

DAVIA COX DOWNEY

University of Memphis
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- 2021-Present Director, Ph.D. in Urban Affairs Program, University of Memphis, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy
- 2021-Present Associate Professor of Public Administration, University of Memphis, Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration
- 2017 - 2021 Associate Professor of Public Administration Grand Valley State University, School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration
- 2014 - 2021 Master of Public Administration Program Director, Grand Valley State University, School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration
- 2011 - 2017 Assistant Professor of Public Administration
Grand Valley State University, School of Public, Non-profit and Health Administration

Education

- 2011 Ph.D. Michigan State University (American Politics, Public Policy)
- 2004 MPA Eastern Michigan University: Ypsilanti, Michigan (Public Management)
- 1999 BA Albion College: Albion, Michigan (Music Performance, Human Services)

Additional Statistical Training

- 2024 Text Analysis in R and Introduction to Tidyverse
- 2023 Qualitative Analysis using Atlas.ti
- 2017 Statistical Horizons: Longitudinal Data Analysis Using Stata
- 2006 ICPSR: Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Teaching Interests

Public administration, bureaucracy studies, urban politics, minority politics, local government management, public policy analysis and evaluation, organizational behavior, and political institutions

Research Interests

Disaster and emergency management policy, comparative federalism, minority politics, public administration, intergovernmental relations, and urban policymaking

Work Currently Under Review

“Local Governments at Court” with William M. Myers (University of Tampa). Under review at *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*.

Work In Progress (*denotes work with graduate students)

“Local Governments at Court: Eras and Patterns of Supreme Court Decision-Making” book project with William M. Myers (University of Tampa)

“Black Protagonists in Film: Bad Cop, Good Cop” with Anthony Stone (University of Memphis) and Wesley Wehde (Texas Tech University)

“Memphis and Detroit: Trajectories of Urban Development” with Dorcas Young Griffin* (University of Memphis), Laura A. Reese (Michigan State University), Gary Sands (Wayne State University)

“Patterns of Emergency Management Funding in the United States: Disparate Funding Impacts on Community Resilience” with Logan Gerber-Chavez (University of Delaware) & Tanya B. Corbin (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University).

Books

Downey, D. C. (2021). *Disasters and Economic Recovery*. London: Routledge Publishing

Downey, D. C. (Ed.). (2015). *Cities and Disasters*, Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. **2016 CHOICE Award Winner.**

Refereed Journal Articles (* denotes work with graduate students)

Downey, D.C. & Myers, W.M. (forthcoming) “The Impact of Tort Reform Liability Shields During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Hyper-Preemption in the States” in *Metropolitica*.

Downey, D. C., & Myers, W. (2024). Effective Communication in Times of Crisis: The Case of Face Mask Mandates in the United States. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 32, e12522. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-5973.12522>.

Downey, D.C., Wehde, W., & Harris, K.* (2023). A Pedagogical Exploration of Horror as a Teaching Tool for Ethics Using the Case of *Saw IV*, *Public Integrity*, doi:[10.1080/10999922.2023.2278861](https://doi.org/10.1080/10999922.2023.2278861)

Myers, W. M., and **Downey, D. C.** (2023). Face Mask Mandates: Unilateral Authority and Gubernatorial Leadership in US States.” *Law & Policy* 45(3): 353–372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lapo.12229>.

Gerber-Chavez, L.,* Montano, S., Savitt, A., Corbin, T. B., & **Downey, D. C.** (2023). Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding allocations and relevance for US disaster policy. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rhc3.12269>.

Wehde, W. & **Downey, D.C.** (2022). Review of Saw IV: Extreme Violence, Ethics, and Street-Level Bureaucracy. *Public Integrity*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10999922.2022.2125910>.

Downey, D. C., & Myers, W. M. (2020). Federalism, Intergovernmental Relationships, and Emergency Response: A Comparison of Australia and the United States. *The American Review of Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0275074020941696>.

Blackmond-Larnell, T., & **Downey, D. C.** (2019). Tax Increment Financing in Chicago: The Perplexing Relationship Between Blight, Race, and Property Values. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 33(4), 316–330. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0891242419877944>.

Reckhow, S., **Downey, D. C.,** & Sapotichne, J. (2019). Governing Without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Detroit and Flint. *Urban Affairs Review*, 56(5). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078087419847531>.

Myers, W. M. & **Downey, D.C.** (2017) “Which Governments Come Out Ahead?” *Perspectives on Federalism*, 9(1), 13-33.

Downey, D. C. & Reese, L. A. (2017) “Sudden Versus Slow Death of Cities: New Orleans and Detroit.” *DuBois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 4(1), 219- 243.

Downey, D. C. (2016) “Disaster Recovery in Black and White: A Comparison of New Orleans and Gulfport.” *The American Review of Public Administration*, 46(1), 51-74.

Cox, D. S. & Reese, L. A. (2007) “Local Culture and Governmental Change: Exploring the Endurance of Culture in the Face of Structural Change.” *Canadian Public Administration*, 50(2), 245-27.

Law Review Articles

Myers, W. M. & **Downey, D. C.** (2021). Covid-19 Policy Executive (In)Action in Florida and Michigan. *Wayne State Law Review*, 67(1).

Book Chapters

Downey, D.C. & Myers, W.M. (Forthcoming). "Diffusion in Times of Political Polarization: An Analysis of Face Mask Policy Adoption in the United States" Accepted for publication in the Routledge Handbook on Crisis in the Public Sector (edited by Tonya Thornton and Kimberly Moloney)

Reese, L. A., Rosenfeld, R. A. & **Downey, D. C.** (2012) "Civic Culture in Ottawa: The Endurance of Local Culture" in Comparative Civic Culture, Eds. LA Reese and RA Rosenfeld. London: Ashgate Publishing.

Other Publications

Governing Without Government. Urban Affairs Review, Urban Affairs Forum. (April 24, 2020).

Reckhow, Sarah; Downey, Davia; and Sapotichne, Joshua, "Governing Without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Detroit and Flint" (October 26, 2018). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3273190>.

Making the Economic Development Process Accessible to Students. Urban Affairs Review, Urban Affairs Forum. (November 2, 2018).

Book Review of Obama on the Home Front: Domestic Policy Triumphs and Setbacks by John D. Graham. Public Administration Review, vol. 67, 6: 804-804. (December 2017).

"Ethnocentrism." In Linwood H. Cousins and Geoffrey J. Golson (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Human Services and Diversity. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications (September 2014)

"Environmental Racism." In Linwood H. Cousins and Geoffrey J. Golson (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Human Services and Diversity. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications (September 2014)

"Gentrification." In Linwood H. Cousins and Geoffrey J. Golson (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Human Services and Diversity. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications (September 2014)

"Ethnocentrism." In Routledge Companion to Race and Ethnicity, ed. Stephen M. Caliendo and Charlton McIlwain. New York: Routledge, (December 2010).

Book Review of There Is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race Class and Hurricane Katrina by Chester Harman and Gregory D. Spires. American Review of Public Administration Vol. 39, No. 5, pp. 570-573, 2008.

Media Appearances

"Release of 2020 census data starts countdown to congressional redistricting" by Kimberly Adams. NPR Marketplace (August 12, 2021).

“Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announces temporary statewide school, restaurant, gym closures” by Allie Morris and James Barragán. The Dallas Morning News (March 19, 2020)

“America Is Not Set Up For This” by Michael Hobbes. The Huffington Post (April 26th, 2020)

“Natural disaster response strategies success dependent on collaboration” by Patrick Center. WGVU (NPR Affiliate), Grand Rapids, Michigan (May 12, 2020)

“Regional strategies work best during times of disaster, GVSU researcher says” by Dottie Barnes. WKTV Journal (May 12, 2020)

“A federal court ruled Michigan political districts are "gerrymandered." What comes next?” by Dustin Dwyer. WUOM/Michigan Radio. (May 16 2019)

“Cities in Crisis” by No Jargon Podcast and the Scholars Strategy Network. (March 21, 2019)

“Detroit and Flint keep relying on private money to solve public problems. Why?” with Sarah Reckhow and Joshua Sapotichne. The Washington Post, Monkey Cage Blog. (November 27, 2018).

Conference Presentations

“Impact of the 14th Amendment on Local Litigation in Front of the Supreme Court” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA, September 2024).

“Political and Economic Trajectories of Majority Black Cities: A Comparison of Detroit, Michigan and Memphis, Tennessee” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (New York, NY, April 2024).

“Local Governments at Court” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA, September 2023).

“State Instability, Violence and the Ethics of Saw IV: A Pedagogical Exploration of Horror as a Teaching Tool” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (Nashville, TN, April 2023).

“Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Funds: Allocations and Relevance for U.S. Disaster Policy” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (St. Petersburg, FL, January 2023).

“State Instability, Violence and the Ethics of Saw IV: A Pedagogical Exploration of Horror as a Teaching Tool” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (St. Petersburg, FL, January 2023).

“The Role of Urban Protest in Responsive Policymaking” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C., April 2022).

“A Linguistic Analysis of Reopening Plans: The United States and Australia” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual, January 2021).

“When Cities Go to Court: A Test of Party Capability Theory” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual, September 2020).

“Local Governments and Party Capability Theory: Who Wins and Why?” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA, April 2019).

“Local Governments and Party Capability Theory: Who Wins and Why?” with William Myers (University of Tampa). Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Austin, TX, January 2019).

“David and Goliath? Party Capability Theory and Local Governments” with William Myers (University of Tampa). Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA, January 2018)

“Governing Without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Flint, Detroit, and New Orleans” with Sarah Reckhow (Michigan State University). Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA, January 2018)

“Unnatural Disasters: Can Nonprofit Governance Promote Recovery in Detroit and Flint?” with Sarah Reckhow (Michigan State University). Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Annual Meeting (Grand Rapids, MI, November 2017)

“Where the Action Is: Party Capability and Conflict in Federal Systems” with William Myers (University of Tampa). Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA January 2017)

“Which Governments Come Out Ahead?” with William Myers (University of Tampa). Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2016)

“The Problem with TIFs: Engineering Blight in Wealthy Communities” with Twyla Blackmond-Larnell (Loyola University of Chicago). Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Meeting (San Diego, CA, March 2016)

“How Do Voluntary Neighborhood Associations Vary? A Study of Programmatic Activities and

Economic Vitality in Grand Rapids, Michigan” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Meeting (Miami, FL, April 2015)

“Sudden Versus Slow Death of Cities: New Orleans and Detroit” with Laura A. Reese (Michigan State University) Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Meeting (San Antonio, TX, March 2014)

“Preparing the Non-profit Sector for Change: The Budget Control Act of 2011” with E. Miles Wilson (Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University) Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Meeting (San Francisco, CA, April 2013)

“Disaster Recovery in Black and White: A Comparison of New Orleans and Gulfport.” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA, April 2012)

“Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Is Intensive Investment Enough in the Wake of Disaster?” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA, March 2011)

“Economic Recovery Post-Disaster Does Race or Class Matter?” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Meeting (New Orleans, LA, January 2011)

“Race, Class, and Recovery: Louisiana Under Water?” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (Chicago, IL, April 2010)

“Beyond New Orleans: Economic Recovery, Class and Race in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina.” Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL, March 2009)

“Wade in the Water: Race, Local Government, and Hurricane Katrina.” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA, January 2009)

“The Emerging Policy Role of Faith-Based Organizations in the Low-Income Housing Market.” with Drs. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore and Richard Hula. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL, August 2007)

“Natural Disasters, Local Economic Development, and the Chocolate City.” with Dr. Laura A. Reese. Paper presented at the American Society of Public Administration Annual Meeting (Washington D.C., March 2007)

“Local Civic Culture: A Comparison of Citizen and Elite Attitudes.” with Drs. Laura A. Reese and Raymond Rosenfeld. Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL, April 2006)

“Arts in Education: A Program Analysis.” presented at the Eastern Michigan University Graduate Research Fair (Ypsilanti, MI, March 2005)

Invited Presentations

“Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding allocations and relevance for US disaster policy.” (2023). Invited presentation for the Value of Disaster Preparedness Webinar Series at the University of New Hampshire.

“Equity in Public Administration” (2021). Invited presentation for the Spring Graduate Colloquium at Northern Illinois University.

“Redistricting Reform and Grassroots Level Advocacy” (2020). Invited presentation for the Chicagoland Scholars Strategy Network chapter.

"Governing without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Detroit and Flint " (2019). Invited presentation for the University of Pittsburgh Center for Social & Urban Research Brown Bag Lecture Series.

“Montcalm County Business Incubator” (2014). Webinar presentation for the University Center for Regional Economic Innovation. Partially funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration through Michigan State University’s Center for Community and Economic Development.

Teaching Experience

2021-Present

Associate Professor, University of Memphis.

Graduate Courses Taught: Exploration of Urban Research and Theory, Scope and Methods in Urban Affairs, Collaborative Urban Problem Solving

2017-2021

Associate Professor, Grand Valley State University.

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Public and Nonprofit Administration, Local Politics and Administration, Comparative and International Administration, Community Analysis, Public Policy Analysis and Research

Graduate Courses Taught: Foundations of Public Service, Public Policy Analysis

2011-2017

Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University.

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Public and Nonprofit Administration, Local Politics and Administration, Comparative and International Administration, Community Analysis, Public Policy Analysis, and Research Methods

Graduate Courses Taught: Foundations of Public Service, Public Policy Analysis

2008- 2009

Graduate Instructor, Michigan State University.

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Public Policy Analysis, Public Bureaucracy in the Public Policy Process, Minority Politics

2007

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University.

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Urban Politics, Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis

Awards and Grants

INTERNAL

- 2023 Recipient: Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis (\$5000)
- 2021 Recipient: Community for Research Scholars Grant, University of Memphis (\$2500)
- 2017 Recipient: Russell G. Mawby Fellowship in Philanthropic Studies, Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University (\$2500)
- 2016 Recipient: Russell G. Mawby Fellowship in Philanthropic Studies, Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University (\$2500)
- 2013 Recipient: Dissemination Grant, Grand Valley State University (\$500)
- 2012 Recipient: Dissemination Grant, Grand Valley State University (\$500)
- 2012 Recipient: Travel Grant, Grand Valley State University (\$500)
- 2010 Recipient: Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University (\$6000)

EXTERNAL

- 2024 Institute for Humane Studies Faculty Expense Support (\$5000) **Funded.**
- 2023 National Science Foundation Smart and Connected Communities Grant with Drs. Alexander Headley, Katherine Lambert-Pennington, Brian Waldron, and Stephen Diko. (Requested \$149,308) **Unfunded.**
- 2023 National Institutes of Health Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities (RO1 Research Project Grant) with Drs. Courtnee Melton-Fant and Katherine Lambert-Pennington (Requested \$1,196,250) **Unfunded.**
- 2023 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Policies for Action: Effects of State Preemption Policies on Racial Justice and Health Equity 2023 Grant with William Myers (University of Tampa), Joseph Lariscy, and Wesley James. (Requested: \$435,000) **Unfunded.**
- 2023 Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, Summer Research Grant Program with William Myers (University of Tampa) for book research support (Requested: \$9,999) **Unfunded.**
- 2022 Russell-Sage Foundation Research Grant with Drs. Logan Gerber-Chavez, Samantha Montano, Amanda Savitt, and Tanya B. Corbin. (Requested: \$163,000) **Unfunded.**
- 2022 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evidence for Action Grant with Drs. Courtnee Melton-Fant and Katherine Lambert-Pennington. (Requested: \$615,353) **Unfunded.**
- 2021 Department of Energy Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize Grant with Drs. Alexander Headley, Brian Waldron, Alistair Windsor, LC Wells, and Stephanie Ivey. (Requested \$199,848) **Unfunded.**
- 2020 Recipient: ENACT Faculty Fellowship: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University (Canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

- 2016 Co-Recipient: Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Grant Program at Michigan State University (Requested: 10,000) **Funded.**
- 2013 Recipient: EDA Center for Regional and Economic Innovation Technical Assistance Grant, Michigan State University (Requested: \$2500) **Funded.**
- 2009 Recipient: Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association (Requested: \$600) **Funded.**
- 2006 Recipient: Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Traveling Scholar Grant (Requested: \$1800) **Funded.**
- 2005 Author: City of Ypsilanti Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (Requested \$80,303) **Funded.**

Professional Memberships

American Association of University Professors, Member
 American Association of University Women, Member
 American Society of Public Administrators, Member
 American Political Science Association, Member
 International City/County Managers Association, Member
 League of Women Voters, Memphis Chapter
 Midwest Political Science Association, Member
 MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, Consultative Panel Member
 Scholars Strategy Network, Former State Co-Chair for Michigan
 Southern Political Science Association, Member
 Urban Affairs Association, Member
 Pi Alpha Alpha, Public Administration Honor Society, Eastern Michigan University
 Phi Kappa Phi, Graduate Honor Society, Eastern Michigan University

Journal Reviewer: British Journal of Political Science, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Race and Ethnicity, American Review of Public Administration, Journal of Public Policy, International Journal for Disaster Risk Science, Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs, Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy, Public Integrity, Journal of Urban Affairs, Population and Environment, Cities, State and Local Government Review, SN Social Sciences, Cities, Public Administration Review, and Local Government Studies, Urban Affairs Review, and Publius.

Professional, University, and Community Service

Professional Service

American Political Science Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant Review Committee (2024)

Secretary/Treasurer, American Political Science Association Urban and Local Politics Section (2022-2025)

Scholar Development Editor, Urban Affairs Association/Journal of Urban Affairs (2022-2025)

Associate Editor, Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs (2020-2023)

Daniel Elazar Distinguished Federalism Scholar Award Committee, American Political Science Association Federalism Section (2022-2023)

Byran Jackson Dissertation Research Award Committee, American Political Science Association Urban and Local Politics Section (2021-2022)

Human Rights Advisory Council Member, Brooks College for Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University (2018-2021)

Section Co-Chair for the American Political Science Association Urban and Local Politics Section (2019-2020)

Michigan State Co-Chair, Scholars Strategy Network (2018-2020)

Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award Committee, Urban Affairs Association (2019-2020)

University Service

Tenure Review Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Memphis (2022-2023)

College Personnel Committee, College of Community and Public Service, Grand Valley State University (2018-2021)

External Relations Committee, School of Public Nonprofit and Health Administration (2015-2020)

Committee Chair, MPA Graduate Program Committee, School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration (2014-2020)

Faculty Advisor, Pencils of Promise Campus Club, Grand Valley State University (2014-2015)

Member, Evaluation Committee, School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration at Grand Valley State University (2013-2015)

Member, Adjunct Teaching Committee, School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration at Grand Valley State University

Graduate Advisory Committee, Department of Political Science at Michigan State University (2009-2011)

Community Service

Board of Directors, BLDG Memphis (2024- Present)

Board Member, Count MI Vote (2018-2021), Board President (2019-2020)

Board Member, Voters Not Politicians (2017-2020)

Consultant, America's Best Communities Rural Economic Development Competition (2015-2016)

Member (and Chair) of Housing Commission, City of East Lansing (2014-2019)

Secretary and Board Member, Michigan Capital Area Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators (2010-2017)