WASHINGTON, DC; October 9, 2013 – The Association of Public Policy and Analysis Management (APPAM) has selected several winners for three distinguished awards: the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management, the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management in Asia, and the Raymond Vernon Memorial Award. These annual awards will be presented to the winners at the Association’s 2013 Fall Research Conference being held in Washington, DC from November 7 through 9.

Sarah Anzia, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, was selected as the winner of the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management Award for her paper entitled *Election Timing and the Political Influence of the Organized*. Anzia is a political scientist who studies American politics with a focus on state and local government, elections, interest groups, political parties, and public policy. She has been published in several journals, including the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, and *American Studies in Political Development*. Anzia received her Ph.D. from Stanford and her M.P.P. from the University of Chicago.

Amit Patel, a postdoctoral research fellow at the George Mason University School of Public Policy, has been selected as the winner of the Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management in Asia. Patel’s dissertation, *Slumulation: Framework to Explore Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Slum Formation in Ahmedabad, India*, explores how slums form and expand, and what types of policy interventions could improve housing conditions for the urban poor. Earlier this year, Patel also received an Honorary Dissertation of the Year Award from NASPAA and the Joseph L. Fisher Doctoral Award from George Mason University. He received his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the Center for Environmental Planning & Technology in India.

*Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Childhood Investments on Postsecondary Degree Attainment and Degree Completion* was selected as the winner of the Raymond Vernon Memorial Award. The Raymond Vernon Memorial Award awards excellence in research and is given to the best research paper published in the current volume of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM)*, APPAM’s flagship journal. The authors of the winning paper are Susan Dynarski, Professor of Education and Public Policy at the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Joshua Hyman, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Ford School; and Diana Whitmore Schanzenbach, Associate Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at the Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research.
The winning article examined what insights could be learned from continued research on policies and experiments from the past, and the merging of old data with newer data. The authors included extensions that enhance the understanding of the effects of early interventions on later outcomes and provided an informal test of the mechanisms through which reduced class size operates on postsecondary attainment. They also provided a comparison of the cost-benefit ratio of reduced class sizes to other interventions designed to increase educational outcomes.