

Eleanor L. Schiff, Ph.D.

Yale University
Institution for Social and Policy Program

Democratic Innovations Program
eleanor.schiff@yale.edu

Executive Director, Democratic Innovations Program (June 2026 – Present)

Academic Appointments

Yale University

Lecturer in Political Science (Fall 2023 – Present)

Penn State University

Assistant Teaching Professor of Political Science (Fall 2022- May 2023)

Penn State University

Adjunct Lecturer (Spring 2022)

Bucknell University

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science (August 2018 – May 2021)

Dickinson College, Department of Political Science

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science (August 2017 – July 2018)

Penn State University

Lecturer in Political Science (June 2017 – August 2017)

Education

Penn State University, PhD, Political Science, 2017

Thesis: “Institutional Political Actors’ Relative Influence Across the U.S. Federal Bureaucracy.”

Committee: David Lowery (chair), Suzanna Linn, Michael Berkman, and John Gastil

M.A. Political Science, 2014

M.B.A. 2009, concentration in corporate finance

Carleton College

B.A. English Literature, *cum laude*, 1999

Professional Experience

HCM: educational consultant on the Common Core State Standards (2011-2012)

Penn State University: speechwriter, federal policy analyst, Assistant Director, Federal Strategic Initiatives (2009-2011)

U.S. Department of Education: Deputy Director, Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education (2005-2007)

The White House, Special Assistant to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (with top secret clearance) (2001-2005)

U.S. Senate, office of Senator Bill Frist, M.D. (various positions) (1999-2001)

University School of Nashville, High School English Teacher, Fall 1999

Books

Schiff, Eleanor. 2020. *Bureaucracy's Masters and Minions: The Politics of Controlling the U.S. Bureaucracy*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Publications

Schiff, Eleanor and Dan Mallinson. 2022. "Trumping the Centers for Disease Control: A Case Study of the CDC's Response to COVID-19 and Ebola." *Administration & Society* 1-26.

Schiff, Eleanor. Marty Jordan and Erika Rosebrook. "The Challenges and Advantages for Seasoned Professionals Applying to and Navigating Doctoral Programs" in *Strategies for Navigating Graduate School and Beyond*. American Political Science Association. Spring 2022.

Whitesell, A., Schiff, E., & Lowery, D. 2018. Agency issues with small lobby firms: A test of competing hypotheses. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 7(1), 82-103.

Schiff, Eleanor and Anne Whitesell. 2019. "Women Who've Been Pregnant Are More Likely to Support Abortion Rights – if You Remind Them of their Pregnancies." *The Washington Post*, The Monkey Cage. June 3, 2019.

Schiff, Eleanor. Kim Seuffer, Anne Whitesell and David Lowery. 2015. "Empirical test of Principal-Agent Theory: Lobbyists and Clients." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 4(3), 225–248.

Working Papers

Schiff, Eleanor and Anne E. Whitesell. 2019. "The Effects of Pregnancy on Abortion Attitudes". Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. Chicago, IL.

Research Interests

American Political Institutions, Administrative Politics, Public Administration, Interest Groups, Public Policy, U.S. State and Local Politics, Education Policy

Teaching Interests

Public administration, public policy, bureaucracy, public opinion, campaigns and elections, introduction to American Politics, Congress, Presidency, U.S. State and Local Politics, Education policy

Teaching Experience

Yale University

PLSC/ EDST 232, The Politics of U.S. Federal Education Policy

PLSC 240, U.S. State and Local Politics

Bucknell University

POLS 140, Introduction to American Politics

POLS 243 The American Presidency

POLS 290 Executive Branch Decision Making

Dickinson College

POSC 120, Introduction to American Government

POSC 246, The Legislative Process

POSC 231, Public Administration

Penn State

PLSC 202, Introduction to American Public Policy

PLSC 405, The American Presidency

PLSC 130, Campaigns and Elections

PLSC 495, Political Science Internship

PLSC 480 W, Congress and the Presidency

PLSC 444, Government and the Economy

TA, PLSC 10: The Scientific Study of Politics, Spring 2016

TA, PLSC 427: Political Opinion

TA, PLSC 506: Introduction to Game Theory

TA, PLSC 001: Introduction to American Politics

Awards

Research and Graduate Studies Office, Dissertation Support Award, (\$8230), Spring 2017

Political Science Graduate Research Fellowship, (\$8230), Spring 2015.

Summer Graduate Research Award, Department of Political Science (\$3000), Summer 2015

Travel Grant to MPSA, (\$700), Spring 2016 “Using an Agent-Principal Theory to Test Who Controls the U.S. Bureaucracy

Travel Grant to APSA (\$500), Fall 2016 “Principals’ Tension: Understanding the Dynamics of K-12 Education Policy Changes.”

Conference Presentations

Midwest Political Science Association (2020): “Strategic Allies and Adversaries: Organized Interests’ Engagement with Bureaucratic Policy-Making”

Midwest Political Science Association (2020). “The Effects of Pregnancy on Abortion Attitudes.”

Midwest Political Science Association (2016): “Using an Agent-Principal Theory to Test Who Controls the U.S. Bureaucracy.”

American Political Science Association (2016): “Principals’ Tension: Understanding the Dynamics of K-12 Education Policy Changes.”

Center for American Political Responsiveness (Penn State), (2014-2016): “Empirical test of Principal-Agent Theory: Lobbyists and Clients.”

Professional Memberships

Midwestern Political Science Association (2015-present)

American Political Science Association (2009-present)

Professional Service

Reviewer for Oxford University Press

Reviewer for Political Research Quarterly

Reviewer for the National Science Foundation

Reviewer for W.W. Norton and Company