

Sarah Reckhow

312 South Kedzie Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Phone: (517) 432-0028
reckhow@msu.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley- Ph.D. in Political Science, 2009
Harvard University- B.A. in Social Studies, 2002, *magna cum laude*

POSITIONS

Michigan State University

- Professor, Department of Political Science (2023 to present)
- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science (2019 to 2023)
- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science (2017 to 2023)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (2009 to 2017)

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

- Fellow, 2018 to 2019

BOOKS

Henig, Jeffrey, Rebecca Jacobsen, and Sarah Reckhow. 2019. *Outside Money in School Board Elections: The Nationalization of Education Politics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

- Winner of the 2020 Dennis Judd Best Book Award from the Urban and Local Politics Section of the American Political Science Association
- Reviewed in: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Teachers College Record*, *Educational Review*

Reckhow, Sarah. 2013. *Follow the Money: How Foundation Dollars Change Public School Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Winner of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, Virginia Hodgkinson Research Book Prize
- Winner of the American Educational Research Association, Districts in Research and Reform Publication Award
- One of *The Huffington Post's* Best Books in Political Science of 2013
- Reviewed in: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Society*, *City & Community*, *Political Studies Review*, *Philanthropy*, *The Sociological Review*, *Teachers College Record*, *Education Review*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Collins, Jonathan and Sarah Reckhow. 2024. "The New Education Politics in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 27: 127-146.

Finger, Leslie K. and Sarah Reckhow. 2022. "Policy Feedback and the Polarization of Interest Groups." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 22(1): 70-95.

Grossmann, Matt, Sarah Reckhow, Katharine Strunk, and Meg Turner. 2021. "All States Close but Red Districts Reopen: The Politics of In-Person Schooling during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Educational Researcher*. 50(9): 637-648.

Bergan, Daniel E., Dustin Carnahan, Nazita Lajevardi, Mel Medeiros, Sarah Reckhow, and Kjerstin Thorson. 2021. "Promoting the Youth Vote: The Role of Informational Cues and Social Pressure." *Political Behavior*.

Reckhow, Sarah, Megan Tompkins-Stange, and Sarah Galey-Horn. 2021. "How the Political Economy of Knowledge Production Shapes Education Policy: The Case of Teacher Evaluation in Federal Policy Discourse." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. 43(3): 472-494.

Galey-Horn, Sarah, Joseph J. Ferrare, Lorien Jasny, and Sarah Reckhow. 2020. "Building Consensus: Idea Brokerage in Teacher Policy Networks." *American Educational Research Journal*. 57(2): 872-905.

Reckhow, Sarah, Davia Downey, and Joshua Sapotichne. 2020. "Governing without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Detroit and Flint." *Urban Affairs Review*. 56(5): 1472-1502.

Reckhow, Sarah and Megan Tompkins-Stange. 2018. "Financing the Education Policy Discourse: Philanthropic Funders as Entrepreneurs in Policy Networks." *Interest Groups & Advocacy*. 7(3): 258-288.

Haddad, Nabih, and Sarah Reckhow. 2018. "The Shifting Role of Higher Education Philanthropy: A Network Analysis of Philanthropic Policy Strategies." *Philanthropy & Education*. 2(1): 25-52.

Reckhow, Sarah, Jeffrey R. Henig, Rebecca Jacobsen, and Jamie Alter Litt. 2017. "'Outsiders with Deep Pockets': The Nationalization of Local School Board Elections." *Urban Affairs Review*. 53(5): 783-811.

Snyder, Jeffrey and Sarah Reckhow. 2017. "Political Determinants of Philanthropic Funding for Urban Schools." *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 39(1): 91-107.

Mason, Mary, and Sarah Reckhow. 2017. "Rootless Reforms? State Takeovers and School Governance in Memphis and Detroit." *Peabody Journal of Education*. 92(1): 64-75.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2016. "More than Patrons: How Foundations Fuel Policy Change and Backlash." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 49(3): 449-454.

Jacobsen, Rebecca, Rachel White, and Sarah Reckhow. 2016. "Cultivating Political Powerhouses: TFA Corps Members' Experiences that Shape Local Political Engagement." *Education Policy Analysis Archives*. 24(18)

Lowe, Kate, Juliet Gainsborough, and Sarah Reckhow. 2016. "Capacity and Equity: Federal Funding Competition Between and Within Regions." *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 38(1): 25-41.

Reckhow, Sarah, Matt Grossmann, and Benjamin Chung Evans. 2015. "Policy Cues and Ideology in Attitudes toward Charter Schools." *Policy Studies Journal*. 43(2): 207-227.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2015. "Beyond Blueprints: Questioning the Replication Model in Education Philanthropy." *Society*. 52(6): 552-558.

Reckhow, Sarah and Jeffrey W. Snyder. 2014. "The Expanding Role of Philanthropy in Education Politics." *Educational Researcher*. 43(4): 186-195.

Lester, T. William and Sarah Reckhow. 2013. "Network Governance and Regional Equity: Shared Agendas or Problematic Partners?" *Planning Theory*. 12(2): 115-138.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2009. "The Distinct Patterns of Organized and Elected Representation of Racial and Ethnic Groups." *Urban Affairs Review*. 45(2): 188-217.

Ansell, Christopher, Sarah Reckhow, and Andrew Kelly. 2009. "How to Reform a Reform Coalition: Outreach, Agenda Expansion, and Brokerage in Urban School Reform." *Policy Studies Journal*. 37(4): 717-743.

WORKING PAPERS

McIlwain, Aliyah, Sarah Reckhow, and Antonia C. Gordon. 2025. "School Choice and Household Participation in School District Politics." (EdWorkingPaper: 25 -1186). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/y4eh-bh11>

Reckhow, Sarah and Nick Hess. 2025. "The Politics of Equity in Economic Development: Understanding the Emergence of Community Benefits Ordinances."

BOOK CHAPTERS

Reckhow, Sarah. 2020. "Politics, Philanthropy, and Inequality." In *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, 3rd Edition. Eds. Walter W. Powell and Patricia Bromley. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Snyder, Jeffrey W. and Sarah Reckhow. 2018. "The Shifting Landscape of Education Governance." *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Education Law*. Ed. Kristine L. Bowman. Oxford University Press.

Reckhow, Sarah and Jeffrey Snyder. 2017. "The Political Influence of Philanthropic Organizations." Eds. Douglas E. Mitchell, Dorothy Shipps, and Robert L. Crowson. *Shaping Education Policy: Power and Process*. Second Edition. New York, NY: Routledge.

Reckhow, Sarah and Megan Tompkins-Stange. 2015. "'Singing from the Same Hymnbook' at Gates and Broad." Eds. Frederick M. Hess and Jeffrey R. Henig. *The New Education Philanthropy*.

Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2013. "Respect the Depths: Campaign Rhetoric Meets Bureaucratic Reality." *Crime and Justice in the City as seen through The Wire*. Eds. Peter A. Collins and David C. Brody. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Reckhow, Sarah and Margaret Weir. 2012. "Building a Resilient Social Safety Net." *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects, Volume 4*. Eds. Nancy Pindus, Howard Wial, and Harold Wolman. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2011. "Disseminating and Legitimizing a New Approach: The Role of Foundations." *Between Public and Private: Politics, Governance, and the New Portfolio Models for Urban School Reform*. Eds. Katrina E. Bulkley, Jeffrey R. Henig, and Henry M. Levin. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

POLICY REPORTS AND MEDIA COMMENTARY

Lowe, Kate, Sarah Reckhow, and Juliet Gainsborough. 2021. "[How Biden's infrastructure package might leave behind poor and minority communities yet again](#)." *The Washington Post*. Monkey Cage. December 7.

Lowe, Kate, Sarah Reckhow, and Andrew Benjamin. 2021. "[Pete Buttigieg may not know this yet: Rail transportation funding is a racial equity issue](#)." *The Washington Post*. Monkey Cage. February 1.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2020. "[Reforms we voted for two years ago prepared us for pandemic voting](#)." *Lansing State Journal*. October 28.

Reckhow, Sarah and Craig Thiel. 2020. "[Whitmer, don't turn your back on struggling schools](#)." *The Detroit News*. March 4.

Reckhow, Sarah, Rebecca Jacobsen, and Jeffrey Henig. 2019. "[Why are teachers protesting in 'blue' cities?](#)" *The Washington Post*. Monkey Cage. March 8.

Reckhow, Sarah, Davia Downey, and Josh Sapotichne. 2018. "[Detroit and Flint Keep Relying on Private Money to Solve Public Problems: Why?](#)" *The Washington Post*. Monkey Cage. November 27.

Downey, Davia, and Sarah Reckhow. 2018. "Unnatural Disasters: Can Nonprofit Governance Promote Recovery in Detroit and Flint?" Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Michigan State University.

Thiel, Craig and Sarah Reckhow. 2017. "[Special Education Funding Falls More Heavily on Urban School Districts](#)." *Bridge*. December 21.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2016. "[Learn from the Costly Mistakes of Failed EAA](#)." *Detroit Free Press*. March 19.

Reckhow, Sarah and Margaret Weir. 2011. "Building a Stronger Regional Safety Net: Philanthropy's Role." The Brookings Institution. Metropolitan Opportunity Series: No 20.

BOOK REVIEWS

Reckhow, Sarah. 2025. Book Review. *Closed for Democracy: How Mass School Closure Undermines the Citizenship of Black Americans*. Sally Nuamah. *Political Science Quarterly*. 140(1): 206-207.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2024. Book Review. *Private Virtues, Public Vices: Philanthropy and Democratic Equality*. Emma Saunders-Hastings. *The Review of Politics*. 86(1): 144-146.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2019. Book Review. *Bloomberg: A Billionaire's Ambition*. Chris McNickle. *Political Science Quarterly*. 134(1): 165-167.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2014. Book Review. *Money, Mandates, and Local Control in American Public Education*. Bryan Shelly. *Perspectives on Politics*. 12(1): 246-248.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2011. Book Review. *American Foundations: Roles and Contributions*. Ed. Helmut K. Anheier and David C. Hammack. *Social Service Review*. 85(4): 676-678.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2010. Book Review. *Unlocking the Power of Networks: Keys to High Performance Government*. Ed. Stephen Goldsmith and Donald F. Kettl. *The American Review of Public Administration*. 40(1): 119-121.

Reckhow, Sarah. 2009. Book Review. *Choosing Excellence in Public Schools: Where There's a Will, There's a Way*. David W. Hollenbeck. *Teachers College Record*. December 10.

GRANTS

“Empowering Tomorrow’s Voters: Does Community-Based Curriculum Cultivate Civic Engagement Among High School Students?” (Sarah Reckhow- Principal Investigator, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Jane Lo, Andrea Benjamin, Matthew Nelsen, and Abigail Dym- Co Principal Investigators). Spencer Foundation (2025-2027) \$49,997.50

“Improving Education Systems Through Interdisciplinary Training and Practice: Applying Social Science to Education Policy and Implementation Research.” (Scott Imberman, Principal Investigator; Joshua Cowen, Sarah Reckhow, and Katharine Strunk, Co-Principal Investigators). Institute of Education Sciences. (2020-2025) \$4,023,893

“Promoting the Youth Vote During a Global Pandemic: Assessing the Outcomes of Civic Training and Positive Social Pressure to Vote.” (Nazita Lajevardi, Principal Investigator; Kjerstin Thorson, Dustin Carnahan, Sarah Reckhow, and Daniel Bergan, Co-Principal Investigators). Social Science Research Council (2020-21) \$4,500

“Financing the Policy Discourse: How Advocacy Research Funded by Private Foundations Shapes the Debate on Teacher Quality.” (Sarah Reckhow, Principal Investigator with Megan Tompkins-Stange) W. T. Grant Foundation. (2015-2018) \$277,895

“Outside Money in Local School Elections.” (Sarah Reckhow, Principal Investigator with Jeffrey R. Henig) Spencer Foundation. (2015-2016) \$49,087

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Education Research Seminar, Princeton University. November 2025.

NPR Education Symposium. March 2023.

Tisch College for Civic Life. Tufts University. March 2022.

American Institutions Group. University of Michigan. October 2019.

Harvard Kennedy School, Program on Education Policy and Governance. March 2019.

Boston University, Department of Political Science. March 2019.

Stanford University, Center for Education Policy Analysis. November 2018.

Tulane University, sponsored by Scholars Strategy Network. October 2016.

Graduate School of Education and Human Development. George Washington University. October 2015.

Department of Political Science Seminar. Johns Hopkins University. October 2015.

Department of Education Reform. University of Arkansas. March 2015.

Annual Fall Policy Meeting for the Organization of Institutional Affiliates, American Educational Research Association. September 2014.

Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy. University of Southern California. September 2013.

Forum on National Standards for Mathematics and Language Arts: America's New Conundrum. Education Policy Center at Michigan State University. May 2013.

Department of Educational Policy Studies. University of Wisconsin, Madison. April 2013.

Columbia School of Journalism, New York Times Institute Workshop: "Private Money, Public Schools." New York, NY. May 2011.

University of Michigan Networks Colloquium. Ann Arbor, MI. February 2011.

TEACHING

Michigan State University

PLS 822- Urban Government and Politics (Spring 2020; Fall 2022)

PPL 807- Public Policy (Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Fall 2017)

PPL 891- Urban Public Policy (Fall 2009; Fall 2010; Fall 2011)
PPL 891- Education Policy (Spring 2013)
PLS 302- Urban Politics (Spring 2010; Spring 2011; Spring 2012; Fall 2012; Fall 2013;
Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Fall 2017; Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021; Fall 2022; Fall 2023;
Fall 2024)
PLS 392- Education Policy (Spring 2018)
PLS 422- The Politics of Policy Reform (Spring 2013; Fall 2014)
InnovateGov- Summer Internship Program in Detroit (2017; 2018)
PLS 422/PPL 891- Civic Education and Local Democracy (Spring 2024;
Spring 2025)
PLS 811- Proseminar in Public Policy (Fall 2010; Fall 2013)
University of California- Berkeley
PS 1- Introduction to American Politics, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2006)
Frederick Douglass High School; Baltimore City Public Schools
American Government, U.S. History, World History (September 2002 to June 2004)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

President of Education Politics and Policy Section, American Political Science Association, 2022-23

Harold D. Lasswell Award Committee, Best Doctoral Dissertation in Policy Studies, 2022

Chair of Theodore J. Lowi *Policy Studies Journal* Best Article Award Committee, 2022

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Public Policy; State and Local Government Review*

Best Dissertation Award Committee Chair, Education Politics and Policy Section, American Political Science Association, 2021

Dennis Judd Book Award Committee, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, (2021- Chair; 2023- Member)

Best Paper Award Committee, American Political Economy Section, American Political Science Association, 2024

MSUvote Committee Member, Michigan State University, 2018-present.

Member of the Scholars Strategy Network, <http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/>

- Co-Chair of Michigan Chapter

Nominations Committee, Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2019, 2022, 2023.

Section Chair for Health, Education, and Social Policy, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2016.

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, Book Award Committee Co-Chair, 2015.

American Political Science Association, Urban Politics Section. Executive Committee Member, 2012-13.

Section Chair for Urban and Local Politics. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2011.

Selection Committee for Truman Scholars Program. Michigan State University. 2010.

Peer Reviewer: Cambridge University Press; University of Chicago Press; Georgetown University Press; Harvard Education Press; Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; University of Michigan Press.

American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Perspectives on Politics; Political Research Quarterly; American Politics Research; Journal of Urban Affairs; Urban Affairs Review; Political Behavior; Policy Studies Journal; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; American Educational Research Journal; Educational Researcher; Education Policy Analysis Archives; Publius; Social Service Review; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; City & Community; American Sociological Review; Journal of Education Policy; Social Forces; Sociology of Education; State Politics & Policy Quarterly; Public Administration Review; Social Science Quarterly; Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory