Creating Opportunities for Economic Mobility and Social Justice

SNAPSHOT

On Campus: We are training the next generation of scholars through PhD fellowships offered by the James M. & Cathleen D. Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy.

In the World: Researchers at the Health Inequality Lab at the Malcolm Wiener Center study the causes and consequences of health inequality, informing policy in the U.S. and around the globe.

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy

Sound public policy and exceptional public leaders help strengthen the social fabric of a society. The Malcolm Wiener Center is achieving a deeper understanding of societal barriers to greater equality and access to opportunities for all, with an emphasis on health and healthcare, the criminal legal system, education, economic mobility, and labor market institutions.

Understanding social challenges and reducing or eliminating obstacles to opportunity are among the goals Harvard Kennedy School addresses through rigorous research and teaching, offering policy solutions that improve people’s lives.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“These are challenging times. As the legitimacy of efforts to center diversity, equity, and inclusion are increasingly under attack, the mission of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy remains the same: to empower people to solve the most urgent social policy problems of our time. Through data-driven research, hands-on teaching and training, and collaborative public engagement and policy initiatives, the MWC community—faculty, researchers, and students—is uniquely qualified to advance the cause of social justice and increase social and economic wellbeing of every person, family, and community.”

Sandra Susan Smith

Malcolm Wiener Center’s Programs and Initiatives

• **Health Inequality Lab**: A new initiative exploring the interaction between infectious disease, human well-being, and economic outcomes.

• **Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management**: Conducting rigorous research and drawing on insights from practitioners and affected communities to develop fairer and more just criminal legal system policies, practices, and procedures.

• **Project on Workforce**: Charting the course for a post-secondary system of the future that increases and improves pathways to economic mobility.

• **Reimagining the Economy Project**: Producing multidisciplinary scholarship to reshape narratives about how we achieve inclusive prosperity through the exploration of practitioner insights and industrial, local labor market, and development policies.

• **Shift Project**: Investigating the nature and consequences of precarious employment in the service sector.

• **Skills Lab**: Improving how we measure teamwork and decision-making skills with a focus on the changing demands of labor markets.

• **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 Malcolm Wiener Center engages with students through:

• Internships and research assistant opportunities

• Summer student fellowships (Project on Workforce)

• 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)

BY THE NUMBERS

*All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.*

35+ Years of social policy impact

60+ Events, lectures, symposiums, and seminars

239 PhD students trained to date

Above: Assistant Professor of Public Policy Michela Carlana leads Harvard Kennedy School students in a classroom discussion.