

# UMass Amherst

The Commonwealth's Flagship Campus

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### 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](mailto:jsharpe@umass.edu) or 413-545-3809 (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](mailto:scoop@admin.umass.edu)

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## 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 guidances, 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**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***2018 Senate, House and Governor races***

#### [Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

#### [Brian Schaffner](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-0416 / [schaffne@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:schaffne@polsci.umass.edu)

### ***Inter-party squabbling & possible primary challenges***

#### [Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

#### [Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:musgrave@polsci.umass.edu)

#### [Jesse Rhodes](#)

Associate Professor of Political Science

413-545-6185 / [jrhodes@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

#### [Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:pmcollins@legal.umass.edu)

[Sheldon Goldman](#)

Distinguished Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6179 / [sheldon.goldman@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:sheldon.goldman@polsci.umass.edu)

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

[Doug Rice](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
[drrice@legal.umass.edu](mailto:drrice@legal.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

***Criminal justice reform***

[Jamie Rowen](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
[jrowen@legal.umass.edu](mailto:jrowen@legal.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

***Tax reform***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Epstein](#)

Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute  
413-577-0822 / [gepstein@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gepstein@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Paul Knudson](#)

Lecturer of Sociology

[pknudson@soc.umass.edu](mailto:pknudson@soc.umass.edu)

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

### ***International trade agreements***

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Paul Knudson](#)

Lecturer of Sociology

[pknudson@soc.umass.edu](mailto:pknudson@soc.umass.edu)

### ***Healthcare reform (political)***

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

### ***Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning

413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

### ***Election hacking***

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:allan@cs.umass.edu)

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:musgrave@polsci.umass.edu)

[Jonathan Corpus Ong](#)

Associate Professor of Communication

413-545-1311 / [jcong@umass.edu](mailto:jcong@umass.edu)

[Erica Scharrer](#)

Professor of Communication

413-545-1311 / [scharrer@comm.umass.edu](mailto:scharrer@comm.umass.edu)

[Weiai \(Wayne\) Xu](#)

Assistant Professor of Communication

413-545-3519 / [weiaixu@umass.edu](mailto:weiaixu@umass.edu)



[Rodrigo Zamith](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism

[rzamith@journ.umass.edu](mailto:rzamith@journ.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](mailto: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](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

***Immigration policy***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology

[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Rebecca Hamlin](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies

[rhamlin@legal.umass.edu](mailto:rhamlin@legal.umass.edu)

[C.N. Le](#)

Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies

[cnle@umass.edu](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[David Medicoff](#)

Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies

413-545-3536 / [mednic@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:mednic@pubpol.umass.edu)

[Jamie Rowen](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies

[jrowen@legal.umass.edu](mailto:jrowen@legal.umass.edu)

***Race & ethnicity in American politics and society***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Seth K. Goldman](#)

Honors Assistant Professor of Communication  
413-545-1311 / [skgoldman@comm.umass.edu](mailto:skgoldman@comm.umass.edu)

[C.N. Le](#)

Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
[cnle@umass.edu](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[Joya Misra](#)

Professor of Sociology and Public Policy  
[misra@soc.umass.edu](mailto:misra@soc.umass.edu)

[Tatishe M. Nteta](#)

Associate Professor of Political Science  
413-545-3546 / [nteta@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:nteta@polsci.umass.edu)

[Shaheen Pasha](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism  
413-545-1366 / [spasha@journ.umass.edu](mailto:spasha@journ.umass.edu)

[Razvan Sibii](#)

Senior Lecturer of Journalism  
413-545-5926 / [razvan@comm.umass.edu](mailto:razvan@comm.umass.edu)

***Rural issues in the American "heartland"***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

[Raymond La Raja](#)

Professor of Political Science  
413-545-6182 / [laraja@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:laraja@polsci.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology

[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@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](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning

413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

[Jonathan Corpus Ong](#)

Associate Professor of Communication

413-545-1311 / [jcong@umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:musgrave@polsci.umass.edu)

***Middle East relations***

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:musgrave@polsci.umass.edu)

[Shaheen Pasha](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism

413-545-1366 / [spasha@journ.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:wbdenny@umass.edu)

[Laetitia La Follette](#)

Associate Professor of Ancient Art and Archaeology, Art History and Cybertechnology  
413-545-0634 / [laelaf@umass.edu](mailto:laelaf@umass.edu)

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

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science  
[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:musgrave@polsci.umass.edu)

***UK, EU & Brexit***

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

***International trade agreements***

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Paul Knudson](#)

Lecturer of Sociology  
[pknudson@soc.umass.edu](mailto:pknudson@soc.umass.edu)

***Paris climate accord***

[Peter M. Haas](#)

Professor of Political Science  
[haas@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:haas@polsci.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

***The potential for nuclear proliferation / war***

[Paul Musgrave](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

[musgrave@polsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Rebecca Hamlin](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies

[rhamlin@legal.umass.edu](mailto:rhamlin@legal.umass.edu)

[C.N. Le](#)

Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies

[cnle@umass.edu](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[David Mednicoff](#)

Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies

413-545-3536 / [mednic@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:mednic@pubpol.umass.edu)

[Jamie Rowen](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies

[jrowen@legal.umass.edu](mailto:jrowen@legal.umass.edu)

***Revitalization of endangered languages***

[Alice Harris](#)

Professor of Linguistics

413-577-0938 / [acharris@linguist.umass.edu](mailto:acharris@linguist.umass.edu)

## ***Emerging democracies and the democratic process***

[Amel Ahmed](#)

Associate Professor of Political Science

[aahmed@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:aahmed@polsci.umass.edu)

## ***Warfare, drones and autonomous weaponry***

[Charli Carpenter](#)

Professor of Political Science

413-545-6245 / [charli@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:charli@polsci.umass.edu)

## **ECONOMICS**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

## ***Federal reserve monetary policy and interest rate adjustments***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

## ***Economic indicators***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Epstein](#)

Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute

413-577-0822 / [gepstein@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gepstein@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Robert Nakosteen](#)

Professor of Operations & Information Management

413-545-5687 / [nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Tax policy & revisions***

#### [Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Gerald Epstein](#)

Professor & Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute  
413-577-0822 / [gepstein@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gepstein@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Sean Wandrei](#)

Lecturer of Accounting  
413-545-4422 / [swandrei@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:swandrei@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Healthcare reform (economic)***

#### [Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

### ***Unemployment rates***

#### [Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

#### [Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics  
[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

#### [Robert Nakosteen](#)

Professor of Operations & Information Management  
413-545-5687 / [nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:nakosteen@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Ofer Sharone](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology

[osharone@soc.umass.edu](mailto:osharone@soc.umass.edu)

***Minimum wage and the “Fight for \$15”***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Arindrajit Dube](#)

Associate Professor

413-545-2012 / [adube@econs.umass.edu](mailto:adube@econs.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Paul Knudson](#)

Lecturer of Sociology

[pknudson@soc.umass.edu](mailto:pknudson@soc.umass.edu)

[Joya Misra](#)

Professor of Sociology and Public Policy

[misra@soc.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:pollin@econs.umass.edu)

***Income inequality***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology

[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Gerald Friedman](#)

Professor of Economics

[gfriedma@econs.umass.edu](mailto:gfriedma@econs.umass.edu)

[Paul Knudson](#)

Lecturer of Sociology

[pknudson@soc.umass.edu](mailto:pknudson@soc.umass.edu)



[Toussaint Losier](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [tlosier@umass.edu](mailto:tlosier@umass.edu)

[Joya Misra](#)

Professor of Sociology and Public Policy  
[misra@soc.umass.edu](mailto:misra@soc.umass.edu)

[Traci Parker](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [traciparker@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:traciparker@afroam.umass.edu)

[Jessica Pearlman](#)

Research Methodologist at the Institute for Social Science Research  
413-545-0746 / [jpearlman@issr.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:pollin@econs.umass.edu)

[Svati Shah](#)

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
[svatipshah@wost.umass.edu](mailto:svatipshah@wost.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

***The economic impact of clean energy and sustainability initiatives***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:pollin@econs.umass.edu)

## **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***Brick and mortar survival strategies***

[Bruce Skaggs](#)

Professor Management

413-545-5684 / [bskaggs@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aghoniem@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Senay Solak](#)

Associate Professor of Operations & Information Management

413-545-5681 / [solak@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:solak@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Corporate tax policy & revisions***

[Sean Wandrei](#)

Lecturer of Accounting

413-545-4422 / [swandrei@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ttrzebiatowski@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Trends in hospitality and tourism***

[Melissa Baker](#)

Assistant Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management

413-545-0572 / [mbaker@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:mbaker@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Muzzo Uysal](#)

Professor and Department Chair of Hospitality & Tourism Management  
413-545-2061 / [muysal@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:muysal@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Rod Warnick](#)

Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management  
413-545-6629 / [warnick@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:warnick@isenberg.umass.edu)

***Nonprofit management & social enterprises***

[Elizabeth Schmidt](#)

Professor of Practice in Public Policy  
413-577-2396 / [eschmidt@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto: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 / [jcong@umass.edu](mailto:jcong@umass.edu)

[Emily West](#)

Associate Professor of Communication  
413-545-6345 / [ewest@comm.umass.edu](mailto:ewest@comm.umass.edu)

***The future of journalism and trust in media***

[Jonathan Corpus Ong](#)

Associate Professor of Communication  
413-545-1311 / [jcong@umass.edu](mailto:jcong@umass.edu)

[Shaheen Pasha](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism  
413-545-1366 / [spasha@journ.umass.edu](mailto:spasha@journ.umass.edu)

[Erica Scharrer](#)

Professor of Communication  
413-545-1311 / [scharrer@comm.umass.edu](mailto:scharrer@comm.umass.edu)

[Razvan Sibii](#)

Senior Lecturer of Journalism  
413-545-5926 / [razvan@comm.umass.edu](mailto:razvan@comm.umass.edu)

[Rodrigo Zamith](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism

[rzamith@journ.umass.edu](mailto:rzamith@journ.umass.edu)

## **ENVIRONMENT**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation***

[Kathleen Arcaro](#)

Professor of Environmental Toxicology

413-577-1823 / [karcaro@umass.edu](mailto:karcaro@umass.edu)

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics

413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

[Nathan Chan](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics

[nchan@umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jclark@vasci.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning

413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

[Scott Jackson](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation

413-545-4743 / [sjackson@umass.edu](mailto:sjackson@umass.edu)

[Anita Milman](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation

413-545-3749 / [amilman@eco.umass.edu](mailto:amilman@eco.umass.edu)

[Eve Vogel](#)

Assistant Professor of Geosciences

413-545-0778 / [evevogel@geo.umass.edu](mailto:evevogel@geo.umass.edu)

[Thomas Zoeller](#)

Professor of Biology

413-545-2088 / [tzoeller@bio.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pkbarten@eco.umass.edu)

[Paul Catanzaro](#)

Extension Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4839 / [cat@umext.umass.edu](mailto:cat@umext.umass.edu)

[Joseph Elkinton](#)

Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4816 / [elkinton@ent.umass.edu](mailto:elkinton@ent.umass.edu)

[Curt Griffin](#)

Professor and Department Head of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-2640 / [cgriffin@eco.umass.edu](mailto:cgriffin@eco.umass.edu)

[Randy Prostack](#)

Extension Specialist of Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry  
413-577-1738 / [rprostack@umass.edu](mailto:rprostack@umass.edu)

[Jon Woodruff](#)

Associate Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-3831 / [woodruff@geo.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:emhamin@larp.umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

[Christine Hatch](#)

Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-2245 / [chatch@geo.umass.edu](mailto:chatch@geo.umass.edu)

[Scott Jackson](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4743 / [sjackson@umass.edu](mailto:sjackson@umass.edu)

[Ezra Markowitz](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-1237 / [emarkowitz@eco.umass.edu](mailto:emarkowitz@eco.umass.edu)

[Anita Milman](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-3749 / [amilman@eco.umass.edu](mailto:amilman@eco.umass.edu)

[Eve Vogel](#)

Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
413-545-0778 / [evevogel@geo.umass.edu](mailto:evevogel@geo.umass.edu)

[Jon Woodruff](#)

Associate Professor of Geosciences  
413-577-3831 / [woodruff@geo.umass.edu](mailto:woodruff@geo.umass.edu)

[Thomas Zoeller](#)

Professor of Biology  
413-545-2088 / [tzoeller@bio.umass.edu](mailto:tzoeller@bio.umass.edu)

***Clean energy initiatives***

[Nathan Chan](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics  
[nchan@umass.edu](mailto:nchan@umass.edu)

[Mark Hamin](#)

Senior Lecturer of Regional Planning  
413-545-6608 / [mhamin@larp.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:pollin@econs.umass.edu)

***Attempted resuscitation of coal industry***

[Michael Ash](#)

Professor of Economics  
413-545-6329 / [mash@econs.umass.edu](mailto:mash@econs.umass.edu)

***Opening of public lands for natural resource extraction***

[Nathan Chan](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics  
[nchan@umass.edu](mailto:nchan@umass.edu)

***Automobile emissions and impact of self-driving cars & trucks***

[Donal Carbaugh](#)

Professor of Communication  
413-545-1311 / [carbaugh@comm.umass.edu](mailto:carbaugh@comm.umass.edu)

[Nathan Chan](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental and Public Economics  
[nchan@umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mhamin@larp.umass.edu)

***Impact of climate change on wildlife***

[Todd Fuller](#)

Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4723 / [tkfuller@eco.umass.edu](mailto:tkfuller@eco.umass.edu)

[Alexander Gerson](#)

Assistant Professor of Biology  
[argerson@bio.umass.edu](mailto:argerson@bio.umass.edu)

[Curt Griffin](#)

Professor and Department Head of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-2640 / [cgriffin@eco.umass.edu](mailto:cgriffin@eco.umass.edu)

[Scott Jackson](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4743 / [sjackson@umass.edu](mailto:sjackson@umass.edu)

[Jason Kamilar](#)

Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
413-545-7397 / [jkamilar@anthro.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:morelli@umass.edu)

[Tawny Simisky](#)

Extension Entomologist - Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry  
413-545-1053 / [tsimisky@umass.edu](mailto:tsimisky@umass.edu)

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

[Brian Cheng](#)

Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
[bscheng@umass.edu](mailto:bscheng@umass.edu)

[Andy Danylchuk](#)

Associate Professor of Fish Conservation  
413-545-2940 / [danylchuk@eco.umass.edu](mailto:danylchuk@eco.umass.edu)

[Adrian Jordaan](#)

Assistant Professor of Fish Population, Ecology and Conservation  
[ajordaan@eco.umass.edu](mailto:ajordaan@eco.umass.edu)

[Allison Roy](#)

Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation  
413-545-4895 / [aroy@eco.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mstaudinger@cns.umass.edu) / [mstaudinger@usgs.gov](mailto: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](mailto:jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu)

[Barbara Krauthamer](#)

Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School  
413-545-5271 / [irenek@history.umass.edu](mailto:irenek@history.umass.edu)

[Toussaint Losier](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [tlosier@umass.edu](mailto:tlosier@umass.edu)



[Traci Parker](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [traciparker@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:traciparker@afroam.umass.edu)

[Amilcar Shabazz](#)

Professor & Chair of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [shabazz@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:shabazz@afroam.umass.edu)

***Community protests over police practices***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[John H. Bracey, Jr.](#)

Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu)

[Julio Capó, Jr.](#)

Assistant Professor of History  
413-545-6773 / [capo@history.umass.edu](mailto:capo@history.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Fronc](#)

Associate Professor of History  
413-545-2207 / [jfronc@history.umass.edu](mailto:jfronc@history.umass.edu)

[A Yemisi Jimoh](#)

Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [jimoh@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:jimoh@afroam.umass.edu)

[Barbara Krauthamer](#)

Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School  
413-545-5271 / [irenek@history.umass.edu](mailto:irenek@history.umass.edu)

[Toussaint Losier](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [tlosier@umass.edu](mailto:tlosier@umass.edu)

[Traci Parker](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [traciparker@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:traciparker@afroam.umass.edu)

[Amilcar Shabazz](#)

Professor & Chair of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [shabazz@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:shabazz@afroam.umass.edu)

[Svati Shah](#)

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
[svatipshah@wost.umass.edu](mailto:svatipshah@wost.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

### ***NFL protests***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Joye Bowman](#)

Professor of History  
413-545-2378 / [jb Bowman@history.umass.edu](mailto:jb Bowman@history.umass.edu)

[John H. Bracey, Jr.](#)

Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:jhbracey@afroam.umass.edu)

[Paul M. Collins, Jr.](#)

Professor of Legal Studies and Director of Legal Studies  
413-545-4079 / [pmcollins@legal.umass.edu](mailto:pmcollins@legal.umass.edu)

[Kirby Farrell](#)

Professor of English  
[kfarrell@english.umass.edu](mailto:kfarrell@english.umass.edu)

[A Yemisi Jimoh](#)

Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [jimoh@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:jimoh@afroam.umass.edu)

[C.N. Le](#)

Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
[cnle@umass.edu](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[Megan Lewis](#)

Associate Professor of Theater History & Performance Studies  
[meganlewis@theater.umass.edu](mailto:meganlewis@theater.umass.edu)

[Toussaint Losier](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [tlosier@umass.edu](mailto:tlosier@umass.edu)

[Traci Parker](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [traciparker@froam.umass.edu](mailto:traciparker@froam.umass.edu)

[Amilcar Shabazz](#)

Professor & Chair of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [shabazz@froam.umass.edu](mailto:shabazz@froam.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

### ***LGBTQ rights and legal protections***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Laura Briggs](#)

Professor & Chair of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
413-545-1922 / [ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu](mailto:ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu)

[Julio Capó, Jr.](#)

Assistant Professor of History  
413-545-6773 / [capo@history.umass.edu](mailto:capo@history.umass.edu)

[Paul M. Collins, Jr.](#)

Professor of Legal Studies and Director of Legal Studies  
413-545-4079 / [pmcollins@legal.umass.edu](mailto:pmcollins@legal.umass.edu)

[Lezlie Frye](#)

Lecturer of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
413-545-1922 / [lfrye@umass.edu](mailto:lfrye@umass.edu)

[Seth K. Goldman](#)

Honors Assistant Professor of Communication  
413-545-1311 / [skgoldman@comm.umass.edu](mailto:skgoldman@comm.umass.edu)

[A Yemisi Jimoh](#)

Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [jimoh@froam.umass.edu](mailto:jimoh@froam.umass.edu)

[Cristiano Mazzei](#)

Languages, Literatures & Cultures  
[cmazzei@umass.edu](mailto:cmazzei@umass.edu)

[Svati Shah](#)

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
[svatipshah@wost.umass.edu](mailto:svatipshah@wost.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

### ***Gender equality in the workplace***

[Laura Briggs](#)

Professor & Chair of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
413-545-1922 / [ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu](mailto:ljbriggs@wost.umass.edu)

[Kirby Farrell](#)

Professor of English  
[kfarrell@english.umass.edu](mailto:kfarrell@english.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Fronc](#)

Associate Professor of History  
413-545-2207 / [jfronc@history.umass.edu](mailto:jfronc@history.umass.edu)

[Miliann Kang](#)

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
(on leave Fall 2017/Spring 2018)  
[mkang@umass.edu](mailto:mkang@umass.edu)

[Laura Lovett](#)

Associate Professor of History  
413-545-6778 / [lovet@history.umass.edu](mailto:lovet@history.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Nye](#)

Lecturer in Law and Social Justice  
413-545-4337 / [jlnye@history.umass.edu](mailto:jlnye@history.umass.edu)

[Traci Parker](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [traciparker@afroam.umass.edu](mailto:traciparker@afroam.umass.edu)

### ***Confederate memorials & protests***

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:glassberg@history.umass.edu)

[Barbara Krauthamer](#)

Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School  
413-545-5271 / [irenek@history.umass.edu](mailto:irenek@history.umass.edu)

[Toussaint Losier](#)

Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies  
413-545-2751 / [tlosier@umass.edu](mailto:tlosier@umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto: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 / [ljbriiggs@wost.umass.edu](mailto:ljbriiggs@wost.umass.edu)

[Leda Cooks](#)

Professor of Communication  
413-545-2895 / [leda@comm.umass.edu](mailto:leda@comm.umass.edu)

[Kirby Farrell](#)

Professor of English  
[kfarrell@english.umass.edu](mailto:kfarrell@english.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Fronc](#)

Associate Professor of History  
413-545-2207 / [jfronc@history.umass.edu](mailto:jfronc@history.umass.edu)

[Miliann Kang](#)

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
(on leave Fall 2017/Spring 2018)  
[mkang@umass.edu](mailto:mkang@umass.edu)

[Laura Lovett](#)

Associate Professor of History  
413-545-6778 / [lovett@history.umass.edu](mailto:lovett@history.umass.edu)

[Joya Misra](#)

Professor of Sociology and Public Policy  
[misra@soc.umass.edu](mailto:misra@soc.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Nye](#)

Lecturer in Law and Social Justice  
413-545-4337 / [jlnye@history.umass.edu](mailto:jlnye@history.umass.edu)

[Shaheen Pasha](#)

Assistant Professor of Journalism  
413-545-1366 / [spasha@journ.umass.edu](mailto:spasha@journ.umass.edu)

[Jamie Rowen](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
[jrowen@legal.umass.edu](mailto:jrowen@legal.umass.edu)

[Kathryne Young](#)

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
[young@umass.edu](mailto:young@umass.edu)

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

[Whitney Battle-Baptiste](#)

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
[wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wbbaptiste@anthro.umass.edu)

[Rebecca Hamlin](#)

Assistant Professor of Legal Studies  
[rhamlin@legal.umass.edu](mailto:rhamlin@legal.umass.edu)

[C.N. Le](#)

Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies  
[cnle@umass.edu](mailto:cnle@umass.edu)

[David Medicoff](#)

Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Director of Middle Eastern Studies  
413-545-3536 / [mednic@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:mednic@pubpol.umass.edu)

### ***Human Trafficking***

[Donna Sabella](#)

Seedworks Endowed Associate Professor of Nursing & Social Justice  
413-545-1375 / [dsabella@umass.edu](mailto:dsabella@umass.edu)

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***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](mailto:brun@cs.umass.edu)

#### [Roderic Grupen](#)

Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-545-3280 / [gruppen@cs.umass.edu](mailto:gruppen@cs.umass.edu)

#### [Shlomo Zilberstein](#)

Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-545-4189 / [shlomo@cs.umass.edu](mailto:shlomo@cs.umass.edu)

### ***Cybersecurity (organizational & personal)***

#### [Emery Berger](#)

Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-577-4211 / [emery@cs.umass.edu](mailto:emery@cs.umass.edu)

#### [Gerome Miklau](#)

Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-545-4032 / [miklau@cs.umass.edu](mailto:miklau@cs.umass.edu)

#### [Senay Solak](#)

Associate Professor of Operations & Information Management  
413-545-5681 / [solak@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:solak@isenberg.umass.edu)

#### [Donald Towsley](#)

Distinguished University Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-545-0207 / [towsley@cs.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:collura@ecs.umass.edu)

[Shannon Roberts](#)

Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering  
413-545-2165 / [scroberts@umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elm@cs.umass.edu)

[Donald F. Towsley](#)

Distinguished University Professor of Information and Computer Sciences  
413-545-0207 / [towsley@cs.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:kgeissler@umass.edu)

### ***Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation***

[Timothy Ford](#)

Professor & Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-3214 / [teford@umass.edu](mailto:teford@umass.edu)



[Richard Peltier](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-1317 / [rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:teford@umass.edu)

[Christine Rogers](#)

Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-5112 / [car@ehs.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu)

[Christine Rogers](#)

Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
413-545-5112 / [car@ehs.umass.edu](mailto:car@ehs.umass.edu)

***Flu – forecasting, prevention, vaccines and epidemics***

[Nicholas Reich](#)

Associate Professor of Biostatistics  
413-545-4534 / [nick@schoolph.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jmw@umass.edu)

***Food safety, and foodborne illnesses and recalls***

[Nancy Cohen](#)

Professor of Nutrition  
413-545-1079 / [cohen@nutrition.umass.edu](mailto:cohen@nutrition.umass.edu)

[Eric Decker](#)

Professor and Department Head of Food Science  
413-545-1026 / [edecker@foodsci.umass.edu](mailto:edecker@foodsci.umass.edu)

[Lili He](#)

Assistant Professor of Food Science  
413-545-5847 / [lilihe@foodsci.umass.edu](mailto:lilihe@foodsci.umass.edu)

[Amanda Kinchla](#)

Assistant Professor of Food Science  
413-545-0187 / [amanda.kinchla@foodsci.umass.edu](mailto:amanda.kinchla@foodsci.umass.edu)

[Lisa McKeag](#)

Extension Educator of Agriculture, Food and the Environment  
413-577-3976 / [lmckeag@umext.umass.edu](mailto:lmckeag@umext.umass.edu)

[Lynne McLandsborough](#)

Professor of Food Science  
413-545-1016 / [lm@foodsci.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:gloria@schoolph.umass.edu)

[Linda Tropp](#)

Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences  
413-577-0934 / [tropp@umass.edu](mailto:tropp@umass.edu)

***Telemedicine, virtual appointments & consultations***

[Mary Andrianopoulos](#)

Associate Professor of Communication Disorders  
413-545-0551 / [mva@comdis.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:gguhanar@umass.edu)

[Thomas St. Laurent](#)

Lecturer of Kinesiology  
413-545-6438 / [tstlaurent@kin.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu)

[Jennifer Whitehill](#)

Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Policy  
413-545-1923 / [jmw@umass.edu](mailto:jmw@umass.edu)

***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](mailto:rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu)

***Opioid addiction***

[Kimberly Dion](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-1314 / [kadion@nursing.umass.edu](mailto:kadion@nursing.umass.edu)

[Donna Zucker](#)

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
413-545-1343 / [donna@acad.umass.edu](mailto:donna@acad.umass.edu)

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

[Maeve Howett](#)

Clinical Professor of Nursing  
413-545-1348 / [mhowett@umass.edu](mailto:mhowett@umass.edu)

[Karen A. Kalmakis](#)

Associate Professor of Nursing  
413-577-4763 / [kalmakis@nursing.umass.edu](mailto:kalmakis@nursing.umass.edu)

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

[Raeann LeBlanc](#)

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-6630 / [rleblan@nursing.umass.edu](mailto:rleblan@nursing.umass.edu)

[Rachel Walker](#)

Assistant Professor of Nursing  
413-545-0250 / [r.walker@umass.edu](mailto:r.walker@umass.edu)

[Ning Zhang](#)

Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Policy  
413-545-1851 / [ningzhang@schoolph.umass.edu](mailto:ningzhang@schoolph.umass.edu)

## **EDUCATION**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:mbotelho@educ.umass.edu)

[Sarah Fefer](#)

Assistant Professor of Student Development  
[sfefer@educ.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:sireci@acad.umass.edu)

### ***Home schooling***

[Maria José Botelho](#)

Associate Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies  
413-545-1110 / [mbotelho@educ.umass.edu](mailto:mbotelho@educ.umass.edu)

### ***Textbook & curriculum guidelines***

[Maria José Botelho](#)

Associate Professor of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies  
413-545-1110 / [mbotelho@educ.umass.edu](mailto:mbotelho@educ.umass.edu)

## **SPORTS BUSINESS**

[\(return to topic list\)](#)

### ***General sports finance***

[Neil Longley](#)

Professor of Sport Management

413-545-5059 / [nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Stadium financing and sport-anchored urban redevelopment***

[Emily Must](#)

Lecturer of Sport Management

413-545-6625 / [emust@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Viewership/revenue trends for various pro sports***

[Neil Longley](#)

Professor of Sport Management

413-545-5059 / [nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:nlongley@isenberg.umass.edu)

[William Norton](#)

Lecturer of Sport Management

617-875-8023 / [wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu)

### ***Sports law & labor issues***

[Lisa Pike Masteralexis](#)

Associate Dean of Sport Management

413-545-5061 / [lmasteralexis@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:lmasteralexis@isenberg.umass.edu)

***Race, gender and inclusion in sports***

[Todd Crosset](#)

Associate Professor of Sport Management  
413-348-9369 / [tcrosset@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:tcrosset@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Janet S. Fink](#)

Department Chair & Professor of Sport Management  
413-545-7602 / [jsfink@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:jsfink@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Nefertiti Walker](#)

Assistant Professor of Sport Management  
413-545-5012 / [nwalker@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:nwalker@isenberg.umass.edu)

***Sports marketing & athlete endorsements***

[Elizabeth B. Delia](#)

Assistant Professor of Sport Management  
413-545-5590 / [edelia@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:edelia@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Matthew Katz](#)

Assistant Professor of Sport Management  
413-545-5670 / [mkatz@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:mkatz@isenberg.umass.edu)

[Steve McKelvey](#)

Associate Professor of Sport Management  
413-545-5066 / [mckelvey@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:mckelvey@isenberg.umass.edu)

[William Norton](#)

Lecturer of Sport Management  
617-875-8023 / [wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:wnorton@isenberg.umass.edu)