Russell Wald leads the policy team at the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI) that advances the organization’s engagement with U.S. and international governments and civil society organizations. In this leadership capacity, Wald sets the strategic vision for policy research, education, and outreach at HAI, and directs a dynamic team to equip policymakers with the knowledge and resources to take informed and meaningful actions on advancing AI with ethical and human-centered values.


Wald has held various policy program and government relations positions at Stanford University for nearly a decade. He also served as special assistant to Amy Zegart and Ashton Carter at Stanford’s Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). In 2014, he co-designed and led the inaugural Stanford congressional boot camp, and has since created numerous tech policy boot camps, establishing a strong and effective tradition of educating policymakers at Stanford and enhancing the collaboration between governments and academic institutions.

Prior to his work at Stanford, he held numerous roles with the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. He is a Term Member with the Council on Foreign Relations, Visiting Fellow with the National Security Institute at George Mason University, and a Partner with the Truman National Security Project. Wald is a graduate of UCLA.