George R. Chichirau, Ph. D.
237 Tremont St #3, Somerville MA 02143 | 617-319-4086 |
george.chichirau@umb.edu | georgechichirau.com |
public.tableau.com/app/profile/george.chichirau

Summary

- **Policy Research Analyst (Supervisor)** with ample experience in quantitative research;
- Co-author of **a public policy textbook** (Public Policymaking - 9th Edition) and an **urban development textbook** (Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities);
- **Advisor to the Director of the Division of Local Mandates** within the Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor; key member of the SAO team managing the state's **Municipal Finance Oversight Board.**

Selected Publications

Chichirau G. 2024. Assessing Transportation Network Companies' Financial Obligations to Massachusetts Programs. Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Anderson, J., Moyer, J., Chichirau, G. 2023. Public Policymaking (9th Edition). Cengage Learning.

Johnson, Michael P., Hollander, J., Kinsey, E., Chichirau, G. 2021. Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities. Albany, NY: SUNY University Press.

Tafoya B., DeBarcelos C., Chichirau G. & Hershman H. 2022. Five-Year Statutory Fiscal Impact Report 2022. Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Tafoya B., DeBarcelos C., Chichirau G. & Hershman H. 2022. Fulfilling the Promise of Local Aid by Strengthening State-Local Partnerships. Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor.

Midgley, G., Johnson, M. P., & Chichirau, G. (2018). What is Community Operational Research? European Journal of Operational Research, 268(3), 771–783.

Johnson, M. P., Midgley, G., & Chichirau, G. (2018). Emerging Trends and New Frontiers in Community Operational Research. European Journal of Operational Research, 268(3), 1178–1191.

Johnson, M. P., Midgley, G., Wright, J., & Chichirau, G. (2018). Community Operational Research: Innovations, internationalization and agenda-setting applications. EJOR, 268(3).

Work Experience

Office of the Massachusetts State Auditor | *1 Ashburton Pl, Boston, MA 02108*
Policy Research Supervisor | **Oct 01 2021 – present**

Designed, developed, and implemented statistical and econometric methods and techniques
to undergird the agency's research agenda (including a study on the activity of
Transportation Network Companies). Created data models (in Stata) and dashboards (in
Tableau) to both measure and illustrate state policy impacts. Collaboratively authored
wide-ranging research reports, including a five-year review of the entire activity of the
Office of the State Auditor. Conducted reviews of numerous state programs, including
energy, education, school transportation, general government aid, and more. Served as
advisor to the Director of the Division of Local Mandates.

Key member of the team running the state's Municipal Finance Oversight Board. As such,
researched and wrote numerous reports on municipal finances. Cooperated with local
officials, including municipal, county and tribal officials. Identified and analyzed budgetary
issues, synthesized complex materials, and recommended appropriate courses of action for
the agency's needs. Periodically presented program memos to senior elected officials.
Planned, organized, developed and conducted analyses of both statewide and local
budgetary strategies, policies, and practices.

Northeastern University | *360 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115*
Lecturer | Sep 01 2020 – present

Researched and developed innovative, community-focused planning methods and
technologies for cities facing decline, incorporating collaborative planning, social media,
and civic tech. Evaluated analytic approaches for policy design in shrinking cities,
emphasizing economic development and local empowerment through case studies.
Advocated for data-driven, tech-centered decision-making, using new technologies to
empower residents in urban transformation.

My teaching history includes:
- POLS 2358: Current Issues in Cities and Suburbs. An in-depth introduction to
  pressing urban issues: urban sprawl, poverty, education, transportation, economic
  development, and housing, through an intensive analysis of the Boston area.
- POLS 2400 - Quantitative Techniques. Methods of quantitative analysis including
  descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, cross-tabulation, analysis of variance,
  bivariate regression and correlation, and multiple regression. Examines how to
  generate and interpret statistical findings through use of Excel, SPSS, and/or other
  software programs. Uses examples from political behavior, public policy analysis,
  public opinion, comparative and international politics, and other areas of political and
  social-science inquiry to emphasize practical applications.

University of Massachusetts (McCormack Graduate School of Policy)
Lecturer | Sep 01 2017 – June 01 2020

Teaching history:
- UPCD 620: Analytic Methods for Urban Planning (graduate). An introduction to quantitative and qualitative analytic methods appropriate to propose, support and evaluate localized and regional initiatives in planning and community development. Students use Stata to manage large datasets and produce descriptive summaries, plots, and inferential analyses (including regression).
- POLSCI 102: Government and Politics of the United States (undergraduate). A class on political principles and ideologies, public opinion, political socialization, political parties, mass media, elections, interest groups, civil rights and civil liberties, public policies and more.
- PPOL-G 621: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis (doctoral). A class focusing on consumer choices, producer behavior, and market failures, first within the neoclassical economic model and then in the context of alternative economic theories.
- GCPA 602: History of US Public Administration (graduate). A broad exposure to the intellectual history of public administration in the United States.
- PUBADM 628: Research Methods for Policy Analysis I (graduate). The course is divided into three sections, (1) quantitative methods; (2) qualitative methods; and (3) community-based participatory action research. Each section culminates in the submission of a policy brief on a topic of the student's choosing.
- PUBADM 629: Research Methods II (graduate). A focus on the Case Study Method and its related skills, including interviewing, analysis of documents/archives, analysis of prior research findings, qualitative research skills and analysis, and determination of policy implications.
- PUBADM 691: Capstone/Case Study Seminar. The completion of a final project, which may be a case study of a public policy or significant piece of legislation. While completing their case study project, students participate in a weekly seminar that focuses on case study methodology.

INFORMS (The Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences)
Research Project Manager | part-time | Jan 01 2018 – Jan 31 2020
- Managing the [INFORMS Editor's Cut edition on diversity issues](). I proposed relevant papers, integrated the collection with papers proposed by other committee members, and saw it through to final product.
- Developing a diversity knowledge base: establishing technical standards, performing a wide-ranging review, collecting and publishing materials, maintenance etc.

University of Massachusetts (McCormack Graduate School of Policy)
Graduate Research Assistant | part-time | Sep 01 2015 – May 30 2020
- Dissertation research on public transit funding: I examined to what extent the MBTA could transition from a revenue stream dependent on budgetary allocations to one dependent on real estate. This included spatial and econometric modeling of the likely economic and social consequences of the MBTA functioning under different financing models.
- I contributed to 4 publications; I notably wrote chapter 2 of "Supporting Shrinkage: Better Planning and Decision-Making for Legacy Cities", a quantitative analysis of how data and technologies can support sustainable and equitable urban planning in legacy cities (and did most of the data analysis for the entire volume).
- I worked on the Public Administration Master's Program marketing in the following areas: 1) data analysis of enrollment and financial trends; 2) market analysis of comparable programs across the US; 3) lead development; and 4) social media development.

Wellington Solar LLC
Project Manager | Jan 01 2014 – August 31 2015
- I re-designed the company web site, implemented a major IT systems upgrade, and re-tooled the marketing portfolio.

BRIO Local Ltd.
Director of Legal Affairs | November 15 2010 - Dec 31 2013
BRIO Local was a consulting group that facilitated transactions between Central European and Chinese companies (mostly subcontracting of manufacturing and purchases of raw materials). My role within BRIO was to identify optimal outcomes and draft agreements. Consistently worked long hours, handling numerous people, events and time zones at once.

House of Romeo School of Foreign Languages (Shenzhen, China)
General Manager | Sep 01 2007 - October 31 2010
Started this school of foreign languages to meet growth opportunities in the Chinese education market. I designed the course structures and scheduling; recruited a 15-person team; found a physical location, devised and implemented a marketing plan. The language center grew to be financially sound and self-sustaining by 2010.

Carleton College Student Association (Northfield, MN)
Senator | 2006 - 2007
Debated $400,000/year budget allocations with 18 fellow senators. Worked on campus IT improvements while on the IT Services committee, assessed effectiveness of dining hall services.

Carleton College (Northfield, MN)
Computing Specialist | 2003 - 2007
Provided users with network, hardware, software, and printer support via the Student Computing Information Center; answered questions on the Student Help Line and helped maintain the campus network and laboratories.

Education

- University of Massachusetts (Boston) – Ph.D. in Public Policy
- University of Massachusetts (Boston) – M.S. in Public Policy
- Carleton College — B.A. (Magna Cum Laude) in Political Science and Classical Studies

Skills

- Strong research skills acquired through PhD-level coursework in statistics, economics and political science.
- Proficient in Stata, MaxQDA, Tableau; working knowledge of ArcGIS, Excel, R, SQL.
- Languages: Portuguese, French, Romanian.