



SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS

Background on the Project

The Sine Institute Research Team

Amy K. Dacey is the Executive Director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. For more than two decades, she managed prominent national organizations, advised leading elected officials and candidates, including President Barack Obama and Senator John Kerry, and counseled a variety of nonprofits and companies. Before joining AU, Amy was President of AKD Strategies, a strategic firm working with non-profits and foundations in the progressive policy space. During the 2016 presidential election, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Democratic National Committee. During the 2004 elections, she worked for then-Senator John Kerry on his presidential campaign and, following his narrow loss, helped to lead Kerry's political operation. She also managed Rep. Louise Slaughter's congressional campaign in 1998. From 2010 to 2013, Amy served as Executive Director of EMILY's List, the organization dedicated to electing Democratic women to national, state, and local offices, and led the organization's revitalization, restructuring and rebranding efforts.

Molly O'Rourke is an Executive in Residence in the School of Communication at American University and also serves as the Director of the MA program in Political Communication. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in Research Methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has more than 20 years' experience in the field of public opinion research, most recently as a partner at Hart Research in Washington, D.C. where she led multiphase research project for dozens of advocacy and nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and media outlets, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Human Right Campaign (HRC) and NBC News.

Doug Hattaway founded Hattaway Communications to help visionary leaders and organizations use the power of strategy, science, and storytelling to achieve ambitious goals for people and the planet. A storyteller by training—in journalism and creative writing—he is passionate about adapting insights from the social sciences to enhance the power of strategic communications. Doug has three decades of experience working with leaders at the highest levels of U.S. politics and government, international organizations and NGOs, cutting-edge businesses, and the world's largest foundations. He was an advisor and spokesperson for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and provided strategic counsel to the Obama White House and the Democratic leadership of the U.S. House and Senate. He has traveled to dozens of countries to work with government leaders, political parties, and NGOs in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Benjamin Bryant joined the Sine Institute as its Director of Strategic Communications in June 2022. Prior to his current role, he worked for six years on Capitol Hill, serving as the deputy press secretary for Senator Jack Reed and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal -Allard. Ben is originally from Rhode Island. Prior to his time on Capitol Hill, he graduated from the University of Connecticut and worked for several years in local Rhode Island radio news before coming to Washington DC in 2014 to work on the policy communications team at Facebook (Meta's) Washington, DC office.

Generation Lab is a data intelligence company that translate youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Generation Lab uses proprietary methods that streamline the polling process for respondents, maintain exceptional data integrity, and enhance data collection. Generation Lab specializes in studying young people and the trends that shape the future and works to “pursue youth truth” for clients and the American public. Generation Lab’s work has been featured in such media outlets as AXIOS, PBS, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and others.



Founded in 1971, **Close Up Foundation** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that believes a strong democracy requires active, informed participation by all citizens. Close Up seeks to serve young people from all communities and all backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic level, or academic standing. For over 50 years, it has partnered with schools nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential programs in the nation’s capital and in local communities, virtual programs, professional development, and curriculum and resource design. Close Up Washington DC’s issue-centric, nonpartisan curriculum gives participants a deeper understanding of history, government institutions, current issues, and the role of citizens.



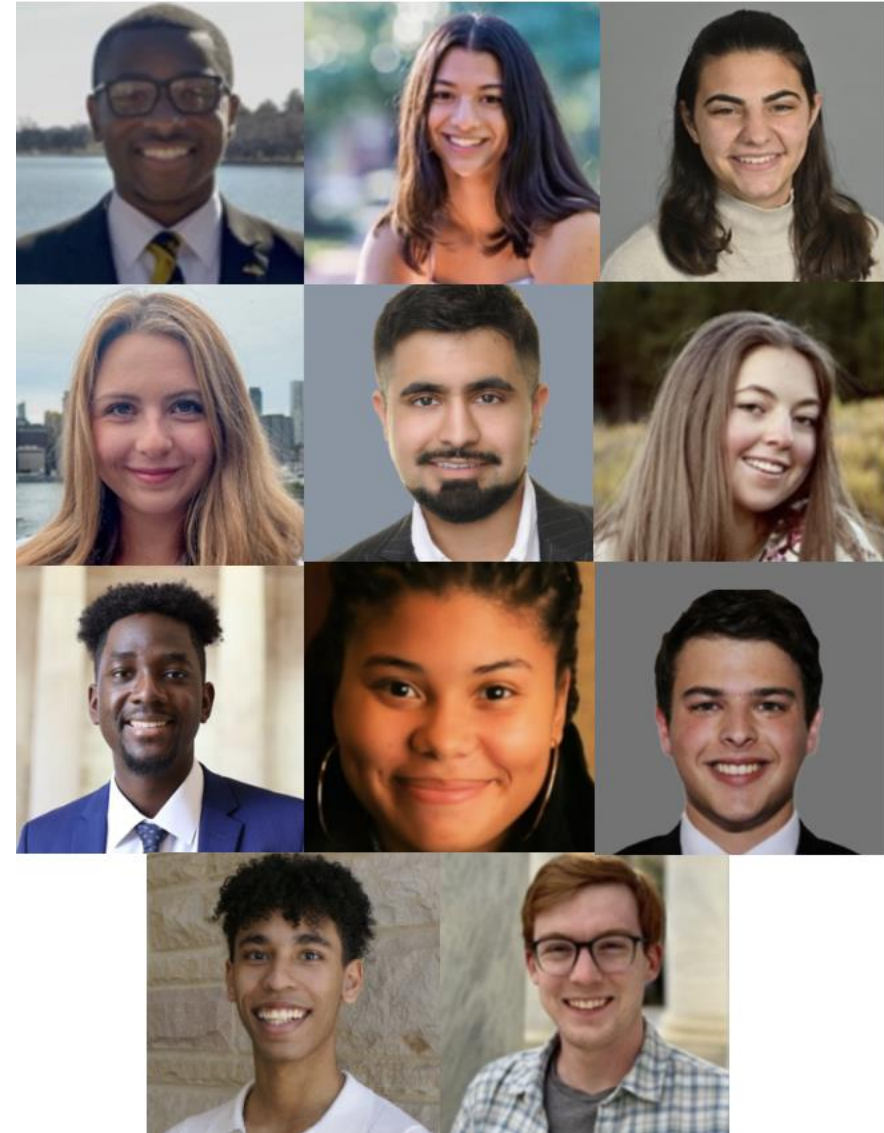
Future Caucus (formerly Millennial Action Project) is an organization dedicated to renewing American democracy. In collaboration with dozens of Millennial leaders across the country, and with the generous support of visionary philanthropists, the Millennial Action Project was formed and officially launched in 2013. The Millennial Action Project works directly with our nation’s leading young policymakers on both a national and state level to bridge the partisan divide and lead a new era of collaborative governance. As a national, nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to activating millennial and Gen Z policymakers, MAP gives our nation’s young leaders the resources and support to develop and pass innovative policy solutions — and forge productive partnerships on the issues affecting the youngest generations of Americans.



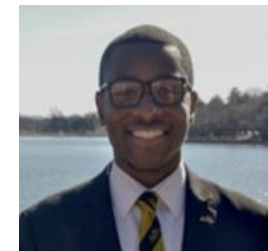
The Sine Student Advisory Panel

An **advisory group** of 11 graduate and undergraduate students from across American University helped to:

- Design the Reimagining Political Leadership poll
- Formulate poll questions
- Provide feedback on the survey methodology and results



Tyler Brown-Dewese is from Middletown, New York and is studying Political Science with a Minor in Public Administration & Policy at American University in Washington, DC. Tyler is the President of AU College Democrats and is the AU NAACP Political Action Committee Chair, an AU Ambassador, and the Vice President of the Nu Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.



Nika Gogishvili-Matthews is a junior at American University in Washington, DC, majoring in Business, Language (French) studies, and Culture. His research interests include African affairs, financial institutions, and trade. He most recently served at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service as a Student Trainee for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. He served as a subject-matter expert on I-824 visa petitions, working hand-in-hand with Consular Officers at the U.S. Department of State to combat immigration-related fraud and national security efforts. With two years of French-language studies, he hopes to use his language and business skills (public and private-sector) to promote economic development on the African continent. In addition, he considers himself a food connoisseur, although Chili's is his favorite restaurant.



Sydney Gough is a junior at American University in Washington, DC, studying Political Science with a Concentration in Comparative Politics and Biology, on the premedical track. She has gained non-profit work experience in both the public health and civic engagement sectors during her first two years of undergraduate education and hopes to attend a joint JD/MD program following her graduation.



Pablo Landsmanas Gary is a junior SIS student at American University in Washington, DC. Pablo is from Mexico and plans to use his degree to contribute to his beloved country. An interesting fact about him is that his family immigrated to Mexico from the USSR in the 1950s, so he grew up with a mixture of Russian and Mexican culture. Pablo's hobbies include travelling, fishing, reading historical novels, cooking, and learning new languages.



Rohan Singh is a third-year undergraduate student at American University's School of International Service in Washington, DC focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. Rohan is an Undergraduate Research Assistant to the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, a Peer Mentor, and intern at the US Mission to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. He is also a member of the Student Advisory Board at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics. Rohan has recently been selected to present a research paper at the International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS) 2023 World Congress in Montreal, Canada. He has been published in The Friday Times.



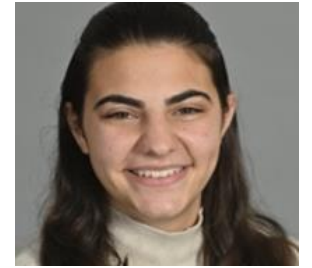
Julia Lewis (she/her) is a sophomore from Houston, Texas studying political science in the School of Public Affairs with a minor in sustainability at American University in Washington DC. Julia is an intern for Climate Cabinet, where she conducts electoral research on local and state-wide candidates across the country. In high school she ran the largest youth climate organization in Houston, and she is passionate about elevating the voice of marginalized communities in climate action. She also serves on the Sine Institute Student Advisory Board and as the External Outreach Director for Voters of AU.



Lexie Osbourne is a senior CLEG (Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government) major at American University in Washington DC. She was born and raised in St. Albans, Queens, NY, but also spent some years living in Newtown-Langhorne, PA. Lexie aspires to become a lawyer focusing on criminal and/or immigration law or working in research. She is also interested in DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) work and is a peer facilitator (TA) for AUx courses that teach anti-racist pedagogy and practices. As the DEIA Chair of the philanthropy club Eaglethon, Lexie has hosted an introductory bias training and working to create a long-term plan to further DEIA efforts. In her free time, Lexie enjoys reading and watching various media.



Katarina “Katie” Nowicki is a sophomore majoring in Political Science, minoring in Women and Gender Studies, and getting a Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies here at American University in Washington DC. She is also a member of the combined BA/ MA Program where she is working towards a Master's in Public Policy. On campus, Katie is involved with the Sine Institute as well as the SPA Leadership Program. She is a First-Year TA for the Leadership program as well as helping the program leadership overall in a more unofficial capacity. Outside of school, Katie loves reading, particularly fantasy books. Some of her favorite books include *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin, *The Sun Bearer* by Aiden Thomas, *Legend Born* by Tracy Deon, and anything by Rick Riordan. Katie also plays D&D, is an avid Mario Kart competitor, and enjoys trying new foods.



Edozie Umunna is a recent graduate from American University in Washington DC, where he majored in Political Science and minored in Communication Studies. A lifelong Bostonian, Edozie has witnessed firsthand the many rewards of cohesion between cultures and looks to further explore international relations as it pertains to American legislation. Currently, Edozie serves as the acting Human Rights and Migration Officer in the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. Outside of work, Edozie can either be found watching soccer, basketball, football, boxing or Formula 1!



Matthew Wiggins is a second-year Student Associate for the Sine Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Matthew is originally from Dallas, TX and is studying to be a CLEG major and minor in Public Health. In addition to working for The Sine Institute, he is on the Club Swim team and is one of the co-founders of the Pickleball group, the Bipartisan Backhanders. He is currently employed as a Legal Assistant for Jackson Spencer Law in Dallas and hopes to go into a career of health and national security.



Samantha Hessel is a current second-year student majoring in Political Science with certificates in Political Thought and Advanced Leadership Studies. On campus, Samantha is a first-year Teaching Assistant and second-year member of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) Leadership Program, a Lincoln Scholar, and an involved student at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics where she served as a student associate and a polling project student advisor. She additionally earned the Collaborative Leadership Certificate awarded by the Sine Institute. Samantha has also interned for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (CO) as well as at the Democratic National Committee in the Party Affairs and Delegate Selection Department. Originally from Breckenridge, Colorado, Samantha enjoys hiking, biking and exploring the outdoors when she has spare time.

