

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs Gender and Policy Network (GPN) 2017-2018 Report

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In 2017, the WWS Gender and Policy Network organized discussions and opportunities for graduate students to connect with women in leadership positions and engage in conversations related to gender issues in policy. The following events were open to all WWS grad students. In addition, monthly meetings of the GPN Steering Committee were held with a smaller group of students to brainstorm new events and speakers that would be of interest and tie in with current events that relate to gender and policy to the WWS community.

Negotiation Workshop with Princeton Career Services: March 27, 2017

This workshop was held with Susanne Killian from Princeton Graduate Career Services and Phylicia Johnson from the Office of Human Resources, as well as Barbara Hampton and Emily Sharples of WWS's OGCS team. The workshop focused on statistics and behavior of women in the negotiation process, and included role playing activities to practice negotiations. Ten MPA students attended.

Breakfast with Cheryl Dorsey: March 29, 2017

Cheryl L. Dorsey is the President of Echoing Green, an organization providing seed funds for entrepreneurs and innovators, investing in solutions to some of the world's most important problems. The breakfast was an opportunity for a small group of WWS students to ask questions one-on-one with Ms. Dorsey. Once an Echoing Green fellow herself, Ms. Dorsey was able to share her experiences in this leadership role with GPN.

Prospect House Lunch with Beth Cobert: April 18, 2017

Beth Cobert is former Acting Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), most notably during the aftermath of data breaches at the agency. WWS GPN students were able to discuss Ms. Cobert's time in the Obama Administration and how female colleagues in leadership roles supported each other. She also discussed the importance of diversity in the workplace and provided advice on leading and building a dedicated team.

Lunch with Donella Rapier, BRAC: April 27, 2017

Donella Rapier discussed her experience as President and CEO of BRAC USA, a leading international development NGO originally established in Bangladesh, over lunch with WWS GPN students. She discussed her experience in international development and developing relationships with donors.

Kick-Off Mixer: September 26, 2017

This social event started off the semester. The GPN co-chairs introduced ourselves to new students and gathered ideas about possible speakers and topics that the community was interested in discussing throughout the year. With attendance of about 35, the event started the academic year with a lot of excitement related to issues that intersect gender and policy

Coffee with Terrell McSweeney: October 4, 2017

This was GPN's first event of the academic year with a WWS leadership visitor. Terrell McSweeney spent over three years as Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. She had served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Domestic Policy Advisor to the Vice President from January 2009-February 2012, and worked on policy issues related to health care, innovation, intellectual property, energy, education, women's rights, criminal justice and domestic violence. During the event, students discussed questions about her career trajectory, her experience in the White House, and working for VP Biden in the Senate.

Coffee with Gina McCarthy: October 12, 2017

Gina McCarthy, a 2017 leadership visitor, was Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under President Barack Obama, where she was a champion for issues related to climate change and public health. McCarthy is a fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School's Institute of Politics. She had recently joined a private equity firm, Pegasus Capital, as an operating advisor. Ten WWS students attended and were able to discuss her experience in key leadership roles, promoting public health and the environment.



Ms. McCarthy was dynamic and very spirited through this event as well as her public talk, with one of many memorable quotes being "Climate change is real, man-made emissions are causing it, and that's why women should rule the world." Another was that public service "is not the career path if you want to get rich, but is the path if you want a rich life." Especially at the local level, you can "see, taste change in people's lives."

Lunch with Lauren Wright: October 18, 2017

Lauren A. Wright is the author of *On Behalf of the President: Presidential Spouses and White House Communications Strategy Today* (Praeger, 2016) and is a frequent commentator on American politics, presidential campaigns, and strategic communications. She is also a Lecturer in Politics and Public Affairs here at Princeton. In this lunch with over 20 students, Prof. Wright shared a quick introduction to her book about presidential spouses, followed by a discussion on the role of female leadership in the presidency. To do this, she analyzed thousands of speeches, memoirs, photographs and other documents. Students raised questions about the different styles and policy areas spouses had embraced over time, and reflected on the role of female figures in power structures.

Coffee, Wine & Cheese with Amb. Prudence Bushnell: October 20, 2017

Prudence Bushnell is the former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya and Guatemala, with notable experiences during the Rwanda genocide (1994) and the al Qaeda attack on the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya (1998). Amb. Bushnell shared her experience as a female leader at the State Department at a time when the institution offered only very limited opportunities for career



advancement to women. Twelve WWS/GPN students asked questions about Amb. Bushnell's experience in countries in conflict, specifically how she dealt with the terrorist attack in Kenya.

Dinner with Ai-Jen Poo: November 7, 2017

Ai-jen Poo is executive director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and co-director of Caring Across Generations. She helped lead the way to the passage of the nation's first Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in 2010, historic legislation that extends basic labor protections to over 200,000 domestic workers in New York state. She is a 2014 MacArthur "Genius" Fellow. Ai-Jen Poo shared her personal pathway to activism and how she became involved with the struggle of domestic workers, immigrant women, and women victims of violence. At dinner in the Campus Club library, students reflected about the role of policy and activism in guaranteeing more equitable treatment of care and domestic workers in an aging society and discussed their own experiences connected to care-giving.

Prospect House Lunch with Jeanne Lambrew: November 13, 2017

Jeanne Lambrew is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation and an adjunct professor at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She previously worked in the Obama Administration as director of the Office of Health Reform at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), coordinating work toward passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). WWS students discussed Ms. Lambrew's role in developing ACA policy, including the focus on evidence-based policy, planning for opposition (particularly assessing the positions of religious groups) and structuring the bill to withstand threats.

Talk with Tara Oakman: November 14, 2017

Tara Oakman is a senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She discussed her recent research on workplace policies that prevent (or promote) work-life balance and the need to combat the tendency to overwork or prove one's worth or dedication through stress or a packed schedule. In her work she has used a behavioral science perspective to unpack the issue, including the strong norm of overworking, to suggest/test solutions. Work-life balance was a topic of particular interest to students, and this was one of two events scheduled to specifically address the topic.

Lunch with Alice Wu: December 5, 2017

The discussion revolved around sexism and gender stereotyping in academia, based on recent work by Alice Wu focusing on sexism in economics departments. Her academic paper was recently featured in The New York Times. Male and female grad students were interested in her findings and discussed their own experiences with sexism in the academic environment.

Panel with Martha Coven and Heather Howard: December 7, 2017

The WWS community had expressed interest in events relate to personal life-career balance. GPN invited Professors Martha Coven and Heather Howard to share their experiences as successful policy makers and government officials while maintaining a healthy personal life. Students raised questions about career advancement, marriage, and family over coffee and tea. Students were appreciative of the chance to connect with mentors and have frank conversations about concerns when transitioning from a master's program to the professional world.

Lunch with Jennifer Weiss-Wolf: February 13, 2018

Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, author of *Periods Gone Public* and Vice President for Development of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, is an activist fighting stigma related to menstruation and calling for the abolishment of taxes related to feminine hygiene products. Ms. Weiss-Wolf shared her story step-by-step, from first becoming invested in the issue to growing and managing a movement. She discussed the importance and interconnection of storytelling, bold thought leadership, and policy solutions.



Wine & Cheese with Kavita Ramdas: February 22, 2018

Feminist activist and philanthropic advisor, Kavita Ramdas, MPA '88, is the founder of KNR Sisters. Previously she served as President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women from 1996-2010 and senior advisor to the president of the Ford Foundation. Ms. Ramdas discussed her experiences following the MPA program, including work with the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago, taking the leadership role with the Global Fund for Women, and balancing family priorities, career development, and making life decisions that reflect your values.



This was a great discussion to end our GPN year and hand off to the next, with Paloma Bellatin and Francisca Vidal as the new co-chairs for 2018-19.