

About the Marx School

The Austin W. Marx School of Public and International Affairs is New York City's premiere public graduate school dedicated to public administration, drawing upon one of the largest public affairs faculty in the nation, and applying an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research, and professional development. Marx's mission is to educate and empower leaders, advance knowledge about societies and policies, and engage diverse communities across New York City and the world to develop inclusive, adaptable, and effective institutions.

Since 1994, the School has offered the undergraduate BSPA degree, a graduate-level MPA degree in public policy and administration, and an MEd in Higher Education Administration (MEd-HEA). In Fall 2017 the Master of International Affairs (MIA) degree program was launched. An Online Master of Public Administration (OMPA) was launched in the Fall of 2024. The Master of Science in City Planning (MSCP) will launch in the Fall of 2025. There are also two certificates to choose from: the Certificate in Public Communication, and the Certificate in Quantitative Methods for Policy and Equity Analysis.

About the Samuels Center

Housed within the Austin W. Marx School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College, City University of New York, the Howard J. Samuels State and City Policy Center is dedicated to advancing research and dialogue on public policy issues, with a particular emphasis on state and local governance. Founded in 1984 in honor of Howard J. Samuels, the Center was relocated to Baruch College in 2017 and is supported by a grant from the State of New York and an endowment from the Samuels estate. Serving as a hub for research, policy analysis, and public engagement, the Samuels Center focuses on governance in the New York region and beyond. Through its initiatives, the Center informs policymaking, fosters meaningful discussions, and provides students with opportunities for academic and professional growth in public affairs.

Northeastern Public Finance and Budgeting Workshop

Organized by: **Howard J. Samuels State and
City Policy Center at the Marx School**

Friday | May 16, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Baruch College Newman Vertical Campus, 55 Lexington Ave., New York, NY, 10010, Room 14-280



Program Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 am | Breakfast and Registration

9:30 – 9:45 am | Opening and Welcome Remarks

Rahul Pathak, Director, Howard J. Samuels State and City Policy Center
Sherry Ryan, Dean, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs,
Baruch College, CUNY

9:45 – 11:15 am | Panel 1: Education Finance and Municipal Debt

Brick by Brick: The Uneven Road to Funding School Infrastructure in Washington State

Sharon Kioko, Associate Professor, University of Washington, Seattle
Claire McMorris, Budget Advisor, Seattle Public Schools
Pengju Zhang, Associate Professor, Rutgers University, Newark

Financial Myopia in Closed Systems: How State Financial Monitoring Systems can Ignore Local Constraints

Eric Brunner, Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut
Jinhai Yu, Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut
David Schwegman, Assistant Professor, American University

The Impact of Moody's Bond Rating Recalibration on School District Financing and Outcomes

Jinhai Yu, Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut
J Cameron Anglum, Assistant Professor, Lehigh University, Pennsylvania
Eric Brunner, Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut

The Intrigue of Municipal Debt Analytics: The Case of Tax-Exempt Tender/Refunding Transactions

Andrew Kalotay, President, Kalotay Advisors
Martin Luby, Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin

| Moderator: [Carolyn Abbott](#), Assistant Professor, Dpt. of Political Science, Baruch College

11:15 – 11:30 am | Coffee Break

11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Panel 2: Local Government Politics

Electoral Cycles and Municipal Fines: Political Manipulation of Local Revenue Instruments in Chile

Tomas Soto Jara, PhD Student, Rutgers University, Newark

Decoding the Role of Parent-Teacher Associations in New York City School Budgets

Carolyn Abbott, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Baruch College

Electing CEOs, Business Owners, and Executives in Local Politics

Patricia Kirkland, Assistant Professor, SIPA, Columbia University

| Moderator: [Eric Brunner](#), Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Connecticut

12:30 – 1:30 pm | Lunch and Networking

1:30 – 3:00 pm | Panel 3: Municipal Finance and Intergovernmental Grants

Independent Municipal Fiscal Councils: A Survey of their Architecture, Scope and Efficacy

Rahul Pathak, Baruch College, City University of New York
Marco Cangiano, Overseas Development Institute

The Missing Middle in Fiscal Federalism: Municipal Wealth and Local Revenue Responses to State Aid Retrenchment

Timothy Little, PhD Student, Rutgers University

Flooding Exposure Impacts on Municipal Public Finance in NJ

Umer Farooq, Student, The Bloustein School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Clinton J. Andrews, The Bloustein School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
David Listokin, The Bloustein School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Marc Pfeiffer, The Bloustein School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Equitable Access to Federal Hazard Mitigation Funding: Exploring the Interaction of Social Vulnerability and Organizational Capacity

Hyoeun Kim, PhD Student, The Rockefeller College, SUNY, Albany

| Moderator: [Pengju Zhang](#), Associate Professor, Rutgers University, Newark

3:00 – 3:15 pm | Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:15 pm | Panel 4: Fiscal Health and Reporting

Exploring the Dynamics of Fiscal Health Using Machine Learning: Insights from the New York State's Fiscal Monitoring System

Wei-Jie Liao, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Elaine Yi Lu, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Hunter Johnson, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Craig Maher, University of Nebraska, Omaha

The Influence of Governor's Political Party Affiliation on State Fiscal Health, 2003-23

Jason Bennett, Technology Forensic Analyst, City of Rochester, Minnesota
Melissa McShea, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

A Qualitative Case Study of Detroit's ACFR Limitations Post-Bankruptcy

Alisha Sukhram, PhD Student, Rutgers University, Newark

| Moderator: [Rahul Pathak](#), Baruch College, City University of New York

4:15 – 4:30 pm | Closing, Announcements, Networking