

Updated Jan 2025

BECKY RAFTER
Graduate Student, School of Public Policy
Georgia Institute of Technology

EDUCATION

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Atlanta, GA

School of Public Policy, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
Master of Science in Public Policy graduate student, January 2025 – current

PhD Student, August 2020 – December 2024

Specialization: Energy and Environmental Policy

Advisor: Juan Rogers

Master in Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management, (inaugural cohort), August 2020

Recipient: MSEEM Fellowship

Advisor: Omar I. Asensio

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

New York, NY

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Master of Public Administration, May 2011

Dual Specialization: International Policy; Nonprofit Management

Capstone Project: Improving banking access for Mexican immigrants in NYC

Methods: document review, focus groups, surveys, and key informant interviews

Recipient: Dean's Scholarship

Advisor: John Gershman

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

Decatur, GA

Bachelor of Arts, May 1997

Double Major: International Relations; Spanish

Participant: Global Awareness Program, Ghana, West Africa

Research Project: *Effects of Structural Adjustment Programs on Women's Health and Education*

Methods: In-home, semi-structured interviews

Member: Sigma Delta Pi, National Collegiate Spanish Honor Society

Advisors: Juan Allende; Rafael Ocasio

CERTIFICATES

Tech to Teaching Certificate, *Center for Teaching and Learning (CETL)*, Georgia Tech

Atlanta, GA

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning Certificate, *CETL*, Georgia Tech

Atlanta, GA

RESEARCH

1. Peer-reviewed journal articles – published

Asensio, O.I.; Churkina, O.; **Rafter, B.D.**; O'Hare, K.E. (2024). Housing policies and energy efficiency spillovers in low and moderate income communities. *Nature Sustainability*, 7(5), 590-601.

Asensio, O. I., Churkina, O., Rafter, B., & O'Hare, K. E. (2021). Replication Data for: Housing Policies Accelerate Energy Efficiency Participation.

2. Research in progress

Rafter, B.; Powell, M., Bozeman, J., Eisma, J. A Systemic Equity Assessment of Houston’s Incentive Program for Green Stormwater Infrastructure. Social Equity and Environmental Engineering Lab (SEEEL), Georgia Tech.

3. Conference presentations

Rafter, B., “Is Nuclear Energy a Solution to Climate Change? A Discussion of the Main Claims And Evidence”

- INFORMS Annual Meeting, October 16-19, 2022, Indianapolis, IN (panel)

Jessica Eisma | UT Arlington, **Becky Rafter** | **Georgia Tech**, Paul Ambrose | Georgia Tech, Matt Powell | Georgia Tech, Sparkle Springfield | Loyola-Chicago, Joe Bozeman III | Georgia Tech. A Systemic Equity Assessment of Houston’s Incentive Program for Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GH25E-0628)

- American Geophysical Union, 2022 Fall meeting, Dec 12-19, 2022, Chicago (poster)

Asensio, O.A; Churkina, O.; **Rafter, B.**; O’Hare, K.E., “Housing Policies Accelerate Energy Efficiency Participation”, Georgia Institute of Technology School of Public Policy, Atlanta, GA, U.S.; 17 Dec 2021

- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) 14th Annual Conference, June 20-22, 2022, Baltimore, MA (panel)
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) 2021 Fall Research Conference, March 27-29, 2022, Austin, TX (panel)
- Midwest Economics Association (MEA) 86th Annual Meeting, March 25-27, 2022, Minneapolis, MN (panel)
- Sustainability and Development Conference (SDC), University of Michigan, Jan 24, 2022, virtual (panel)
- International Atlantic Economic Society (IAES) 92nd Annual Conference, October 7-10, 2021, virtual (panel)
- National Science Foundation, invitation-only workshop on Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities 2021 (panel)

4. Non-conference academic presentations

Bozeman III, J. F., **Rafter, B.**, “A Path Toward Systemic Equity for Transdisciplinary Effect”, *Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems* Seminar Series, February 9, 2023, Atlanta, GA.

5. Work products / reports

Rafter, B., “Improving Our Community Through Housing Investment: Process Overview for Research and Community Engagement Activities”, Qualitative Research Summary and Artifacts, May 21, 2021; funded by ESRI, Inc.

Qaseem, A., **Rafter, B.**; Collins, B.; Khatti, S.S.; Kale, S.N., “Demand Response: Program and Technology Analysis”, Georgia Institute of Technology Climate and Energy Policy Laboratory, July, 9 2021, Atlanta, GA, U.S.; (*working paper*)

Asensio, O.A; Churkina, O.; **Rafter, B.**; O’Hare, K.E., “Housing Policies Accelerate Energy Efficiency Participation”, Presentation to public administrators, City of Albany, GA, Sept 10, 2021, Albany, GA

RESEARCH CENTERS

Georgia Tech

Su20 – present Data Science and Policy Lab (Dr. Omar I. Asensio), School of Public Policy

Research: Energy Efficiency and Housing – Albany, GA

Sp23 – present Social Equity and Environmental Engineering Lab (Dr. Joe F. Bozeman), Civil and Environmental Engineering

Research: Systemic Equity and Green Stormwater Infrastructure – Houston, TX

Fa19 – Sp21 Climate Policy and Energy Lab (Dr. Marilyn Brown), School of Public Policy

Research: Demand Response Program Technology; Drawdown Georgia

New York University

Fa09 – Sp11 Research Center for Leadership in Action, NYU Wagner

Social Change Leadership Network Coordinator (see below)

Participatory Budget Project, Inc.

Su11 – Sp12 New York City Participatory Budgeting Campaign

Research: Neighborhood Assemblies feedback

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA**

- Fall 2024 Guest Lecturer, “Environmental Justice and the Nuclear Industry”, *Environmental & Sustainability Studies* 101; Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
- Fa23 - Sp24 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching and Learning, *Tech to Teaching Capstone*, CETL 8718
- Spring 2023 Teaching Capstone, Lesson 1: “Experiments, Theory, and Peer Review”; Lesson 2: “Engaging with your ‘first user’ community: social, cultural, & environmental context”, *Explore Grand Challenges*
- Spring 2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Explore Grand Challenges*, GT 1201-B, 100 students (freshmen)
CIOS Overall Effectiveness Score: 4.2
- Fall 2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Grand Challenges*, PUPB 1142-B, 100 students (no CIOS scores)
- Spring 2022 Graduation Student Instructor (co-Instructor of Record), *Urban Policy*, PUBP 1142/6606
CIOS Overall Effectiveness Scores (instructor-specific): 4.7 for undergrads, 4.5 for graduate students
- Fall 2021 Guest Lecturer, “Grassroots Organizing”, *Serve-Lean-Sustain*, Mini-mester, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

SERVICE ACTIVITIES**External service activities**

- Fall 2023 Panelist, Facilitator, “Making the APPAM Conference Work for You”, APPAM Professional Development Series, October 17, 2023, *virtual*
- 2022-2023 Chair, Conference Committee, *Association for Environmental Studies and Science (AESS)* 15th Annual Conference, “ASLE+AESS Reclaiming the Commons”, July 9-12, 2023, Portland, OR
- Fall 2022 Facilitator, “Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Fellowships and Grant Assistance”, APPAM Professional Development Series, September 21, 2022, *virtual*
- 2021-2022 Chair, Student Activity Committee, *Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management*, Washington, DC
- 2021-2022 Member, 2022 Conference Planning Committee, Association for Environmental Studies and Science (AESS) 14th Annual Conference, “*Hopeful Strategies for the Anthropocene*”, June 2022, Baltimore, MD

Internal service activities

- Spring 2024 Creator and coordinator, *Celebrating SPP Administrators Event*, working with Public Policy Graduate Student Association, GA Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2023-2014 Member, Provost’s Office Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council, led by Provost and Executive Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Steven McLaughlin, Office of the President, GA Tech, Atlanta, GA
- Fall 23-current Founder and Co-Chair, *Older Graduate Students (The OGs)*, a GA Tech Human Resources *Community of Connection*; to provide support, community, and resources for older graduate students, GA Tech, Atlanta, GA
- Spring 2023 Participated in Spring PhD Recruitment Week, giving campus tour for prospective students (1 student recruited), GA Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2021-2022 Participated in recruitment activities: Atlanta Academy 2022 student tour; PhD/MS prospective student recruitment (1 student recruited); Data Science and Policy Lab (1 student recruited); and SPP PhD student recruitment support through event organized by the graduate advisor (3 students recruited). GT, Atlanta, GA
- 2021 Chair, Elections Committee, *Public Policy Graduate Student Association*, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2020 Co-presenter, Sustainable Racial Equity & Inclusion, *Scheller College of Business*, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA
- 2019-2020 Member, Amplify Impact Work Group, *10-Year Strategic Planning Committee*, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- 2025 – present American Sociological Association (ASA)
- 2024 – present American Historical Association (AHA)
- 2024 – present American Political Science Association (APSA)
- 2024 – present International Political Science Association (IPSA)
- 2023 – present American Association for Public Administration (ASPA)
- 2021 – present Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS)
- 2020 – present Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONER EXPERIENCE

GEORGIA WAND EDUCATION FUND, INC. / GEORGIA WOMEN’S ACTION FOR NEW DIRECTIONS, INC Atlanta, GA 9/2018 – 9/2019, *Development Lead*

- Supported new leadership as final role of 6-year implementation plan for Georgia WAND’s *Just Leadership Transition*, in which all decision-making power, ownership, and leadership was transitioned from founders to the communities most affected by the intersection of energy, environmental, utility, and nuclear harm reduction

5/2013 – 9/2018, *Executive Director*

- Co-brokered Radionuclide Education, Monitoring, and Outreach Program (REMOP) of the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Lab, a three-year, participatory radiological environmental sampling program in east Burke County, GA; helped project receive \$800,000 in funding from the Department of Energy
- Increased organizational budget nearly 100% over five years; tripled number of foundation partners; doubled all general operating support grants; held most successful fundraising event in the organization’s history
- Co-authored *Community Impacts at the Crossroads of Nuclear and Climate Injustices in the U.S. South*, released in December 2017 at a Georgia Public Service Commission hearing on nuclear power Plant Vogtle’s expansion
- Designed and oversaw successful *Just Leadership Transition* at Georgia WAND; hired first permanent staff from frontline communities in rural Georgia; established pay equity and benefits; overhauled programming to center racial justice; created the “nuclear harm reduction” strategic approach; and built new movement partnerships

FUNDING EXCHANGE

New York, NY

8/2011 – 12/2012, *Director of Stakeholder Engagement*

- Directed and implemented development strategies, resulting in a 71% increase of overall donors, a 64% increase in new donors, and a 30% increase in fundraising revenue
- Advised executive director around shaping the organizational positioning, activities, and messaging, which brought about new partnerships with stakeholders of color, young people with wealth, and low-income donors
- Established innovative donor programming, including unique social media projects, resulting in expanded grantmaking streams, creating of new streams for current issue areas, and building networks for future efforts
- Led the Resource Development Committee, a board committee, that was paving the way for the creation of a fundraising advisory board, increased collaboration, and shared fundraising strategies

RESEARCH CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

New York, NY

9/2009 – 3/2011, *Social Change Leadership Network Coordinator*

- Coordinated a community of over 350 (mainly NYC-based) social change leaders to create the Social Change Leadership Network (SCLN): managed quarterly capacity-building workshops, created online networking resources, established SCLN’s Leadership Advisory Circle and recruited nine local leaders to serve as inaugural members

- Assisted with the international program evaluation of the Institute of International Education’s Leadership Development for Mobilizing Public Health, which utilized Participatory Action Research
- Helped develop the Global Social Change Leadership Institute; a two-week summer program for international college students and recent college graduates to learn about social change leadership and popular education
- Secured a grant for more than \$100,000, with the SCLN director, to conduct participatory action research in assessing the financial sustainability of small, grassroots social justice organizations in New York City

FUND FOR SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES

Decatur, GA

9/2006 – 5/2009, *Director of Development and Programs*

- Re-focused development department, resulting in an overall increase of 32% in unrestricted public support by introducing new development strategies and securing new and diversified funding sources
- Worked with board members to identify and developed leaders throughout the constituency to take on roles in fundraising activities, which led to increased donor commitment, as demonstrated through increased numbers of gifts, new donors, and elevated gift levels
- Nimbly managed all community-advised grantmaking committees, applicant recruitment, and grantmaking processes, which guaranteed the fair and informed allotment of monies into the community

NARAL PRO-CHOICE GEORGIA

Atlanta, GA

8/2003 – 8/2006, *Executive Director*

- Led development efforts that resulted in doubling the annual operating budget and staff size, by establishing diversified and multi-year funding sources, utilizing social capital, and increasing name recognition
- Represented 65,000 Georgia voters at the Georgia Capitol; oversaw the legislative program; and co-created legislative strategy with in-house lobbyist, contributing to the defeat of 60 anti-choice bills in three years
- Provided support to quality staff who coordinated the organization’s 501(c)(3) programming

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

2024-current	Member, Landscape Committee, <i>East Lake Commons Co-Housing Community</i> , Decatur, GA
2018-2024	Volunteer Advisor, <i>4Horsemen Rehabilitation Services</i> , Atlanta, GA
2017-2020	Chair, Group Structure and Process Committee, <i>East Lake Commons Co-Housing Community</i> , Decatur, GA
2016-2019	Voting Member, <i>Southern Partners Fund</i> , Atlanta, GA
2016-2018	Member, Board of Directors, <i>ProGeorgia</i> , Atlanta, GA
2013-2019	Design Team, <i>Advancing Equity and Opportunity in the U.S. South</i> ; co-chair, Recovery and Resistance Committee, addressing sustainability and natural and industrial disasters in the Southeast, Atlanta, GA
2011-2020	Board of Directors, <i>Calamus Foundation</i> , Dover, DE
2014-2018	Policy Chair, <u>Just Energy Circle</u> ; Executive Committee, <i>Partnership for Southern Equity</i> , Atlanta, GA
2010–2011	Co-Chair and Co-Founder, <u>Stonewall Policy Alliance (SPA)</u> , <i>NYU Wagner</i> , New York, NY
2010-2011	Member, eBoard, <u>Wagner Intersectionality Studies is Essential (WISE)</u> – <i>NYU Wagner</i> , New York, NY
2009-2011	Chair, <u>Wagner Variety Show</u> Planning Committee – <i>NYU Wagner</i> , New York, NY
2010-2011	Member, Class Gift Committee – <i>NYU Wagner</i> , New York, NY
2009-2010	Peer Advisor, Office of Student Services – <i>NYU Wagner</i> , New York, NY
2009	Co-Facilitator, Cross-Class Track, <u>Resource Generation Making Money Make Change</u> , Falls Village, CT
2008-2009	Member, Board of Directors – <i>Little Five Points Community Center</i> , Atlanta, GA
2008, 2009	Member, <i>National Skills Conference Planning Committee</i> – Funding Exchange, New York, NY
2008-2009	Member, Church Council – <i>Circle of Grace Community Church</i> , Decatur, GA

2008 Workshop and Plenary Presenter – *Resource Generation’s Making Money Make Change*, Petaluma, CA
2007 Member, United States Social Forum Fundraising Committee – *Local Host Committee 2007*, Atlanta, GA
2000-2006 Member, Board of Directors – *Feminist Women’s Health Center*, Atlanta, GA
2005-2006 Member, L.E.A.D. Atlanta, Class of 2006 – *Leadership Atlanta*, Atlanta, GA
2003-2006 Member, Executive Committee, Board of Directors – *Georgia Shares*, Atlanta, GA
2005-2006 Member, Building a Movement Institute, Class of 2006 – *Project South*, Atlanta, GA
1998-2006 Lead Workshop Facilitator, Chrysalis Project – *Feminist Women’s Health Center*, Atlanta, GA
2005-2005 Treasurer, Board of Directors – *Georgians for Choice*, Atlanta, GA
2003-2004 President, Treasurer, Board of Directors – *Georgians for Choice*, Atlanta, GA
2003-2004 Member, Georgia Organizing Committee – *DC March for Women’s Lives, GA Coalition*, Atlanta, GA
2001-2002 Mentor, SisterGirls Program – *Charis Circle*, Atlanta, GA

COMMUNITY AWARDS AND HONORS

2018 Participant, Human Rights Defender Forum convened by President Carter, *Carter Center*, Atlanta, GA
2018 Member 2017-2018 cohort, Leading from the Inside Out, Yearlong Program, *Rockwood*, Oakland, CA
2017 **Clean Energy “Superhero”**, tapped by Mark Ruffalo, *The Solutions Project*, New York, NY
2017 Recipient for Georgia WAND, **Smith Bagley Advocacy Award**, Sapelo Foundation, Savannah, GA
2017 Participant, Executive Leadership Exchange Program, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), *U.S. Department of State*, Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia
2016 Recipient, **Empowerment Award**, for Environmental Justice, *League of Women Voters of GA*, Atlanta, GA
2014 Recipient for Georgia WAND, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Environmental Justice Award**, *Ben Hill United Methodist Church*, Atlanta, GA
2011 Co-recipient, university-wide **Presidential Service Award**; and **Moving Up Day Award in Innovative Programming**, for for Stonewall Policy Alliance, *New York University*, New York, NY
2000 Awardee, **Volunteer of the Year 2000**, *Feminist Women’s Health Center*, Atlanta, GA