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A research-based ranking of public policy schools

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Abstract

This paper presents rankings of U.S. public policy schools based on their research publication output. In 2016 we collected the names of about 5000 faculty members at 44 such schools. We use bibliographic databases to gather measures of the quality and quantity of these individuals' academic publications. These measures include the number of articles and books written, the quality of the journals the articles have appeared in, and the number of citations all have garnered. We aggregate these data to the school level to produce a set of rankings. The results differ significantly from existing rankings, and in addition display substantial across-field variation.

Keywords University rankings · Research productivity · Quantity vs quality in research · Public policy schools

Introduction

Recent years have seen an increase in the number and variety of university rankings. This growth is likely due, at least partially, to demand for information from participants in educational markets. For instance, prospective students might wish to see measures of university reputation, given that attending different schools has been shown to have a causal impact on individuals' career outcomes.¹ Moreover, universities pursue a diversity of goals: While some individuals may be interested in which schools offer the most financial aid or the smallest classes, others may be interested in which generate the greatest gains for low-income students.²

¹ Hoekstra (2009), Saavedra (2009), and Zimmerman (2016) show that college selectivity can affect labor market outcomes. See also MacLeod and Urquiola (2015) and MacLeod et al. (2017) for theoretical and empirical analyses of the impact of school reputation on labor market earnings.

² For example, Chetty et al. (2017) rank colleges according to different measures of their ability to produce income mobility. Diversity of rankings may also reflect that educational institutions use many inputs to produce multiple outputs.

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In this environment—and especially given expanding data availability—the best outcome might be for a large amount of information to be available on each school. Using these data, market participants can generate rankings focused on the inputs or outputs of their interest.

Consider the case of undergraduate college rankings as exemplifying such a high-information outcome. There are a multitude of college rankings available, and one of the more popular, that produced by *U.S. News and World Report (USNWR)*, is based on quantitative indicators updated annually. *USNWR*'s online interface, further, allows users to generate rankings based on subsets of these measures (e.g. selectivity). In addition, research-based rankings refer to the institutions that house many of these colleges; for instance, the so-called Shanghai and Leiden rankings.³ Besides undergraduate colleges, schools of business, law, and medicine also see numerous rankings, including some based on multiple indicators.

Public policy schools are towards the opposite end in terms of the availability of such information. Few rankings exist, and the one produced by *USNWR* is based on a single input: a survey (of about 500 people) asking only one question.⁴ Similarly, the ranking of international relations schools produced by *Foreign Policy* is based on a single survey question.⁵ An issue with these survey-based rankings is that respondents, although experts, might have little knowledge about some schools (272 of them in *USNWR*). The respondents might base their answers on those of other experts—or even on the previous iteration of rankings—and the resulting scores may eventually contain little information.

Our goal here is to make a simple contribution towards addressing the relative dearth of data on public policy schools. We present rankings of these schools based on the quantity and quality of research output their faculty members produce. Our research metrics are constructed only from the output of policy school faculty, illustrating the use of bibliographic data in assessing the research output of multidisciplinary sub-university academic units. This is in contrast with most research-based rankings, which consider either entire universities, or undisciplinary departments.

Specifically, we collected the names of about 5000 faculty members at 44 public policy schools. We use bibliographic databases to gather measures of the quantity and quality of these individuals' publications. These measures include the number of articles and books written, the quality of journals the articles have appeared in, and the number of citations all have garnered. We then aggregate these measures to produce school rankings. We report multiple rankings which may be of interest to different sets of agents. For instance, to administrators interested in research output in different disciplines, and to students if research output is one measure of faculty quality.

Our approach differs from those that yield existing rankings. Williams et al. (2014) rank universities in terms of their public administration research output. Their approach is close to ours in that they use bibliographic information, but it differs in two respects. First, they consider the performance of professors in entire universities, while we focus on faculty affiliated with specific public policy schools. Second, they consider only publications in journals of public administration, while we consider all types of research output. These choices are related. We opt to consider all types of research since faculty at public policy

³ Namely, these are the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), which is found at: <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2016.html>, and the CWTS (Centre for Science and Technology Studies) ranking, found at: <http://www.leidenranking.com/ranking/2017/list>.

⁴ The *USNWR* public affairs ranking is at: <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-public-affairs-schools/public-affairs-rankings>. Perhaps reflecting the increasing popularity of this ranking, it has recently moved from every few years to an annual ranking.

⁵ This is produced by *Foreign Policy* and the Teaching, Research, and International Policy project, based on about 1600 survey responses, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/02/03/top-twenty-five-schools-international-relations/>.

schools are active in diverse research areas—e.g., political science, climate science, and economics. Taking this inclusive perspective makes it important to focus only on faculty actually affiliated with the schools in question. Otherwise the procedure risks generating a university (rather than a policy school) ranking along the lines of the Shanghai ranking. All this said, we also report some discipline-specific results.

Our approach differs more fundamentally from that in the most publicized rankings, *Foreign Policy* and *USNWR*. As stated, those originate in single questions asking respondents for a broad assessment of each school. For instance, in the 2016 iteration, *USNWR* asked two individuals at each of 272 schools to rate the quality of master’s programs on a scale from 1 to 5.⁶ Such an approach has advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, it involves relatively little data collection, saving effort and reducing schools’ incentives to report data so as to “game” the rankings.⁷ In addition, the survey respondents may condense a large amount of information—their view may be comprehensive and nuanced relative to what quantitative data can provide. On the other hand, the 1–5 grading results in a lack of granularity. In the 2016 ranking, for example, six schools tied for 13th place, while seven tied for 34th. It also contributes to volatility; in the most recent iteration three schools changed ten ranks. This could be due to real developments, but also to fairly minor changes in a small number of respondents’ scores.

Further, *USNWR*’s procedure may result in what economists call an “informational cascade”.⁸ Namely, when making choices it can make sense to rely on the opinions of other market participants, particularly experts. The problem is that if these experts themselves rely on other experts, the ranking may eventually contain little information. For instance, some survey respondents may just look at a previous ranking and provide similar scores. This is particularly a consideration given that *USNWR* asks respondents to evaluate 272 schools, and it seems highly likely that some respondents do not know all these institutions well. Related to this, the 2016 iteration of the *USNWR* ranking does not report a result for more than 100 schools which have scores of two or lower (out of five). While we do not know the exact reason for this omission, one possibility is that only a fraction of respondents rank such schools, limiting the reliability of the overall evaluation.⁹ Relatedly, *USNWR* reports that the response rate on its survey is 43 percent.

⁶ The method used to produce the *USNWR* ranking is described at <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/public-affairs-schools-methodology>. Technically, UNSWR ranks “public affairs” rather than “public policy” schools, but our sense is that most scholars in the field treat these terms interchangeably. We emphasize that UNSWR technically is ranking an educational degree program, rather than the school, so our school-focused research ranking is taking a different approach.

⁷ There have been several reported instances of universities misreporting the data used to produce rankings, suggesting that at least some institutions consider their ranking to be a high-stakes outcome. *The Washington Post*, for instance, reviews five such episodes at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/five-colleges-misreported-data-to-us-news-raising-concerns-about-rankings-reputation/2013/02/06/cb437876-6b17-11e2-af53-7b2b2a7510a8_story.html?utm_term=.f6223370e2df.

⁸ Bilkchandani et al. (1992).

⁹ More specifically, *USNWR* reports a result of “Rank not Published” for 104 schools. The methodology provided simply states that: “Rank Not Published means that U.S. News calculated a numerical rank for that program but decided for editorial reasons not to publish it. U.S. News will supply programs listed as Rank Not Published with their numerical ranks if they submit a request following the procedures listed in the Information for School Officials.” Further, *USNWR* (at least in the output presented online) does not report the number of responses received for each school. It is possible that the result for even some schools with a score above two may be based on few responses. This may also contribute to the volatility in the observed rankings.

Perhaps because of these (and other) factors, our rankings differ significantly from those produced by *USNWR*. We describe our method in detail in Sect. 2. Section 3 reports and discusses our rankings. Section 4 concludes.

Methods

This section describes the five components of the approach we used to generate our rankings.

Sample of schools

Our procedure begins by establishing a sample of schools to consider. We include the public policy schools that *USNWR* ranked 41 or better in its “Best Graduate Public Affairs Programs” in 2016. The universe of schools *USNWR* considers, we understand, is determined in coordination with NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, and APPAM, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. As stated, that ranking features 272 schools, but due to cost considerations (as discussed below the procedure involved downloading and cleaning listings of faculty) we include only about forty schools. Due to ranking ties, it is impossible to select exactly forty, so we consider forty-four. The resulting sample is not representative of U.S. policy schools, and is especially tilted toward higher-ranked schools. Thus, we wish to be clear that our results may not be externally valid to schools beyond those in our sample.

Table 1 (page 6) lists the schools in our sample in alphabetical order. The first column contains the designation used by *USNWR*. In most cases this includes the name of the school in parentheses, leaving no ambiguity as to the institution in question. For example, “University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)” refers to the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. For cases where a name was not stated in parentheses, column 2 lists the school or program which we considered.¹⁰ Finally, column 3 lists the names we use to designate schools in subsequent tables, in some cases with abbreviations for the sake of space. Even though some institutions listed are not technically schools—for example in a few cases they are programs or institutes within another academic unit—we will henceforth refer to them as schools. In the text below we will use the designation in column 3 the first time we refer to a specific school; subsequently we will use further common abbreviations or designations.

¹⁰ In many cases the schools in Table 1 (page 6) cover both public and international affairs. In a few cases, however, such schools are separate within a university, and only one is referred to in the table. For example, in the case of Georgetown, column 1 indicates the McCourt School of Public Policy but not the Walsh School of Foreign Service. Similar issues arise at the universities of Kentucky and Washington. We are thankful to Richard Betts for this observation. Where these instances arise in Table 1, they originate in the list of schools provided by the *USNWR* ranking. Since that is our starting sample, we opted not to correct the issue. We do note, however, that in our rankings this will tend to penalize the institutions concerned. Relatedly, a few schools (such as UNC) have both a public affairs and a public policy department; our list of faculty come from both departments, although *USNWR* excludes the latter.

Table 1 Schools included in our rankings

Institution listed in USNWR	Further specification, if relevant	Designation used in this paper
American University	School of Public Affairs	American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)
Arizona State University	School of Public Affairs	Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)
Carnegie Mellon University (Heinz)		Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)
Columbia University (SIPA)		Columbia U (SIPA)
Cornell University	Cornell Institute for Public Affairs	Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)
Duke University (Sanford)		Duke U (Sanford)
Florida State University (Askew)		Florida State U (Askew)
George Mason University	School of Policy, Gov., and Internl. Affairs	George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Intl. Affairs)
George Washington University (Trachtenberg)		George Washington U (Trachtenberg)
Georgetown University (McCourt)		Georgetown U (McCourt)
Georgia State (Young)		Georgia State (Young)
Harvard University (Kennedy)		Harvard U (Kennedy)
Indiana University-Bloomington	School of Public and Environmental Affairs	Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)
Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis	School of Public and Environmental Affairs	Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)
Johns Hopkins University	School of Advanced International Studies	Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)
New York University (Wagner)		New York U (Wagner)
Ohio State University (Glenn)		Ohio State U (Glenn)
Princeton University (Wilson)		Princeton U (Wilson)
Rutgers The State University of New Jersey-Newark	School of Public Affairs and Administration	Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)
Stanford University	Public Policy Program	Stanford U (Public Policy Program)
Syracuse University (Maxwell)		Syracuse U (Maxwell)
Texas A&M University-College Station (Bush)		Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)
University at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)		U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)
University of Arizona	School of Government and Public Policy	U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)
University of California-Berkeley (Goldman)		U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)

Table 1 (continued)

Institution listed in USNWR	Further specification, if relevant	Designation used in this paper
University of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)		U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)
University of Chicago (Harris)		U of Chicago (Harris)
University of Colorado-Denver	School of Public Affairs	U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)
University of Georgia	School of Public and International Affairs	U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)
University of Kansas	School of Public Affairs & Administration	U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)
University of Kentucky (Martin)		U of Kentucky (Martin)
University of Maryland-College Park	School of Public Policy	U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)		U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)		U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)
University of Missouri (Truman)		U of Missouri (Truman)
University of Nebraska-Omaha	School of Public Administration	U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	School of Government	U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)
University of Pittsburgh	Grad. School of Internat. and Pub. Affairs	U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Internat. and Pub. Affairs)
University of Southern California (Price)		U of Southern California (Price)
University of Texas-Austin (LBJ)		U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)
University of Virginia (Batten)		U of Virginia (Batten)
University of Washington (Evans)		U of Washington (Evans)
University of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)		U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)
Virginia Tech	School of Public and International Affairs	Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)

The table lists the 44 schools ranked 41 or better in the 2016 USNWR “Best Public Affairs School Ranking.” Column 1 contains the designation used by USNWR. Where column 1 does not state a specific school, column 2 lists the one we considered. Column 3 lists the designation used in subsequent tables, in some cases with abbreviations

Faculty listings

The next task is to construct lists of names of faculty for each school. We downloaded all the faculty lists for each of the 44 schools from their official websites. We obtained these downloads during the month of June, 2016, and had downloaded all relevant listings by June 30 of that year. Therefore the results do not reflect faculty membership changes past that date. This procedure yielded 4927 unique faculty members—an average of about 112 per institution.

This number might seem large, and part of the reason is that we include all faculty members listed (e.g. adjunct professors, lecturers, visitors, professors emeriti, affiliated professors, etc.). One could certainly make reasonable arguments for a more narrow focus. For example, it might be better to consider only individuals that schools describe as their “core” faculty, or to consider only faculty members who have a primary or sole (as opposed to affiliated or joint) appointment in the policy school.¹¹ Arriving at such a focus, however, would have required multiple subjective decisions and/or substantial additional data collection.

To elaborate, inspection of the faculty listings (in some cases combined with specific knowledge that authors have of colleagues’ affiliations) reveals that different schools follow different conventions in terms of how they list and classify faculty. For example, some schools list “core” faculty members, while others do not. A few schools list visitors as part of their core faculty; most do not. Some schools list adjunct professors even if they are not actively teaching that specific year; some provide no adjunct listing at all. Some list affiliated faculty, while others either do not have them or do not provide their names. Arriving at a uniform method to classify faculty would thus have required contacting each school, developing a common set of conventions, and working to arrive at a new listing, an exercise beyond the scope of this paper. As a result, we simply include in a school’s roster any individual that it listed as a faculty member, making no distinction between categories.

The fact that we make no adjustments for faculty composition is a major determinant of our choice to focus on results that rank schools by total research output, as opposed to adjusting output by the number of faculty to calculate productivity-type measures. Specifically, while we do present a few results that adjust for schools’ faculty sizes, we note that constructing these requires building ratios for each school, and we cannot be confident that the denominators are strictly comparable across institutions. We discuss this issue further below, and note in closing that the difficulty in arriving at comparable faculty counts may be one reason why the most widely-publicized research-based rankings typically focus only on universities’ aggregate output.

Matching faculty to bibliographic databases

We then obtained information on the research output of each of the 4927 individuals identified, with the final data collection happening in April of 2017. Thus, the results below reflect the cumulative output of individuals as measured in April 2017, based on their June 2016 affiliations.

¹¹ The faculty count at Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration is narrower and results in about 1500 fewer faculty.

We attempted to get measures of output using two bibliographic databases: the Web of Science citation index produced by Thompson Reuters,¹² and the Scopus index produced by Elsevier.¹³ In our extracts from both databases the basic unit of observation is the publication, and these observations are in turn associated with information like the network of citations the publication has received. Each database uses algorithms to attribute publications to individuals, who can be identified by their name and affiliation.

For example, consider “Jane Doe,” who is currently affiliated with School X at University Y (obviously hypothetical names, although the numbers we discuss below refer to a real individual for whom we engaged in additional investigation to check the matching results). The bibliographic databases do not mention specific schools (e.g. the Ford School at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor), and so we search for the combination of “Jane Doe” and “University Y.” We find Professor Doe on the Scopus database, for instance, and observe that she has publications listed since 2002. In this particular case, all these data points are confirmed by manual inspection of Professor Doe’s C.V., which we obtained online.¹⁴ Both Web of Science and Scopus use algorithms to attribute publications to authors, and in this particular case these result in all these papers being attributed to Professor Doe at University Y. We note that this is even though Professor Doe only moved to University Y in 2006, having worked at multiple universities before.

While the outlines of this exercise are possible with both bibliographic databases, in the end we only used the Scopus data. This reflects that Web of Science identifies authors only by first initial and last name. While some faculty members have fairly unique surnames, a name like “J. Smith” can produce a large amount of spurious matches even within a university. This is likely an additional reason why other research-focused rankings consider universities rather than schools.

Even though Scopus uses both first and last names, our procedure can still result in spurious matches—for example, when a university has a “John Smith” in both its school of public policy and its chemistry department. The Scopus platform does try to account for these issues by using other contextual information to arrive at unique matches. While there are still errors and our data almost surely include both false positives and false negatives, this noise is greatly reduced relative to that we would see with Web of Science.

The results of the match, by institution, are in Table 2 (page 9). Despite the concerns about “overmatching” (e.g. matching to faculty members in more than one department who share the same name), it at first appears that the greater issue is having no match at all—only 51 percent of all our names produce a match in Scopus. What we conjecture, based on manual inspection and internet searches, is that in many cases the non-matches are due to listed faculty having no publications in these databases.

For example, young assistant professors who have not yet published will not show up. But we venture that the larger share of these non-matches are due to the inclusion of non-research faculty in our listings. Many adjunct faculty members’ main line of work is not at a university, and hence they may not have made publications in the venues covered by databases like Scopus.

We did discover that some non-matches were due to procedure error. For one example, professors with three words in their last name did not always match, an issue which we

¹² <http://science.thomsonreuters.com/wok/>.

¹³ <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus>.

¹⁴ We did not systematically download or check C.V.s. We did that only in a few cases while developing the matching procedure.

Table 2 Number of faculty and match rates

School	Number of faculty members listed	Number of faculty members found in the Scopus database	Proportion found in the Scopus database	Number of faculty members in Scopus database
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	223		0.38	84
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	52		0.40	21
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	260		0.27	70
Columbia U (SIPA)	420		0.32	133
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	106		0.86	91
Duke U (Sanford)	160		0.56	90
Florida State U (Askew)	11		1.00	11
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Internl. Affairs)	130		0.70	91
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	70		0.70	49
Georgetown U (McCourt)	178		0.31	55
Georgia State (Young)	108		0.67	72
Harvard U (Kennedy)	274		0.59	163
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	256		0.44	112
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	48		0.52	25
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	224		0.29	66
New York U (Wagner)	258		0.25	65
Ohio State U (Glenn)	56		0.45	25
Princeton U (Wilson)	204		0.62	127
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	53		0.43	23
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	103		0.56	58
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	196		0.80	156
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	49		0.67	33
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	55		0.76	42
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	57		0.65	37

Table 2 (continued)

School	Number of faculty members listed	Number of faculty members found in the Scopus database	Proportion found in the Scopus database	Number of faculty members in Scopus database
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	52		0.60	31
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	95		0.64	61
U of Chicago (Harris)	40		0.73	29
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	56		0.39	22
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	132		0.50	66
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	26		0.73	19
U of Kentucky (Martin)	28		0.86	24
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	78		0.44	34
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	93		0.60	56
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	83		0.39	32
U of Missouri (Truman)	45		0.47	21
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	24		0.75	18
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	101		0.26	26
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Internl. and Pub. Affairs)	80		0.65	52
U of Southern California (Price)	123		0.79	97
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	77		0.47	36
U of Virginia (Batten)	48		0.81	39
U of Washington (Evans)	49		0.67	33
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	81		0.81	66
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	65		0.54	35
Total	4927		0.51	2496

The table lists the total number of faculty members listed on each school's website, the proportion of these individuals for whom there was a match in the Scopus database, and the final number of faculty members (those matched) on which all subsequent results are based

were able to correct. On the other hand, faculty members who change their name after marriage, or abbreviate parts of their first names inconsistently raise issues that are harder to address. In addition, through some manual exploration we identified what seem like isolated cases of faculty members who have multiple publications and yet are not matched to the university that our lists (and online confirmation) indicate they are affiliated with.

Where we identified this issue, it is possibly due to the ways in which the Scopus algorithms operate. To cite one example, we found isolated cases of economists who are not matched to a university. We were able to determine that where this happened it was because they have an additional affiliation that they cited very frequently in a way that (for reasons we do not fully understand, since we do not have access to the algorithm) results in their match to this other institution. For example there are some economists with many papers listed in the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper series. For a small subset of these individuals, Scopus lists the NBER as the primary affiliation, even though in all the cases we saw they work at a university (which presumably they would say is their main affiliation). We did not correct this problem since it had little if any effect on our rankings. We further decided that trying to correct discipline-specific issues could introduce bias, since we have better knowledge of some disciplines than others. The bottom line is that there are many potential sources of noise in information from these sources, and some such noise remains in our data.

It is also worth noting that the match rate across schools is quite variable. Specifically, in Table 2 (page 9) column 1 lists the number of faculty members listed at each school, and column 2 the proportion found in the Scopus database. Column 3 lists the final number of faculty members (those found) used in all the results below. While Florida State University (Askew) has a match rate of one hundred percent, several schools have rates below thirty percent. This results in changes in the number of faculty between column 1 and column 3. For example, the top four schools by faculty size (from largest to smallest) in Column 1 are Columbia University (SIPA), Harvard University (Kennedy), Carnegie Mellon University (Heinz), and New York University (Wagner). Once one considers faculty actually matched (Column 3), the top four are Harvard, Syracuse University (Maxwell), Columbia, and Princeton University (Wilson). This suggests, for instance, that Columbia, Carnegie Mellon, and NYU likely have a higher prevalence of adjunct instructors than Harvard, Syracuse, or Princeton.

Note also that while less so than in the natural sciences, co-authorship is relatively common (and growing) in the social sciences and other areas schools of public policy are active in. For measuring research productivity, the question arises of how to assign credit among multiple authors. One could, for example, give half credit to each author for two-author works. We decided not to adjust for co-authorship, and all matched authors receive full credit. This is the convention for the standard academic *h-index* and the norm for promotion decisions in some fields. While there could be potential distortion in the rankings if authors at some institutions systematically co-author more than others, we did not notice that this would have a qualitative impact on our results.

Research-based rankings

Once faculty are matched the Scopus database immediately allows their individual publications to be extracted. The aggregate output of the 2496 individuals matched consists of 65,896 publications. Of these we will focus on 52,369 items that include articles (46,820),

books (1140), and chapters in books (4409).¹⁵ The set of matched publications go back to the 1970s, but over 90 percent of the publications are for 1982 or later, and more than 50 percent are for 2007 or later. This partly reflects the increasing coverage of Scopus in later years.

Table 3 (page 12) lists the 120 journals that most frequently appear in our publications data.¹⁶ For each journal, the second column indicates the total number of articles matched to faculty in our data. A third column provides the SCImage Journal Rank (SJR), an indicator of journal quality produced by Scopus. This metric “accounts for both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals the citations come from,” according to Elsevier.¹⁷

To construct our school-level rankings, we aggregate the researcher-level results by school. As a basic quantity measure, we sum across all the faculty at a school to get the total number of publications. We do the same for the number of articles, and for the number of books or book chapters.

To incorporate quality, we take two approaches. First, we use total citation counts to the research output of a school, under the assumption that higher quality work will be cited more often. Second, we use the SJR metric to produce counts of quality-thresholded publications; in particular, we count the number of articles from each school in journals with SJRs above the 99th, 90th, and 50th percentiles.¹⁸

As discussed in Sect. 2.3, faculty counts are not necessarily comparable across schools; for instance, they may include adjunct or visiting faculty members in some cases and not in others. Still, one may worry that variation in these quantity and quality measures could be driven wholly by differences in faculty sizes and have nothing to do with the distribution of quality or productivity of researchers at a school. To address this issue, we complement the aggregate measures with per-faculty performance. As the denominator in this ratio, we use the faculty count from column 3 of Table 2 (page 9). This column contains, for each school, the number of faculty members that were found in Scopus. Arguably, this number provides a rough approximation of the number of “research-oriented” faculty members who work at each school.

It is important to note that our measure of “research” is limited to academic publications and therefore misses major and important components of research activities. The

¹⁵ Specifically, under articles we consider publications in journals that Scopus classifies as either articles, articles in press, or notes. The types of publications we leave out of consideration include abstract reports (2), articles in press (545), conference papers (3706), conference reviews (2), editorials (1960), errata (281), letters (913), reports (4), reviews (5097), and short surveys (439).

¹⁶ This is a small subset of the 6054 journals with at least one matched entry. There are 471 journals with 20 or more entries.

¹⁷ Specifically, “Citations are weighted depending on whether they come from a journal with a high or low SJR.” See <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/with-2013-journal-rankings-no-one-metric-rules-them-all> for more information. As an additional journal ranking, we computed importance in the realm of policy schools by multiplying the SJR by the number of hits among our list of faculty. The top ten journals for policy researchers on this metric are *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Nature*, *American Economic Review*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Public Administration Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *Health Affairs*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*.

¹⁸ In addition, it is possible to match the journals to the Web of Science “Impact factor,” the citation rate over a given time period for an average article in a given journal. In our sample the correlation between the Impact factor and SJR metric is 0.86. We note that an important factor determining variation in quantity and quality is the number of available pages for papers—which varies significantly across journals. We follow the previous literature in not using this information.

Table 3 Journals most frequently observed in our data

Journal	SJR	Journal	Total no. of articles	SJR	Total no. of articles	SJR
Public Administration Review	2.53	Social Service Review	573	2.53	104	0.83
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	1.84	Journal of Organic Chemistry	397	1.84	104	2.10
Health Affairs	4.14	Journal of Political Economy	327	4.14	104	7.65
Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory	5.40	Psychological Science	318	5.40	103	4.38
American Economic Review	8.05	Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science	303	8.05	102	1.16
Journal of Public Economics	2.27	Journal of Econometrics	285	2.27	101	3.78
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.	6.88	Review of Economic Studies	268	6.88	100	9.25
Environmental Science and Technology	2.66	Water Resources Research	267	2.66	99	2.66
Demography	2.45	Journals of Gerontology - Series B Psych. Sciences and Soc. Sciences	260	2.45	97	1.43
Quarterly Journal of Economics	20.76	Journal of the American Statistical Association	256	20.76	96	3.45
American Political Science Review	6.11	Social Science Research	230	6.11	95	1.45
Policy Studies Journal	1.30	Political Research Quarterly	226	1.30	93	1.03
World Development	2.10	Public Finance Review	223	2.10	92	0.33
American Journal of Public Health	2.52	Journal of Economic Perspectives	223	2.52	91	6.08
Journal of Urban Economics	2.43	Ecological Economics	193	2.43	91	1.73
American Journal of Agricultural Economics	1.44	International Public Management Journal	187	1.44	91	1.70
Social Science and Medicine	1.89	American Politics Research	185	1.89	89	1.10
Economics Letters	0.61	Regional Science and Urban Economics	185	0.61	89	1.33
Journal of Health Economics	2.29	Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis	174	2.29	89	3.08
Journal of Development Economics	2.84	Journal of Conflict Resolution	173	2.84	89	2.51
Physical Review Letters	3.73	Survival	172	3.73	88	0.72
PLoS ONE		Criminology	169		87	5.14
Science	13.22	Contraception	169	13.22	86	1.56

Table 3 (continued)

Journal	Total no. of articles	SJR	Journal	Total no. of articles	SJR
Medical Care	166	2.00	Public Budgeting and Finance	86	0.42
Journal of Politics	161	2.75	Gerontologist	85	1.58
American Journal of Political Science	159	5.10	Management Science	84	4.38
Children and Youth Services Review	158	0.72	Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law	83	0.85
American Review of Public Administration	158	1.70	Southern Economic Journal	83	0.59
Economics of Education Review	151	1.35	Public Opinion Quarterly	82	2.30
Journal of Human Resources	148	2.76	Economic Development Quarterly	81	0.96
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly	146	0.86	Housing Policy Debate	77	1.24
Nature	145	21.94	International Studies Quarterly	77	2.18
Social Science Quarterly	141	0.60	Journal of Risk and Uncertainty	77	2.13
Public Choice	138	0.75	Climatic Change	76	2.15
Review of Economics and Statistics	137	4.63	Comparative Political Studies	74	2.77
Journal of Environmental Economics and Management	137	2.92	Land Economics	74	1.37
Physical Review B	135		Journal of Monetary Economics	74	4.15
Publius	134	0.83	Public Administration and Development	73	0.80
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	133	5.04	Journal of Quantitative Criminology	72	1.82
Health Services Research	132	2.37	Journal of Economic Theory	72	2.59
Administration and Society	129	0.88	Journal of Urban Affairs	71	0.62
Journal of Marriage and Family	129	1.83	Journal of Labor Economics	71	5.63
International Journal of Public Administration	129	0.49	Policy Sciences	71	0.94
Urban Studies	125	1.57	Scientific American	71	0.20
International Organization	124	3.67	Inquiry	70	0.80
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization	121	1.43	Journal of Experimental Social Psychology	69	2.60
Economic Inquiry	119	1.15	Journal of Policy Modeling	68	0.94

Table 3 (continued)

Journal	Total no. of articles	SJR	Journal	Total no. of articles	SJR
Physical Review B - Condensed Matter and Materials Physics	119	1.93	American Sociological Review	68	4.64
Journal of the American Planning Association	118	1.56	New England Journal of Medicine	67	14.62
Review of Public Personnel Administration	117	1.38	Governance	67	2.13
Journal of Natural Products	117	1.44	British Journal of Political Science	67	2.51
European Economic Review	116	1.71	National Tax Journal	67	0.64
Journal of International Economics	116	3.72	Journal of Criminal Justice	66	2.01
Review of Policy Research	115	1.06	Administration & Society	65	0.88
Urban Affairs Review	115	1.00	Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes	65	2.56
Economic Journal	113	3.39	Brookings Papers on Economic Activity	65	2.83
Energy Policy	113	2.44	American Behavioral Scientist	64	1.01
Risk Analysis	113	1.33	World Politics	64	2.96
Journal of Planning Education and Research	110	1.40	The Journal of Politics	64	2.75
Child Development	109	3.12	Education Next	62	0.31

The table lists the 120 journals most frequently observed in the matched Scopus publications data. It includes the name of the journal, the total number of matched articles from our list of faculty, and the SCImage Journal Rank (SJR) of the journal, a journal-quality ranking constructed by Elsevier from quality-weighted citations to that journal

latter include the production of datasets, code repositories, partnerships with nonprofits or government agencies, consulting contracts, unpublished working papers, journalistic publications, and support of other researchers or graduate students. This omission reflects data availability constraints.

Field-specific rankings

Table 3 (page 12) shows that there is significant diversity in the research undertaken by policy-school faculty, at least if one judges by the venues in which it appears. Journals associated with public administration loom large; for example, *Public Administration Review* is the periodical most frequently seen (573 observations) in our data, and *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* is second, with 397 entries. Economics journals are also well-represented, with *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Public Economics*, and *Quarterly Journal of Economics* seeing more than 250 articles each. Political Science publications are prevalent too, with *American Political Science Review* and *Journal of Politics* each accounting for more than 150 articles in the sample. Finally, it is interesting that journals with a natural science emphasis also make an appearance, as this is an area of increasing visibility in public policy schools: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* accounts for more than 250 articles, while *Science* and *Nature* each account for more than 100 papers.

While our main rankings aggregate all journals together, we also provide a few field-specific rankings. This is partly because the within-field SJR journal rankings—notwithstanding the clear advantages of external generation and cross-field applicability—often do not comport with the opinions of researchers in each field. To address this issue we generated four additional sets of rankings that cover journals with a focus on: economics, natural sciences, political science, and public administration.

For each of these fields we consulted with a small number of colleagues active in the area, and produced between two and five groups of journals. We generate a ranking of schools according to the number of articles published in each group of journals. We emphasize that there is no unique way of doing this, or of gaining the consensus of every observer. An advantage is that we draw on expert judgment, but a disadvantage is subjectivity of journal selection.

Based on our aggregation of colleagues' input, we proceeded somewhat differently in each case. Specifically, the fields, groups, and journals covered are contained in Table 4 (page 15). The procedure is slightly different in each case, and so merits discussion.

In economics, Group A contains the five journals usually considered to contain the work with, on average, the highest quality. Group B includes all the journals in in Group A plus an additional few, considered somewhat less selective. In this case both groups A and B consist of “general interest” journals that appeal to audiences across different subfields, for example, trade or labor economics. Group C includes all the journals in groups A and B, and adds highly rated subfield-specific journals such as the *Journal of Econometrics* or the *Journal of Monetary Economics*.

For natural science, we use similar hierarchical groups. That is, every group also contains the journals in the previous groups, with Group A containing the two most prestigious outlets. In this case, however, there are no subfield-specific periodicals. We omit these because their number is much larger and their frequency is relatively low in our data.

In the case of Political science, conversations with researchers in the field suggested that a hierarchical grouping like that constructed for the previous two fields is harder to

Table 4 Groups of journals by field

Field and group	List of journals
<i>Economics</i>	
Group A	American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies
Group B	All in Group A and AEJ: Applied Economics, AEJ: Macroeconomics, AEJ: Microeconomics
Groups C	AEJ: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics All in groups A and B and Economic Journal, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association
<i>Natural science</i>	
Group A	Nature, Science
Group B	All in Group A and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America
Group C	All in groups A and B and PLoS ONE
<i>Political science</i>	
General	American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review
American Politics	All in “General” and British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Political Analysis, Quarterly Journal of Political Science
Comparative Politics	All in “General” and Comparative Political studies, Comparative Politics, World Politics
International Relations	All in “General” and International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Strategic Studies, Security Studies, World Politics
Political Theory	All in “General” History of Political Thought, Journal of Political Philosophy, Political Theory, Review of Politics
<i>Public administration</i>	
Group A	Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Public Administration Review, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
Group B	All in Group A and American Review of Public Administration, International Public Management Journal, Policy Sciences, Public Administration, Public Management Review, Review of Public Personnel Administration

The table lists groups of journals we use to produce field-specific rankings. We highlight that we have *not* used a unique rationale in the construction of the groups in different fields. The construction of these groups is discussed in detail in Sect. 2.5

achieve. This reflects the fact that different sub-fields tend to publish in different groups of periodicals. In this case we therefore proceed by creating five groups of journals. First, there is a group we label General, containing two journals that most observers indicated appeal to researchers in essentially all subfields. Then, there are four groups that pertain to specific subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. In each of these we added three to seven further titles of journals that cater more specifically to these subfields (although they do not always fit neatly in only one, and so we allowed repetition).

Finally, for Public Administration, there are only two groups. These are organized in hierarchical order of quality as done for economics and natural science. Again, we note that this set of journals is subjective and based on conversations with colleagues.

In the case of field-specific rankings we only report aggregate rankings—we do not attempt to construct rankings on output per faculty member. We cannot perform an adjustment for faculty size as done for the general rankings because we do not have information on faculty members' stated areas of focus. For example, total publications in economics would ideally be adjusted by the total number of professors active in economics. This could perhaps be inferred via publication in field-specific journals, but Scopus does not provide authoritative allocations of journals to fields. One might use newly created field journal lists, like those from Table 4 (page 15), but we choose not to for this paper due to large swings in the denominator depending on specification. In addition, at least some faculty members have publication lists spanning a number of fields. For these reasons, we leave the calculation of per-faculty-member field output for future research.

Results

This section presents our results, beginning with the overall research rankings and then proceeding to field-specific variants.

Overall performance

Table 5 (Page 17) presents our base results, which refer to all areas of research. Each column reports a ranking of the schools based on the Scopus data, with a ranking of 1 corresponding to the highest ranked school among those in our sample. We first discuss what the different columns contain and then make some remarks on the results.

First, columns (A)–(C) refer to research quality as measured by the number of articles that faculty at each school have published in journals with SJRs above the 99th, 90th, and 50th percentiles, respectively. The schools are sorted by column A, although that choice does not imply a preference for that particular ranking. Next, columns (D) and (E) count the total number of citations to school publications, with column (D) including articles and column (E) including books and chapters. Finally, columns (F) and (G) provide quantity (rather than quality) measures by simply counting the number of articles (F) and book/chapters (G), respectively.

The most immediate feature of Table 5 (Page 17) is that Princeton and Harvard come up first and second, respectively, in all rankings. But beyond the top two spots (and Columbia's consistent placement of third or fourth), there is meaningful heterogeneity in schools' performance across different columns. The University of Chicago (Harris), the fourth-ranked school by column (A) has rankings as high as 26 in column (G). In short, Chicago

Table 5 Main results: Research-based rankings of policy schools

Institution	Quality				Quantity					
	Articles		Books & chapters		Articles		Books & chapters			
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total number		Total number			
	99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Princeton U (Wilson)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Harvard U (Kennedy)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Columbia U (SIPA)	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
U of Chicago (Harris)	4	6	12	10	20	18	10	20	18	26
Duke U (Sanford)	5	5	3	4	9	5	4	9	5	8
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	6	7	8	7	21	12	7	21	12	18
Georgetown U (McCourt)	7	19	21	19	10	25	19	10	25	29
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	8	8	14	9	7	16	9	7	16	9
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	9	22	23	20	23	23	20	23	23	32
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	10	4	7	5	8	9	5	8	9	13
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	11	18	16	12	17	17	12	17	17	30
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	12	9	5	6	4	3	6	4	3	3
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	13	17	11	16	15	10	16	15	10	7
New York U (Wagner)	14	10	13	11	5	13	11	5	13	19
Georgia State (Young)	15	20	18	21	22	14	21	22	14	16
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	16	13	15	18	40	19	18	40	19	39
U of Virginia (Batten)	17	12	20	17	12	26	17	12	26	24
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	18	27	17	14	14	11	14	14	11	15
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Interntl. and Pub. Affairs)	19	29	26	22	18	24	22	18	24	20
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Interntl. Affairs)	20	33	25	26	13	15	26	13	15	6

Table 5 (continued)

Institution	Quality					Quantity				
	Articles		Books & chapters		Articles	Books & chapters				
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total number	Total number				
	99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
U of Kentucky (Martin)	21	24	28	29	36	30	37			
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	22	15	10	13	6	6	5			
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	23	11	6	8	11	7	11			
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	24	41	42	37	27	34	21			
Ohio State U (Glenn)	25	26	36	35	33	38	35			
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	26	21	24	28	25	22	17			
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	27	38	33	32	31	28	23			
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	28	28	34	31	34	33	33			
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	29	36	43	43	38	43	43			
U of Washington (Evans)	30	31	27	25	26	27	28			
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	31	32	35	38	35	40	40			
U of Missouri (Truman)	32	34	32	34	44	35	38			
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	33	35	39	36	37	37	36			
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	34	39	29	30	19	29	22			
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	35	44	44	44	43	44	44			
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	36	23	19	23	28	21	14			
Florida State U (Askew)	37	30	38	40	42	41	42			
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	38	40	37	39	30	36	31			
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	39	25	31	27	32	31	27			

Table 5 (continued)

Institution	Quality				Quantity					
	Articles		Books & chapters		Articles	Books & chapters	Total number			
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total number	Total number	Total number			
	99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	40	16	22	24	16	20	25			
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	41	42	41	41	39	42	34			
U of Southern California (Price)	42	14	9	15	24	8	10			
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	43	37	30	33	29	32	12			
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	44	43	40	42	41	39	41			

This table reports schools our main rankings, sorted by Column (A). Columns (A)–(C) refer to the number of articles published in journals with SJRs above the 99th, 90th, and 50th percentiles, respectively. Column (D) counts the total citations to articles, and Column (E) the total citations to books and chapters. Columns (F) and (G) focus on quantity, describing the number of articles and books and chapters published

tends to do much better when the measure focuses on publication quality rather than quantity. Cornell University (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs) provides a case in the opposite direction. While it ranks 13th in terms of papers in journals with SJRs above the 99th percentile, it ranks third in the quantity measures (columns F and G).

In total, 17 schools place in the top ten on at least one criterion. In addition to those mentioned, we see Carnegie Mellon, Duke University (Sanford), George Mason University (School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs), Georgetown University (McCourt), Indiana University-Bloomington (School of Public and Environmental Affairs), the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford), the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey), NYU, Stanford University (Public Policy Program), Syracuse, the University of Southern California (Price), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette).

Next we look at the set of rankings where research output is adjusted for faculty size. Each column of Table 6 (page 19) reports a ranking using the same performance measure as the correspondingly lettered column from Table 5 (Page 17). The only difference is that each school's measure (number of articles written by a school's faculty, for example) is divided by the number of faculty in that policy school. As discussed in Sect. 2.3, our faculty count is "research-oriented" in the sense that it excludes faculty for which we found no authored publications in Scopus.

For the top spots of Column A, the population-adjusted rankings in Table 6 (page 19) are fairly similar to those in Table 5 (page 17). Princeton is still at the top of the list (although it moves down for some of the other columns). Next, Harvard is replaced by Chicago in the second-place spot, not just for column A (papers in journals with SJR above 99th percentile, per faculty member found in Scopus), but also for several other measures. After Harvard, for column A we have Columbia, Minnesota-Twin Cities, the University of California-Berkeley (Goldman), Georgetown, Michigan, Stanford, and Duke. This list for the top ten is overall quite similar to that from the previous table, consistent with the interpretation that variation in quality is not driven solely, or even mostly, by faculty size.

Looking at the other columns, we see that adjustment by faculty size also renders schools' ranks more volatile. For example, while Harvard always ranked second in Table 5 (page 17), it now displays a ranking as low as 17th (for the quantity of articles measure). Similarly, while Columbia was consistently in the top four in Table 5, it now places as low as 14th. Arizona State is now ranked number one, for total number of articles, and the number of articles above 50th percentile in SJR. Cornell gains the number-one spot for books and book chapters written. In this table, a total of 21 schools make the top ten on some measure.

Performance by area

The next set of tables looks at scholarship in four areas that are central to the work of many faculty members at public policy schools: economics, natural sciences, political science, and public administration. The remaining tables have a similar structure: each column shows a ranking that is a function of the total number of articles published in the journal groups given by Table 4 (page 15). The column labels refer to these groups, and in each case the first column is used to sort the list of schools.

Table 7 (page 20) presents the rankings for economics, where each column gives rankings corresponding to the number of articles published in each group, with A being the most prestigious set of journals.

Table 6 Rankings based on research output per faculty member

Institution	Quality				Quantity					
	Articles				Books & chapters					
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total citations		Articles			
	99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Princeton U (Wilson)	1	2	3	1	1	1	5	3		
U of Chicago (Harris)	2	1	2	2	13	2	2	11		
Harvard U (Kennedy)	3	6	11	9	2	17	17	10		
Columbia U (SIPA)	4	7	14	12	7	18	18	7		
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	5	14	12	13	16	12	12	30		
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	6	11	4	3	10	4	4	24		
Georgetown U (McCourt)	7	20	25	18	8	36	36	37		
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	8	5	6	6	23	7	7	17		
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	9	9	10	8	5	16	16	4		
Duke U (Sanford)	10	10	5	7	12	6	6	12		
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	11	4	7	5	9	8	8	18		
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	12	3	1	4	41	1	1	41		
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	13	17	9	17	15	10	10	5		
New York U (Wagner)	14	12	13	14	3	13	13	23		
U of Virginia (Batten)	15	8	16	11	6	24	24	14		
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	16	15	8	10	4	3	3	1		
Georgia State (Young)	17	29	26	24	25	19	19	25		
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	18	35	19	15	14	9	9	15		
U of Kentucky (Martin)	19	16	20	21	37	14	14	38		
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Internl. and Pub. Affairs)	20	34	33	20	19	30	30	13		

Table 6 (continued)

Institution	Quality				Quantity					
	Articles		Books & chapters		Articles		Books & chapters			
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total number		Total number			
	99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Internat. Affairs)	21	42	41	37	22	28	28	22	28	6
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	22	43	43	43	32	42	42	32	42	27
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	23	22	15	16	20	20	20	20	20	32
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	24	33	27	29	18	29	29	18	29	19
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	25	30	42	42	39	44	44	39	44	43
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	26	38	37	41	42	38	38	42	38	42
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	27	21	23	36	30	27	27	30	27	40
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	28	41	38	34	31	37	37	31	37	16
U of Missouri (Truman)	29	23	22	31	44	21	21	44	21	39
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	30	44	44	44	43	43	43	43	43	44
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	31	27	35	27	38	32	32	38	32	36
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	32	37	30	32	24	35	35	24	35	2
Ohio State U (Glenn)	33	19	31	35	28	33	33	28	33	29
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	34	24	21	19	26	23	23	26	23	8
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	35	40	40	40	27	39	39	27	39	28
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	36	39	28	28	11	26	26	11	26	9
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	37	31	39	38	33	41	41	33	41	31
U of Washington (Evans)	38	32	24	22	21	22	22	21	22	20
U of Southern California (Price)	39	25	18	23	34	15	15	34	15	22

Table 6 (continued)

Institution	Quality				Quantity				
	Articles		Books & chapters		Articles	Books & chapters	Total number		
	Number in journals with SJR percentile above:		Total citations		Total number	Total number			
99th	90th	50th	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
Florida State U (Askew)	40	13	17	25	35	11	35		
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	41	18	29	30	17	31	34		
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	42	26	32	33	36	25	33		
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	43	36	36	39	40	40	26		
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	44	28	34	26	29	34	21		

This table reports results analogous to our main results in Table 5 (page 17)—the structure of the table is the same. The key difference is that in this case the ranking is based on the total output per faculty member found in Scopus; that is, the total output divided by the number of faculty in Column of Table 2 (page 9)

Table 7 Rankings based on publications in economics journals

Institution	Rank by number of articles in economics journals groups		
	A	B	C
Harvard U (Kennedy)	1	1	1
Princeton U (Wilson)	2	2	2
Columbia U (SIPA)	3	3	3
U of Chicago (Harris)	4	4	4
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	5	5	9
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	6	6	8
Duke U (Sanford)	7	7	6
Georgetown U (McCourt)	8	8	15
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	9	10	5
Georgia State (Young)	10	13	10
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	11	9	14
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	12	15	18
New York U (Wagner)	13	18	16
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	14	14	11
U of Kentucky (Martin)	15	19	13
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	16	11	7
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	17	16	12
U of Virginia (Batten)	18	12	17
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	19	20	22
U of Southern California (Price)	20	17	19
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	21	24	24
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	22	25	25
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	23	21	20
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	24	23	23
U of Missouri (Truman)	25	26	30
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	26	22	21
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	27	28	29
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	28	29	28
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	29	35	37
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	30	37	36
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Interntl. Affairs)	31	44	33
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	32	39	44
Florida State U (Askew)	33	42	39
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Interntl. and Pub. Affairs)	34	27	26
Ohio State U (Glenn)	35	33	42
U of Washington (Evans)	36	31	27
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	37	41	35
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	38	38	34
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	39	30	31
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	40	32	40
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	41	43	32
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	42	34	38
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	43	40	41
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	44	36	43

Table 7 (continued)

This table ranks schools according to the number of articles published in the economics journals listed under different groups in Table 4 (page 15). Column A lists the number of papers in journals in Group A, column B the number of papers in journals in Group B, and so on

Economics is a field with relative stability in rankings. This is particularly so for the top-performing schools. For example, the four schools ranked highest—Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, and Chicago—rank exactly the same in all four columns. This consistency suggests that the precise allocation of specific journals to the three groups does not have a large impact on the rankings. In other words, faculty that are good at publishing in the top general interest journals (Group A) are also also prolific with respect to field journals (Group C). The other schools that appear in the top ten by at least one of the economics rankings are: Stanford, Michigan, Duke, Georgetown, Cornell, Berkeley, and Syracuse.

Table 8 (Page 22) presents analogous results for natural sciences, with the ordering again done according to the schools' rank in Group A. The top three schools in this case are Princeton, Harvard, and Columbia. The fourth-ranked school, Minnesota, makes an especially big leap in this category relative to the other fields (22nd in economics and 39th in political science). The remaining schools that appear in the top ten in at least one column are Chicago, Cornell, Duke, George Mason, Indiana-Bloomington, Michigan, NYU, and Stanford.

Table 9 (Page 23) moves to analyzing schools' performance in political science. Recall that in this case the columns are somewhat different from those that concerned economics or natural science. The first column ranks schools by the number of articles that have appeared in four general interest journals. The remaining columns refer to journals that are more (although in some cases not exclusively) focused on the subfields of American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political philosophy. The schools are ordered according to their performance in the first column.

Princeton ranks first, followed by Stanford and the University of Georgia (School of Public and International Affairs), which makes a big rise here relative to other fields (26th in economics, 22nd in natural sciences). Outside the top two schools there is also variation in subfield-specific performance. For example, Georgia ranks third in American politics, whereas Harvard does so in political philosophy, and Columbia in comparative and international politics. The remaining schools that rank in the top ten in at least one subfield are American University (School of Public Affairs), the University of Arizona (School of Government and Public Policy), Chicago, Duke, Michigan, NYU, the University of Virginia (Batten), and Syracuse.

Finally, Table 10 (Page 25) presents results for public administration journals. In this case there are only two groups of journals, and there is relative stability in schools' performance across columns. The salient point is that this ranking of schools is rather different from that prevailing in essentially all of the above tables. In this case the top five schools are Indiana-Bloomington, American, Georgia, Wisconsin-Madison, and NYU. The only one of these schools to have appeared in the top five before is Georgia (for Political Science). The stark difference between this and other areas is also seen in the fact that Princeton—often ranked first or second in the previous tables—now appears among the bottom five. Chicago and Columbia score similarly low given their earlier performance. In short, by our measures there is little overlap in schools' research performance between public administration and several other fields, and hence between the public administration and the aggregate rankings (Table 5, page 17).

Table 8 Rankings based on publications in natural sciences journals

Institution	Rank by number of articles in natural science journal groups		
	A	B	C
Princeton U (Wilson)	1	1	1
Harvard U (Kennedy)	2	3	3
Columbia U (SIPA)	3	2	2
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	4	5	5
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	5	4	6
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	6	8	11
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	7	10	12
U of Chicago (Harris)	8	6	8
New York U (Wagner)	9	11	7
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Interntl. Affairs)	10	14	14
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	11	9	10
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	12	12	9
Duke U (Sanford)	13	7	4
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	14	17	22
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	15	15	13
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	16	18	18
U of Virginia (Batten)	17	13	15
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	18	16	21
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	19	19	17
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	20	21	19
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Interntl. and Pub. Affairs)	21	20	27
Georgia State (Young)	22	26	16
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	23	27	31
Georgetown U (McCourt)	24	22	23
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	25	23	25
U of Washington (Evans)	26	30	29
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	27	24	24
U of Missouri (Truman)	28	29	32
U of Southern California (Price)	29	25	20
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	30	36	42
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	31	32	33
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	32	43	41
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	33	44	36
Florida State U (Askew)	34	42	40
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	35	31	28
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	36	33	44
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	37	40	35
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	38	34	39
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	39	39	43
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	40	38	34
Ohio State U (Glenn)	41	37	26
U of Kentucky (Martin)	42	28	30
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	43	41	37
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	44	35	38

Table 8 (continued)

This table ranks schools according to the number of articles published in the natural science journals listed under different groups in Table 4 (page 15). Column A lists the number of papers in journals in Group A, column B the number of papers in journals in Group B, and so on

Finally, the list of the remaining schools to appear in the top ten in at least one of the Public Administration groups also includes several not seen in this category before. The list is: Florida State, George Washington University (Trachtenberg), the University of Kansas (School of Public Affairs & Administration), Ohio State University (Glenn), Rutgers-Newark (School of Public Affairs and Administration), USC, and Syracuse.

Conclusion

This paper has presented research-based rankings of public policy schools. Two main conclusions emerge, one relevant to all rankings and one relevant to the field-specific ones. First, on average our results differ considerably from previously available rankings, such as those published by *U.S. News & World Report*. To the extent that some market participants are interested in research publication performance, then our simple exercise adds information. For example, some deans may be interested in research output per se; advanced students interested in economics or political science instruction might desire some measure of faculty expertise in these areas.

Second, the rankings across the four specific fields we explored display notable differences, with the one relative to public administration an outlier. This again suggests that different rankings will likely better satisfy the demands of different participants. For example, a student or journalist looking for expertise in public administration might seek out different schools than one concerned with the intersection of public policy and natural science. Further, academic leaders and faculty hiring committees might use these rankings to guide recruitment as they address areas of need.

Table 9 Rankings based on publications in political science journals

School	Rank by number of articles in political science journals groups				
	General	American politics	Comparative politics	International politics	Political philosophy
Princeton U (Wilson)	1	1	1	1	1
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	2	2	2	2	2
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	3	3	4	5	4
Harvard U (Kennedy)	4	4	5	4	3
Columbia U (SIPA)	5	6	3	3	5
U of Chicago (Harris)	6	5	7	8	6
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	7	7	6	11	7
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	8	9	8	7	8
U of Virginia (Batten)	9	11	10	6	10
Duke U (Sanford)	10	12	11	9	9
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	11	10	9	12	11
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	12	13	15	17	13
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	13	14	14	15	14
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	14	15	13	10	12
New York U (Wagner)	15	8	16	21	15
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	16	16	17	13	16
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	17	18	12	14	17
Georgetown U (McCourt)	18	19	19	22	18
U of Kentucky (Martin)	19	17	20	24	20
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	20	20	21	19	21
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	21	25	27	30	22
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	22	22	23	26	27
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	23	26	30	33	23
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	24	28	24	34	28
U of Southern California (Price)	25	24	26	32	25
U of Washington (Evans)	26	23	29	31	24
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Interntl. and Pub. Affairs)	27	21	18	20	26
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	28	27	22	18	19
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	29	31	31	38	30
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Interntl. Affairs)	30	29	36	16	29
U of Missouri (Truman)	31	30	33	29	31
Florida State U (Askew)	32	32	34	37	33
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	33	34	32	28	32
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	34	33	37	36	34

Table 9 (continued)

School	Rank by number of articles in political science journals groups				
	General	Ameri- can politics	Com- parative politics	Interna- tional politics	Political philosophy
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Gov- ernment)	35	39	25	39	38
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	36	38	40	25	39
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	37	35	28	23	35
Ohio State U (Glenn)	38	36	39	40	37
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	39	37	35	27	36
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Admin- istration)	40	41	43	42	41
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administra- tion)	41	44	42	41	43
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	42	42	38	35	40
Georgia State (Young)	43	43	44	43	44
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	44	40	41	44	42

This table ranks schools according to the number of articles published in the political science journals listed under different groups in Table 4 (page 15). The column titles indicate the sub-fields that different groups of journals cater primarily to

With respect to either set of results, our hope is that the policy-school market will benefit from greater data availability. Among higher education sectors in the U.S., public policy is one where there has been comparatively little information. Part of this benefit comes from the fact that, as mentioned, universities produce different outputs. To some buyers, they deliver instruction and peer quality; to others, extension services. We add more information on one specific (but important) product: published academic research.

Finally, further refinements of research-based rankings seem desirable. For example, robust per-faculty or per-student research output figures would be useful to at least some market participants. Generating these might require further guidelines to ensure uniformity of the criteria going into faculty or student counts. These are topics that might be coordinated via groups like NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) or APPAM (Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management), which might be able to provide uniform faculty-reporting criteria.

Table 10 Rankings based on publications in public administration journals

School	Rank by number of articles in public administration journals groups	
	A	B
Indiana-Bloomington (Sch. of Pub. and Environ. Affairs)	1	1
American U (Sch. of Public Affairs)	2	3
U of Georgia (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	3	2
U of Wisconsin-Madison (La Follette)	4	6
New York U (Wagner)	5	7
U of Southern California (Price)	6	4
Syracuse U (Maxwell)	7	8
George Washington U (Trachtenberg)	8	10
U of Kansas (Sch. of Public Affairs & Administration)	9	11
Ohio State U (Glenn)	10	12
Florida State U (Askew)	11	13
Georgia State (Young)	12	9
Rutgers (Sch. of Public Affairs and Administration)	13	5
U of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ford)	14	15
U of Maryland-College Park (Sch. of Public Policy)	15	19
U of Washington (Evans)	16	16
Duke U (Sanford)	17	22
Harvard U (Kennedy)	18	14
U at Albany-SUNY (Rockefeller)	19	18
Cornell U (Cornell Institute for Public Affairs)	20	23
U of Colorado-Denver (Sch. of Public Affairs)	21	17
Georgetown U (McCourt)	22	26
George Mason (Sch. of Policy, Govt., and Interntl. Affairs)	23	20
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Sch. of Government)	24	24
Arizona State (Sch. of Public Affairs)	25	21
U of Arizona (Sch. of Government and Public Policy)	26	27
U of Texas-Austin (LBJ)	27	29
U of Pittsburgh (Grad. Sch. of Interntl. and Pub. Affairs)	28	25
U of Kentucky (Martin)	29	30
Texas A&M U-College Station (Bush)	30	28
U of California-Berkeley (Goldman)	31	33
U of Virginia (Batten)	32	35
U of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Humphrey)	33	31
Indiana-Purdue (Sch. of Public and Environ. Affairs)	34	32
Stanford U (Public Policy Program)	35	38
U of California-Los Angeles (Luskin)	36	34
Columbia U (SIPA)	37	36
U of Nebraska-Omaha (Sch. of Public Administration)	38	37

Table 10 (continued)

School	Rank by number of articles in public administration journals groups	
	A	B
Virginia Tech (Sch. of Public and International Affairs)	39	40
U of Missouri (Truman)	40	41
Princeton U (Wilson)	41	42
Carnegie Mellon U (Heinz)	42	39
U of Chicago (Harris)	43	43
Johns Hopkins U (SAIS)	44	44

This table ranks schools according to the number of articles published in the public policy journals listed under different groups in Table 4 (page 15). Column A lists the number of papers in journals in Group A, and column B the number of papers in journals in Group B

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