

## MELISSA ARNOLD LYON

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Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy  
University at Albany, State University of New York

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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#### University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY

2022-present Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and Policy

#### Brown University, Providence, RI

2022-present Affiliate, Annenberg Institute  
2020-2022 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Annenberg Institute  
Affiliate, Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy

#### Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

2020-present Senior Research Scientist (Affiliate), Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE)  
2019-20 Senior Researcher, CPRE

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### EDUCATION

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2020 Ph.D. **Columbia University**, New York, NY  
Education Policy and Social Analysis: Politics and Education  
-*Dissertation*: Bounded Unions: How Restrictive Labor Policies Affect Teachers, Students, and Progressive Politics  
-*Dissertation Committee*: Jeffrey R. Henig (Chair), Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, Sarah R. Cohodes, Rebecca Jacobsen, and Douglas D. Ready

2019 M.Phil. **Columbia University**, New York, NY  
Education Policy and Social Analysis: Politics and Education

2010 B.A. **Rice University**, Houston, Texas  
Honors Political Science, *cum laude*

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### PUBLICATIONS

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#### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Lyon, M. A. (2022). Current perspectives on teacher unionization, and what they're missing. *Educational Policy*.

Marianno, D.B., Jacobsen, R., Lyon, M.A., and Hemphill, A. (2022). Teacher political candidacy and the gender composition of state legislatures. *Teachers College Record*.  
-Media Coverage: EdWeek

Lyon, M.A., Bretas, S.S., & Ready, D.D. (2021) Design philanthropy: Challenges and opportunities in the evolution of philanthropic giving. *Educational Policy*.  
-Working Paper: <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/ai20-283>

Kraft, M. A., Simon, N. S., & Lyon, M. A. (2021). Sustaining a sense of success: The protective role of teacher working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 1-43.

-Working Paper: <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/ai20-279>

-Media Coverage: EdWeek, The 74 Million, Salon.com, and CPRE Research Minutes Podcast

Lyon, M. A. (2021). Heroes, villains, or something in between? How “Right to Work” policies affect teachers, students, and education policymaking. *Economics of Education Review*, 82.

-Working Paper: <https://www.edworkingpapers.com/index.php/ai21-358>

-Media Coverage: The Critical Teacher Podcast, FutureEd, and The 74 Million

Lyon, M. A., & Henig, J. R. (2019). Blurring lines? How locally based collaborations handle the redistribution/development tradeoff. *Urban Affairs Review*, 55(4), 1100-1124.

Riehl, C., & Lyon, M.A. (2017). Counting on context: Cross-sector collaborations for education and the legacy of James Coleman’s sociological vision. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 674(1), 262-280.

### **WORKING PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Lyon, M.A., Hemphill, A.A., & Jacobsen, R. (Revisions requested at *Political Behavior*). How do unions create candidates?

Lyon, M.A. (Revisions requested at *Educational Researcher*). The Effect of Deunionization on School Finance: Evidence from ‘Right to Work’ Policies, 1943-2017.

Bleiberg, J., Lyon, M.A., & Schueler, B. (Conditional acceptance at *Journal of Education Human Resources*). State takeover of school systems and within-district fiscal equity

Lyon, M.A. & Kraft, M.A. (Under review). Elevating education in politics: How teacher strikes shape congressional election campaigns

-Working Paper: <https://edworkingpapers.com/ai21-482>

-Media Coverage: EdWeek, FutureED

### **CURRENT PROJECTS**

Kraft, M.A. & Lyon, M.A. The Rise and Fall of the Teaching Profession.

Lyon, M.A., Kraft, M.A., & Steinberg, M. The Contexts and Consequences of Teacher Strikes in the United States.

Steinberg, M., Kraft, M.A., & Lyon, M.A. The Effects of Teacher Strikes on Teacher Labor Markets and Student Achievement in Pennsylvania.

Lyon, M.A., Bleiberg, J., & Schueler, B. The Effects of State Takeover of School Districts on School Finance.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS, REPORTS, & POLICY BRIEFS**

Lyon, M. A. (2022). *In the strike zone: New data to contextualize the recent surge in teacher strikes*.

Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/strike-zone-new-data-contextualize-recent-surge-teacher-strikes>

-Media Coverage: CNN

Lyon, M.A., Bretas, S.S., Linacre, I., Zorfass, E., & Ready, Douglas D. (2020). *The effect of Blue Engine on algebra achievement, 2009-2019*. New York, NY: Consortium for Policy Research in Education at Teachers College, Columbia University (CPRE-TC).

Henig, J. R., & Lyon, M. A. (2019). Adaptation could bring new strength. *Education Next*, 19(1).

Henig, J.R. & Lyon, M.A. (2018). Federal policy meets the “California way.” Technical report prepared for *Getting Down to Facts II*. Stanford, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE).

Henig, J.R., Lyon, M.A., Moffitt, S., & Plank, D. (2018). Creating coherent systems to support education improvement. Research brief prepared for *Getting Down to Facts II*. Stanford, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE).

Henig, J.R., Houston, D., & Lyon, M.A. (2017). From NCLB to ESSA. In F. M. Hess & M. E. Eden (Eds.), *The Every Student Succeeds Act: What It Means for Schools, Systems, and States* (29-42). Cambridge, MA: Harvard Educational Press.

Henig, J.R., Houston, D., and Lyon, M.A. (2016). The changing face of collaboration. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University.

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#### HONORS & AWARDS

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- 2021 Emerging Education Policy Scholars (EEPS), *American Enterprise Institute and Fordham University*
- 2021 New Directions in Law and Society Graduate Student and Junior Scholar Cohort, *Center for Justice, Law, and Societies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst*
- 2020 Runner-Up, *Have You Heard Graduate Student Research Contest*
- 2018 Education Policy Academy Fellow, *American Enterprise Institute*
- 2018-2019 Weinberg Fellowship in Politics and Education, *Teachers College, Columbia University*
- 2017-2018 Dr. Melinda S. Krei Annual Fund Scholarship, *Teachers College, Columbia University*
- 2017 People’s Choice Award, *Teachers College Annual Academic Festival*
- 2016-2019 Doctoral Research Fellowship, *Teachers College, Columbia University*
- 2015-2016 Departmental Fellowship, *Department of Education Policy and Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University*

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#### RESEARCH FUNDING

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- 2021 Co-Principal Investigator, “Estimating the Effect of State Takeover of School Funding Equity.” *Georgetown University Edunomics Lab and the Massive Data Institute, National Education Resource Database on Schools Mini-Grant Competition*: \$5,000.
- 2021 Principal Investigator, “The Prevalence and Contexts of Teacher Strikes in the US, 2007-2019.” *Urban Institute, Data-Driven Analysis of Timely Education Policy Topics*: \$1,000.
- 2021 Principal Investigator, “Fostering a Pipeline of Teachers: Do Cultural Beliefs about Prestige Shape Students’ Interest in Teaching?” *Student Experience Research Network, DAIRL Analysis Program*: \$3,000.
- 2021 Principal Investigator, “Bounded Unions: Long-Run Effects of Public Sector 'Right to Work' Policies.” *Institute for Human Studies-Saint Anselm Paper Sponsorship*: \$750.
- 2019 Project Director with Douglas D. Ready (PI), “Implementation and Impact Evaluation of Teacher Pre-Service Approaches to Computational Thinking.” *Robin Hood Learning + Technology Fund*. \$692,109.

- 2019 Project Director with Douglas D. Ready (PI), "A Collaborative and Comprehensive Evaluation of Blue Engine." *Blue Engine*: \$535,711.
- 2019 Principal Investigator, "Rent Seeking, Teacher Voice, and Progressive Coalition Building: The Effects of Restrictive Labor Policies." *Teachers College, Columbia University Education Policy Dissertation Grant*: \$7,750.

**PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- Lyon, M.A. & Kraft, M.A. (2022, March). *Elevating Education in Politics: How Teacher Strikes Shape Congressional Election Campaigns*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Lyon, M.A., Bleiberg, J., & Schueler, B. (2022, March) The Effects of State Takeover of School Districts on School Finance. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Kraft, M.A., Steinberg, M.P., & Lyon, M.A. (2022, March). *The Effect of Teacher Strikes on Student Achievement*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Lyon, M.A. & Kraft, M.A. (2022, March). *Elevating Education in Politics: How Teacher Strikes Shape Congressional Election Campaigns*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Annual Research Conference, Austin, TX.
- Kraft, M.A., Steinberg, M.P., & Lyon, M.A. (2022, March). *The Effect of Teacher Strikes on Student Achievement*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Annual Research Conference, Austin, TX.
- Kraft, M.A., Simon, N.S., & Lyon, M.A. (2021, September). *Sustaining a sense of success: The protective role of teacher working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Meeting, virtual meeting.
- Kraft, M.A., Simon, N.S., & Lyon, M.A. (2021, September). *Sustaining a sense of success: The protective role of teacher working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Lyon, M.A., Bretas, S.S., Linacre, I., Zorfass, E., & Ready, Douglas D. (2021, April). *Getting better, together: The impact of coaching as professional development for teacher teams*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A., Snaider, C., & Ready, Douglas D. (2021, April). *Constructive (or destructive) ambiguity: Benefits and drawbacks of definitional imprecision in computational thinking*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A. (2021, March). *Bounded unions: Long-run effects of public sector Right to Work policies*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, virtual meeting.

- Lyon, M.A., Hemphill, A., & Jacobsen, R. (2021, March). *Unions as “schools of democracy:” How teachers’ unions create political candidates*. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Education (APSA) Politics and Policy Winter Conference, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A., Bretas, S.S., Linacre, I., Zorfass, E., & Ready, Douglas D. (2020, November). *Getting better, together: The impact of coaching as professional development for teacher teams*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Annual Research Conference, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A. (2020, September). *Bounded unions: Policy feedback effects of restrictive labor policies*. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association (APSA) National Meeting, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A. (2020, April). *Rent seeking, teacher voice, and progressive coalition building: The effects of restrictive state labor policies*. Paper accepted to American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (conference canceled).
- Lyon, M.A., Bretas, S., & Ready, D.D. (2020, March). *Design philanthropy: Challenges and opportunities in the evolution of philanthropic giving*. Paper accepted to the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, withdrawn due to COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A. (2019, November). *Teachers’ political voices: The effects of restrictive labor policies on teachers, students, and state politics*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Annual Research Conference, Denver, CO.
- Lyon, M.A. (2019, March). *Rent Seeking, Teacher voice, and countervailing political forces: The effects of restrictive state labor policies*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) National Meeting, Kansas City, Kansas.
- Riehl, C. & Lyon, M.A. (2017, April). *Using data to align program missions, strategies, and outcomes in cross-sector collaborations for education*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

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#### INVITED TALKS

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- Lyon, M.A. (2021, March). *Bounded unions: Long-run effects of public sector Right to Work policies*. Brown University Taubman Center Research Workshop, virtual meeting.
- Lyon, M.A., Hemphill, A.A., Jacobsen, R. (2021, February). *Unions as ‘schools of democracy’: How teachers’ unions shaped their members into candidates in the 2018 midterm elections*. MSU American Politics Workshop, virtual meeting.
- Riehl, C., Lyon, M.A., & Henig, Jeffrey R. (2016, May). *Counting on context: Are cross-sector collaborations for education an extension of James Coleman’s sociological vision?*. The State of Unequal Opportunity: The Coleman Report 50 Years Later, Watson Institute, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

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#### TEACHING

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UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

Fall 2022          Statistics for Public Managers and Policy Analysts

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**

Spring 2021      Data and Evidence in Education (Instructional Support for Dr. Susanna Loeb and Dr. Emily Kalejs Qazilbash)

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

Fall 2019          Data Analysis for Policy and Decision Making I (Instructor)

Fall 2017, Fall 2018      Data Analysis for Policy and Decision Making I (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Douglas Ready)

Spring 2018      Data Analysis for Policy and Decision Making II (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Sarah Cohodes)

Fall 2016          Urban Politics and Education (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jeffrey R. Henig)

**K-12**

2012-2015      Instructional Coach for YES Prep Public Schools, Teach For America, Houston, TX

2010-2012      Sixth Grade Teacher, YES Prep Public Schools, Houston, TX

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**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for Education Finance and Policy; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; American Political Science Association; American Educational Research Association; Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2021-22          Co-chair, Annenberg Seminars on Educational Policy, Annenberg Institute

2022              Member, Conference Program Committee, Association for Education Finance and Policy

2021              Organizer and Moderator, Visions of Teacher Unionism Panel, Teachers College, Columbia University

2019-20          Organizer, Mixed Methods Professional Learning Community, Teachers College, Columbia University

Journal Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*; *Journal of Political Economy*; *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*; *Educational Researcher*; *Educational Policy*; *Sage Open*; *Journal of Education Human Resources*

Conference Reviewer: *American Educational Research Association (2022)*, *Association for Education Finance and Policy (2022)*

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

2021-Present      Sandy Frost-Waldron (Michigan State University)