

CHRISTOPHER TYLER BURKS

ctburks.com ♦ burks@urbananalysis.org ♦ 205-726-2163

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-Present Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Samford University, Homewood, AL

EDUCATION

- 2024 PhD, Public Administration & Policy, expected May 2024
American University, Washington, D.C.
Dissertation: *The political development of regional regimes:
Race and collaborative governance in metropolitan Birmingham*
Committee: Derek S. Hyra (chair), Jocelyn M. Johnston, Daniel J. Fiorino, &
Kenneth J. Meier
- 2018 MPA, Public Management & Planning, *summa cum laude*
University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 2009 BA, Biblical Studies & Minor in Behavioral Science, *magna cum laude*
Florida College, Temple Terrace, FL

RESEARCH INTERESTS & TEACHING AREAS

American politics and government; policy process and analysis; public and nonprofit management; urban and regional planning; economic and sustainable development; racial and social equity; leadership and governance; social, political, and organizational theory; quantitative and qualitative research design

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- Burks, C.T. & Jones, P.A. (Forthcoming). Understanding the determinants of school district secession. *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration*.
- Burks, C.T. (2022). Preparing undergraduate students for public service [Review of the book *Undergraduate public affairs education: Building the next generation of public and nonprofit administrators*, by M. F. Hamidullah]. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 29(2), 247-251. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15236803.2022.2129552>

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Burks, C.T. & Hyra, D.S. Gentrification and political displacement: Changes in racial representation in U.S. city council districts, 2000-2010. Drafting for *Urban Affairs Review*.
- Burks, C.T. The political development of regional regimes: American regionalism in light of critical race theory. Drafting for *Studies in American Political Development*.
- Burks, C.T. Strategic policy development for digital democracy in the age of smart cities. Drafting for *Information Polity*.

March 2024

Book in Preparation

Burks, C.T. *The mountain between us: Race and regional governance in metropolitan Birmingham*.
Book proposal for University of Alabama Press.

News Articles, Interviews, & Coverage

My [commentary](#) has been featured in AL.com, CBS 42, Birmingham Business Journal, NBC 13, Birmingham Watch, Comeback Town, and The Birmingham Lede. See my website for the full list.

- 2023 [Results from Birmingham's guaranteed income for mothers](#). *Birmingham Watch*, July 21
- 2023 [Metro office vacancies reach decade's highest mark](#). *AL.com*, Aug 9
- 2023 [Five Points South Neighborhood Association VP talks outlook for the historic district](#).
Birmingham Business Journal, July 21
- 2023 [Is Birmingham really the 'second most dangerous city in the U.S.'?](#) *AL.com*, June 13
- 2023 [Birmingham's ranking drops on 2023 Best Places to Live list](#). *AL.com*, May 24
- 2023 Cover story: [Finding the way to equitable and sustainable development](#).
The Birmingham Lede, April 30
- 2022 [Is metro Birmingham ready for regional governance?](#) *Comeback Town*, Dec 21

GRANTS

- 2020 Inclusive Excellence Mini-Grant for Panel: Diversity in Public Affairs Careers
PhD Student Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, American University

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

- 2020 Invited Founders' Fellow
American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
- 2019 Charles Levine Doctoral Research Fellow
American University, Department of Public Administration & Policy
- 2019 Founders' Fellow
American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
- 2019 Sam Gaston Excellence in Mentoring Award
UAB Department of Political Science & Public Administration
- 2018 Morris Award for Leadership, Generosity, & Service
UAB Graduate Student Government
- 2018 Student Service Award
UAB MPA Alumni Society

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2024 *Overcoming rigid path dependency in local government fragmentation*
American Society for Public Administration, Minneapolis, MN, April 12
- 2023 *Regional governance for ecological resilience in metropolitan Birmingham*
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Atlanta, GA, Sep 29

- 2022 *Gentrification and political displacement: Racial representation in U.S. city council districts, 2000-2010*
Gentrification and Political Representation Conf., University of Houston, May 6
- 2020 *Who will control the smart city? Imperative public policies for digital democracy*
American Society for Public Administration, virtual conference, Jun 23
- 2019 *The impact of school district secession on the district left behind*
American Society for Public Administration, Washington, D.C., Mar 9
- 2018 *Alumni mentor program: Successful alumni-student engagement strategies*
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Birmingham, AL, Sep 23
- 2018 *How do school district secessions impact the district left behind?*
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Birmingham, AL, Sep 22

Panels Moderated

- 2023 *Climate gentrification, resilience, and planning*
Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Atlanta, GA, Sep 29
- 2020 *Founders' Fellows panel: Contemporary issues in public administration*
American Society for Public Administration, e-conference, Jun 23

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Samford University, Department of Political Science, Visiting Assistant Professor

- 2024 Introduction to American Politics, POLS 205, Spring
- 2024 Public Administration, POLS 316, Spring
- 2024 Core Seminar: Writing & Research about Urban Planning, 2 Sections, UCS 102, Spring
- 2023 Alabama Constitution & Politics, POLS 398, Fall
- 2023 Current Controversies in Public Policy & the Law, POLS 454, Fall
- 2023 American Public Policy, POLS 443, Fall

American University, Department of Public Administration & Policy, Adjunct Instructor & TA

- 2022 D.C. Policy & Politics, Teaching Assistant, PUAD 685, Spring
- 2021 Intro to Public Administration & Governance, Adjunct Instructor, PUAD 343, Fall
- 2021 Qualitative Methods, Teaching Assistant, PUAD 685, Spring
- 2019 Urban Policy & Community Development, Teaching Assistant, PUAD 696, Spring

Campus Talks

- 2023 *Consulting in the transportation planning process*, Guest Lecturer
University of Alabama, Urban Transportation Planning, CE 454, Nov 8
- 2023 *How to become an urban policy and planning professional*, Guest Lecturer
Samford University, Urban Geography: North American City, GEOG 360, Oct 26
- 2022 *What are public policy and public administration PhD programs?*, Panelist
American University, PhD Student Committee for DEI, June 21
- 2021 *Analyzing primary and secondary data*, Teaching Assistant
American University, Qualitative Methods., PUAD 685, Apr 8

- 2021 *Public service: Career opportunities in public administration*, Guest Lecturer
Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School, AP Government & Politics, Feb 4
- 2019 *Protest, policy, and social change: Where do we go from here?.*, Teaching Assistant
American University, Urban Policy & Community Dev., PUAD 696, Apr 9
- 2017 *Designing complete streets for sustainable development*, Guest Lecturer
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Bio-Anthropology, ANTH 453, Nov 7
- 2017 *How misinformation shapes and divides society*, Invited Panelist
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Critical Conversations Forum, Nov 1

Webinars

- 2023 Students and new professionals series: Working in state or local government, Moderator
American Society for Public Administration, Dec 14

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 *Rebuilding the road to regional governance: The possibility of prosperity post-pandemic*
Birmingham Sunrise Rotary Club, Birmingham, AL, Dec 12
- 2023 *Urban Renewal in Birmingham: 205 Day panel on Raised/Razed with Carmen Mays*
Better Cities Film Festival at Sidewalk Film Center, Birmingham, AL, Feb 5
- 2018 *Smart city readiness workshop: Birmingham's transportation policy agenda*
Smart Cities Council at Birmingham CrossPlex, Birmingham, AL, July 6
- 2018 *Five Points South neighborhood: Existing building conditions*
Five Points Alliance, Birmingham, AL, April 24

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present Visiting Assistant Professor: American Politics, Law, Policy, Planning, & Administration
Samford University, [Department of Political Science](#)
- 2023-Present Birmingham Planning Commissioner: Zoning Advisory Committee
City of Birmingham, Alabama, [Birmingham Planning Commission](#)
- 2018-Present Founding Principal: Management Consulting, Policy Analysis, & Urban Planning
Urban Analysis, urbananalysis.org
- 2021-23 Adjunct Instructor: Introduction to Public Administration & Governance
American University, School of Public Affairs
- Sole responsibility for course design, teaching, and grading of PUAD 343.
 - [Student evaluations](#) indicate that I outperformed my university colleagues with feedback highlighting my enthusiasm, flexibility, and clarity.
- 2019-23 Research Assistant: Regional Governance, Equitable Development, & Gentrification
American University, Metropolitan Policy Center, Founding Director Derek Hyra
- Constructed panel dataset of U.S. city council districts and representatives.
 - Drafted journal article on gentrification and political displacement.
- 2020-23 Social Media Coordinator: LinkedIn & Twitter [@MPC_AU](#)
American University, Metropolitan Policy Center, Founding Director Derek Hyra
- 2019-22 Teaching Assistant: Urban Policy & Community Dev; D.C. Politics; Qualitative Methods
American University, School of Public Affairs, Professor Derek Hyra
- Assisted in three 600-level graduate courses; taught one class per course, coached students on research writing, and graded half of all assignments.

- 2018-19 Public Policy Analyst, Consultant
 City of Birmingham, City Councilor Darrell O'Quinn at BhamD5.com
- Wrote microtransit request for proposals (RFP) for [Birmingham On-Demand](#).
 - Advised the [City Center Master Plan Steering Committee](#).
 - Organized Transportation Roundtable for regular stakeholder meetings.
 - Developed Legislative Internship program and supervised intern Colin Alexander on neighborhood parking permits project.
- 2017 Public Policy Fellow
 U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell, AL-07
- Produced Housing Resources Guide for Alabama's 7th Congressional District.
 - Provided constituent services and staff support in the Birmingham office.
- 2017-18 Project Coordinator Intern
 University of Alabama at Birmingham, Facilities Design & Construction
- Coordinated over \$3 million in intergovernmental funds for projects with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Advanced Planning, Programming, and Logical Engineering (APPLE) grants.
 - Wrote proposal for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to improve active transportation facilities across UAB's urban campus.
- 2017 Urban Planner Intern
 City of Birmingham, Department of Planning, Engineering & Permits
- Assisted Chief Planner Tim Gambrel in the development of Birmingham's [Complete Streets Ordinance](#), approved by city council on March 6, 2018.
- 2016-17 Economic Developer & Community Planner Intern
 Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
- Conducted site visit and interviews with Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to plan redevelopment strategies for Greater Birmingham.
 - Conducted site visit and interviews with Detroit's Cass Community Social Services to develop tiny home program for unhoused people in Birmingham.

CERTIFICATIONS & ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2022 Academy of Civic Engagement Certificate
 City of Birmingham, Office of Social Justice & Racial Equity
- 2022 Analytics & Management Certificate
 American University, School of Public Affairs Analytics & Management Institute
- 2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pathway Certificate
 American University
- 2020 Social & Behavioral Research: Policies & Procedures for Human Subjects Research
 Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)
- 2019 Urban Ethnography: Method & Substance
 Research Talk: Qualitative Research Summer Intensive, Elijah Anderson

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Samford University

- 2023-Present Truman Scholarship Selection Committee

American University, Department of Public Administration & Policy

2019-Present PhD Student Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI), Founding Member
2021-22 Chair & Website Developer: studentsfordei.weebly.com
2021-23 [Pathways to PhD](#): Program Developer, Speaker, & Mentor to Yu-Heng Jung
2020-21 Membership & Communications Manager: Twitter [@dei_dpap](#)

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) National Alumni Society

2024-Present College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board
2024-Present Bylaws Committee & Alumni Network Awareness Committee
2022-23 Young Alumni Council: Fundraising, event planning, networking, and strategic planning

UAB Department of Political Science & Public Administration

2021 MPA Advisory Board: Supporting reaccreditation with NASPAA
2017-19 Search Committees for Professors of Public Administration

UAB MPA Alumni Society

2018-20 Board of Directors
2018-19 Chair of Scholarships Committee
2017 [MPA Mentor Program](#): Program Developer & Mentor to Logan Davis

UAB Graduate Student Government (GSG)

2018 Vice President
2017-18 Budget Committee: Raised conference travel grant funding for student research
2017-18 Lecture Series Committee, Division of Student Affairs
2017-18 Graduate Curriculum Committee, GSG Representative on Faculty Senate
2017 University Search Committee for Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost
2017 Chief of Staff
2016 Non-Smoking Policy Task Force, President Watts' initiative for new university policy
2016-18 Senator for MPA Student Body

UAB International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Student Chapter

2017-18 President: Hosted [Local Leaders Dinner & Mentoring](#) & [Tour of Montgomery City Hall](#)
2016-17 Treasurer: Co-hosted public and nonprofit internship fair with MPA Student Association

SERVICE FOR PUBLIC & NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

City of Birmingham, Alabama

2023-Present Birmingham Planning Commission and Zoning Advisory Committee
2013-Present Five Points South Neighborhood Association, Resident Member
2023 Vice President: Implementing the Citizen Participation Plan
2019 Southside Community Framework Plan Implementation Committee
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2018 Mayor Woodfin's [Transition Team on Transparency & Efficient Government](#)
2017 Mayor Bell's Task Force on Preserving Dynamic & Diverse Neighborhoods

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Alabama Chapter

2023-Present President: Advancing excellence in public service at alasma.org and [@ASPAAAlabama](https://www.instagram.com/ASPAAAlabama)
2023-24 Scholarship Committee
2023-24 Alabama Student Consortium for Public Administration Committee

Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA)

2023-Present Endowment Committee

American Political Science Association (APSA) Class & Inequality Section

2024-Present Awards Committee: Selecting best dissertation on class and inequality

Alabama Urbanists Coalition (AUC)

2023-Present Parliamentarian: Building places for people at alurbanists.org and [@AlUrbanists](https://www.instagram.com/AlUrbanists)

Urban Land Institute (ULI) of Alabama

2023-Present Co-Chair: Housing Action Council's Civic Engagement Committee at alabama.uli.org

Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR)

2024-Present Board of Directors: For efficient and equitable government at constitutionalreform.org
2024-Present Newsletter Committee

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Research & Professional Associations

2016-Present International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
2018-Present American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
2018-Present American Political Science Association (APSA)
2018-Present Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)
2019-Present Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
2020-Present Public Management Research Association (PMRA)
2020-Present Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

State & Local Associations (in addition to those served above)

2023-Present Alabama Arise
2022-Present Birmingham Historical Society
2022-Present Alabama Rivers Alliance
2022-Present YMBC Civic Forum
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REFERENCES

Academic References

[Derek S. Hyra, PhD](#)

Professor and Founding Director, Metropolitan Policy Center
American University
hyra@american.edu

[Kenneth J. Meier, PhD](#)

Distinguished Scholar in Residence
American University
kmeier@american.edu

[Carl W. Stenberg III, PhD](#)

James E. Holshouser Jr. Distinguished Professor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
stenberg@sog.unc.edu

[Jocelyn M. Johnston, PhD](#)

Professor
American University
johnston@american.edu

[Nyesha Black, PhD](#)

Director of Socioeconomic Analysis and Demographics
University of Alabama
ncblack@culverhouse.ua.edu

[David H. Rosenbloom, PhD](#)

Distinguished Professor Emeritus
American University
rbloom313@gmail.com

Practitioner & Employer References

[Darrell O'Quinn, PhD, DVM](#)

City Councilor, District 5
City of Birmingham
Darrell.OQuinn@birminghamal.gov

[James Fowler, PE, LEED AP](#)

Director, Department of Transportation
City of Birmingham
James.Fowler@birminghamal.gov