Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

Where the brightest minds engage to promote common ground and nonpartisan solutions.
# Table of Contents

Introduction .....................................................................................................................1

Message from the Executive Director ........................................................................3

Year In Review .................................................................................................................4

Communications ............................................................................................................9

Leadership .....................................................................................................................10

Student Engagement .....................................................................................................12

New Programs in 2022-2023 .......................................................................................17

What’s Next For Sine? ..................................................................................................19
Introduction

The Sine Institute is a laboratory for university-wide collaboration and an incubator for policy innovation, convening the best and the brightest in the public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors, as well as journalism.

CONVENE, COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE.

Today’s interconnected world offers an unprecedented opportunity to bring together experts, top scholars, and students in research and scholarship to work on the nation’s most pressing challenges in a way that promotes common ground and nonpartisan policy solutions. The Sine Institute of Policy & Politics seizes that opportunity at a defining moment for our democracy and the world. American University’s capital city location at the nexus of government and a growing international business center connects diverse perspectives from around the world.

COMMITTED TO LASTING CHANGE

Alongside world-class academics and research-experienced practitioners in international and domestic affairs, leaders in business, nonprofits, and government, and one of the most politically-active student bodies in the U.S., Sine works toward real, lasting change in policy and politics. The Sine Institute stands apart through its focus on the role of business and the nonprofit community in public policy, the rise of importance of economic regions in the United States, and the impact of international policy issues.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Drawing on their expertise in government, politics, academia, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas, Sine Institute Fellows uncover new policy solutions and problem solving methods informed by evidence and cross-sector perspectives. Each Fellow is asked to explore a timely aspect of policy and politics that will benefit from these dynamic conversations. In our interconnected world, policy changes ripple through our nation at the federal level and have significant consequences at the regional level. Those ripples cross sectors and impact international and national affairs as well as our local communities. This complex influence is at the core of the conversation topics discussed and debated by Sine Fellows.
FELLOWS PROGRAM
The Sine Institute Fellows Program is a cornerstone of the Institute. Throughout each spring semester since 2019, the Sine Institute has hosted six Fellows selected out of various innovative leaders in government, politics, journalism, nonprofits, business, and other areas.

RESEARCH
The Sine Institute is a growing hub for policy research, working toward practical solutions to today’s biggest challenges. The Institute collaborates with professional data-gathering entities to conduct annual polls of Americans nationwide, including a 2022 collaboration with market research and data analytics firm YouGov surveying young Americans’ attitudes toward democracy. This and other initiatives seek and uncover data-driven information to challenge and inform policy makers, helping to define our future.

EVENTS
The Sine Institute curates a robust program of in-person and online events that bring together students, faculty, staff, and community members to offer insights on important issues and share solution-driven programs on the local, state, national, and global stage. In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Institute held 39 events.

COMMUNICATIONS
Coverage of the Sine Institute can be found in prominent media outlets, including The Washington Post and POLITICO. The Institute shares its programming and content with a broad and diverse audience through a rapidly-growing social media presence, an informative newsletter, and op-eds from Executive Director Amy K. Dacey written with co-authors from a variety of professional backgrounds.

TRAINING/EDUCATION
The Sine Institute invests and collaborates across American University’s campus to build opportunities for credit and non-credit training and education experiences that teach how to build active policy initiatives, including piloting a “Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program” in 2023. Sine’s programs coordinate academic and practitioner perspectives to provide an encompassing, holistic view.
A Message from Executive Director
Amy K. Dacey

It is hard to believe that in September of 2023 we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Sine Institute. The AU community and myself are so grateful for the milestone gift from AU alumnus, trustee, and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA ’76, and Samira Sine, an advocate for women and children and a seasoned journalist. Their contribution and the creation of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University has indeed had an impact on the University, its students, faculty, staff, and alumni. I joined as the Institute’s first director in 2019. I am proud to offer this report on the work that we have accomplished, and the opportunities that lie before us.

The Institute continues to find ways to engage more students, welcome new voices, expand our research, and reach new audiences through a wide range of in-person, virtual, and hybrid conversations. We also welcomed our fifth cohort of Sine Institute Spring Fellows. Since I last reported to you in 2022, we have convened 39 programs that reached 2,329 attendees on issues that included conversations with award winning actresses, White House speechwriters, authors, journalists, pollsters, pundits, and so many other experts. We discussed the impact of the decline of local journalism, mental health, education, immigration, national security, the American economy, women’s empowerment, and the future of democracy, as well as many other issues of the day.

Last November, we welcomed a new group of exceptional Spring 2023 Fellows who have guided us through conversations on how to empower truth and build consensus on the world stage, and how the private and public sectors, advocacy, and journalism inform the policy process. We supported a new group of Student Associates who had the opportunity to work with these individuals. We also launched our Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program.

I am also very proud to report that this year we launched a research program that focuses on the widespread public distrust of government that is corroding our democracy. This program will bring faculty and students together to look more deeply into these issues and will be used as a framework for future exciting projects and collaborations with other universities and centers across the US and worldwide. We also launched our “Uncommon Table” pilot initiative to foster our interest in convening, communication and collaborating.

Everyone at Sine is thrilled to be back on campus and building on our strong foundation to expand the work and pursue impact on the issues that matter most. And of course, we will continue to build partnerships both on and off campus that will help us expand all the critical work to which we are committed.

This report details our year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, and what the next year holds for the Sine Institute.

All the best,
Amy K. Dacey
2022-2023 Year in Review

July

7/19 - Reboot, An Idealist’s Guide to Getting Things Done: A Conversation with former Congressman Will Hurd
8/18 - Policy, Politics & Predictions with Barbara Comstock, Bill Kristol, Katherine Miller & Janet Rodriguez

August

10/6 - Cody Keenan Book Talk: Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America
10/7 - 2022 Midterm Elections: Expecting the Unexpected
10/8 - Peaceful Transitions of Power – Protecting Our Democracy
10/25 - Gov. Charlie Baker Book Talk: Results: Getting Beyond Politics to Get Important Work Done
10/26 - Women on Wednesdays: Title IX at 50: Women in Sports
10/27 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Harvard IOP Panel

September

9/16 - Amy K. Dacey presents at Global Progress Summit
9/21 - A Conversation with Patagonia CEO, Ryan Gellert

October

10/16 - Cody Keenan Book Talk: Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America
10/17 - 2022 Midterm Elections: Expecting the Unexpected
10/18 - Peaceful Transitions of Power – Protecting Our Democracy
10/25 - Gov. Charlie Baker Book Talk: Results: Getting Beyond Politics to Get Important Work Done
10/26 - Women on Wednesdays: Title IX at 50: Women in Sports
10/27 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Harvard IOP Panel

November

11/7 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Close-Up Foundation election seminar

February

2/1 - Spring Fellows Launch Event
2/8 - Terence Samuel Seminar #1: Local News: Deserts, Oases and Solutions
2/10 - Amy K. Dacey speaks at Master’s Top Prospect Panel
2/14 - Bill de Blasio Seminar #1: Leveling the Playing Field: The Making of Universal Pre-K in NYC
2/14 - Doug Ducey Seminar #1: Reforming the State’s Economy: Turning a $1 Billion Deficit into a $5 Billion Surplus
2/16 - Alida Garcia Seminar #1: Preparing for a Post-DACA World: Lessons from the Dream Movement
2/21 - Mimi Walters Seminar #1: Overview of the Mental Health Crisis in America
2/22 - Terence Samuel Seminar #2: Disinformation and the Demise of Democracy
2/22 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Seth Goldman
March

3/3 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Anthony Capuano
3/7 - Doug Ducey Seminar #2: Modernizing State Government: Implementing the Arizona Management System
Mimi Walters Seminar #2: How to Solve the Mental Health Crises
3/9 - Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #1: Creating Communities of Goodwill
3/21 - Bill de Blasio Seminar #2: The Case for Traditional Public Schools: Lessons from the Frontline of America’s Largest School System
Doug Ducey Seminar #3: Race to be the Best: Gold Standard of Education Reform, American Civics Acts, Water Innovation, Occupational Licensing and Modernized Gaming
Alida Garcia Seminar #2: Disrupting The American Immigration Narrative
3/22 - Terence Samuel Seminar #3: How Journalism Can Save Itself & Democracy
3/28 - Mimi Walters Seminar #3: Psychedelics: Potential Solution?
Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #2: Creating Communities of Goodwill
3/29 - Inaugural Uncommon Table

April

4/1 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Founder’s Panel
4/4 - Doug Ducey: Career Conversation
Terence Samuel: Career Conversation
4/10 - Alida Garcia Seminar #3: Finding Common Ground on Immigration - Is There Any Left?
4/11 - Bill de Blasio Seminar #3: Keeping Schools Open: Fighting COVID While Putting Children First
4/13 - Anna Deavere Smith Seminar #3: Creating Communities of Goodwill
4/14 - Anna Deavere Smith: Career Conversation
4/21 - Gamechangers in Sustainability Speaker Series: Founder’s Panel
4/25 - Bill de Blasio: Career Conversation
4/26 - Alida Garcia: Career Conversation

June

6/1 - Democracy Cafe
2023 Sine Institute Fellows

Anna Deavere Smith
Actress, Playwright, Teacher, Author

Hon. Bill de Blasio
109th Mayor of New York City

Terence Samuel
Vice President and Executive Editor, National Public Radio (NPR)

Alida Garcia
Vice President for Advocacy, FWD.US; Former Senior Advisor on Migration, Biden-Harris Administration

Hon. Doug Ducey
23rd Governor of Arizona

Hon. Mimi Walters
Former U.S. Representative (CA-45)
2023 DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

David Rubenstein  
Co-founder and Co-Chairman, The Carlyle Group

Horacio Rozanski  
President and Chief Executive Officer of Booz Allen Hamilton

PAST FELLOW CLASSES

2022
Julian Castro
Hon. Barbara Comstock
Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali
Richard Fontaine
Michele Norris
Shannon Watts

2021
Suzanne P. Clark
Anne Curry
Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic
Gary Locke
Lt. General H. R. McMaster
Governor Wes Moore

2020
Alphonso Jackson
Cody Keenan
Janet Rodriguez
John Tass-Parker
Katherine Miller
Susan Molinari

2019
Abdul El-Sayed
Bill Haslam
William Kristol
Ruth Marcus
Karen Zacarias
Guest Speakers

**Peter Alexander**  
NBC News Co-Chief White House Correspondent

**Cristela Alonzo**  
Comedian, Producer, Writer, and Actress

**Erika Andiola**  
National Immigrant Justice and Progressive Advocate

**Governor Charlie Baker**

**Cornell Belcher**  
President of brilliant corners Research & Strategies

**Sarabeth Berman**  
CEO of the American Journalism Project

**Joshua Bolten**  
Chief of Staff for President George W. Bush

**Anthony Capuano**  
CEO of Marriott International, Inc.

**Betsy Fischer Martin**  
Women and Politics Institute Executive Director

**Richard Fontaine**  
CEO, Center for a New American Security

**Ryan Gellert**  
CEO of Patagonia

**Zolan Kanno-Youngs**  
White House Correspondent at The New York Times

**Jon Kostas**  
President and CEO of Apollo Pact

**Anita Kumar**  
Senior Editor at Politico

**Wesley Lowery**  
Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

**Kevin Malecek**  
Government and Non-Profit Chief Executive, Economic Development Professional, Administrator, and Higher Education Professional

**David Marchick**  
Dean of the Kogod School of Business

**Jonathan Martin**  
Senior Political Correspondent at The New York Times and co-author of “This Will Not Pass: Trump, Biden, and the Battle for America’s Future”

**Andrea McDaniels**  
Managing Editor of the Baltimore Banner

**Nicole McGrew**  
Founder of Threadleaf

**Alicia Menendez**  
Anchor of MSNBC’s “American Voices with Alicia Menendez”

**Honorable Connie Morella**  
Former U.S. Representative (MD-8) and Ambassador in Residence at AU SPA Women & Politics Institute

**Dr. Bonnie Morris**  
Author of “What’s the Score?”

**Dr. Karen Murphy Ph.D., R.N.**  
former Pennsylvania Secretary of Health

**Honorable Janet Napolitano**  
Founder and Director, Center for Security and Politics at University of California Berkeley

**Monica Pearce**  
Founder of Tenth Ward Distilling Company

**John Podesta**  
Chief of Staff for President Bill Clinton

**Sara Polon**  
Co-Founder of Soupergirl

**Rachel Pulfer**  
Executive Director of Journalists for Human Rights

**Jess Morales Rocketto**  
Civil Society Leader

**Antoine Sanfuentes**  
CNN Vice President and Managing Editor - Politics, White House, Capitol Hill

**Honorable Allison Silberger**  
Author and Politician, Former Mayor and City Council member of Alexandria, VA

**Molly Smith**  
Artistic Director of Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Charles “Chip” F. Stone**  
D.O. Clinical & Forensic Psychiatrist

**Danielle Vogel**  
Assistant Director of the American University Center for Innovation

**Shoshana Weissmann**  
Digital Director and Fellow at R Street Institute
Communications

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, mentions of the Sine Institute have appeared in multiple media outlets including The Washington Post, Politico, The Hill, VOA News, People, and other national and international publications.

The Sine Institute implements far-reaching communications strategies and maintains relationships with prominent media figures. We continue to foster relationships in the media so as to help spread the word about our mission and the work we do.

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute used its engaging events and initiatives as opportunities to elevate the Sine Institute’s profile both internally to students and the American University community and externally to the news media.

Sine at 5: We Continue to Grow!

EVENTS: 2018-2023

Total Number of Events: 203
Total Number of Event Attendees: 11,861
Global Participation: 64 Countries / 6 Continents
Total Number of Guest Speakers: 268
The Sine Institute is made possible through a milestone gift of $10 million to the Change Can’t Wait campaign from AU alumnus, trustee and entrepreneur Jeff Sine, SIS/BA ’76, and Samira Sine, an advocate for women and children and seasoned journalist. The gift is the manifestation of the Sines’ interest in making positive change that will inspire future generations of leaders. The non-partisan, cross-disciplinary advisory board joins the Sines to lead the way in cultivating and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy K. Dacey is 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. During the 2016 Presidential Election, she served as the chief executive officer of the Democratic National Committee. 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. Amy has a master’s degree in Political Science from American University.

Molly O’Rourke is the Senior Advisor at the Sine Institute. 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 Rights Campaign (HRC) and NBC News.

Ava Gadon is the Administrative Assistant of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University. She completed her undergraduate degree at American University, where she majored in International Studies. While at American, she completed the Community-Based Research Scholars program. After finishing her degree, Ava served as an Education Fellow at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life and as the Education Coordinator for Washington Hebrew Congregation, where she provided curricula, programming, and administrative support for synagogue religious schools.

Benjamin Bryant joined the Sine Institute as communications director 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 (D-RI) and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). Ben is originally from Rhode Island. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2012, and worked for several years in local Rhode Island radio news before coming to Washington D.C. in 2014 to serve as a policy communications extern at Facebook (Meta’s) Washington, D.C. office.
Stephen Esposito is the assistant director of events; he oversees and coordinates events for the School of Public Affairs and supports programs related to the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics. Additionally, Stephen acts as a liaison among various departments on American University’s campus, coordinating with faculty, staff, students, and outside partners. Prior to joining the AU community, Stephen worked in student success and retention operations at Fordham University and managed communications, marketing, and event logistics in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Caleb Brown serves as a Graduate Assistant at the Sine Institute of Policy and Politics. He is a current first-year graduate student at American University working towards a Master of Arts in Political Communication, a joint degree program between the School of Public Affairs and the School of Communication.

Caleb completed undergrad at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, where he majored in Communication and minored in both General Business and Business Management.

Sarah Gaines is a Graduate Assistant at the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics. She is currently a first-year graduate student at American University working towards a Master’s of Science in Justice, Law, and Criminology. Sarah attended Alma College where she completed her bachelor’s degree in Political Science. While at Alma, she was involved with the Office of Title IX & Civil Rights where she conducted Title IX trainings and coordinated prevention programs. After graduation, she worked as a paralegal for Goodwin Procter, LLP where she specialized in white collar crimes and government compliance litigation.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Danielle C. Gray, former Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary in the Obama Administration.

Anita McBride, former Assistant to President George W. Bush, former Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush, and current Executive-in-Residence at AU’s School of Public Affairs.

Janet Rodriguez, Currently Head of Internal Communications WhatsApp; Former White House Correspondent, Univision (AU Alum); 2020 Sine Fellow


FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS


Philip Zelikow, former Counselor of the United States Department of State, former Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission, and current Professor of Governance and History at the University of Virginia.

Michelle Flournoy, former Undersecretary of Defense for policy (2009-2012) and current CEO of WestExec.
Student Engagement

2022-2023 SINE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Student Advisory Committee is a group of student visionaries from across campus elected to guide the institute and inspire the next generation of leaders. This committee discusses student engagement, programming, and recommendations for Fellows and speakers at the Sine Institute. Our committee members are:

Nedi Mouzourou
Kogod School of Business

Ella Sprague
Kogod School of Business

Devi Dutta-Sultan
College of Arts and Sciences

Jeremias Nunez
College of Arts and Sciences

David Barritt
Washington College of Law

Asad Imam
Washington College of Law

Rohan Singh
School of International Service

Payton Ziegler
School of Public Affairs

Hannah Ames
School of Public Affairs

Grace Hagerman
School of Communications

Jane Fusco
School of Communications

Qudsia Saeed
School of Education

2022 SINE INSTITUTE RESEARCH STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sine Research Student Advisory Committee is a group of highly committed students that gives essential insight into Sine’s polling projects.

Aidan Levinson
School of Public Affairs

Noah Burke
School of International Service

Kenya Harris
School of Public Affairs

Dalia Habiby
School of Public Affairs

Julieta Marino
School of Public Affairs

Ethan Wong
School of International Service
2022-2023 SINE STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Each Sine Institute Fellow is assigned student associates to assist in designing, planning, organizing, and executing their seminar series. These students help ensure that Fellow seminars are well-publicized, well-attended, well-documented, and an overall success.

Dhruv Patel
School of International Service

Anjali Biswal
School of Public Affairs

Qudsia Saeed
School of Education

Ana Velez
School of International Service

Jack Ziets
School of Public Affairs

Alexandra Kaiss
School of International Service

Claire Phillips
School of Public Affairs

Emily Warshaw
School of Education

Kaniya Harris
School of Public Affairs

Stephan Fornah-Ovaa
School of Public Affairs

Kanyi Harris
College of Arts and Sciences

Joseph Smeiya
School of Education

Miles Levin
College of Arts and Sciences

Kashvi Chandok
School of Public Affairs

Kayla Kelly
School of Public Affairs

Katie Nowicki
School of Public Affairs

Gabrielle MacKay
School of International Service

Zara Morris
School of Communications

School of Public Affairs
### 2023 Recipients of the Collaborative Leadership Certificate

The Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate program provides a unique opportunity for AU undergraduate students to expand their knowledge of Politics and Policy in today’s world while exploring and developing their individual leadership styles, skills and values. 27 students completed their certificates this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Acaba</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Beauregard</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Brown</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Eliades</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Gough</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikayil Guluzade</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaniya Harris</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Hessel</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Larsen</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aidan Levinson</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossana Lopez</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean Mabie</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Mahal</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Miller</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Miller</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyn Parker</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Punales</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Quinlan</td>
<td>School of Communications School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Santos</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeabsera Semere Mengistu</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rashmi Sunder</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauricio Alexander Tscherny</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifeanyi Umunna</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Villasmil</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Warshaw</td>
<td>School of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corliss Wilson</td>
<td>School of International Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payton Ziegler</td>
<td>School of Public Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hear From Our Students

“Throughout the seven Sine Institute events I attended, I had the unique opportunity to be exposed to various interdisciplinary approaches to the issues facing the United States. From psychedelic research, to addressing immigration reform, to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on America’s children, the seminars effortlessly demonstrated the attributes imperative for the leadership of tomorrow.”
- Daniel Punales (SPA & SOC)

“The seminars that I attended taught me a lot about the importance and efficacy of different leadership styles.”- Sydney Gough (SPA & SOC)

“Getting to hear such knowledgeable and experienced individuals share their stories in public life and express their opinions on issues and topics taught me so much. From hearing everything from education to immigration, I was able to access deep and crucial information that every person should be aware of. “ - Samantha Hessel (SPA)

“Being apart of these sessions were just what I needed as a graduating MA Special Education student. I left these sessions feeling empowered and wanting to consume more.” - Emily Warshaw (SOE)
New Sine Institute Programs 2022-2023

UNCOMMON TABLE

In March 2023, the Sine Institute and students from event cosponsor University of California Berkley Center for Security in Politics (CSP) joined with students from special guest Northern Virginia Community College for an “Uncommon Table” discussion to highlight the importance of discussing important topics and connecting with others with different backgrounds and opinions. The event included a panel discussion on the future of democracy and the importance of collaborative conversation featuring UC Berkley CSP Founder and Faculty Director Janet Napolitano, Sine Fellow and Center for a New American Security (CNAS) CEO Richard Fontaine, and brilliant corners Research & Strategy Founder and President Cornell Belcher.

“What we are doing is bringing people together from all walks of life to see how and whether we as Americans can find a common language and a way to still hear and talk with each other in this cluttered and complicated democracy.”

– Hon. Janet Napolitano, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for Security in Politics at UC Berkeley

SINE INSTITUTE POLL

In November 2022, the Sine Institute, in partnership with YouGov, conducted “Sine of the Times,” a poll of young Americans that revealed a positive outlook for the future of American democracy, public policy, and political discourse. The survey of 3,144 young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 revealed that young Americans place a premium on treating others with respect, dignity, and tolerance, and that they are confident that they and their peers have the power to sustain and improve the nation’s institutions. The Sine Institute worked with an advisory group of AU graduate and undergraduate students from across the university to help design the poll, formulate its questions, and provide feedback on the survey methodology and results.

“I’m hopeful that once our generation gets into politics and are elected into office that we’ll be able to come together to solve these issues and have a lot more common ground than we see right now in politics.”

- Noah Burke, School of International Service (SIS)
CAREER CONVERSATIONS

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute debuted its “Career Conversations” series. In these engaging discussions, moderated by American University alumni, the 2023 Sine Institute Fellows took the time to reflect on their career trajectories and offered guidance to AU students as they prepare to graduate and enter the workforce. The conversations were cosponsored by the American University Alumni Association and the American University Career Center.

“I will carry the lesson of being bold and fearless, not being afraid of failure because that builds one's perseverance and may lead one down a different path maybe not intended but ends up exactly where you should be at the right time.” - Corliss Wilson, School of International Service (SIS)

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

In the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Sine Institute presented American University students with an opportunity to show their interest in and dedication to Sine's programming by earning the Sine Institute Collaborative Leadership Certificate Program. In order to succeed, students needed to attend the February 1st event introducing the 2023 cohort of Fellows as well as attend at least seven Sine Seminars/Career Conversations throughout the semester. In late April, the Sine Institute celebrated certificate recipients as well as other special student guests at an end-of-semester gathering.

“I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to ‘convene, communicate, and collaborate’ with the Sine Institute 2023 Fellows! I also want to thank Amy K. Dacey and the amazing team at the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics for their outstanding work throughout this past year. The commitment to innovation and equity-based programming has truly made an impact on members of the AU community such as myself and I am grateful for this amazing experience!” - Yeabsera Mengistu, School of Public Affairs (SPA)
What’s Next for Sine?

As we look forward to the future, Sine will have a healthy balance of events, online programming, research programming and other substantive non-event related work. To address this need, we have designed working “pillars,” or areas we have identified as possible funding and programming opportunities:

These pillars include:

• Fellows/Distinguished Lecturer Program
• Policy/Politics Events with Partners
• Training and Education
• Research and Polling
• Communications

These pillars were created to ensure that future programming would align with the mission and key issue areas of Sine’s strategic plan.

One of Sine’s hopes for the future is to expand on the academic opportunities that we provide for AU students. This year Sine designed a pilot program “Collaborative Leadership Certification Program” through our Spring Fellows program and we had robust participation and more than half of those applying receiving their certificate. We plan to strengthen and expand the program in Spring 2024 and find other ways to engage students in our programming.

We launched our first polling project, the “Sine of Things to Come,” with a look at 18-34 year olds’ impressions on our institutions and policy issues, and how they engage in policy and politics. We will continue that program with a new polling project in 2023 that will focus more deeply on this age cohort and design research to help not only learn more about this group but use this data to inform and direct the work of the Institute.

In addition, Sine would like to create a space for people in the D.C. community and beyond to share ideas, find opportunities to collaborate, and work toward policy solutions to some of our most challenging issues.
“The Sine Institute has completed another successful academic year bringing voices and viewpoints together to tackle our nation’s most pressing issues. We were also proud to introduce new programs like our Uncommon Table, Collaborative Leadership Certification Program, Sine of the Times poll, and Career Conversation series. I’ve been thrilled this academic year at the student involvement in our programs and events as well as the enthusiastic reception we’ve received from the AU community.”

-Amy K. Dacey SPA/MA ’95 (Executive Director, Sine Institute)

“The Sine Institute’s mix of in-depth policy discourse and real-time political analysis with students, faculty, practitioners, and special guests sets it apart and enhances its impact and reach. Through the Sine Institute, AU students passion to change the world for the better intersects with experience, connections, and advice that will help them succeed in their current and future endeavors. Congratulations to Amy and the team on another successful academic year!”

-Jeff Sine SIS/BA ’76 (Sine Institute Founder)

“The School of Public Affairs and the Sine Institute share the vision that our students are enriched by the discussions, events, and other programming that we convene together to illustrate the value of civil and constructive dialogue. This is the pathway towards exploring solutions to today’s challenges. Congratulations to the Sine Institute on another successful academic year!”

-Dean Vicky Wilkins (American University School of Public Affairs)

“The Sine Institute shows us the impact that’s possible when you bring people with diverse backgrounds and different perspectives together for civil and constructive dialogue. Only at American University do governors, mayors, members of Congress, reporters, actors, and playwrights gather to help the next generation of changemakers prepare for impactful lives and careers of service. In a hallmark of AU’s unique experiential learning, our students engaged with this cohort of changemaking Fellows to not only gain insight on today’s greatest challenges, but to take a hands-on approach to implementing solutions.”

-President Sylvia Burwell (American University)
Keep Up With the Sine Institute

SOCIAL MEDIA

@AUSineInstitute
@AUSineInstitute
@AUSineInstitute
AU Sine Institute of Policy & Politics
Sine Institute of Policy & Politics

LEARN MORE

Sine Website
2023 Fellows Video
Email Updates