

Name: Steven Howe

Location: Cincinnati, OH

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www.srhassociates.com (under reconstruction)
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Please describe your primary workplace and role:

I have a rather conventional faculty appointment at UC. What is perhaps unconventional is that most of my research is applied. I also maintain a consulting practice. Policy-relevant work that I do might be done in either of these roles.

Please describe any work you do related to public policy (paid or voluntary):

I would say that almost everything that I do has a policy angle, but then I don't care too much for making distinctions between evaluation, policy, planning, and program management activities. As one example, I am currently a principal on an NSF-funded ADVANCE grant to the University of Cincinnati to promote institutional transformation for women STEM scientists. Policy issues are involved in many issues that we are examining. I have done a variety of studies that might be considered purely policy research, such as costing out Medicaid reform legislation.

What training/education do you have in community psychology? How has this training contributed to your work in public policy?

I was trained at the University of Cincinnati in what was ostensibly an applied social psychology program, but for practical purposes it was really one of the early community psychology programs. I had the good fortune to be trained by a team of people who expected me to develop expertise in quantitative methods, qualitative methods, evaluation research, organization development, and community-based research. I went into the program knowing that I wanted to study policy research. My advisors and mentor were entirely supportive of that, and helped as they could. Then, post-doc, I spent 13 years at the UC Institute for Policy Research prior to joining the Psychology faculty. While there, I improved my consulting and statistical skills, became skilled in survey research and demography, and had numerous opportunities to work with community-based organizations, local and regional governments on applied social science research, much of it with profound policy implications.

What other training or experiences helped prepare you for your work in public policy?

I think it's important to understand that policy is interdisciplinary in every possible sense. All theoretical perspectives and every form of methodological expertise can inform policy work.

What advice might you give to students and others thinking about working in public policy?

Is there anything else you would like to say about your involvement in public policy?

Please list any professional affiliations that relate to your involvement in public policy.