

THE S2P BRIEF

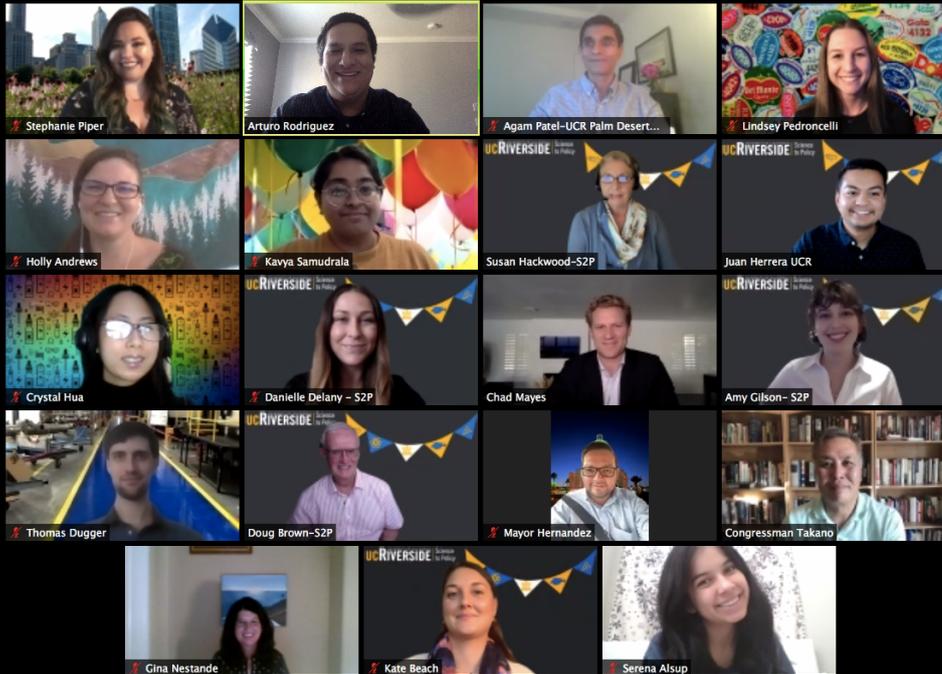
The quarterly newsletter of UC Riverside Science to Policy

WELCOME

Happy New Year from all of us at UCR Science to Policy! Through the pandemic, our Student Cabinet has remained very active, hosting virtual events, coordinating fellowships, and organizing our Science Policy Certificate Course. Our network has expanded tremendously over the last few months so we felt now was the perfect time to send out our first ever newsletter! These quarterly newsletters will feature updates on events and fellowships, the Certificate Program, and accomplishments by our students. Recently, one of our biggest accomplishments was made possible by all of you: **Giving Tuesday!** It was our first time participating in Giving Tuesday and it was a huge success! With the help of **209 donors we ended up raising \$14,415 and winning third place in the UCR Board of Trustees Challenge.** We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to donate and share our giving page with their friends and family on Giving Tuesday. Every dollar raised goes directly to our students, supporting our Science Policy Fellowships Program, the Certificate Program, and our student-led events. Your continued support allows us to train graduate students to be leaders in science policy. Thank you!

Here's what's new in this issue:

- **RECENT EVENTS**
- **FELLOWSHIPS**
- **AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS**
- **2020 S2P CERTIFICATE CLASS**
- **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT AND ALUMNI**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**
- **DONATION STATION**



RECENT EVENTS

SCIENCE POLICY SLAM

Shark Tank meets policy! On October 20th, 2020, we hosted the first Science Policy Slam via Zoom with six participants from the 2019 and 2020 graduate certificate classes. The students prepared rapid fire talks relating their research to proposed policy. Opening remarks were provided by Congressman Mark Takano and the judges included City of Palm Desert Mayor Gina Nestande, City of Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez, and Assemblyman Chad Mayes. The judges scored and ranked the presentations, and all participants received prizes. Over 100 people watched the successful Science Policy Slam virtually.

The winners were:

Holly Andrews - 1st Place Winner: "Agrivoltaics: A win for everyone?"

Lindsey Pedroncelli - 2nd Place Winner: "Natural Branding: Laser technology for labeling produce"

Kavya Samudrala - 3rd Place Winner: "Establishing a California Helium Reserve"

Other participants included:

Thomas Dugger - "A New Approach to R&D Tax Credits"

Crystal Hua - "Clearing the mist: The connection between vaping and COVID-19"

Stephanie Piper - "Seeing the Jungle in the Concrete Jungle"

A RECORDING OF THE EVENT CAN BE VIEWED [HERE!](#)

RECENT EVENTS

CANDIDATE FORUM

We held a forum with Riverside Mayoral Candidates, Andy Melendrez and Patricia Locke Dawson, and advocates for certain California Propositions. The speakers shared their views ahead of the Nov. 3rd election and answered questions submitted by students and Webinar attendees.

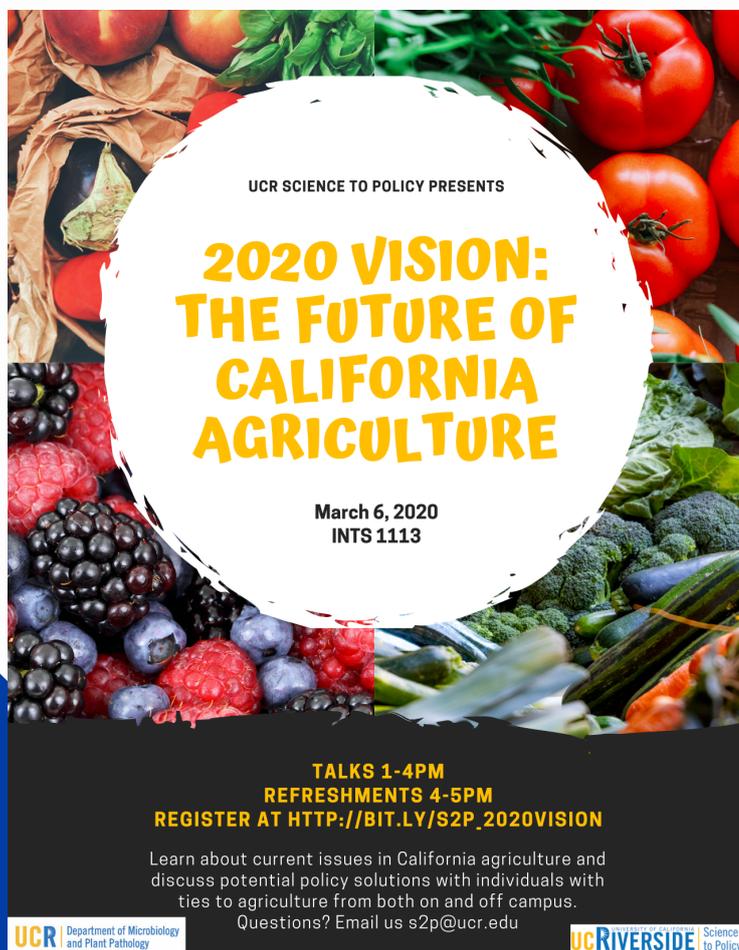


UC RIVERSIDE
RIVERSIDE MAYORAL RACE & CA PROPOSITION FORUM
Wednesday, October 21
Proposition Discussion
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Mayoral Candidate Forum
6:05 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mayoral Candidates: Patricia Lock-Dawson, Andy Melendrez
Propositions Being Discussed: 15, 16, 21, & 25
Zoom Registration: bit.ly/ucrpmforum

This event is nonpartisan

Logos: RUCR External Affairs, UC Riverside School of Public Policy, UC Riverside Science to Policy, UC Riverside Civic Engagement Coalition, UC Riverside Governmental & Community Relations



UCR SCIENCE TO POLICY PRESENTS
**2020 VISION:
THE FUTURE OF
CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE**
March 6, 2020
INTS 1113

TALKS 1-4PM
REFRESHMENTS 4-5PM
REGISTER AT [HTTP://BIT.LY/S2P_2020VISION](http://bit.ly/s2p_2020vision)

Learn about current issues in California agriculture and discuss potential policy solutions with individuals with ties to agriculture from both on and off campus.
Questions? Email us s2p@ucr.edu

Logos: UCR Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, UC Riverside Science to Policy

AG POLICY DAY

Science to Policy students hosted an interdisciplinary and interactive event about the myriad of issues facing agriculture in California; consisting of lightning talks, speakers, and panels. This event fostered an open and unique discussion between growers, researchers, and regulators.

RECENT EVENTS

READING GROUPS: MAXINE SAVITZ AND JULIANNE MCCALL

Science to Policy hosted our monthly reading group with special guests Dr. Maxine Savitz and Dr. Julianne McCall. Dr. Savitz is a former member of President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (OPCAST) Ad-Hoc Pandemic Response Group and Vice President of the National Academy of Engineering. She spoke on science based approaches to handling the COVID pandemic. Dr. McCall is the co-director of the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine and discussed the California Surgeon General's report on Adverse Childhood Experiences.



S2P READING GROUP WITH JULIANNE MCCALL

Dr. Julianne McCall leads a discussion on the forthcoming California Surgeon General's report on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Dr. McCall was a lead producer of the report. She is a Co-Director of the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine, which stimulates health innovation and incorporates principles of health equity in the translation of science into medical advances, in the Governor's Office of Research and Planning. She is also a member of the California COVID-19 Testing Task Force.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 17,
5-6:30PM PT**

Sign up here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/s2p-reading-group-with-julianne-mccall-tickets-132119851031>



WHY?

- To discuss selected briefs from California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris' comprehensive report on Adverse Childhood Events and toxic stress in early childhood as key priorities to improving health and health equity.
- To explore the function of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the California Precision Medicine Initiative, the Office of the Surgeon General, and how they work together to improve health outcomes in California.
- To learn about Dr. McCall's career trajectory and opportunities for scientists and people interested in health policy.



FELLOWSHIPS

With our Science Policy Fellowship Program we place PhD candidates in local offices as science advisors. This creates opportunities for graduate students to gain real-world experience and learn about the culture of political arenas and forms strong connections between S2P and host offices. In our newsletter we will feature current and former fellows to see what projects they have worked on for our local legislators.

DANIELLE DELANY, SCIENCE POLICY FELLOW IN THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKANO

"I joined S2P after completing the certificate program in 2019. I learned so much from the certificate program and was inspired to pursue science policy as a career. I heard about the different types of science policy fellowships (e.g., CCST, AAAS) and was very interested in applying to them, so when the S2P Policy Fellowship opportunity arose I knew I had to apply. It was the perfect way for me to get more experience in science policy and do so while still completing my graduate program. I am finishing up my project now in Congressman Mark Takano's office in CD-41. I examined the economic impact of COVID-19 in the district and focused on one sector in particular—early care and education. Specifically, I examined how early care and education had been impacted by COVID-19 and the shutdowns. I am currently preparing a webinar presentation to conclude my project. I learned how important it is to have a strong network of individuals in the policy world. At first, I had trouble getting responses from people in the industries I was looking into but because UCR Science to Policy had connected me with many individuals in the policy world, I was able to find the connections I needed and get guests for the webinar I am preparing."



FELLOWSHIPS

AGNES VARGHESE, SCIENCE POLICY FELLOW IN THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER ELOISE REYES

"Given that immersion in government gives us a deeper understanding of legislative processes, I sought to obtain a fellowship that would serve as a foundation to a future career in science policy. With the help of the UCR Science to Policy Program, I was able to establish a relationship with the Office of Assemblymember Eloise Reyes (47th Assembly District of San Bernardino) in the Summer of 2020. Given that at the time, San Bernardino became the first county in California to declare racism as a public health crisis, I began my office research on that very topic. I am currently preparing a report on the state of racial inequities in various domains (e.g., housing/homelessness, criminal justice, health, education, etc...) in San Bernardino, and also constructing a racial climate survey to distribute to the constituents of the district. Hopefully, the data I gather through both pursuits can be useful to the assemblymember in the legislative process. Overall, this experience has been very educational. I've learned a lot about how scientists and policymakers can collaborate effectively in order to ensure optimal outcomes for the public. I'm excited to continue my placement in the office through the National Science Policy Network's Science Policy Scholars Program."



AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

STEM SOLUTIONS

Former S2P Certificate course students William Ota and Kavya Samudrala were awarded first place for their proposal “Developing a California Helium Reserve” in the UC Stem Solutions Competition. Holly Andrews and Lindsey Pedroncelli were also awarded Honorable Mention for their proposal “STEM Solutions in Agriculture: Laser printing for produce” dealing with replacing current produce stickers with compostable versions or using laser technology to brand produce.

The Stem Solutions Competition recognizes one or more outstanding proposals for new California legislation from UC STEM graduate students.

YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THE STEM SOLUTIONS COMPETITION [HERE](#).

POLICY MEMOS

Check out these publications from S2P cabinet members!

[Policy Memo: Beyond Gun Control: Implementing Mental Health Interventions for the School Shooting Crisis in California](#)

[Policy Memo: Environmental DNA Monitoring: Better Tracking of Endangered, Rare, Cryptic, and Invasive Species](#)



2020 S2P CERTIFICATE CLASS

Each year S2P accepts applications from various STEM and humanities departments for the yearly cohorts. Last Spring 2020, S2P accepted 15 students from various departments such as Environmental Toxicology, Materials Science and Engineering, Anthropology, and Sociology. The course was led by Dr. Susan Hackwood, Dr. Amy Gilson, and Mr. Doug Brown.

Our current class has 15 students, representing programs such as Physics & Astronomy, Entomology, Neuroscience, and Sociology!

In addition, we are happy to announce that Dr. Julianne McCall has joined our instructional team to share her experience and expertise with our students! She is a former Science and Technology Policy Fellow of the California Council on Science and Technology, and now serves as the Co-Director of Precision Medicine for the California Governor's Office of Planning & Research.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT AND ALUMNI

In every newsletter we will feature current and/or former students involved in Science to Policy. For our first newsletter we are pleased to feature Drew Story and Holly Mayton, UCR alumni and the founders of UCR Science to Policy. Since they graduated from UCR, they have gone on to do great work in both science and policy, and we are honored to stay connected with them.

DREW STORY, PHD, CHEMICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, DE IN PUBLIC POLICY, WATER CYCLE SCIENCE LEAD, US GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Describe your graduate research in a couple of sentences.

I studied the aggregation mechanisms of engineered nanomaterials with applications ranging from water treatment and environmental protection to the design of cancer therapies. What makes tiny particles in water stick together? What makes them stay separated from each other? Where do they end up in our environment or in our bodies?

These are questions I sought to answer with my research.

Why did you start S2P?

After spearheading the Designated Emphasis in Public Policy, I was in the right place at the right time to help advance the interest growing across campus in science policy. With the support of Prof. Susan Hackwood and BCOE Dean Sharon Walker, we wanted to create opportunities and resources for graduate students to go beyond the general public policy coursework that already existed on campus and to learn about and equip themselves to participate in science policy specifically.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT AND ALUMNI

DREW STORY, PHD, CHEMICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING, DE IN PUBLIC POLICY,
WATER CYCLE SCIENCE LEAD, US GLOBAL CHANGE
RESEARCH PROGRAM

What do you do in your current position?

In my current role I am responsible for coordinating scientific research related to water and climate change across 13 federal agencies. I facilitate cooperation between scientists across the country, translate across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and build connections between science producers and science users.

What's your favorite part about what you do?

The federal government invests a lot of taxpayer money into the study of global change. I have the responsibility and privilege of maximizing the efficiency of those taxpayer dollars to ensure the public derives the most benefit from that scientific research, and that's something I believe is critical to maintaining public support of science and scientists..



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT AND ALUMNI

HOLLY MAYTON, PHD, CHEMICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, DE IN PUBLIC POLICY;
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY FELLOW, OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE POLICY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Describe your graduate research in a couple of sentences.

My graduate work investigated water conditions that could impact food safety risks or disinfectant efficacy when cleaning salad greens. I studied the fate of common foodborne pathogens, such as E. coli and Salmonella, in microfluidic systems that modeled the bacteria-surface interactions when washing spinach leaves. The results of my research help identify high- and low-risk scenarios in the watering, washing, and rinsing steps that take place between harvest and consumption based on the likelihood of bacteria attaching to the leaf surface.

Why did you start S2P?

I discovered the world of science policy at a conference I attended during my first year of graduate school and was inspired by many mentors, like Susan Hackwood, who showed me that STEM training was uniquely valuable and needed in policy-making. After meeting several other graduate students at UCR who were equally passionate about pursuing science policy training and careers, we decided to form Science to Policy! S2P gave us a place to work on projects together, connect with more mentors and experts in the field, and fill the gaps in policy training opportunities that weren't available to UCR STEM graduate students before.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT AND ALUMNI

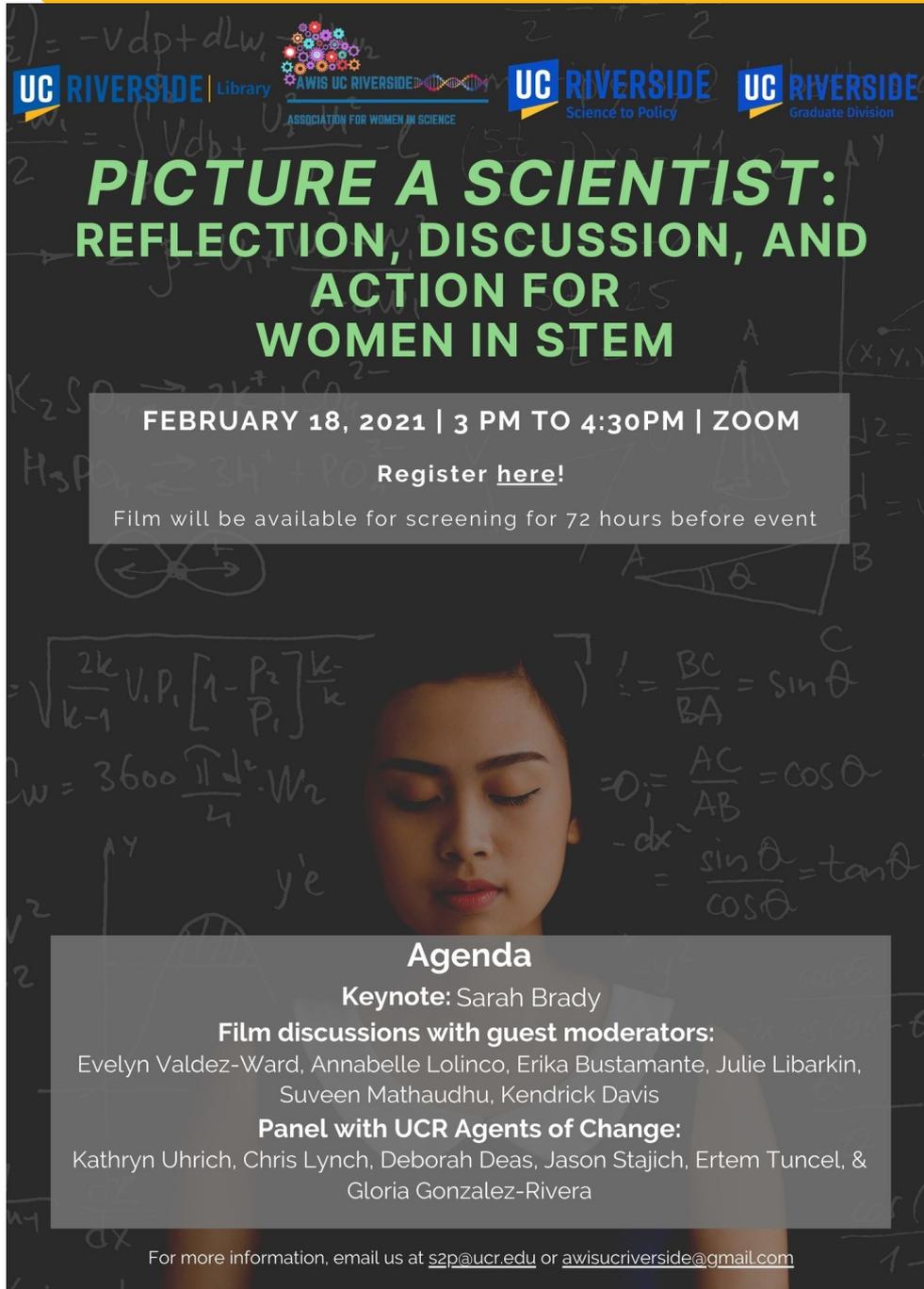
HOLLY MAYTON, PHD, CHEMICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, DE IN PUBLIC POLICY;
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY FELLOW, OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE POLICY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

What do you do in your current position?

As a Science & Technology Policy Fellow, I spend most of my time synthesizing different types of information-- from research articles to conference calls to popular media-- into a succinct and digestible form for the leadership in the Office of Agriculture Policy and in our bureau of the U.S. Department of State. From day to day that could involve reviewing new changes to international genetic engineering policy, working with peers at the USDA and FDA to host a stakeholder engagement event, or traveling to represent U.S. agricultural trade priorities in international fora.

What's your favorite part about what you do?

My favorite part of my job is the people that I get to work with! Our office brings together expertise from economics, agricultural science, foreign service, biotechnology, and public diplomacy. I learn new things about food, agriculture, and foreign policy from my colleagues every day and we are encouraged to build relationships and partnerships across the U.S. government and the world.



UC RIVERSIDE Library **AWIS UC RIVERSIDE** ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE **UC RIVERSIDE** Science to Policy **UC RIVERSIDE** Graduate Division

PICTURE A SCIENTIST: REFLECTION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION FOR WOMEN IN STEM

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 3 PM TO 4:30PM | ZOOM

Register [here!](#)

Film will be available for screening for 72 hours before event

Agenda

Keynote: Sarah Brady

Film discussions with guest moderators:
Evelyn Valdez-Ward, Annabelle Lolinco, Erika Bustamante, Julie Libarkin,
Suveen Mathaudhu, Kendrick Davis

Panel with UCR Agents of Change:
Kathryn Urich, Chris Lynch, Deborah Deas, Jason Stajich, Ertem Tuncel, &
Gloria Gonzalez-Rivera

For more information, email us at s2p@ucr.edu or awisucriverside@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

PICTURE A SCIENTIST SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Picture a Scientist Screening and Panel
February 18, 2021 3:00-4:30pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER CLICK [HERE.](#)



GIVE TO SCIENCE TO POLICY

WHAT WILL YOUR SUPPORT HELP US TO ACHIEVE?

- Expand our annual Science Policy Certificate Program for STEM graduate students -- a 10-week bootcamp on all things science policy!
- Organize events to bring STEM graduate students together with lawmakers to create policy change, aid professional development, and teach science communication skills!
- Place graduate students as visiting research fellows in policymaker offices!

DONATE

PREPARED BY:

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