Creating Opportunities for Economic Mobility and Social Justice

SNAPSHOT

On Campus: We are training the next generation of scholars through the James M. & Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholars in Inequality & Wealth Concentration and the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholars in Poverty & Justice programs.

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy

Sound public policy and exceptional public leaders help strengthen the social fabric of a society. Harvard Kennedy School’s core mission is to produce both, and the Malcolm Wiener Center is central to this mission. Our faculty, research fellows, and students are committed to achieving a deeper understanding of the barriers we face to greater equality and access to opportunities for all, with an emphasis on health and healthcare, the criminal legal system, education, immigration, and labor market institutions. Through rigorous research, quantitative and qualitative in nature, we offer policy solutions that have the potential to reduce or eliminate barriers and improve people’s lives.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“It is fair to say that at the Malcolm Wiener Center, we have entered a new and exciting era. After a 4-year rebuilding effort, several new faculty have joined our ranks, all devoted to addressing the major social challenges we face today. The effect on research, on public engagement, and on teaching and mentoring the next generation of scholars and public leaders has been immediate, palpable, and invigorating.”

Sandra Susan Smith

Malcolm Wiener Center’s Programs and Initiatives

- **The Achievement Gap Initiative**: Examining the national challenge of unequal opportunity in education and the resulting gaps in academic achievement.
- **Health Inequality Lab**: A new initiative exploring the interaction between infectious disease, human well-being, and economic outcomes.
- **The Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management**: Drawing from rigorous research as well as insights from practitioners and people from impacted communities to inform the development of fairer and more just criminal legal system policies, practices, and procedures.
- **The Project on Workforce**: Charting the course for a post-secondary system of the future that creates more and better pathways to economic mobility.
- **Reimagining the Economy Project**: Exploring local labor market, industrial, and development policies, combined with practitioner insights, to produce multidisciplinary scholarship to reshape narratives about how we achieve inclusive prosperity.
- **The Shift Project**: Investigating the nature and consequences of precarious employment in the service sector.
- **Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy**: Educating scholars and producing research on the social, political, and economic causes and effects of inequality.

The Wiener Center engages with students through:

- Internships and research assistant opportunities
- Forums, seminars, symposiums, and special events
- Policy Analysis Exercise and Second Year Policy Analysis support
- Student Professional Interest Councils (Social Policy, Safety & Justice, Health Policy, Poverty & Inequality)
- PhD fellowship support (Stone Scholars and Wiener Scholars)