

George R. Chichirau, Ph. D.

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Summary

- Experienced **Lecturer in Public Policy and Quantitative Techniques**, with 10+ years of teaching experience at Northeastern University, UMass Boston, and Suffolk University;

- **Co-author of a public policy textbook** (Public Policymaking - 9th Edition) and an urban development textbook (Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities);

- **Subject matter expert and assessment author**; strong communicator with classroom and publication experience.

- **Advisor to the Director of the Division of Local Mandates** within the Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor; key member of the SAO team managing the state's Municipal Finance Oversight Board.

Work Experience

Northeastern University | *360 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115*

Lecturer | **Sep 01 2020 – present**

Researched and developed innovative, community-focused planning methods and technologies for cities facing decline, incorporating collaborative planning, social media, and civic tech. Evaluated analytic approaches for policy design in shrinking cities, emphasizing economic development and local empowerment through case studies.

My teaching history includes:

- **INSH 6500: Statistical Analysis.** Studies the use of social science quantitative techniques, emphasizing applications of value to public-sector analysts and scholars alike. Introduces probability and statistical analysis. Topics include measures of central tendency and dispersion, probability and probability distributions, sampling distributions and hypothesis testing, bivariate correlation, regression, and forecasting. Examines how to generate and interpret statistical analyses.
- **POLS 2400: Quantitative Techniques.** Methods of quantitative analysis including descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, cross-tabulation, analysis of variance, bivariate regression and correlation, and multiple regression. Examines how to generate and interpret statistical findings through use of Excel, SPSS, and/or other software programs. Uses examples from political behavior, public policy analysis, public opinion, comparative and international

politics, and other areas of political and social-science inquiry to emphasize practical applications.

- **POLS 2357: Growth and Decline of Cities and Suburbs.** Introduces students to the field of urban studies. Focuses on these central issues: how cities and suburbs evolve, what makes a city or suburb a good place to live, and how cities and suburbs are (or are not) planned.
- **POLS 2358: Current Issues in Cities and Suburbs.** An in-depth introduction to pressing urban issues: urban sprawl, poverty, education, transportation, economic development, and housing, through an intensive analysis of the Boston area.

The Expert TA/OpenStax | *Remote*

Subject Matter Expert/Assessment Author (Contract) | July 2025 – present

Developed multiple-choice questions for college textbooks (e.g. [American Government 3e](#)) aligned to chapter learning objectives and Bloom's taxonomy; provided correct answers, hints, brief rationales. Collaborated asynchronously with editors via CMS/shared docs; maintained quality and accuracy across rapid review cycles.

Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor | 1 Ashburton Pl, Boston, MA 02108

Policy Research Supervisor | Oct 01 2021 – present

As part of a cross-functional team, I helped drive an organisation-wide digital policy overhaul to modernise statistical production and dissemination. I helped integrate Microsoft Copilot into a contractor-built survey tool, helped transition teams to Otter.ai for transcription and Monday.com for project management, and contributed to standardising the laptop fleet to improve reliability; helped evaluate ArcGIS StoryMaps versus Tableau and delivered multiple Tableau dashboards now used in both executive and public reporting. I have also managed a migration from legacy Microsoft Access/SQL stores to a vendor-built database and helped introduce testable workflows. I applied new machine learning techniques (Isolation Forests) to detect anomalies in fiscal data.

Alongside the transition work, I authored major reviews (see *Publications* section), including a five-year organisational assessment, while collaborating closely with colleagues to ensure precise drafting under tight deadlines. I led the division's quantitative oversight, designing Stata models and building Tableau dashboards that track programme performance and translate findings into executive and public reports. In addition, I supported the state's Municipal Finance Oversight Board by preparing analyses on municipal finances, coordinating with municipal and state officials, and presenting recommendations to senior elected leaders.

Suffolk University | 73 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02108

Lecturer | Sep 01 2024 – April 30 2025

Teaching history:

- **POLS-181: Comparative Politics.** Introduces various approaches of comparative politics, such as institutionalism, structuralism, political culture, corporatism, state-society relationship, political economy, etc. Applies these frameworks to analyze policymaking processes and governance structures within the European Union, including the role of the European Commission, inter-institutional dynamics, and policy implementation. Examines EU institutions comparatively alongside the US and China, highlighting distinct mechanisms of policy coordination, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement.
- **POLS-223: American Politics & Institutions.** This course provides an examination of the institutions involved in the American policy-making process. The students learn about the presidential system, the relationship between the President and Congress and how that relationship impedes or facilitates the public policy process, including the budgetary process. Much attention is also given to the role of the judiciary in the policy process.

University of Massachusetts (McCormack Graduate School of Policy)

Lecturer | Sep 01 2017 – June 01 2020

Teaching history includes:

- **PUBADM 602: The New England Economic Environment (graduate):** A study of the economic and fiscal structure of Massachusetts vis-a-vis New England and the nation. The latter part of the course focuses on the economics of major issues facing policy makers. Such issues include public and private housing, health care costs, public pensions, fiscal and economic competitiveness, and the economics of the capital city, Boston.
- **ECON 395: The Economics of Social Welfare (graduate):** This class examines social welfare in the US, what causes poverty, and solutions to poverty, as well as how the US compares to other countries. It provides tools to evaluate social welfare and poverty programs and examines major economic security programs in the United States, such as Social Security and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.
- **POLSCI 102: Government and Politics of the United States (undergraduate).** A class on political principles and ideologies, public opinion, political socialization, political parties, mass media, elections, interest groups, civil rights and civil liberties, public policies and more.

INFORMS (The Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences)

Research Project Manager | part-time | Jan 01 2018 – Jan 31 2020

Managed the [INFORMS Editor's Cut edition on diversity issues](#). Proposed relevant papers, integrated the collection with papers proposed by other committee members, and saw it through to

final product. Developed a diversity knowledge base: established technical standards, performed a wide-ranging review, collected and published materials etc.

University of Massachusetts (McCormack Graduate School of Policy)

Graduate Research Assistant | part-time | Sep 01 2015 – May 30 2020

- Dissertation research on public transit funding: I examined to what extent the MBTA could transition from a revenue stream dependent on budgetary allocations to one dependent on real estate. This included spatial and econometric modeling of the likely economic and social consequences of the MBTA functioning under different financing models.
- I contributed to 4 publications; I notably wrote chapter 2 of “Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities”, a quantitative analysis of how data and technologies can support sustainable and equitable urban planning in legacy cities (and did most of the data analysis for the entire volume).
- I worked on the Public Administration Master’s Program marketing in the following areas: 1) data analysis of enrollment and financial trends; 2) market analysis of comparable programs across the US; 3) lead development; and 4) social media development.

Wellington Solar LLC

Project Manager | Jan 01 2014 – August 31 2015

Re-designed the company web site, implemented a major IT systems upgrade, and re-tooled the marketing portfolio.

BRIO Local Ltd.

Director of Legal Affairs | November 15 2010 - Dec 31 2013

BRIO Local was a consulting group that facilitated transactions between Central European and Chinese companies (mostly subcontracting of manufacturing and purchases of raw materials). My role within BRIO was to identify optimal outcomes and draft agreements.

House of Romeo School of Foreign Languages (Shenzhen, China)

General Manager | Sep 01 2007 - October 31 2010

Started this school of foreign languages to meet growth opportunities in the Chinese education market. I designed the course structures and scheduling; recruited a 15-person team; found a physical location, devised and implemented a marketing plan. The language center grew to be financially sound and self-sustaining by 2010.

Carleton College Student Association (Northfield, MN)

Senator | 2006 - 2007

Debated \$400,000/year budget allocations with 18 fellow senators.

Education

- University of Massachusetts (Boston) – Ph.D. in Public Policy
- University of Massachusetts (Boston) – M.S. in Public Policy
- Carleton College — B.A. (Magna Cum Laude) in Political Science and Classical Studies

Skills

- Strong research skills acquired through PhD-level coursework in statistics, economics and political science.
- Professional use history of Stata, SPSS, MaxQDA, Tableau, Excel, R, SQL.
- Languages: Portuguese, French, Romanian.

Selected Publications

Chichirau G. 2025. [Who Pays and Who Gains? Analyzing Contributors and Beneficiaries of the Mass Save Program](#). Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Chichirau G. 2024. [Assessing Transportation Network Companies' Financial Obligations to Massachusetts Programs](#). Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Anderson, J., Moyer, J., Chichirau, G. 2023. [Public Policymaking \(9th Edition\)](#). Cengage Learning.

Johnson, Michael P., Hollander, J., Kinsey, E., Chichirau, G. 2021. [Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities](#). Albany, NY: SUNY University Press.

Tafoya B., DeBarcelos C., Chichirau G. & Hershman H. 2022. [Five-Year Statutory Fiscal Impact Report 2022](#). Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Tafoya B., DeBarcelos C., Chichirau G. & Hershman H. 2022. [Fulfilling the Promise of Local Aid by Strengthening State-Local Partnerships](#). Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Midgley, G., Johnson, M. P., & Chichirau, G. (2018). [What is Community Operational Research?](#) European Journal of Operational Research, 268(3), 771–783.

Johnson, M. P., Midgley, G., & Chichirau, G. (2018). [Emerging Trends and New Frontiers in Community Operational Research](#). European Journal of Operational Research, 268(3), 1178–1191.

Johnson, M. P., Midgley, G., Wright, J., & Chichirau, G. (2018). [Community Operational Research: Innovations, internationalization and agenda-setting applications](#). EJOR, 268(3).