

# About the School of Public and International Affairs

The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) operates in an interdisciplinary fashion, crossing academic boundaries among political science, public administration, and other areas on campus to address policy issues of public concern.

Our goal within SPIA is to marry theory and practice, working with national, state, and local governments, as well as public and nonprofit agencies, to identify and achieve policy solutions to public problems.

## School of Public and International Affairs

SPIA leverages education and research from across the campus and is comprised of the Department of Political Science, Department of Public Administration, Master of International Studies Program, and the Public Safety Leadership Initiative.

For more information about SPIA, visit <http://spia.chass.ncsu.edu> or contact the following faculty members:

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### School of Public and International Affairs

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## College of Humanities & Social Sciences School of Public and International Affairs

Bringing together research from across NC State to benefit the people of North Carolina, the nation, and the world.



# Policy-related scholarship and research in public universities

Public policy challenges range from global issues such as climate change, health care, and poverty to local issues like land use and street crime. Public universities such as NC State have a mission-driven imperative to engage public policy problems by defining them operationally, identifying and developing policy alternatives, communicating research findings to those in government who make policy decisions, and evaluating policy implementation.

## NC State leaders in public policy innovation

Marshalling diverse faculty intellects and interests, NC State applies disciplinary expertise and perspectives to benefit the people of North Carolina, the nation and the world as evidenced by the following faculty.



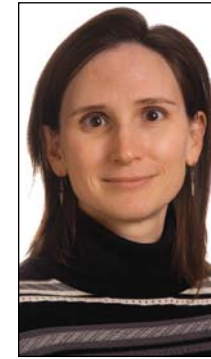
Professor of psychology **Denis Gray** puts his interests in technology and innovation to work by examining industry-university interactions, technology transfer, and the way technology is accepted by or changes our society. He advises cooperative research centers within the UNC system and around the country. His NSF-sponsored research has resulted in two books — *Managing the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center* and *Innovation U.* — both required reading

for individuals interested in promoting university-driven technology transfer and economic development.



**Annie Antón**, Associate Professor of Software Engineering in the College of Engineering, has achieved national recognition for her work on privacy and legal compliance in software-based information systems, homeland security, and her analyses of recent publicized security breaches. She serves on the US Department of Homeland Security Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee, the US Association of Computing Machinery (USACM) Public Policy Executive

Committee, and co-authored the USACM Privacy Principles.



**Toddi Steelman**, associate professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, specializes in integrating science, policy and decision-making. She has pioneered work in how communities respond to wildfire threats in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Currently, she is helping the United States Forest Service reform its land management and fire suppression practices. Closer to home, she works with planners, conservation biologists, elected officials and developers to create more sustainable landscapes in the Triangle.



When Durham needed the best counsel they could find to help them deal with gang-related crime, they turned to **Deborah Lamm Weisel**. A research assistant professor in the School of Public and International Affairs, Weisel is known for her research into crime problems from graffiti, burglary, and bank robbery, to gangs and street-level drug markets. Her research helps local police examine their effectiveness in addressing crime and other public safety issues. The comprehensive Durham crime study will identify gaps between gang-related problems and resources, helping the community focus on the most promising interventions and measure their impact.



**Joan Pennell** is known in Canada and now in the Southeast for her innovative work in family and community conferencing. Professor and head of the Department of Social Work, Pennell has initiated a program that stretches across North Carolina to train social workers, teachers, and other community groups to partner with children, youth, and their families and support them in developing their own service plans. She is currently working to develop an on-campus center for family and community engagement to work with schools, social services, juvenile justice, child mental health, public health, and domestic violence programs.