Dr. Anna Justine Markowitz is the recipient of the 2017 Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences for her dissertation, “The Role of School Engagement and Educational Policy in the Development of Socio-Emotional Skills,” which she defended in 2016. Dr. Markowitz completed her Ph.D. in Psychology, with a joint Master’s in Public Policy, under the mentorship of Professor Rebecca Ryan.

Dr. Markowitz’s dissertation explores the causes and consequences of students’ emotional engagement with school—that is, their sense of connection to or liking of—in promoting their social and emotional development. Using highly sophisticated econometric statistical methods, Dr. Markowitz was able to demonstrate how school contexts and education policy—such as No Child Left Behind—affect key student outcomes, answering questions of critical importance not only to the educational and developmental sciences, but also policymakers and practitioners alike. Her mentor, Dr. Ryan states that Dr. Markowitz “has written the definitive social scientific inquiry into school engagement and its link to educational policy and student wellbeing.”

Dr. Markowitz is a postdoctoral fellow at EdPolicyWorks at the University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education. She has nine peer-reviewed publications, a tenth in press, and four under review. Her dissertation research was made possible with funding from the prestigious Elizabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Graduate Student Fellowship from the American Psychological Association and a Dissertation Funding award from the Society for Research in Child Development.

The Graduate School is very proud to award Dr. Anna Markowitz the Glassman Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences.