

Samantha Plotner

splotn2@uic.edu

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Public Administration

May 2026

Concentration: Public and Nonprofit Management

University of Illinois at Chicago

Dissertation: Factors Impacting Burnout Among Nonprofit Fundraisers

Masters of Nonprofit Management, with Distinction

August 2019

DePaul University

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Human Rights Studies

May 2013

Barnard College

Academic Appointments

Assistant Teaching Professor, Roosevelt University

August 2026 – present

Teach in the MPA program and affiliated undergraduate programs, advise MPA and undergraduate students, and manage the Nonprofit Management MPA concentration

Publications

Plotner, S. (2024). What Millennials Want from Their Nonprofit Workplaces. *Nonprofit Policy Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/npf-2023-0009>

LeRoux, K., Fayemiro, O., Entenza, J., **Plotner, S.**, & Schlichtman, M. (2024). Where User Perceptions of Charities and Independent Nonprofit Ratings Meet: Inside the Black Box of Nonprofit Performance. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08997640241303922>

LeRoux, K., Langer, J. & **Plotner, S.** (2023). Nonprofit Messaging and the 2020 Election: Findings from a Nonpartisan Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) Field Experiment. *Nonprofit Policy Forum*, 14(2), 157-183. <https://doi.org/10.1515/npf-2021-0062>

Awards

Best 2021 Conference Paper Award, Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action, for “Nonprofit Messaging and the 2020 US Election: Findings from a Nonpartisan GOTV Field Experiment” Kelly LeRoux, Julie Langer, and **Samantha Plotner**.

Conference Presentations

“A Theory of Nonprofit Employee Burnout” **Samantha Plotner**, Paper scheduled to be presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 19-21, 2026

“Task Related Factors Impacting Nonprofit Employee Burnout” **Samantha Plotner**, Paper presented at the Public Management Research Conference, June 4-6, 2026.

“Task Related Factors Impacting Nonprofit Employee Burnout” **Samantha Plotner**, Paper presented at the American Society for Public Administration Conference, March 20-24, 2026.

“Task Related Factors Impacting Nonprofit Employee Burnout” **Samantha Plotner**, Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 20-22, 2025.

“The Relationship Between Burnout, Mission Attachment, and Values Congruence in Nonprofit Fundraisers” **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 21-23, 2024.

“Using Role Play as a Teaching Tool in Nonprofit Management Courses” **Samantha Plotner**. Emerging Research presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 12-23, 2024.

“The Importance of DEIA and Organizational Justice to Millennial Nonprofit Employees” **Samantha Plotner**. Poster presented at the 2024 Social Equity Leadership Conference, June 20-22, 2024.

“Factors Impacting the Adoption of Program-Related Investments by Private Foundations” **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 16-18, 2023

“What Millennials Want in Nonprofit Workplaces” **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 17-19, 2022.

“In the Eye of the (Nonprofit) Beholder: Comparing User Perceptions of Charity Performance with Expert Ratings” Kelly LeRoux, Omowonuola Fayemiro, Jeannie Fox, **Samantha Plotner**, and Monique Schlichtman. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 17-19, 2022.

“What Millennials Want in Nonprofit Workplaces” **Samantha Plotner**. Research article presented at the 2022 Symposium on Public Policy for Nonprofits, October 14, 2022.

“Nonprofit Messaging and the 2020 US Election: Findings from a Nonpartisan GOTV Field Experiment” Kelly LeRoux, Julie Langer, and **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the International Society for Third-Sector Research Conference, July 12-15, 2022.

“Nonprofit Workforce Exit and Sector Switching by Millennials” **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 7-10, 2022.

“Nonprofit Messaging and the 2020 US Election: Findings from a Nonpartisan GOTV Field Experiment” Kelly LeRoux, Julie Langer, and **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 18-20, 2021.

“Social Media as Survival Tool: How Nonprofits Utilized Facebook to Secure Resources During the Pandemic” Monique Schlichtman, **Samantha Plotner**, and Omowonuola Fayemiro. Poster presented at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 18-20, 2021.

“Nonprofit Messaging and the 2020 US Election: Findings from a Nonpartisan GOTV Field Experiment” Kelly LeRoux, Julie Langer, and **Samantha Plotner**. Paper presented at the European Group for Public Administration Conference, September 7-10, 2021.

Invited Talks

Findings from a Get-Out-The-Vote Field Experiment, Kelly LeRoux, Julie Langer, and **Samantha Plotner**, hosted by *Nonprofit Policy Forum*, October 4, 2022.

Workshops and Symposia

Facilitator, Organizational Culture as Burnout Prevention, Scheduled for Independent Sector’s National Summit, October 14-16, 2026.

Organizer and Chair, Beyond the Syllabus: Strategies for Student Engagement and Inclusive Teaching, Symposium at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Conference, November 20-22, 2025.

Facilitator, What Millennials Want from Nonprofit Workplaces, Workshop held during AFP Advancement Northwest 2025 Annual Conference, June 13, 2025.

Facilitator, Balancing the Work: Time and Task Management for TAs, Workshop for UIC Teaching Assistant Training, August 2024

Facilitator, Working Effectively with Faculty, Workshop for UIC Teaching Assistant Training, August 2022 and 2023

Service to Professional Associations

Professional Development Co-Chair
Teaching Section, ARNOVA

January 2025-present

Committee Member, 2026 Best Poster Committee
ARNOVA 2026

September 2026-present

Conference Track Co-Chair
Philanthropy, Fundraising, and Giving, ARNOVA 2026

May 2026

Committee Member, 2025 Best Book Award Committee
PNP Division, AOM

December 2024-May 2025

Service to the University

Faculty Sponsor, Model Illinois Government August 2026-present
Roosevelt University

Courses Taught

Roosevelt University

PADM 400, Public Service in the United States

Fall 2026

PADM 408/POS 390, Political Advocacy for Nonprofits

Fall 2026

PADM 419, Strategic Planning for Public Administration

Fall 2026

University of Illinois, Chicago

PPOL 330, Introduction to Managing Public and Nonprofit Organizations

Spring 2026, Fall 2024

PPOL 430, Fundraising and Development for Nonprofit Organizations

Fall 2025, Spring 2024

PA 521, Strategic Management: Planning and Measurement

Summer 2025

Research Positions

Research Assistant

August 2021- May 2023

Assistant to Dr. Federica Fusi and Dr. Jiaqi Liang for survey project examining state-level open data and environmental justice.

Research Assistant

August 2020-May 2021

Assistant to Dr. Kelly LeRoux for voter mobilization field experiments conducted in November 2020 and April 2021.

Teaching Assistant Positions

PPOL 100, Individual Action and Democratic Citizenship

Spring 2023

PPOL 230, Nonprofit Organizations in U.S. Society

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Yang-Clayton

PA 434, Data Analytics

Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Federica Fusi

PPOL 307, Policy Analysis

Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Augustina Laurito

PA 401, Foundations of Public Service

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Jiaqi Liang

Professional Development

2025 ARNOVA Doctoral Fellow

November 2025

Inclusive Education Scholars Certificate Program

Fall 2024

Academy of Management PNP Division Doctoral Consortium

August 2024

Certificate in the Foundations of College Instruction

May 2023

Relevant Professional Experience

Associate Director, Managed Organizations

July 2022- March 2023

Program Manager, Managed Organizations

January 2021-July 2022

Arabella Advisors

Contributed to a range of learning and development initiatives on the Managed Organizations team including creating and managing coaching programs for junior and mid-level new hires, creating and implementing a training program for recently promoted and recently hired mid-level account managers, and designing several new onboarding sessions for new hires

Program Associate, Managed Organizations

June 2018-June 2020

Arabella Advisors

Managed the financial, compliance, and other operational needs of some of the firm's highest-profile and most complex nonprofit projects