**MPA Faculty Present Research at SPSA**

Three faculty in Evergreen’s MPA program, Lucky Anguelov, Cali Ellis, and Mike Craw, presented research at the Southern Political Science Association’s annual conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, held January 8 – 11th. Lucky and Mike both presented papers to the Conference within a Conference on Local Governance and Sustainability. Lucky presented the results of a 2019 MPA capstone project that three MPA students, Tricia Bateman, Margaret Blankenbiller, Jazmyne Kozak, and he carried out on how climate across the United States might impact perception of various reclaimed water utilization programs. Their paper, titled “The Importance of Local Communities’ Climate in Determining Public Perception Regarding Appropriate Uses of Reclaimed Water,” was well received at the conference, with the paper’s discussant commenting that “This kind of research is badly needed, as there are lots of people who think they know how to communicate about water quality, but we have very little real evidence about it. This work contributes to that end… Overall this is a very promising project—I really hope that you put the work in to publish it, since I think it can have a real-world impact.” In addition, Lucky presented a paper, co-authored with Dr. Ben Brunjes at the University of Washington, titled “The Ethical Dimensions of Terminations for Convenience: An Exploration of Administrative Discretion and Responsibility”. This research explores an understudied topic in government contracting: termination for convenience. The preliminary findings indicate that this instrument grants contract administrators tremendous discretion in structuring contractual relationship to achieve a range of policy goals.

Mike Craw presented a paper titled “Sustainable Neighborhoods: Sub-Local Institutions and Property Reinvestment.” This research finds evidence from a study of Little Rock, Arkansas that neighborhood and homeowner associations play significant roles in encouraging homeowners to maintain and improve their property. This in turn helps to forestall blight and improve a neighborhood’s quality of place.

Cali Ellis presented her research, titled “Trust and Communication in Cross-Border Security Networks”, as part of a panel on “Public Administration in the Context of Disasters, Emergencies, and Crises.” In addition, Lucky, Cali, and Mike each chaired panels and provided commentary on other public administration research presented at the conference. Cali served as a discussant on a panel on “Public Lands in Employee Hands”, while Lucky and Mike chaired panels on “Green Technology, Procurement, and the Digital Divide” and “Regional Coordination, Collaboration, and Competition”, respectively.