

CALAIA S. JACKSON

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public
Policy & Administration
University of Delaware
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Public Policy & Administration Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy & Administration University of Delaware Advisor: Dr. Sarah K. Bruch, MPA Qualifying Exam: Pass with Distinction	Expected May 2026 July 2022
MPSA	Public Policy Analysis The Bush School of Government and Public Service Texas A&M University Advisor: Dr. Domonic A. Bearfield; Dr. Kalena E. Cortes	May 2016
BA	Political Science College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences University of North Texas Minors in Spanish and Business Foundations	May 2013
AS	Liberal Sciences Dallas College, Richland Campus Distinguished Graduate, Richland Collegiate High School	July 2011

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

K-12 U.S. education policy; social policy and inequality; race and ethnicity, gender, and democracy;
state and local governments and management; health equity and social determinants of health

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management	2023
Community Engagement Initiative Summer Scholars Award University of Delaware, Community Engagement Initiative	2023
Just Education Policy Institute Invited Scholar Participant, Spencer Foundation	2023
Health Policy Research Scholar Program Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Leadership Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	2022-26
University Graduate Scholar Award University of Delaware	2021- 23
Dean's Leadership Certificate The Bush School of Government and Public Service	2016

George and Barbara Bush Foundation Fellowship The Bush School of Government and Public Service	2014- 16
Young Volunteer of the Year Award The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future	2008- 10
The President's Volunteer Service Award for Students	2007- 10
Special Recognition, UNESCO Peace Camp Ambassador Office of the Mayor, City of Dallas	2007

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant , University of Delaware Advisor: Dr. Andrea L. Pierce, Associate Professor; Dr. Phil J. Barnes, Assistant Professor, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility Regional Transportation Equity Research (SMARTER) Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conducted comprehensive literature reviews on transportation equity, focusing on social & racial equity, accessibility, environmental justice frameworks, and mobility justice. ○ Engaged in rigorous qualitative data analysis, including: ○ Transcribing and cleaning interview data. ○ Adapting and employing a robust analytical framework to extract key themes and insights. ○ Contributed to the drafting and finalization of the project's research report in Year 1. ○ Assisted in preparing and submitting conference papers for peer review. ○ Attended the Transportation Research Board's Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity (July 2024) to gain insights into state-of-the-art research and practices in the field of transportation equity. 	June 2024-Present
Research Assistant , University of Delaware Advisor: Dr. Sarah K. Bruch, Associate Professor, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration and the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Experiences in Philadelphia (YEP): we want to understand more about how public authority is experienced by young people at school and in their neighborhoods, particularly in Philadelphia high schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a project website that features details about the study, our research findings, and facilitate participant recruitment • Contributing to data analysis, including collecting, cleaning, and managing datasets, and conducting descriptive, correlational, and contextual analysis; using school district open data, including district-wide school climate surveys of students, parents, teachers, and support staff • Youth Experiences in Wilmington (YEW): a community-engaged extension of the YEP project that will focus primarily on Black girls' experiences with public authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a series of data briefs using restricted-use, statewide, student climate surveys; completing data analysis, including conducting descriptive, correlational, and contextual analysis 	August 2022-Present

- Contributing to partnered critical community engaged research with Wilmington, DE-area partners, including the Center for Structural Equity; conducting informational interviews with organizations, researchers, and stakeholders
- Contributed to the successful application for project funding via the University of Delaware's Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) Wilmington Partnership Mini-Grant program (\$5,000)

Health Policy Research Scholar, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

August
2022-26

Research Topics: Education, Public Policy, Social Sector/Non-Profit

Populations Served: Adolescents (12-20 years), At-Risk/Vulnerable Populations, Low-Income Communities

- Summer Institute Planning Committee, Activities Subcommittee Member Oct 2024-
July 2025
- Concurrent Session Presenter, *Practicing Critical Reflexivity Rooted in Our Values*, Summer Institute, 2024 July 2024
- Morning Gathering leader, *Breathing, Stretching, and Journaling as Emergent Strategy*, Summer Institute 2023 July 2023
- RWJF Change Leadership Programs Northeast Regional Leadership Institute July 2023
- The Health Policy Research Scholars Program is a national leadership program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which trains scholars to be leaders in building a Culture of Health. Health Policy Research Scholars is a multi-year leadership development program in health policy that occurs simultaneously with my doctoral program and is administered by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- The program includes activities for developing competencies in building a Culture of Health and health equity, health policy, leadership, and communication. It encompasses mentorship, career coaching and leadership coaching, and several opportunities to apply learnings including writing policy memos and op-eds; translating and communicating research during visits with policymakers; and participating in an interdisciplinary case experience. Scholars learn to use research from their discipline to inform and influence policy toward a Culture of Health.

Research Assistant, University of Delaware

August
2021- 22

Advisor: Dr. Kenneth A. Shores, Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development

- Lead in School Drinking Water Data Research Study
- Contributed to the successful application for project seed funding from the University of Delaware's General University Research (GUR) program (\$10,000)
- Facilities Disruptions and Disruptions to Student Learning: Empirical Evidence from the School District of Philadelphia
- Scoping Review of the Relationship Between School Facilities, Student Health, and Academic Achievement

Data Manager & Co-Project Manager, Texas A&M University

2015- 16

Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy

Advisor: Dr. Domonic A. Bearfield, MPA

Project Title: “National Municipal Performance Index”

- Studied e-government and transparency; created an index describing government transparency in key management areas for over 270 cities in the United States with populations of at least 100,000; expanded the scope of the Bush Transparency Project
- Designed the data analysis & statistical modeling plan; co-wrote research methodology and results section of final report and presentation

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

Co-Author, with P. Barnes, A. Pierce. “*How Agency Practitioners Understand and Implement Transportation Equity in Delaware's Capital Expenditure Process*” SMARTER Center. (under review)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS AND INVITED PARTICIPATION

Co-Author, with S. Bruch, D. Doe. *Organizing Authority and Discipline in Philadelphia High Schools*. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting 2025, Denver, CO, April 2025

Co-Author, with P. Barnes, A. Pierce. “*How Agency Practitioners Understand and Implement Transportation Equity in Delaware's Capital Expenditure Process*,” WILMAPCO Council Meeting, October 2024

Presenter, with S. Bruch, D. Doe. *Organizing Authority and Discipline in Philadelphia High Schools*. Association of Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting 2025, Washington, D.C., March 2025

Chair, session on “*Effects of School Interventions to Support Child Mental Health*”, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, November 2024

Presenter, with P. Barnes, A. Pierce. “*How Agency Practitioners Understand and Implement Transportation Equity in Delaware's Capital Expenditure Process*,” WILMAPCO Council Meeting, October 2024

Presenter, with S. Allard, Z. Buchannan, E. Schiavone, *Practicing Critical Reflexivity Rooted in Our Values*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Health Policy Research Scholars Summer Institute, Concurrent Session, July 2024

Invited Panelist, [webinar](#) on “*Education & Health*,” National Urban League, May 30, 2024

Presenter, with S. Bruch, D. Doe. *Organizing Authority and Discipline in Philadelphia High Schools* (paper and poster)
M.H. Steele Research Symposium, School of Education and the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware, April 2024

Chair, Equity Centered Student Research session, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, November 2023

Co-Presenter, with J. Watson Paper. “*Using Critical Community-Engaged Photovoice to Examine Public Authority and Community Empowerment among Black Girls in Wilmington, DE*” (paper)
Community Engagement Summer Scholars Symposium, University of Delaware, August 2023

Co-Presenter, with J. Watson, S. Bruch, D. Ruberto
“*Using Critical Community-Engaged Photovoice to Examine Public Authority and Community Empowerment among Black Girls in Wilmington, DE*” (paper)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant , Dallas, Texas <i>dba Calaia S. Jackson, MPSA</i> , Policy Analysis and Research	Mar 2019- Jun 2021
Consultant , Office of Health Equity, AHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative and quantitative research related to health equity & social determinants of health, including disparities in educational attainment, adverse childhood experiences, housing, air quality, effects of climate change, rural health systems, food systems, and innovations in the policies, systems, and environments related to cardiovascular disease 	Mar 2019- Apr 2020
Consultant , Franco Custom Cues Dallas, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research and LLC preparation for a startup custom billiard/pool cue company 	May 2019- Jun 2021
Project Coordinator , Office of Science Operations American Heart Association, National Center, Dallas, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed annual Leadership Gift Campaign resulting in over \$175,000 donated, 25,000 volunteer hours documented, and 100% participation from all scientific council leadership members between fiscal years 2017-2019 Coordinated surveys, focus groups, and interviews to increase member engagement in international and domestic markets 	Oct 2017- Feb 2019
Operations Manager , Advocacy American Heart Association, National Center, Dallas, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed grant closeout operations and logistics for the Accelerating National Community Health Outcomes through Reinforcing (ANCHOR) Partnerships Program in accordance with Centers for Disease Control reporting requirements 	May 2017- Sept 2017
Executive Assistant , Office of Health Equity American Heart Association, National Center, Dallas, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative support and special projects coordinator for the EVP of Health Equity and Chief Diversity Officer, including the commissioning the AHA Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health Task Force Coordinated meetings for the CEO's Diversity Advisory Cabinet (internal) and Board of Directors' Diversity Leadership Committee (external); Co-authored <i>DE&I Scorecard</i> quarterly report and data reporting dashboard 	Jan 2017- May 2017
Procurement and Contracts Intern , College Station, TX U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created market research & created cost & price analysis reports; produced and distributed RFP/RFQs in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation principles 	May 2015- Jun 2016

Testing Coordinator/Proctor , College Station, TX Texas A&M University, Data & Research Services	Oct 2014- Aug 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated examinee and candidate day-of check-in and administered TOEFL, PSAT/SAT, LSAT, ACT, ELPE, CLEP, TSI tests and examinations 	
Senior Supplemental Instruction Leader , Denton, TX University of North Texas , The Learning Center	Jan 2012- Jul 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated group study sessions for American History courses of 250-300 students; rated top 5% of Supplemental Instruction Leaders in performance and student attendance ratings; advised 15 supplemental instructors in U.S. History, Political Science, and Music Theory 	

NATIONAL SERVICE

Corps Member, Extended Learning Time Coordinator AmeriCorps City Year San Antonio, TX	2013- 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed over 1,700 hours of full-time service as an 8th grade English/Language Arts tutor, mentor, and role model, collaborating with partner teachers & school administrators to design tutoring lesson plans to support student success and evaluate student needs 	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Predoctoral Fellows Program Mentor Association of Education Finance and Policy	2025-Present
Committee Member Social Policy and Inequality Workshop	2024-Present
Volunteer Wilmington Center for Education Equity and Policy	2024-Present
Ph.D. Program Representative Committees: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Mentoring Biden School Student Association Newark, DE	2021- 2023
Editorial Board Member Biden School Journal of Public Policy Newark DE	2021- 2023
HeartWalk Volunteer American Heart Association National Center Dallas, TX	2017- 19
Bush Board Fellow United Way of the Brazos Valley Bryan, TX	2015- 16
Project Lead , Texas A&M Big Event	2015- 16
Assistant Project Lead Bush School Public Service Organization College Station, TX	2014- 15

Academic Chair	2015- 16
Committee Member	2014- 15
Texas A&M Black Graduate Student Association College Station, TX	
Docent and Volunteer	2015- 16
Brazos Valley African-American Museum Bryan, TX	
Global Youth Service Day Project Lead	2014
Ed White Middle School San Antonio, TX	
Corps Member	2013- 14
AmeriCorps City Year San Antonio, TX	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of school service to CYSA organization including Global Youth Service Day, Kingdom for Kids Playground Build, Volunteer Committee Co-Chair for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2014, San Antonio Corps Council Representative, Ripples of Hope Gala attendee, and Opening Day and Graduation speaker. 	
Member Awards and Recognition Chair	2011- 12
North Texas Nonprofit Leadership Student Association Denton, TX	
Docent and Volunteer	2008- 11
The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future Dallas, TX	
Peace Camp Ambassador	2011- 12
UNESCO Universal Forum of Cultures Monterrey, Nuevo León, MX	

CERTIFICATIONS

Community-Engaged (CEnR) and Community-Based (CBPR) Participatory Research Training, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

University of Delaware, Institutional Review Board

Completed: 10/2022 | Expiration: n/a

Description: Human Subjects Protections – CEnR/CPBR Supplement

Human Subjects Training, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

University of Delaware, Institutional Review Board

Completed: 12/2024 | Expiration: 12/2027 | Completion Record ID: 62733602

Description: Human Subjects Protections - Social-Behavioral-Educational Focus

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Education Finance and Policy	2025-Present
Student Member	
American Sociological Association	2023-2024
Student Member	
Just Education Policy Institute	2023-Present
Invited Scholar Participant, Member	
American Educational Research Association	2022-Present
University of Delaware, Student Member	
Association of Public Policy and Management	
Member, Student Activities Committee	2025
Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship Recipient	2023
University of Delaware, Student Member	2021-Present

Phi Alpha Delta University of North Texas, Student Member	2012
Veterans of Foreign War Post 6796, District 3, Auxiliary Member	2011
Phi Theta Kappa Dallas Colleges, Lifetime Member	2010

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

Spanish: Advanced Listening, Reading, and Writing, Intermediate Speaking

COMPUTER SKILLS

Software: Stata, SPSS, Microsoft Excel, ESRI GIS, Tableau, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Premiere

Operating Systems: Mac, Windows