



IU BLOOMINGTON

# EMERGING AREAS OF RESEARCH

## Abstract Template -- Due June 30, 2017

Title of initiative to be proposed:

Manufacturing Policy Initiative

Name of lead PI, with title, department/school:

Sanya Carley, Associate Professor, School of Public & Environmental Affairs

Key team member names and departments/schools (up to 10 names):

David Audretsch, Sanya Carley, Sameeksha Desai, Denvil Duncan, John D. Graham, Bradley Heim, David Konisky, Kerry Krutilla, Justin Ross, John Rupp  
School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Description of area to be proposed. What constitutes this area of research or creative activity as emerging?  
(Word limit=500)

The wellbeing of the manufacturing sector is crucial to the future of the State of Indiana and the United States. In 1792 Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton observed that: "Not only the wealth, but the independence and security of a country, appear to be connected to the prosperity of manufacturers." In the last ten years, both Indiana and the US have lost a substantial number of jobs in the manufacturing sector. Nonetheless, Indiana has the highest manufacturing employment share in the nation, while the US continues to rank as one of the largest manufacturing countries in the world. There is also some recent evidence of a renaissance in US manufacturing, driven by factors such as innovation, low energy prices, and a relatively favorable regulatory environment. This emerging area of research will investigate steps that federal, state and local policy makers can take to strengthen the manufacturing sector in Indiana and the United States.

SPEA launched the Manufacturing Policy Initiative (MPI) (<https://spea.indiana.edu/mpp/home.html>) in 2015 as a source of objective information for policy makers and stakeholders interested in US manufacturing. MPI is the first and only university program in the country dedicated to studying public policy issues related to the future of US manufacturing. An external advisory committee has been established to identify issues and assist in fundraising for the Initiative. Priority issues include growth in employment and earnings, workforce education and training, international trade and globalization, productivity and innovation, advanced/sustainable manufacturing, national security, tax policy, and regulatory reform. Projects under this Initiative will have significant external funding potential, as projects related to this initiative have already started to attract support from the private sector (e.g., applied studies of regulatory issues in the automotive and chemicals industries as well as dissertations on unconventional methods of oil and natural gas development). Potential sources of government support include the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The State of Indiana has already provided seed funds to help launch the MPI.

The primary operational objectives of this initiative are to: 1) organize a multidisciplinary team of faculty, fellows, and students at IUB to focus on the study of manufacturing and public policy; 2) establish the MPI as the go-to source of national expertise and information on U.S. manufacturing policy; and 3) transform the MPI into a sustainable university Center for long-term activity as well as near-term projects.

To supplement SPEA's existing expertise on this emerging issue, this proposal calls for recruitment of three new sources of faculty expertise on the Bloomington campus: one (likely in collaboration with Economics or Kelley) on international trade policy, one (likely in collaboration with Informatics) on engineering and sustainable/advanced manufacturing, and one (likely in SPEA) on energy and environmental policy. SPEA has already hired a full-time staff director to lead the MPI and has raised significant philanthropic support to assist in the startup.

Please submit to [earprogram@indiana.edu](mailto:earprogram@indiana.edu)