
116 Winston Hall, Campus Box 8101, Raleigh, NC 27695

CURRENT POSITION

North Carolina State University, School of Public and International Affairs
Assistant Professor of Public Administration, 2024 – Present

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Appalachian State University, Department of Government and Justice Studies

- Assistant Professor of Public Administration, 2020 – 2024
- Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018-2020

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

- Doctor of Philosophy in Public and International Affairs (2018)
- Master of Public Administration (2011)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Sociology (2000)

AWARDED GRANTS

- Science and Technology for Phosphorus Sustainability (STEPS) Phosphorus Grant (National Science Foundation, Grant No. CBET-2019435)
 - “Charting the Public Sector Influence on Phosphorus in the High Country of North Carolina”
 - Sub-awarded \$9,000 for AY 2021-2022
 - Sub-awarded \$9,000 for AY 2022-2023
 - “Collaborative Governance for Phosphorus Sustainability”
 - Sub-awarded \$325,000 AYs 2023-2025 (PI)
 - Co-PIs: Ashton Merck and Kelly Chernin
 - “Soil & Water Conservation Districts”
 - Sub-awarded \$101,000 AY 2025-2026 (PI)
 - Pending Renewal (~\$500,000) for AY2026-2031
 - Co-PIs: Graham Ambrose and Ritwick Ghosh
- Appalachian State University, Department of Rural Resilience and Innovation: “Regional Public Sector Organizations and Their Roles in Rural Broadband Deployment” (Contributor, Awarded \$5,000)

- University of Pittsburgh Seed Project: “Graduate Certificate in Regional Intergovernmental Organization Management” (Contributor, Awarded \$25,000)

PUBLICATIONS

Rickabaugh, J., & Siegel, J. (2025). Teaching the Orchestra, not just the Conductor: Early Undergraduate Transdisciplinary Education in Public Affairs Designed for Non-majors. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 1–19.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15236803.2025.2465021>

Bourne, K., **Rickabaugh, J.**, Hambourger, M., Klima, V., Ogwu, M. C., Plummer, G., Swarthout, R., Siegel, J., & Hendren, C. O. (2025). Research-to-action Multidisciplinary Projects: An Undergraduate Convergence Research Course. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 12(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-025-05202-2>

Merck, A., Jenkins, C., Martin, A., Sajewicz, A., Wagner, M., Chernin, K., & **Rickabaugh, J.** (2025). Establishing the Office of Phosphorus: Introducing Wicked Problems in Collaborative Governance through an Active Learning Exercise. *Journal of Sustainability Education*, 31.

Deviney, A. V., Bhadha, J. H., Crane, L., Cuchiara, M., Delanthamajalu, S., Gatiboni, L., Guzman, S. M., Hendren, C. O., Marshall, A.-M., Morrison, E., Nelson, N. G., **Rickabaugh, J.**, Sozzani, R., Westerhoff, P., & Jones, J. L. (2024). Triple Bottom Line Scenario Sites as Boundary Objects for Integrating Diverse Disciplines in Convergent Research. *Sustainability*, 16(23), 10429.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su162310429>

Rickabaugh, J. (2023). Regional Public Sector Organizations: A Broader Taxonomic Classification to Cross-pollinate Empirical Research. *Public Administration*, 101(1), 271–283. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12779>

Tepperman, A., & **Rickabaugh, J.** (2022). Historical Criminology, a Moving Target: Understanding and Challenging Trends in British and American Periodization. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 85, 101978.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JCRIMJUS.2022.101978>

Rickabaugh, J. (2021). Regionalism With and Without Metropolitanism: Governance Structures of Rural and Non-rural Regional Intergovernmental Organizations. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 51(2), 155–164.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0275074020939883>

Nelles, J., & **Rickabaugh, J.** (2021). *State of the Field – American Regionalism and the Constellation of Mechanisms for Cross-boundary Cooperation*. Urban Affairs Forum.
<https://urbanaffairsreview.com/2020/09/04/state-of-the-field-american-regionalism-and-the-constellation-of-mechanisms-for-cross-boundary-cooperation/>

Rickabaugh, J. & Dougherty, G.W. (2021). Not State, Not Local: Regional Intergovernmental Organizations. In R.L. Hansen & E.S. Zeemering (Eds.), *Cooperation and Conflict between State and Local Government*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Rickabaugh, J. (2019). Distributing Decision-making between Local Governments on RIGO Boards. In D.Y. Miller & J. Nelles (Eds.), *Discovering American Regionalism: An Introduction to Regional Intergovernmental Organizations*. Routledge.

Rickabaugh, J. (2018). *Finding the Unique Balance: Local Government Representation on the Boards of Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (RIGOs)* [University of Pittsburgh].
<http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/35737/1/Rickabaugh%20Dissertation%2012.9.18%20FINAL.pdf>

Kearns, K., Livingston, J., **Rickabaugh, J.**, & McShane, L. (2012). *Coleen Rowley and the FBI*. Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership.
<https://johnsoninstitute.pitt.edu/research/exemplary-and-emerging-leader-award-and-case-studies/exemplary-leaders>

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Rickabaugh, J. & Starr, A. (In Press). Regional Governance in North Carolina. In B. McDonald & H. Bacot (Eds.), *Public Administration in North Carolina*. Routledge.

Oates, C.C., Rudko, N., McLamore E.S., **Rickabaugh, J.**, Grieger, K., Muenich, R.L., Nelson, N.G. (Submitted Revisions, Under Review). Community-based Approaches Highlight Opportunities and Limitations in Addressing Socioeconomic Barriers to Water Quality Monitoring in the United States.

McLamore, E., Oates, C., Bhadha, J., Grieger, K., **Rickabaugh, J.**, Nelson, N., Vanegas, D., Mayer, B., Tuberty, S., Guzman, S. (In Preparation). Perspective: Toward Circular Phosphorous Systems: Integrating Monitoring, Data Analytics, and Collaborative Governance for Managing Critical Minerals.

Rickabaugh, J., Ambrose, G., Collier, S., Cowan, W., Delanthamajalu, S., Ferreri, M., Laughter, A., Marshall, A.-M. (In Preparation). A Modern Research Agenda for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Jensen, C., Kim, S., Lubin, J., **Rickabaugh, J.** (In Preparation). Working Title: Public Perceptions of Local Government's Regional Relations.

Rickabaugh, J. (In Preparation). Working Title: Wicked? Sure, but Wicked How?: Framework Questions for Developing Transdisciplinary Evidence-based Policy (TEBP).

Rickabaugh, J. (In Preparation). Quantifying Longitudinal Changes in the Collective Choice Arrangements of Regional Public Sector Organizations (RPSOs).

Rudko, N., Islam, M., McLamore, E., Morrison, E., Mayer, B., Call, D., Cusick, R., Westerhoff, P., Muenich, B., **Rickabaugh, J.**, Sihi, D., Verrico, O., Oates, C., Baughmann, T., Schmitz, T., Li, T., Borah, S., Hogsed, P. (In Preparation).
Working Title: Perspective: The Future of Phosphorus Sustainability Requires Integrating Multiple Perspectives and Information Layers.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Science of Teaching and Learning Institute (2025-2026), NCSU Office of Faculty Excellence
- Quality Matters-certified Peer Reviewer for Higher Education (Completed 2021, Certification Current)
- Completed Appalachian State University's Online Teaching Excellence Institute (2020)

Courses Taught at North Carolina State University:

- MPA Capstone (Graduate, In-person)
- Public Administration: Institutions & Values (Graduate, In-person)
- Public Policy Analysis (Graduate, In-person)

Courses Taught at Appalachian State University:

- Public Management (Undergraduate and Graduate, In-person)
- Public Personnel Administration (Graduate, In-person and Online)
- Topics in Public Administration: Regional Governance (Undergraduate and Graduate, In-person and Online)
- Introduction to Public Administration (Undergraduate, Online)
- Problems in State and Local Government (Graduate, In-person)
- North Carolina in Action (Undergraduate and Graduate, Co-instructor with Brian Bulla, In-person)
- Seminar in Public Administration (Graduate, In-person)
- Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Political Science Majors (Undergraduate, In-person and Online)
- Research-to-action Multidisciplinary Problems: Wicked Environmental Problems (Undergraduate, In-person, Team Taught)

Courses Taught at the University of Pittsburgh:

- Public Policy Analysis (Graduate, In-person)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (Graduate, Online)

Dissertation Committees:

- Samuel Kurtz, University of Illinois-Chicago (2022)
- Yingzhou You, North Carolina State University (In Progress)
- Jenny Gilmore, North Carolina State University (In Progress)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Phosphorus, Policy, and the Systems That Shape Outcomes. PhosForUS Podcast. (2026, June 16). <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/phosforus/id1687822753>

STEPS Center FAQ on February 18 White House Executive Order. (2026, February 20). <https://steps-center.org/2026/02/20/steps-center-faq-on-february-18-white-house-executive-order/> (Co-developed FAQ; Listed as Media Contact)

Rocco, P., Rickabaugh, J., & Nelles, J. (2025, November 27). *Trump's Washington Is Ghosting States and Cities.* Washington Monthly. <https://washingtonmonthly.com/2025/11/27/trump-washington-ghosting-states-cities/>

Rickabaugh, J., & Peacock, J. (2025). *I Study Local Government and Hurricane Helene Forced Me from my Home – Here's how Rural Towns and Counties in North Carolina and Beyond Cooperate to Rebuild* (C. Holmes & N. Schalit, Eds.). theconversation.com. <https://doi.org/10.64628/AAI.px4n5kxpv>

Hutton, Z. *Pooling Progress: Intercity Collaboration and Data-driven Policy* (2023, October 23). Governing Magazine. <https://www.governing.com/policy/pooling-progress-intercity-collaboration-and-data-driven-policy> (Quoted in Story)

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- Towards a Modern Research Agenda for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, American Society for Public Administration; March 2026, Hollywood CA
- Proposing a Framework for Transdisciplinary Evidence-based Policy (TEBP), Southern Political Science Association; January 2026, New Orleans LA
- Uncommon Strategies for Complex Problems, California Counties Foundation; November 2025, Online
- Rural Local Government Cooperation, University of Pittsburgh; March 2025, Online
- Science Communication in Collaborative Governance, Deil Wright Symposium, American Society for Public Administration; March 2025, Washington DC
- Using Transdisciplinary Research Sites to Examine Interlinkages across Policy, Southern Political Science Association; January 2025, San Juan PR
- Regional Public Sector Organizations for Soil and Water Quality Management, Southern Political Science Association; January 2025, San Juan PR
- The End of Chevron Deference and Transdisciplinary Research into Phosphorus Sustainability, Invited Lecture: Northern Illinois University; October

2024, DeKalb IL

- Dimensions of Generalizability, Science and Technology for Phosphorus Sustainability (STEPS) Center; September 2024, Online
- RPSO Collective Choice Arrangements Longitudinally, Invited Lecture: North Carolina State University; April 2024, Raleigh NC
- Collaborative Governance for P Sustainability, Science and Technology for Phosphorus Sustainability (STEPS) Center; September 2024, Online
- Charting the Public Sector's Influence on Phosphorus Flows in North Carolina, Invited Lecture: University of Illinois-Chicago Networks and Governance Lab; December 2022, Online
- Digital Literacy and Co-regional Activity in Southwestern North Carolina, Research and Creative Activity at Appalachian Conference (ReCAPP); October 2022, Boone NC
- Charting the Public Sector's Influence on Phosphorus Flows in North Carolina, Invited Lecture: East Tennessee State University, October 2022, Johnson City, TN
- Rural Broadband and Co-regional Activity in Southwestern North Carolina, Deil Wright Symposium, American Society for Public Administration; March 2022, Jacksonville FL
- Mapping Co-regional Landscapes and the Roles of Regional Leaders, Southern Political Science Association; January 2022, Online
- Applying Your Knowledge: Incorporating Examples from Your Research into the Courses You Teach, Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA); November 2021, Online
- Collaboration for the Services You Can't Afford to Lose and You Can't Afford to Keep, NC Local Government Budget and Policy Association; December 2020, Online
- Regional Intergovernmental Organizations Practitioner and Academic Mini Conference (Co-organizer and Facilitator), University of Pittsburgh; February 2020, Pittsburgh PA
- How Do Local Governments and Regional Stakeholders Plan for Transportation in Appalachia? (with Sarah Cortinas Price), North Carolina Political Science Association; February 2020, Raleigh NC

- The “Un-metropolizing” of Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (RIGOs), Southern Political Science Association; January 2020, San Juan PR
- The Role of Local Governments in U.S. and European Regional Governance (Moderator), Deil Wright Symposium, American Society for Public Administration; March 2019, Washington DC
- Roundtable on Professional Education and Research Needs for Regional Intergovernmental Organization Executive Directors, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference; October 2018, Charlotte NC
- Discovering American Regions, Invited Lecture: Southeast Regional Directors Institute; May 2018, Kingsport TN
- An Introduction to Regional Intergovernmental Organizations, Small Cities Conference; May 2018, Muncie IN
- An Introduction to Regional Intergovernmental Organizations, Invited Lecture: Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, May 2018, Kalamazoo MI
- Leading Actors: The Role of Elected Officials on the Boards of Regional Intergovernmental Organizations, Deil Wright Symposium, American Society for Public Administration; March 2018, Denver CO
- Reconceptualizing Local Government Membership and Representational Rights in Cross-boundary Organizations, Urban Affairs Association; April 2017, Minneapolis MN

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Statistical Consultant, *Leadership Energizes*; Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California – Executive Education, Sacramento, CA; August 2017 – June 2018
- Researcher, Center for Disaster Management, SPIA; Summer 2016
- Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), Pittsburgh, PA
 - Project Manager, June 2011 – August 2013
 - Graduate Intern, January 2010 – June 2011

SERVICE FOR THE DISCIPLINE(S)

- Symposium Co-editor, “State of the Field – American Regionalism and the Constellation of Mechanisms for Cross-boundary Cooperation”, *Urban Affairs Forum*
- Affiliated Scholar, Networks & Governance Lab, University of Illinois-Chicago
- Digitally Archiving Materials from Dr. Pat Atkins on the History of Regional Intergovernmental Organizations in the United States, (In Progress)
<https://narc.omeka.net/>
- Peer Reviewed Discipline-specific Articles for: *Public Administration Review*; *Territory, Politics, and Governance*; *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*; *Review of Public Personnel Administration*; *PS: Political Science and Politics*; and *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*
- Peer Reviewed Interdisciplinary Manuscripts for: *Environment Systems and Decisions*; *Journal of Medical Internet Research: Human Factors*; *Ecology & Society*; *Journal of Sustainability Education*

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (NCSU 2024-2026)

- Co-authored and Presented STEPS Responses to National Science Foundation Site Visitors’ Overnight Questions on Policy and Social Science during NSF Annual Site Visits (2024, 2025)
- MPA Admissions Committee, AY 2025-2026
- Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee, AY 2024-Present
- Revising Assessment Rubric for MPA Capstone (In Progress)
- Assessed Completed MPA Capstone Projects from Spring & Fall 2024
- Harmonized Student Learning Outcomes for Consistency across Faculty for PA 510 (Public Administration: Institutions and Values) and PA 511 (Public Policy Analysis)