

# December 2020 Newsletter

## Welcome from the Director

Dear School of Public Policy community,

As we finish our first full semester impacted by COVID-19, I am grateful for how this community has come together: with faculty and staff continuing to offer top-tier Public Policy courses and research guidance in a mostly-online setting, and students continuing to bring their best to the table. While this year has certainly not gone as planned - academically or personally for many in our community - we have much to celebrate as we head into the winter break and look toward the Spring 2021 semester.

First of all, congratulations to our December 2020 graduates! While we aren't able to celebrate this remarkable achievement with you in person, the whole faculty at SPP is proud of you, and we will celebrate you in style, along with our August 2020 and Spring 2021 graduates, during graduation week in May 2021.

Despite remote learning and working, faculty, students, and alumni continue to make waves in public policy with publications, media appearances, and lectures. I hope you will read on about what our community has been up to, and catch up on our news.

I hope you have a wonderful, restful holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with you next semester.

*Nancy A. Miller, Ph.D.*

Director, School of Public Policy



**Dr. Nancy A. Miller**

## Up First

**\*\*Congratulations\*\* to our  
December 2020 graduates!**

Salar Khaleghzadegan, M.P.P.

Alison Knowles, M.P.P.

Anirban Basu, Ph.D.

Jennifer Crystle, Ph.D.

Shariece Adiah Evans, Ph.D.

Ann Kellogg, Ph.D.

Tyrone McKoy, Ph.D.

Justin Velez-Hagan, Ph.D.

## Student Highlights

In November, the School of Public Policy hosted the annual **Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Award Lecture**. This award is presented each year to a doctoral student committed to health policy research, and the awardee is selected by a committee of faculty members. The awardee presents their research in an event honoring them and the late Dr. Judith Shinogle, the health policy analyst and MIPAR researcher for whom the award is named.

This year's awardee was Ph.D. candidate **Kiki Malomo-Paris**, who is specializing in evaluation and analytical methods. She presented her talk "Variation in perinatal health outcomes among low-income census tracts: An analysis of the impact of low-income housing tax credit unit receipt" during our first ever virtual Shingle lecture.

You can find [this year's talk](#) on our website, and previous events on the [YouTube playlist](#).



Ph.D. candidate and 2020 Shinogle award winner Kiki Malomo-Paris



Laura Mateczun (top left) and Don Norris (bottom left) during the online lecture.

In November, Ph.D. student **Laura Mateczun** and Professor Emeritus **Don Norris**, participated in the Sociotechnical Cybersecurity Lecture Series, hosted by the University of Maryland College of Information Studies (housed at the University of Maryland, College Park). They discussed findings from their nationwide survey on cybersecurity and local government.

Ph.D. student **John Skinner** co-authored the article "The Influence of Traditional Police Culture On the Activities of School Resource Officers" about the influence of police culture on Student Resource Officers in schools. Dr. F. Chris Curran, former Public Policy Professor at UMBC, was also a co-author.

Figure 1. Linking elements of police culture to SROs' activities

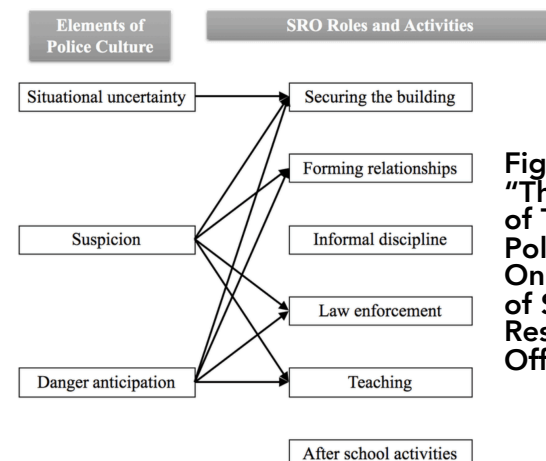


Figure 1. from "The Influence of Traditional Police Culture On the Activities of School Resource Officers"

Ph.D. student **Rudy de Leon Dinglas** was elected as a new Trustee for the Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA). NECoPA is an annual conference of scholars and practitioners in public management and public service, and hosts participants from public and non-profit organizations.

## Faculty Highlights

Professor **Zoë McLaren** has continued sharing her public health expertise about COVID-19 in a series of articles and media appearances. She was a guest speaker in Political Science Professor Eric Stokan's COVID-19 Politics and Policy speaker series this fall. In October, she appeared live on The Real News Network to discuss the risk of COVID-19 transmission at the super-spreader White House Rose Garden event (Her appearance begins at 48:52.) She later wrote for The Conversation and UMBC Magazine about why an increase in COVID-19 cases isn't due to more testing, but an actual surge in the pandemic. Recently, Dr. McLaren appeared on Healthcare NOW Radio's The Incrementalist podcast where she talked about getting COVID-19 testing strategies right, and communicating about testing to increase compliance. You can track her publications and media appearances on the Center for Social Science Scholarship's "COVID-19: UMBC Social Scientists in the News" webpage.



Dr. McLaren appears on The Real News Network

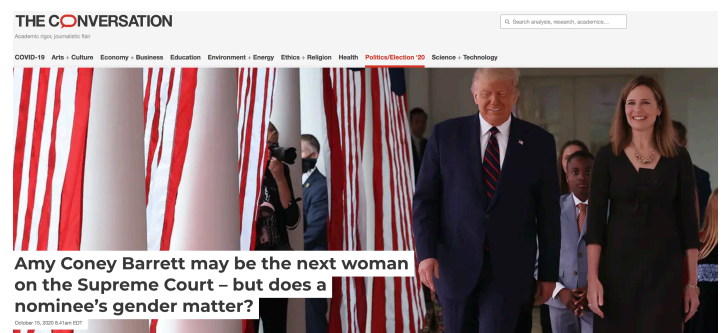
This semester, Professor **Fernando Tormos-Aponte** provided sharp commentary about Puerto Rican politics, and diversifying the field of Political Science. In this Washington Post Monkey Cage piece, he discusses what next in Puerto Rican politics since the left gained legislative power. Dr. Tormos-Aponte also recently appeared in a Union of Concerned Scientists webinar on preparing for science advocacy in 2021, and spoke at the Caribbean Political Economy Group's second Radical Caribbean seminar, about 'Education and the Caribbean Economy.'



Preparing for Science Advocacy in 2021

### Dr. Tormos-Aponte during the UCS seminar

Professor **Susan Sterett** made the front page of The Conversation with her article discussing gender diversity in the judicial system in light of Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court appointment. She was also a guest speaker in Political Science Professor Eric Stokan's COVID-19 Politics and Policy speaker series this fall.



Dr. Sterett's front-page article in The Conversation



Professor **Mir Usman Ali** was featured on Columbus, OH's WOSU public radio show "[All Sides with Ann Fisher](#)." In the interview, he weighed in on civilian review boards, in light of the Columbus, OH ballot initiative on whether to establish such a board. Dr. Ali also participated in UMBC's College of Arts Humanities and Social Science's (CAHSS) New Faculty Microtalks. These short talks give new faculty an opportunity to introduce themselves and showcase their work to CAHSS.

Professor **John Rennie Short** and M.P.P. alumna **Leah Dubots** published a [new article](#) in the journal *Geographical Review*. The article, "Contesting Place Names: The East Sea/Sea of Japan naming issue," builds on work on critical toponymy - the study of place names. In November, he [wrote an article about the 2020 election](#), and what happens when democratic elections take place in a time of deep political distrust. He was also featured on [Baltimore's NPR station](#), WYPR 88.1FM, where he discussed the difference between wages and rising housing costs.

Public Policy Professor Emeritus **George La Noue** published an [opinion essay](#) about critical race theory and civil rights law.

## Alumni Highlights

**Elyse Grossman, M.P.P. '08; Ph.D. '14** has published a [new paper](#) from her research on alcohol use and stress in adults during COVID-19. The article was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. You can read more about her research in the [UMBC Magazine](#).

## Introducing: ICARE NRT Interdisciplinary Program

The ICARE NRT master's degree is a 2-year interdisciplinary degree program with a dual mission of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, combined with research focused on improving the health of Baltimore Harbor. [Applications for the first cohort are open now!](#)

Students will be mentored by a UMBC faculty member and a non-academic scientist from a government agency, non-profit, or industry. That research team will be embedded in a larger stakeholder team, meaning that each student and their mentors will identify one or more community members (non-scientists) with a stake in the research to be engaged in the research from development to completion. Students will also be taking skills courses (community leadership, DEIJ, oral and written communication) and disciplinary courses appropriate to their research project.

Public Policy is one of five Masters programs participating. Prospective students apply to both the M.P.P. and ICARE programs.





# Keep in touch

We want to hear from you!

Do you have an achievement or event you would like to share with UMBC public policy community?

Send highlights and news to Myriam Ralston (myriam@umbc.edu) to keep in touch and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



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