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 413-545-3809 (office) / 617-285-3899 (mobile).

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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
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
**2018 Senate, House and Governor races**

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

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Potential electoral impact of Puerto Rican migration to the US mainland

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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The impact civil wars and strife are having on antiquities, archaeology and classic architecture in Middle East & North African countries

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UK, EU & Brexit

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International trade agreements

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The potential for nuclear proliferation / war

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

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The continuing fight against terrorism, ISIS and al Qaeda

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

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Revitalization of endangered languages

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Emerging democracies and the democratic process

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Warfare, drones and autonomous weaponry

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**Unemployment rates**

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

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**Income inequality**

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The economic impact of clean energy and sustainability initiatives

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Brick and mortar survival strategies

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Further advancements in manufacturing automation

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

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

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The future of journalism and trust in media

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

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Attempted resuscitation of coal industry

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Opening of public lands for natural resource extraction

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Automobile emissions and impact of self-driving cars & trucks

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How farmers and agribusinesses are adapting to climate change

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Impact of climate change on wildlife

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**EQUALITY & CIVIL RIGHTS**
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**Voter disenfranchisement in minority communities**

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Community protests over police practices

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NFL protests

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LGBTQ rights and legal protections

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Gender equality in the workplace

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Confederate memorials & protests

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

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

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Human Trafficking

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Continued evolution of robotics, AI, and self-driving vehicles

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Cybersecurity (organizational & personal)

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Improvements in “smart” electrical grids

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“Smart” cities, transportation networking and mobility

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Self-driving vehicles and human driving behavior

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Continued evolution of robotics and drones

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Technologies for renewable fuels and chemicals

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

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Health, Wellness & Nutrition

Healthcare reform attempts (consumer)

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Environmental protection initiatives/deregulation

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

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Climate change as a factor in respiratory illnesses (allergies, asthma, etc.)

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Flu – forecasting, prevention, vaccines and epidemics

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Impact of social media on psychological and physical well being

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Food safety, and foodborne illnesses and recalls

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

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Telemedicine, virtual appointments & consultations

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

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Impact of self-driving cars & trucks on emission/pollutant levels & public health

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

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Opioid addiction

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

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Aging Baby Boomers and the growing need for geriatric care

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EDUCATION
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Dept. of Education changes to guidances, rules and regulations

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Classroom practices and the changing parent/teacher relationship

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Standardized testing and teacher evaluation standards

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Home schooling

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Textbook & curriculum guidelines

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**General sports finance**

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

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

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

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

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**Sports law & labor issues**

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race, gender and inclusion in sports

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Sports marketing & athlete endorsements

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