Political Research Methods
POLS 1770, Education, Inequality and American Democracy
POLS 1832Z, Gender and Public Policy

Dissertation Committee Member (former students):

David Blanding (Defended June 2013)
Domingo Morel (Defended May 2014)
Jennifer Cassidy (Co-chair, Defended September 2014)
Kaitlin Sidorsky (Defended April 2015)
Michael Dickerson (Defended April 2016)
Kelly B. Smith (Co-chair, Defended April 2017)
Cadence Willse (Chair, Defended April 2019)
Cory Manento (Defended October 2021)
Marie Schenk (Chair, Defended June 2022)
David Herrera (Defended, July 2024)
Christopher Woods (Co-chair, Defended August 2024)
Alejandro (Alex) Contreras (Chair, Defended April 2026)

Dissertation First Opponent

Idunn Nørbech, University of Bergen, August 2024

Dissertation Committee Member (current students):

Maya Nuñez (Member)
Niamh Stull (Chair)
Robert Diettrick (Member)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor

Cassandra Coleman (2025-2026), winner of the Cheit prize
Benjamin Ringel (2025-2026)
Christopher Walsh (2025-2026)
Sophia Wotman (2025-2026)
Elysee Barakett (2024-2025), winner of the Krieger prize
Mia Hamilton (2024-2025)
Akshay Amesur (2023-2024)

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor (continued)

Lizzy Bernold (2023-2024)

Emory Brinson (2023-2024)

Valerie Aguilar Dellisanti (2022-2023)

Audrey Kim (2020-2021)

Asher Lehrer-Small (2019-2020)

Henry Gaylord (2019-2020)

Kelsey Turner (2019-2020)

Mili Mitra (Brown University, 2017-2018), winner of the Krieger prize

Erika Byun (Brown University, 2016-2017)

Andrea Córdova (Brown University, 2016-2017)

Hayley Flug (Brown University, 2016-2017), winner of the Philo Sherman Bennett prize for the best thesis discussing principles of free government

Leah Pierson (Brown University, 2015-2016)

Kyle Giddon (Brown University, 2014-2015), winner of the Krieger prize

Carmen Sobczak (Brown University, 2013-2014), winner of the Philo Sherman Bennett prize for the best thesis discussing principles of free government

Alyssa Ratledge (Brown University, 2010-2011)

Marion W. Dixon (University of Michigan, 1999-2000)

Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards

Visaal Ieeman (Summer 2024)

Benjamin Ringel (Spring 2024)

Quentin Thomas (Fall 2020)

Sophia Giglio (Fall 2017)

Katherine Hancock (Summer 2017)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Profession

Midwest Political Science Association

- Chair of Kenneth J. Meier Award committee for the best paper in bureaucratic politics, public administration, or public policy presented at the 2023 MPSA conference

Public Policy Section of the American Political Science Association

- Executive Council, 2011-2014; 2019-2021
- Nominations Committee, 2016-2017
- Lowi/Policy Studies Journal Best Article Award Committee, 2012, 2016
- Best Paper on Public Policy Committee, 2014

Health Politics and Section of the American Political Science Association

- Executive Council, 2020-2022

Harold D. Lasswell Award Committee, selection of best dissertation in the field of Policy Studies, 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Profession (continued)

Midwest Public Administration Caucus, Midwest Political Science Association

- President, 2021-2022
- Herbert Simon Award Nominating, 2008-2009
- Presidential Nominating Committee, 2016-2017

Referee (books)

Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press, Princeton University Press, Oxford University Press

Referee (articles)

American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory; Journal of Public Policy; Law and Society; Governance; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; American Politics Research; Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law; Urban Affairs Review; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Policy Studies Journal; American Educational Research Journal; Millbank Quarterly; State Politics and Policy Quarterly; American Journal of Education; Politics & Policy; Public Management Review; Perspectives on Politics

Referee (grants and fellowships)

National Science Foundation, Spencer Foundation, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Brown University

University Search Committee, Dean for School of International and Public Affairs, 2024-2025

Provost Working Group on the Master of Public Affairs program, 2023

University Committee on the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, 2016-2017, 2022-2023

Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Faculty Advisory Council, 2020-present

Library Advisory Board, 2017-2021

Stephen A. Ogden Jr. '60 Lectureship Committee, 2019-2021

Policy Lab Executive Council, 2018-2020

Social Science Research Institute Steering Committee, 2017-2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

- Executive Committee, 2022-2024, 2018-2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department (continued)

- MPA Faculty Committee, 2022-2024
- IAPA Faculty Committee, 2022-2024
- First Year Advisor, 2022-2023
- Taubman Center for American Politics Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2024
- Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America/Watson Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow Selection Committee, 2017-2020
- MPA Curriculum Committee, 2016-2019
- MPA Steering Committee, 2016-2017
- Taubman Center for Public Policy Undergraduate Committee, 2015-2016; 2012-2014; 2009-2010

Department of Political Science

- American Politics Search Committee, 2022-2023; 2010-2011
- Quantitative Methods Search Committee, 2016-2017; 2015-2016
- Undergraduate Committee, Fall 2016
- Seminar Series Co-Organizer 2013-2014, 2010-2011
- Graduate Studies Committee, 2012-2013, 2009-2010
- First-Year Advisor, 2012-2013, 2024-2025