

# Elizabeth M. Gillespie, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

May 2020	School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha Emphasis: Public administration theory and nonprofit management Dissertation: Philanthropy, social change, and feminism: Understanding U.S. women's foundations and funds Committee: Dr. Angela Eikenberry (Chair), Dr. Gary Marshall, Dr. Christine Reed, Dr. Henry D'Souza
December 2014	College of Business and Public Administration, Drake University Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) Emphasis: Executive leadership development
May 2005	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa Bachelor of Arts Major: History; Minors: English, French

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2020 – Present	Assistant Professor Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, University of Memphis
August 2015 – May 2020	Graduate Assistant School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests center on the dynamic intersections of nonprofits, philanthropy, and social change, with a focus on how these sectors serve as catalysts for meaningful societal transformation. I am particularly intrigued by how nonprofits and philanthropic initiatives respond to social challenges, actively shaping and influencing systems of change. Much of my research centers on women's philanthropy and women's grantmaking organizations, analyzing their strategies, priorities, and impact in driving social change and promoting equity. Additionally, I investigate nonprofit grantee partners, social change organizations, and feminist nonprofits to understand their roles in society. My work considers the broader implications of public administration. It ultimately aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how nonprofits and philanthropy operate as agents of progress, informing both academic scholarship and practical approaches to fostering sustainable and equitable social change.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

August 2020 – Present      The Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Memphis

PADM 7642 Resource Development for Nonprofits  
Fall 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025  
Spring 2022  
PADM 7643 Seminar in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Administration  
Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024  
PADM 7646 Philanthropy, Nonprofits, and Social Change (New Prep)  
Fall 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025  
PADM 6228 and 4228, Grant Writing  
Spring 2025  
PADM 4226 Intro to Nonprofits  
Spring 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025  
PADM 0100 Certificate in Fundraising (New Prep)  
Fall 2021, 2022

January 2017 – May 2020      The School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

PA 3500 Nonprofit Organizations and Management  
Spring 2018, 2019, 2020  
Summer 2018

PA 2170 Intro to Public Administration  
Spring 2017  
Summer 2017  
Fall 2017

### **PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

- Gillespie, E.M., Mirabella, R.M., Eikenberry, A.M. (2019). #Metoo/#Aidtoo and creating an intersectional feminist NPO/NGO sector. *Nonprofit Policy Forum*, 10(4). <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/npf-2019-0019/html>
- Gillespie, E.M. (2020). Women's grantmaking for economic security: The work of one coalition. *The Foundation Review*, 12(2). <https://doi.org/10.9707/1944-5660.1518>
- Gillespie, E.M. (2021). Empowerment-focused philanthropy: Bridging feminist theories and organizational practices through U.S. women's funds. *Administrative Theory & Praxis*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10841806.2021.1984103>
- Gillespie, E., and Fletcher, B.J. (2024). Feminism, foundations, and social change: Understanding women's philanthropic nonprofits. *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration*, 2024, 2(2): 103–135. <https://doi.org/10.24926/jsepa.v2i2.5459>
- Gillespie, E., and Schlia, A. Cultivating tomorrow's philanthropists: Girls' philanthropy in girls' schools. *Philanthropy & Education*, 8(2), 1-30. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2979/phe.00013>
- Gillespie, E.M., and Xie, M. (2025). Exploring determinants of philanthropic decision-making among women donors. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nml.70018>

## **OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

- Gillespie, E.M. (2017). Citizen participation and nonprofit organizations. *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, Springer International Publishing.

## **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

- Gillespie, E.M. (2019). *Women's foundations and funds: A landscape study*. Women's Philanthropy Institute, Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Indianapolis, IN. <https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/19244/foundations-funds.pdf>
- Gillespie, E.M. (2019). *Change agents: The goals and impact of women's foundations and funds*. Women's Philanthropy Institute, Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Indianapolis, IN. <https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/21442/change-agents-dec19.pdf>
- Gillespie, E.M. (2023). The women and children's status report for Tennessee and Shelby County: With a special look at women's philanthropy in Shelby County. Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. Memphis, TN. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.26231.50089 <https://www.memphis.edu/padm/documents/ipnl-pdfs/women-childrens-status-report-tn-shelby-county22-23.pdf>

## **NON-REFERRED PUBLICATIONS**

Gillespie, E.M. (2017). Book review: Women's emancipation and civil society organizations. *VOLUNTAS*, 28(3), 1359-1360.

Gillespie, E.M. (2018). Book review: Funding feminism: Monied women, philanthropy, and the women's movement, 1870-1967. *Administrative Theory & Praxis*.

## **UNDER REVIEW**

Understanding nonprofit social change organizations: Toward a typology for grantee Partners.

Co-authors: Joseph A. Hafer, Ph.D., The University of Memphis, Ming Xie, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Whitney Kennedy, MPA

Journal: *Journal of Social Equity & Public Administration*

Submitted for review: October 2025

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Funding and Function: Exploring the Influence of Women's Foundations' Funding in Shaping Nonprofit Operations and Strategies

Co-author: Ming Xie, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Target journal: *NVSQ*

Target date: December 2025

Beyond Traditional Donor Typologies: A Synthesis of Women's Philanthropy Research

Co-author: Ming Xie, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Target Journal: *NML*

Target date: December 2025

The Impact of Policies on Refugee Resettlement Agencies: Navigating Regulatory Challenges and Nonprofit Capacity

Co-researchers: Ming Xie, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Josephine Hazelton-Boyle, Fresno State University

## **NEW RESEARCH IRB APPROVED**

PRO-FY2025-19, Empowering the future of philanthropy: Exploring children's and girls' philanthropy in private schools

Co-researchers: Ming Xie, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Josephine Hazelton-Boyle, Fresno State University

## **GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

2025	\$3,030 Short-Term Fund Development Strategy & Campaign Support, The Shirley Poole Legacy Foundation
2025	\$4,607 Lunch & Learn Series and Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative sponsored by The Joint Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
2023	\$6,500 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Grant for a national study of women donors and grantee partners of women's foundations and funds.
2023	\$1,685 Advocates for Immigrant Rights for a case for support and a fundraising plan.
2023	\$500 College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Grant
2022	\$8,775 The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis for a report on the status of women and children in Tennessee and Shelby County and women's philanthropy
2021	\$5,242 The Assisi Foundation for Certificate in Fundraising continuing education program
2019	\$60,020 The Women's Philanthropy Institute, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Supervisor: Dr. Angela M. Eikenberry
2018	\$34,557 The Women's Philanthropy Institute, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Supervisor: Dr. Angela M. Eikenberry
2018	ARNOVA Conference Doctoral Fellowship
2018	\$5,000 Graduate Research and Creative Activity Grant, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2017	ARNOVA Conference Scholarship and Travel Grant, funded by ARNOVA

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2024  
*Understanding Women's Philanthropic Giving: A Multiple Case Study*
- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2023  
*Toward a typology for nonprofit social change organizations in community-based settings.*  
*Cultivating tomorrow's philanthropists: Girls' philanthropy in girls' schools.*
- Presenter, International Coalition of Girls' Schools Annual Conference, 2022  
*Prosocial behavior in girls' schools: The intersection of philanthropy, education, and gender*
- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2021  
*Empowerment-focused philanthropy: Bridging feminist theories & organizational practices through U.S. women's funds*
- Presenter, ISTR Annual Conference, 2021  
*In the pursuit of change: Understanding social change through the meanings and practices of U.S. philanthropic grantmaking foundations*  
*Career choices in grantmaking organizations: Continuation of right place/right time, or intentional choice?*
- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2019  
*Creating an intersectional feminist NPO/NGO sector: #Metoo and #Aidtoo*  
*Philanthropy, social change, and feminism: Understanding U.S. Women's Foundations and Funds*
- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, Emerging Scholars Research Roundtable, 2018  
*Gender equality and the work of women's foundations*
- Participant, ARNOVA Annual Conference, Doctoral Fellowship Seminar A, 2018  
*Dissertation: Gender equality and the work of women's foundations*
- Presenter, ARNOVA Annual Conference, 2017  
*Economic empowerment for women: The work of women's foundations*
- Presenter, MPAC Annual Conference, 2017  
*Theory and organizational practice: A case study on women's foundations*

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

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|----------------|--|
| October 2025   | Reviewer, <i>Nonprofit Management &amp; Leadership</i> |
| 2025 – present | Board member, Vice President, The Arc-Midsouth         |

2023 – 2025	Board member, The Memphis Challenge
2023 – present	Board member, Academic Women in Public Administration
May 2023	Reviewer, <i>Communication and the Public</i>
Spring 2023	Abstract review for panels, ARNOVA Annual Conference
2022 – present	Gala committee chair, The Arc Midsouth
May 2022	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs</i>
May 2022	Reviewer, <i>Nonprofit Management &amp; Leadership</i>
March 2022	Reviewer, <i>Gender &amp; Society</i>
February 2022	Reviewer, <i>Nonprofit Management &amp; Leadership</i>
January 2022	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs</i>
2021 – present	Course development and instructor of record for the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration and the Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership's continuing education fundraising course Designed for practitioners and fund development staff of Memphis and Shelby County-based nonprofit organizations
May 2021	Reviewer, <i>Frontiers</i>
June 2021	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs</i>
2020 – present	Affiliate faculty, Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
2020 – present	Faculty sponsor, Association of Fundraising Professionals, University of Memphis Colligate Chapter
March 2020	Reviewer, <i>Nonprofit Management &amp; Leadership</i>
April 2019	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Muslim Philanthropy &amp; Civil Society</i>
January 2019	Reviewer, <i>Nonprofit Management &amp; Leadership</i>
November 2018	Panel Chair, ARNOVA Annual Conference
June 2017	Panel Chair, MPAC Annual Conference

November 2017      Panel Chair, ARNOVA Annual Conference

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

2022 – present      Section for Women in Public Administration (SWPA)

2018 – present      American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

2017 – present      Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

### **PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONER EXPERIENCE**

March 2011 – July 2015      Residential Administrator, Link Associates, West Des Moines, IA

Link Associates is a nonprofit organization that provides services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Direct supervision of six residential supervisors and oversight for more than 60 consumers and 80 direct care staff  
Oversight responsibilities for the Residential department

July 2008 – Feb. 2011      Residential Supervisor, Link Associates, Des Moines, IA

Supervised four Home and Community-Based Service residential locations, comprising 11 consumers and 16 direct care staff.