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Dr. Rayna Stoycheva is an experienced policy researcher and faculty in public administration and policy. She joined The Harkin Institute in 2021, motivated by the opportunity to contribute to public policy making through high-quality policy analysis and citizen engagement in the policy process. Dr. Stoycheva is interested in improving the social safety net through policy design and financial management. As the Director of Retirement Security Policy, she is responsible for research on public and private retirement programs, retirement savings access and adequacy, financial literacy, and pension wealth inequality.

Prior to joining The Harkin Institute, Dr. Stoycheva was a faculty member at the University of Miami, where she taught courses in policy analysis, public finance, health economics, microeconomics, and statistics. Her publications include articles and book chapters on pensions, state and local public finance, and the financial management of international organizations. Dr. Stoycheva received her Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Economics from the American University in Bulgaria, and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Ohio University. She received a joint PhD in Public Policy, with a concentration in Public Finance, from Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology. She loves travelling and being outdoors with her family, gardening, all forms of art, and reading.