

**Bios of Presenters**  
**Connecticut Tax Study Panel Sept 16, 2015**

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**Manisha Srivastava**  
**Topic: The Connecticut Economy**

Manisha Srivastava is a budget analyst and economist in the Budget and Financial Management Division of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM). She works in the Economics, Capital, and Revenue Forecasting unit, where she is responsible for forecasting and analysis of several General Fund revenues including Sales tax and Indian Gaming Payments. Prior to her tenure at OPM, Manisha worked as an Economist at the Connecticut Department of Labor, where she specialized in research on the long-term unemployed, gender wage gap, and business employment dynamics. Manisha earned a BS degree in Computer Science from Rutgers University. She went on to work in the financial and public sectors as a programmer and business analyst before returning to graduate school. Manisha holds dual Masters Degrees in Economics and Public Administration from the University of Connecticut.

**Matthew Pellowski**  
**Topic: Revenue Overview**

Matthew Pellowski is a budget analyst in the Budget and Financial Management Division of the Office of Policy and Management. He works in the Economics, Capital, and Revenue Forecasting unit, where he is responsible for forecasting and analysis of several General Fund taxes, including corporation, insurance, health provider, and miscellaneous taxes. He received an A.S. in Human Services from Three Rivers Community College, a B.A. in Political Science *summa cum laude* from the University of Connecticut, and an M.P.A. from the University of Connecticut. Prior to his tenure at OPM, he served as an economic and fiscal policy analyst for the Delaware Department of Finance.

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**Bo Zhao**  
**Topic: Measuring Connecticut Local Fiscal Disparities**

Bo Zhao is a Senior Economist in the New England Public Policy Center (NEPPC) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He specializes in urban and regional economics and public economics. His research interests currently focus on state and local public finance, housing markets, and fair housing and lending.

Mr. Zhao served on the Municipal Aid Subcommittee of the Municipal Finance Task Force between 2006 and 2007. He was selected by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as one of 20 young scholars nationwide to participate in the 2005 Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *National Tax Journal* and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. He has made presentation at various academic meetings, including the National Tax Association's annual conferences and the APPAM annual research conference. Mr. Zhao earned a Ph.D. in economics and an M.S. in applied statistics from Syracuse University.

**Darcy Saas**  
**Deputy Director, NEPPC**  
**(Accompanying Bo Zhao)**

Darcy Saas is Deputy Director of the New England Public Policy Center responsible for assisting in the Development and Management of the Center's organizational and communications strategy. Darcy has written on subjects ranging from regional housing policy to the costs and benefits of film tax credits in New England. She previously worked at the Maine Development Foundation, where she was an analyst for the state's annual economic indicators report and managed a community economic development program. Darcy holds a Masters in Public Policy from Tufts University and a BA in political science from Colgate University.