

## MAARJA SOO

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### EDUCATION

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA) PhD program in Public Policy. Specialization: Higher Education Policy Dissertation: <i>The effect of performance-based funding on universities' behavior: Australian experience.</i> Chair: David D. Dill	8/2002-(5/2007)
University of Tartu (Estonia), MA in Public Administration	8/1997-12/2000
University of Oxford (UK), Certificate in Graduate Studies in Political Philosophy	8/1996-5/1997
University of Tartu (Estonia), BA in Political Science	9/1992-6/1996

### Other

CHEPS International Summer School in Higher Education. Organized by the Center of Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) at the University of Twente. Maribor (Slovenia), 07/2003.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Public Policy for Academic Quality research program, UNC-CH. Research associate.	2002-present
The World Bank. Short term consultant.	1-5 /2005
PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies (Estonia). Founding member and vice director.	2000-2002
Open Estonia Foundation. Director of the Public Policy Program.	1999-2000

### PUBLICATIONS

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Dill, David and **Maarja Soo** (2004) "Transparency and quality in higher education markets". In *Markets on Higher Education – Mature Economies*, D. Dill, B. Jongbloed, P. Teixeira (eds). Higher Education Dynamics Douro Series. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Dill, David and **Maarja Soo** (2005) "Academic quality, league tables and public policy: A cross-national analysis of university ranking systems." *Higher Education* 49(4): 495-537.

**Soo, Maarja** and Kristian Thorn (forthcoming) "Universities in the national innovation system: Challenges and Policy Trends in Latin America." *The World Bank Working Paper No.* Washington, DC: The World Bank.

Thorn, Kristian, Lauritz Holm-Nielsen, Daniel Hummel and **Maarja Soo** (2005) *Science & Technology in Latin American: Policy options and lessons learned*. The World Bank mimeo. [Considered for publishing in *The World Bank Working Paper* series]

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- "Financial incentives in multi-level organizations: The effect of performance-based funding on Australian universities." Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management (**APPAM**) annual conference. 11/04/2006, Madison, Wisconsin.
- "Making temporary inequalities permanent? The effect of regional and socio-economic factors on tertiary education decisions in Estonia". Presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual **AABS** (Associations for the Advancement of Baltic Studies) conference. 06/16/2006, Washington, DC.
- "The effect of higher education expansion on the private rate of return: evidence from selected OECD countries". Presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **CHER** conference. 9/19/2004, Enschede.
- "Is there a global definition of academic quality? A cross-national analysis of university ranking systems". Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management (**APPAM**) annual conference. 11/08/2003, Washington, DC (with D.D. Dill).
- "A league table of league tables: a cross-national analysis of university ranking systems". Presentation at the **INQUAAHE** annual conference. 04/17/2003, Dublin (with D.D. Dill).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Instructor*

- Introduction to Policy Analysis (spring 2006 and fall 2006), UNC.  
 Policy-making Process (spring 2002), University of Tartu.  
 Introduction to the State Philosophy (co-teaching, 1/2) (fall 1998), University of Tartu.

### *Thesis advisor*

- "Educational inequality trends in the secondary education in Estonia: evidence from qualification exams 1998-2004" (MA thesis); "The role of think-tanks in the policy making process" (BA thesis); "Ministerial Chancellor as a public servant of political nature: a critique of traditional dichotomy of policy and administration." (BA thesis).  
*(All at the University of Tartu.)*

### *Teaching assistant*

- Freshman seminar "The Crisis of the University: Academic Values and Policy Choice" (fall 2005, UNC-CH); Introduction to Policy Analysis (spring 2005, UNC); Public Ethics (spring 1997, University of Tartu); Political Philosophy (fall 1997, University of Tartu).

## SKILLS

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- Languages:** Estonian (native), English (excellent), German (good reading skill), Russian (good reading skill), French (basic reading skill)
- Statistical skills:** *STATA*, *SAS*, *LISREL*  
 Econometrics (Linear models, categorical data analysis, structural equations, panel data)

## GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

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| Doctoral Research Travel Award, University Center for International Studies. | 6/2005    |
| Future Faculty Fellowship, Center for Teaching and Learning, UNC.            | 5/2005    |
| Scholars for Tomorrow Fellowship, UNC.                                       | 2002/2003 |
| EuroFaculty scholarship in Public Administration, University of Tartu.       | 1998/1999 |
| OSI/FCO Chevening Oxford University Scholarship.                             | 1996/1997 |
| College of Art's and Sciences Dean's List, Western Michigan University.      | 1994/1995 |
| USIA and NAFSA Baltic/East Central European Assistance Award.                | 1994/1995 |