

Jennifer WALLNER is an Associate professor at the School of Political Studies in the Public Administration program.

Professor Wallner specializes in public policy.

Research Interests:

- Policy formulation
- Comparative federalism (Canada, Australia and the United States)
- Social policy, education policy, equalization in federations
- Intergovernmental relations
- Policy Instruments
- Historical and sociological institutionalism
- Symbols and ideas in public policy

Using a comparative perspective, Professor Wallner's research focuses on the politics and processes of policymaking in such areas as social policy, education policy, and the architecture of fiscal federalism in Canada, Australia and the United States.

She is interested in the establishment and evolution of policy systems in federations. More specifically, the division of powers creates a series of meaningful opportunities and challenges for policy actors. On the one hand, given the division of powers, the constituent members of a federation have a capacity to establish their own policy systems that are tailored to the unique needs of their respective populations. On the other hand, policy makers need to find strategies to formulate policy systems that are comparable, despite the division of powers. Here is where you find the crucial tension in all federations that anchors my research.

To explain and develop a clear and precise understanding, she uses a pragmatic theoretical approach that considers the interactive effects of ideas and institutions.