FACULTY EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Summer 2018

More than 200 University of Massachusetts Amherst faculty members are available for media inquiries about the subjects of their expertise.

This list is sorted by general topic. Click on an expert’s name to go to the faculty member’s biography page. For phone or email interviews, please feel free to contact the faculty expert directly.

For broadcast interviews, or to request an expert in a subject not listed in this briefing book, please contact Jared Sharpe of the Office of News & Media Relations at jsharpe@umass.edu or 413-545-38099 (office) / 617-285-3899 (mobile).

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University of Massachusetts Amherst Office of News & Media Relations
Main contact: 413-545-0444 / scoop@admin.umass.edu
www.umass.edu/newsoffice
Twitter: @UMassNews / @UMassScience
TOPIC & ISSUE LIST

*** You can click on the TOPIC HEADER to jump directly to that section ***

DOMESTIC POLITICS

2018 Senate, House and Governor races
Inter-party squabbling & possible primary challenges
The presidency and the possibility of removal from office
The roles and power of cabinet secretaries within the executive branch
Potential SCOTUS changes (retirements, nominations, etc.)
Criminal justice reform
Tax reform
International trade agreements
Healthcare reform
Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation
Election hacking
International influence on American elections and government
The “rules of decorum” past presidents follow regarding current political issues
Impact of actual “fake news” & Russian agitprop on social media
Potential electoral impact of Puerto Rican migration to the US mainland
The rise of white nationalism and the threat of domestic terror
Immigration policy
Race & ethnicity in American politics and society
Rural issues in the American “heartland”
Evolution of local politics in the face of a rise in social media and decline in local media

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

North Korea, South Korea, China & Japan
Middle East relations
The impact civil wars and strife are having on antiquities, archaeology and classic architecture in Middle East & North African countries
Everything Russia (government, oligarchy, intelligence agencies, human rights, etc.)
UK, EU & Brexit
International trade agreements
Paris climate accord
The potential for nuclear proliferation / war
The U.S.’ role in NATO, the U.N., and its relationship with traditional allies
The continuing fight against terrorism, ISIS and al Qaeda
Civil wars, genocides and refugee migration (Syria, Sudan, Chad, Myanmar, etc.)
Revitalization of endangered languages
Emerging democracies and the democratic process
Warfare, drones and autonomous weaponry

ECONOMICS

Federal reserve monetary policy and interest rate adjustments
Unemployment rates & economic indicators
Tax policy & revisions
Healthcare reform (economic)
Unemployment rates
Minimum wage and the “Fight for $15”
Income inequality
The economic impact of clean energy and sustainability initiatives

BUSINESS/FINANCE

Brick and mortar survival strategies
Further advancements in manufacturing automation
Impact of robotics and self-driving trucks on supply chain operations
Corporate tax policy & revisions
Reevaluating the role of HR in light of growing accusations of sexual harassment and assault
Trends in hospitality and tourism
Nonprofit management & social enterprises

CONSUMER ISSUES

Marketing in the age of social media and the decline of traditional media
The future of journalism and trust in media

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation
Lasting environmental health issues linked to hurricane damage (Houston & Puerto Rico)
Climate change as a factor in recent natural disasters (hurricanes, wildfires, etc.)
Public planning for future environmental issues (flooding, drought, wildfires, etc.)
Clean energy initiatives
Attempted resuscitation of coal industry
Opening of public lands for natural resource extraction
Automobile emissions and impact of self-driving cars & trucks
How farmers and agribusinesses are adapting to climate change
Impact of climate change on wildlife
Defunding national parks
Issues facing fisheries (marine and freshwater)

EQUALITY & CIVIL RIGHTS

Voter disenfranchisement in minority communities
Community protests over police practices
NFL protests
LGBTQ rights and legal protections
Gender equality in the workplace
Confederate memorials & protests
Sexual harassment and assault by men in positions of power
Refugee migration to the U.S. & general immigration policy
Human Trafficking

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued evolution of robotics, AI, and self-driving vehicles
Cybersecurity (organizational & personal)
Improvements in “smart” electrical grids
“Smart” cities, transportation networking and mobility
Self-driving vehicles and human driving behavior
Continued evolution of robotics and drones
Technologies for renewable fuels and chemicals
The future of computing (mobile, desktop and organizational / networked)

HEALTH, WELLNESS & NUTRITION

Healthcare reform attempts (consumer)
Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation
Lasting health issues linked to hurricane damage in Houston & Puerto Rico
Climate change as a factor in respiratory illnesses (allergies, asthma, etc.)
Flu – forecasting, prevention, vaccines and epidemics
Impact of social media on psychological and physical well being
Food safety, and foodborne illnesses and recalls
Impact the current political climate has had on stress & psychological health
Telemedicine, virtual appointments & consultations
Aging Baby Boomers and the growing need for geriatric care
Athletes’ training regimens & nutritional planning
Impact of self-driving cars & trucks on emission/pollutant levels & public health
Potential health impacts of a rejuvenated coal industry & coal-fired power plants
Opioid addiction
The future of the nursing profession, and projected growth in the industry
Aging Baby Boomers and the growing need for geriatric care

EDUCATION

Dept. of Education changes to guidelines, rules and regulations
Classroom practices and the changing parent/teacher relationship
Standardized testing and teacher evaluation standards
Home schooling
Textbook & curriculum guidelines

SPORTS BUSINESS

General sports finance
The financial impact of the Winter Olympics & World Cup
Stadium financing and sport-anchored urban redevelopment
Impact of political & social protests on the business of sports
Viewership/revenue trends for various pro sports
Sports law & labor issues
Race, gender and inclusion in sports
Sports marketing & athlete endorsements
DOMESTIC POLITICS

2018 Senate, House and Governor races

Gerald Friedman  
Professor of Economics  
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Brian Schaffner  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-0416 / schaffne@polsci.umass.edu

Inter-party squabbling & possible primary challenges

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

The presidency and the possibility of removal from office

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Paul Musgrave  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

Jesse Rhodes  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6185 / jrhodes@polsci.umass.edu

The roles and power of cabinet secretaries within the executive branch

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Paul Musgrave  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu
Potential SCOTUS changes (retirements, nominations, etc.)

Paul M. Collins, Jr.
Professor of Legal Studies and Director of Legal Studies
413-545-4079 / pmcollins@legal.umass.edu

Sheldon Goldman
Distinguished Professor of Political Science
413-545-6179 / sheldon.goldman@polsci.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Doug Rice
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies
drrice@legal.umass.edu

Kathryne Young
Assistant Professor of Sociology
young@umass.edu

Criminal justice reform

Jamie Rowen
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies
jrowen@legal.umass.edu

Kathryne Young
Assistant Professor of Sociology
young@umass.edu

Tax reform

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Epstein
Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute
413-577-0822 / gepstein@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu
Paul Knudson  
Lecturer of Sociology  
pknudson@soc.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

International trade agreements

Gerald Friedman  
Professor of Economics  
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Healthcare reform (political)

Gerald Friedman  
Professor of Economics  
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation

Michael Ash  
Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Mark Hamin  
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Election hacking

Raymond La Raja  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu
International influence on American elections and government

Raymond La Raja
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

The “rules of decorum” past presidents follow regarding current political issues

Raymond La Raja
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

Impact of actual “fake news” & Russian agitprop on social media

James Allan
Professor & Chair of the Faculty of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-2742 / allan@cs.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

Jonathan Corpus Ong
Associate Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / jcong@umass.edu

Erica Scharrer
Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / scharrer@comm.umass.edu

Weiai (Wayne) Xu
Assistant Professor of Communication
413-545-3519 / weiaixu@umass.edu
Potential electoral impact of Puerto Rican migration to the US mainland

**Raymond La Raja**  
Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu

The rise of white nationalism and the threat of domestic terror

**Whitney Battle-Baptiste**  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Immigration policy

**Whitney Battle-Baptiste**  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

**Gerald Friedman**  
Professor of Economics  
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

**Rebecca Hamlin**  
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
rhamlin@legal.umass.edu

**C.N. Le**  
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
cnle@umass.edu

**David Mednicoff**  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies  
413-545-3536 / mednic@pubpol.umass.edu

**Jamie Rowen**  
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
jrowen@legal.umass.edu
Race & ethnicity in American politics and society

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Seth K. Goldman
Honors Assistant Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / skgoldman@comm.umass.edu

C.N. Le
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies
cnle@umass.edu

Joya Misra
Professor of Sociology and Public Policy
misra@soc.umass.edu

Tatishe M. Nteta
Associate Professor of Political Science
413-545-3546 / nteta@polsci.umass.edu

Shaheen Pasha
Assistant Professor of Journalism
413-545-1366 / spasha@journ.umass.edu

Razvan Sibii
Senior Lecturer of Journalism
413-545-5926 / razvan@comm.umass.edu

Rural issues in the American “heartland”

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Mark Hamin
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Raymond La Raja
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6182 / laraja@polsci.umass.edu
Evolution of local politics in the face of a rise in social media and decline in local media

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Mark Hamin
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Jonathan Corpus Ong
Associate Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / jcong@umass.edu

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(return to topic list)

North Korea, South Korea, China & Japan

C.N. Le
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies
cnle@umass.edu

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

Middle East relations

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

Shaheen Pasha
Assistant Professor of Journalism
413-545-1366 / spasha@journ.umass.edu
The impact civil wars and strife are having on antiquities, archaeology and classic architecture in Middle East & North African countries

Walter Denny
University Distinguished Professor of Islamic, Museum Studies, Orientalism
wbdenny@umass.edu

Laetitia La Follette
Associate Professor of Ancient Art and Archaeology, Art History and Cybertechnology
413-545-0634 / laelaf@umass.edu

Everything Russia (government, oligarchy, intelligence agencies, human rights, etc.)

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

UK, EU & Brexit

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

International trade agreements

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Paul Knudson
Lecturer of Sociology
pknudson@soc.umass.edu

Paris climate accord

Peter M. Haas
Professor of Political Science
haas@polsci.umass.edu

Mark Hamin
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu
The potential for nuclear proliferation / war

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

The U.S.’ role in NATO, the U.N., and its relationship with traditional allies (Canada, UK, etc.)

Paul Musgrave
Assistant Professor of Political Science
musgrave@polsci.umass.edu

The continuing fight against terrorism, ISIS and al Qaeda

David Mednicoff
Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies
413-545-3536 / mednic@pubpol.umass.edu

Civil wars, genocides and refugee migration (Syria, Sudan, Chad, Myanmar, etc.)

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Rebecca Hamlin
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies
rhamlin@legal.umass.edu

C.N. Le
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies
cnle@umass.edu

David Mednicoff
Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies
413-545-3536 / mednic@pubpol.umass.edu

Jamie Rowen
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies
jrowen@legal.umass.edu

Revitalization of endangered languages

Alice Harris
Professor of Linguistics
413-577-0938 / acharris@linguist.umass.edu
Emerging democracies and the democratic process

Amel Ahmed
Associate Professor of Political Science
aahmed@polsci.umass.edu

Warfare, drones and autonomous weaponry

Charli Carpenter
Professor of Political Science
413-545-6245 / charli@polsci.umass.edu

Federal reserve monetary policy and interest rate adjustments

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Economic indicators

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Epstein
Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute
413-577-0822 / gepstein@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Robert Nakosteen
Professor of Operations & Information Management
413-545-5687 / nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu
Tax policy & revisions

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Epstein
Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute
413-577-0822 / gepstein@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Sean Wandrei
Lecturer of Accounting
413-545-4422 / swandrei@isenberg.umass.edu

Healthcare reform (economic)

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Unemployment rates

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Robert Nakosteen
Professor of Operations & Information Management
413-545-5687 / nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu
Ofer Sharone
Assistant Professor of Sociology
osharone@soc.umass.edu

Minimum wage and the “Fight for $15”

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Arindrajit Dube
Associate Professor
413-545-2012 / adube@econs.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Paul Knudson
Lecturer of Sociology
pknudson@soc.umass.edu

Joya Misra
Professor of Sociology and Public Policy
misra@soc.umass.edu

Robert Pollin
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute
413-577-0819 / pollin@econs.umass.edu

Income inequality

Michael Ash
Professor of Economics
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Gerald Friedman
Professor of Economics
gfriedma@econs.umass.edu

Paul Knudson
Lecturer of Sociology
pknudson@soc.umass.edu
Toussaint Losier  
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / tlosier@umass.edu

Joya Misra  
Professor of Sociology and Public Policy  
misra@soc.umass.edu

Traci Parker  
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / traciparker@afroam.umass.edu

Jessica Pearlman  
Research Methodologist at the Institute for Social Science Research  
413-545-0746 / jpearlman@issr.umass.edu

Robert Pollin  
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute  
413-577-0819 / pollin@econs.umass.edu

Svati Shah  
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
svatipshah@wost.umass.edu

Kathryne Young  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
young@umass.edu

The economic impact of clean energy and sustainability initiatives

Michael Ash  
Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Mark Hamin  
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Robert Pollin  
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute  
413-577-0819 / pollin@econs.umass.edu
Brick and mortar survival strategies

Bruce Skaggs
Professor Management
413-545-5684 / bskaggs@isenberg.umass.edu

Further advancements in manufacturing automation

Donald F. Towsley
Distinguished University Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-0207 / towsley@cs.umass.edu

Impact of robotics and self-driving trucks on supply chain operations

Ahmed Ghoniem
Associate Professor of Operations & Information Management
413-545-3927 / aghoniem@isenberg.umass.edu

Senay Solak
Associate Professor of Operations & Information Management
413-545-5681 / solak@isenberg.umass.edu

Corporate tax policy & revisions

Sean Wandrei
Lecturer of Accounting
413-545-4422 / swandrei@isenberg.umass.edu

Reevaluating the role of HR in light of growing accusations of sexual harassment and assault against men in positions of power

Tiffany Trzebiatowski
Assistant Professor of Management
ttrzebiatowski@isenberg.umass.edu

Trends in hospitality and tourism

Melissa Baker
Assistant Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management
413-545-0572 / mbaker@isenberg.umass.edu
Muzzo Uysal
Professor and Department Chair of Hospitality & Tourism Management
413-545-2061 / muysal@isenberg.umass.edu

Rod Warnick
Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management
413-545-6629 / warnick@isenberg.umass.edu

Nonprofit management & social enterprises

Elizabeth Schmidt
Professor of Practice in Public Policy
413-577-2396 / eschmidt@pubpol.umass.edu

CONSUMER ISSUES
(return to topic list)

Marketing in the age of social media and the decline of traditional media

Jonathan Corpus Ong
Associate Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / icong@umass.edu

Emily West
Associate Professor of Communication
413-545-6345 / ewest@comm.umass.edu

The future of journalism and trust in media

Jonathan Corpus Ong
Associate Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / icong@umass.edu

Shaheen Pasha
Assistant Professor of Journalism
413-545-1366 / spasha@journ.umass.edu

Erica Scharrer
Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / scharrer@comm.umass.edu

Razvan Sibii
Senior Lecturer of Journalism
413-545-5926 / razvan@comm.umass.edu
Rodrigo Zamith  
Assistant Professor of Journalism  
rzamith@journ.umass.edu

ENVIRONMENT
(return to topic list)

Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation

Kathleen Arcaro  
Professor of Environmental Toxicology  
413-577-1823 / kcararo@umass.edu

Michael Ash  
Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu

Nathan Chan  
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics  
nchan@umass.edu

John Marshall Clark  
Professor of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry  
Director of the Massachusetts Pesticide Analysis Laboratory  
413-545-1052 / jclark@vasci.umass.edu

Mark Hamin  
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Scott Jackson  
Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4743 / sjackson@umass.edu

Anita Milman  
Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-3749 / amilman@eco.umass.edu

Eve Vogel  
Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
413-545-0778 / evevogel@geo.umass.edu

Thomas Zoeller  
Professor of Biology  
413-545-2088 / tzoeller@bio.umass.edu
Lasting environmental health issues linked to hurricane damage in Houston & Puerto Rico

Kathleen Arcaro  
Professor of Environmental Toxicology  
413-577-1823 / karcaro@umass.edu

John Marshall Clark  
Professor of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry  
Director of the Massachusetts Pesticide Analysis Laboratory  
413-545-1052 / jclark@vasci.umass.edu

Climate change as a factor in recent natural disasters (hurricanes, wildfires, etc.)

Paul Barten  
Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4853 / pkbarten@eco.umass.edu

Paul Catanzaro  
Extension Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4839 / cat@umext.umass.edu

Joseph Elkinton  
Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4816 / elkinton@ent.umass.edu

Curt Griffin  
Professor and Department Head of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-2640 / cgriffin@eco.umass.edu

Randy Prostak  
Extension Specialist of Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry  
413-577-1738 / rprostak@umass.edu

Jon Woodruff  
Associate Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-3831 / woodruff@geo.umass.edu

Public planning for future environmental issues (flooding, drought, wildfires, etc.)

Elisabeth Hamin  
Professor of Regional Planning  
413-577-4490 / emhamin@larp.umass.edu

Mark Hamin  
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu
Christine Hatch  
Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-2245 / chatch@geo.umass.edu

Scott Jackson  
Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4743 / sjackson@umass.edu

Ezra Markowitz  
Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-1237 / emarkowitz@eco.umass.edu

Anita Milman  
Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-3749 / amilman@eco.umass.edu

Eve Vogel  
Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
413-545-0778 / evevogel@geo.umass.edu

Jon Woodruff  
Associate Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-3831 / woodruff@geo.umass.edu

Thomas Zoeller  
Professor of Biology  
413-545-2088 / tzoeller@bio.umass.edu

Clean energy initiatives

Nathan Chan  
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics  
nchan@umass.edu

Mark Hamin  
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Robert Pollin  
Distinguished Professor of Economics & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute  
413-577-0819 / pollin@econs.umass.edu

Attempted resuscitation of coal industry

Michael Ash  
Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / mash@econs.umass.edu
Opening of public lands for natural resource extraction

Nathan Chan
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics
nchan@umass.edu

Automobile emissions and impact of self-driving cars & trucks

Donal Carbaugh
Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / carbaugh@comm.umass.edu

Nathan Chan
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics
nchan@umass.edu

How farmers and agribusinesses are adapting to climate change

Mark Hamin
Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning
413-545-6608 / mhamin@larp.umass.edu

Impact of climate change on wildlife

Todd Fuller
Professor of Environmental Conservation
413-545-4723 / tkfuller@eco.umass.edu

Alexander Gerson
Assistant Professor of Biology
argerson@bio.umass.edu

Curt Griffin
Professor and Department Head of Environmental Conservation
413-545-2640 / cgriffin@eco.umass.edu

Scott Jackson
Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation
413-545-4743 / sjackson@umass.edu

Jason Kamilar
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
413-545-7397 / jkamilar@anthro.umass.edu

Toni Lyn Morelli
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation
USGS Research Ecologist - Northeast Climate Science Center
413-545-2515 / morelli@umass.edu

Tawny Simisky
Extension Entomologist - Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry
413-545-1053 / tsimisky@umass.edu

**Issues facing fisheries (marine and freshwater)**

**Brian Cheng**
Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation
bscheng@umass.edu

**Andy Danylchuk**
Associate Professor of Fish Conservation
413-545-2940 / danylchuk@eco.umass.edu

**Adrian Jordaan**
Assistant Professor of Fish Population, Ecology and Conservation
ajordaan@eco.umass.edu

**Allison Roy**
Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation
413-545-4895 / aroy@eco.umass.edu

**Michelle Staudinger**
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation
Science Coordinator at the Northeast Climate Science Center
413-577-1318 / mstaudinger@cns.umass.edu / mstaudinger@usgs.gov

**EQUALITY & CIVIL RIGHTS**

(return to topic list)

**Voter disenfranchisement in minority communities**

**John H. Bracey, Jr.**
Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu

**Barbara Krauthamer**
Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School
413-545-5271 / irenek@history.umass.edu

**Toussaint Losier**
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / tlosier@umass.edu
Community protests over police practices

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

John H. Bracey, Jr.
Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu

Julio Capó, Jr.
Assistant Professor of History
413-545-6773 / capo@history.umass.edu

Jennifer Fronc
Associate Professor of History
413-545-2207 / jfronc@history.umass.edu

A Yemisi Jimoh
Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / jimoh@afroam.umass.edu

Barbara Krauthamer
Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School
413-545-5271 / irenek@history.umass.edu

Toussaint Losier
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / tlosier@umass.edu

Traci Parker
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / traciparker@afroam.umass.edu

Amilcar Shabazz
Professor & Chair of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / shabazz@afroam.umass.edu
Svati Shah  
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
svatipshah@wost.umass.edu

Kathryne Young  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
young@umass.edu

NFL protests

Whitney Battle-Baptiste  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Joye Bowman  
Professor of History  
413-545-2378 / jbowman@history.umass.edu

John H. Bracey, Jr.  
Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu

Paul M. Collins, Jr.  
Professor of Legal Studies and Director of Legal Studies  
413-545-4079 / pmcollins@legal.umass.edu

Kirby Farrell  
Professor of English  
kfarrell@english.umass.edu

A Yemisi Jimoh  
Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / jimoh@afroam.umass.edu

C.N. Le  
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
cnle@umass.edu

Megan Lewis  
Associate Professor of Theater History & Performance Studies  
meganlewis@theater.umass.edu

Toussaint Losier  
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / tlosier@umass.edu
Traci Parker
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / traciparker@afroam.umass.edu

Amilcar Shabazz
Professor & Chair of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / shabazz@afroam.umass.edu

Kathryne Young
Assistant Professor of Sociology
young@umass.edu

LGBTQ rights and legal protections

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Laura Briggs
Professor & Chair of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
413-545-1922 / ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu

Julio Capó, Jr.
Assistant Professor of History
413-545-6773 / capo@history.umass.edu

Paul M. Collins, Jr.
Professor of Legal Studies and Director of Legal Studies
413-545-4079 / pmcollins@legal.umass.edu

Lezlie Frye
Lecturer of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
413-545-1922 / lfrye@umass.edu

Seth K. Goldman
Honors Assistant Professor of Communication
413-545-1311 / skgoldman@comm.umass.edu

A Yemisi Jimoh
Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / jimoh@afroam.umass.edu

Cristiano Mazzei
Languages, Literatures & Cultures
cmazzei@umass.edu
Svati Shah
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
svatipshah@wost.umass.edu

Kathryne Young
Assistant Professor of Sociology
young@umass.edu

**Gender equality in the workplace**

Laura Briggs
Professor & Chair of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
413-545-1922 / ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu

Kirby Farrell
Professor of English
kfarrell@english.umass.edu

Jennifer Fronc
Associate Professor of History
413-545-2207 / jfronc@history.umass.edu

Miliann Kang
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
(on leave Fall 2017/Spring 2018)
mkang@umass.edu

Laura Lovett
Associate Professor of History
413-545-6778 / lovett@history.umass.edu

Jennifer Nye
Lecturer in Law and Social Justice
413-545-4337 / jlnye@history.umass.edu

Traci Parker
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies
413-545-2751 / traciparker@afroam.umass.edu

**Confederate memorials & protests**

Whitney Battle-Baptiste
Associate Professor of Anthropology
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

David Glassberg
Professor of History and Interim Co-Director of the Public History Program
413-545-4252 / glassberg@history.umass.edu
Barbara Krauthamer  
Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School  
413-545-5271 / irenek@history.umass.edu

Toussaint Losier  
Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / tlosier@umass.edu

Kathryne Young  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
young@umass.edu

Growing accusations of sexual harassment and assault against men in positions of power

Laura Briggs  
Professor & Chair of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
413-545-1922 / ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu

Leda Cooks  
Professor of Communication  
413-545-2895 / leda@comm.umass.edu

Kirby Farrell  
Professor of English  
kfarrell@english.umass.edu

Jennifer Fronc  
Associate Professor of History  
413-545-2207 / jfronc@history.umass.edu

Miliann Kang  
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
(on leave Fall 2017/Spring 2018)  
mkang@umass.edu

Laura Lovett  
Associate Professor of History  
413-545-6778 / lovett@history.umass.edu

Joya Misra  
Professor of Sociology and Public Policy  
misra@soc.umass.edu

Jennifer Nye  
Lecturer in Law and Social Justice  
413-545-4337 / jlnye@history.umass.edu
Shaheen Pasha  
Assistant Professor of Journalism  
413-545-1366 / spasha@journ.umass.edu

Jamie Rowen  
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
jrowen@legal.umass.edu

Kathryne Young  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
young@umass.edu

Refugee migration to the U.S. & general immigration policy

Whitney Battle-Baptiste  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu

Rebecca Hamlin  
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
rhamlin@legal.umass.edu

C.N. Le  
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
cnle@umass.edu

David Mednicoff  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies  
413-545-3536 / mednic@pubpol.umass.edu

Human Trafficking

Donna Sabella  
Seedworks Endowed Associate Professor of Nursing & Social Justice  
413-545-1375 / dsabella@umass.edu
Continued evolution of robotics, AI, and self-driving vehicles

Yuriy Brun
Associate Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-577-0233 / brun@cs.umass.edu

Roderic Grupen
Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-3280 / grupen@cs.umass.edu

Shlomo Zilberstein
Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-4189 / shlomo@cs.umass.edu

Cybersecurity (organizational & personal)

Emery Berger
Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-577-4211 / emery@cs.umass.edu

Gerome Miklau
Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-4032 / miklau@cs.umass.edu

Senay Solak
Associate Professor of Operations & Information Management
413-545-5681 / solak@isenberg.umass.edu

Donald Towsley
Distinguished University Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-0207 / towsley@cs.umass.edu

Improvements in “smart” electrical grids

David Irwin
Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
413-545-5822 / irwin@ecs.umass.edu

“Smart” cities, transportation networking and mobility

Song Gao
Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering
413-545-2688 / sgao@engin.umass.edu
Self-driving vehicles and human driving behavior

John Collura
Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering
413-545-5404 / collura@ecs.umass.edu

Shannon Roberts
Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
413-545-2165 / scroberts@umass.edu

Continued evolution of robotics and drones

John Collura
Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering
413-545-5404 / collura@ecs.umass.edu

Technologies for renewable fuels and chemicals

Michael Henson
Professor of Chemical Engineering
Co-director, Institute for Massachusetts Biofuels Research
413-545-3481 / mhenson@umass.edu

The future of computing (mobile, desktop and organizational / networked)

Erik Learned-Miller
Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-2993 / elm@cs.umass.edu

Donald F. Towsley
Distinguished University Professor of Information and Computer Sciences
413-545-0207 / towsley@cs.umass.edu

HEALTH, WELLNESS & NUTRITION
(return to topic list)

Healthcare reform attempts (consumer)

Kimberley Geissler
Assistant Professor of Health Promotion & Policy
413-577-4353 / kgeissler@umass.edu

Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation

Timothy Ford
Professor & Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-3214 / teford@umass.edu
Richard Peltier
Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-1317 / rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu

Lasting health issues linked to hurricane damage in Houston & Puerto Rico

Timothy Ford
Professor & Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-3214 / teford@umass.edu

Christine Rogers
Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-5112 / car@ehs.umass.edu
Climate change as a factor in respiratory illnesses (allergies, asthma, etc.)

Richard Peltier
Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-1317 / rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu

Christine Rogers
Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences
413-545-5112 / car@ehs.umass.edu

Flu – forecasting, prevention, vaccines and epidemics

Nicholas Reich
Associate Professor of Biostatistics
413-545-4534 / nick@schoolph.umass.edu

Impact of social media on psychological and physical well being

Jennifer Whitehill
Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Policy
413-545-1923 / jmw@umass.edu

Food safety, and foodborne illnesses and recalls

Nancy Cohen
Professor of Nutrition
413-545-1079 / cohen@nutrition.umass.edu

Eric Decker
Professor and Department Head of Food Science
413-545-1026 / edecker@foodsci.umass.edu
Lili He
Assistant Professor of Food Science
413-545-5847 / lilihe@foodsci.umass.edu

Amanda Kinchla
Assistant Professor of Food Science
413-545-0187 / amanda.kinchla@foodsci.umass.edu

Lisa McKeag
Extension Educator of Agriculture, Food and the Environment
413-577-3976 / lmckeag@umext.umass.edu

Lynne McLandsborough
Professor of Food Science
413-545-1016 / lm@foodsci.umass.edu

**Impact the current political climate has had on stress & psychological health**

Gloria DiFulvio
Senior Lecturer of Community Health Education
413-545-4535 / gloria@schoolph.umass.edu

Linda Tropp
Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences
413-577-0934 / trop@umass.edu

**Telemedicine, virtual appointments & consultations**

Mary Andrianopoulos
Associate Professor of Communication Disorders
413-545-0551 / mva@comdis.umass.edu

**Athletes’ training regimens & nutritional planning for Winter Olympics, World Cup, Boston Marathon**

Gayatri Guhanarayan
Lecturer of Kinesiology
413-545-9427 / gguhanar@umass.edu

Thomas St. Laurent
Lecturer of Kinesiology
413-545-6438 / tstlaurent@kin.umass.edu
**Impact of self-driving cars & trucks on emission/pollutant levels & public health**

**Richard Peltier**  
Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-1317 / rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu

**Jennifer Whitehill**  
Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Policy  
413-545-1923 / jmw@umass.edu

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**Potential health impacts of a rejuvenated coal industry & coal-fired power plants**

**Richard Peltier**  
Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-1317 / rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu

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**Opioid addiction**

**Kimberly Dion**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-1314 / kadion@nursing.umass.edu

**Donna Zucker**  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
413-545-1343 / donna@acad.umass.edu

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**The future of the nursing profession, and projected growth in the industry**

**Maeve Howett**  
Clinical Professor of Nursing  
413-545-1348 / mhowett@umass.edu

**Karen A. Kalmakis**  
Associate Professor of Nursing  
413-577-4763 / kalmakis@nursing.umass.edu

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**Aging Baby Boomers and the growing need for geriatric care**

**Raeann LeBlanc**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-6630 / rgleblan@nursing.umass.edu

**Rachel Walker**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-0250 / r.walker@umass.edu
Ning Zhang
Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Policy
413-545-1851 / ningzhang@schoolph.umass.edu

EDUCATION

Dept. of Education changes to guidances, rules and regulations

Stephen G. Sireci
Professor of Educational Policy, Research & Administration
413-545-0564 / sireci@acad.umass.edu

Classroom practices and the changing parent/teacher relationship

Maria José Botelho
Associate Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies
413-545-1110 / mbotelho@educ.umass.edu

Sarah Fefer
Assistant Professor of Student Development
sfefer@educ.umass.edu

Standardized testing and teacher evaluation standards

Stephen G. Sireci
Professor of Educational Policy, Research & Administration
413-545-0564 / sireci@acad.umass.edu

Home schooling

Maria José Botelho
Associate Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies
413-545-1110 / mbotelho@educ.umass.edu

Textbook & curriculum guidelines

Maria José Botelho
Associate Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies
413-545-1110 / mbotelho@educ.umass.edu
General sports finance

Neil Longley
Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5059 / nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu

The financial impact of the Winter Olympics (South Korea) & World Cup (Russia) on national and international sport governing bodies and marketing partners

Neil Longley
Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5059 / nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu

Stadium financing and sport-anchored urban redevelopment

Emily Must
Lecturer of Sport Management
413-545-6625 / emust@isenberg.umass.edu

Impact of political & social protests on the business of sports (professional, Olympics, etc.)

Neil Longley
Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5059 / nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu

Viewership/revenue trends for various pro sports

Neil Longley
Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5059 / nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu

William Norton
Lecturer of Sport Management
617-875-8023 / wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu

Sports law & labor issues

Lisa Pike Masteralexis
Associate Dean of Sport Management
413-545-5061 / lmasteralexis@isenberg.umass.edu
Race, gender and inclusion in sports

Todd Crosset
Associate Professor of Sport Management
413-348-9369 / tcrosset@isenberg.umass.edu

Janet S. Fink
Department Chair & Professor of Sport Management
413-545-7602 / jsfink@isenberg.umass.edu

Nefertiti Walker
Assistant Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5012 / nwalker@isenberg.umass.edu

Sports marketing & athlete endorsements

Elizabeth B. Delia
Assistant Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5590 / edelia@isenberg.umass.edu

Matthew Katz
Assistant Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5670 / mkatz@isenberg.umass.edu

Steve Mckelvey
Associate Professor of Sport Management
413-545-5066 / mckelvey@isenberg.umass.edu

William Norton
Lecturer of Sport Management
617-875-8023 / wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu