

# September 2023 Newsletter

## Welcome from the Director

Dear Public Policy community,

We are delighted to welcome you to the start of the Fall 2023 semester! We especially welcome our new M.P.P. and Ph.D. students who have joined us from across the US and internationally. Some of our newly enrolled students were able to meet returning students, faculty, and staff at a local mixer, and we anticipate hosting more social opportunities throughout the year.

After a few weeks into the start of the academic year, we are moving full speed ahead with classes, events, conferences, and celebrating student achievement through fellowships.

As seems to be the trend, we have much to celebrate at the School of Public Policy. For the third year in a row, one of our alumni will be honored at the UMBC Alumni Awards in October. This year, Ph.D. alumnus Josh Michael is the Social & Behavioral Sciences awardee for "Outstanding Alumni." We have also named Tanguy Ringoir as the 2023 Judith A. Shinogle fellow, and Jennifer Walsh as the 2023 Judy Yin Shih fellow. We are excited to celebrate their accomplishments in the health policy field.

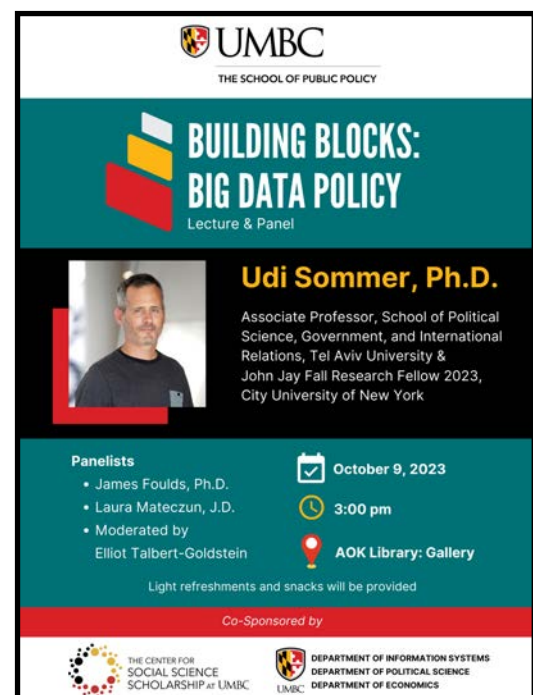
On October 9, we will host Dr. Udi Sommer from the University of Tel Aviv and City University of New York for an event on Big Data policy. We hope you will join us for this or future events, as we bring experts to campus from across various policy fields.

I hope you enjoy reading about our school's latest news, and hope to see you at an event soon!



*Nancy A. Miller, Ph.D.*

Director, School of Public Policy



**UMBC**  
THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

**BUILDING BLOCKS:  
BIG DATA POLICY**  
Lecture & Panel

**Udi Sommer, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, School of Political Science, Government, and International Relations, Tel Aviv University & John Jay Fall Research Fellow 2023, City University of New York

**Panelists**

- James Foulds, Ph.D.
- Laura Mateczun, J.D.
- Moderated by Elliot Talbert-Goldstein

**October 9, 2023**  
**3:00 pm**  
**AOK Library: Gallery**

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided

Co-Sponsored by

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP at UMBC | DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE | DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

## Upcoming events

### Economics and Public Policy Seminar series

[See the full lineup and join via Webex.](#)

Thursday, September 21, 12-1pm

Valerie Michelman, Brown University

Tuesday, October 10, 12-1 pm

Joseph Benitez, University of Kentucky

Thursday, October 26, 12-1pm

Jeffrey Burnette, Rochester Institute of Technology

Thursday, November 30, 12-1 pm

Lauren A. Hall, University of Maryland School of Social Work

### Building Blocks: Big Data Policy

Monday, October 9, 3-4:30 pm

Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery: Gallery

### Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Lecture

Thursday, November 2, 5:30-7 pm

University Center 312

## Student highlights

Ph.D. student **Ridwan Islam Sifat** published a collaborative full-length [research paper](#) titled "Adapting to change: Exploring reverse migration as a coping strategy among internal migrants in Bangladesh" in *Heliyon Journal* under Elsevier Cell Press. Additional research titled "Exploring the Impacts of Social Media on Public Service Delivery in Bangladesh" has been accepted for presentation at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) 2023 at the University of Georgia in September.

This summer, he was a Graduate Summer Intern at Academic Engagement and Transition Programs (AETP), UMBC for the Summer Bridge program.

Ph.D. student **Sandya Venugopal** is currently interning with the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (FAIS) team.

Ph.D. student **Grace de Oro** was selected to present at the 2023 ARNOVA Conference and has been awarded a Conference Scholarship to attend. Her presentation is titled "Bouncing Forward: Exploring Nonprofit Resilience during COVID-19 through Emergency Management." She is the current UMBC GSA President.

**Ph.D. student Laura Mateczun** and **Professor Emeritus Don Norris** have published a [new primer](#) on cybersecurity, aimed specifically at elected officials and top managers in US local governments. They also [recently published](#) the article "Cyberattacks on local governments 2020: findings from a key informant survey" in the *Journal of Cyber Policy*. **Mateczun** will be a panelist at our upcoming event Building Blocks: Big Data Policy on Monday, October 9 (see events section for details).

Ph.D. candidate **Tanguy Ringoir** (pictured below) is the 2023 Judith A. Shinogle Memorial fellow. He will present his research in November at the annual Shinogle Lecture. His research focuses on the impact of hospital market concentration on hospital quality.



## Student highlights continued

M.P.P. graduate and Ph.D. student **Taylor West** was a member of the [National Centers for Environmental Information Air Quality Climate Team](#) this summer.

Ph.D. candidate **Jennifer Walsh** has been named the [2023 Judy Yin Shih Fellow](#). The Judy Yin Shih Fellowship for the Advancement of Health Policy Research was established in 2022 to assist School of Public Policy doctoral candidates in devoting the necessary time and attention toward the expeditious completion of their dissertation in the field of health policy.



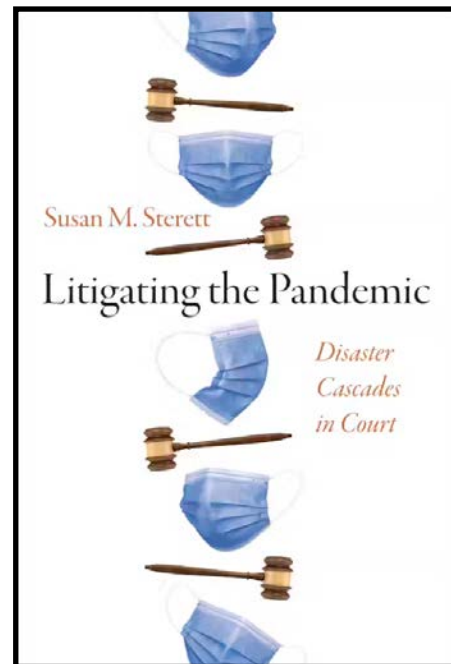
Judy Yin Shih and Jennifer Walsh

## Faculty highlights

Professor **Loren Henderson** was featured on [Episode 1](#) of the Minority Landowner Magazine Podcast, where she discussed her research on the problems Black farmers faced due to COVID-19 and systematic racism. Dr. Henderson is also a member of the 2023-2024 [Breaking the MOLD](#) cohort. Breaking the MOLD is a two-year program for leadership and development across UMBC's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Professor **Lauren Hamilton Edwards** [published a paper](#) on the use of portfolio management by large government agencies and nonprofits, and why it is rarely discussed in public administration scholarship.

Professor **Susan M. Sterett** published a [new book](#): *Litigating the Pandemic*. The book explores how governance problems in the COVID-19 pandemic world (and other climate-related disasters) are reflected in litigation patterns in the US. She discussed her work and recent book on the Center for Social Science Scholarship [podcast](#) *Retrieving the Social Sciences*.



Professor **Pamela R. Bennett** - [published an article](#) in the *Harvard Education Review* on the consequences of state bans on affirmative action. Additionally, **Dr. Bennett's 2022 paper** "Bans and Signals: Racial and Ethnic Differences in Applications to Elite Public Colleges in States With and Without Affirmative Action" was the focus of a new policy brief by Syracuse's Center for Policy Research.

Professor Emeritus **John Rennie Short** was [interviewed](#) by San Francisco's KCBS Radio on the idea of a singular Olympic city.

## Alumni highlights

Public Policy alumnus **Joshua Michael** (Ph.D. 2022), pictured below, was [elected Vice President](#) of the Maryland State Board of Education. He was recently awarded UMBC's "Outstanding Alumni" award for Social Sciences, and will be honored at the 2023 Alumni Award ceremony in October. This award is given to a UMBC graduate who has brought distinction to the University through personal and professional achievement. Dr. Michael is Executive Director of the Sherman Family Foundation.



Public Policy alumna **Joanna Shoffner Scott** (Ph.D. 2009), pictured below, started a business as a DEI and [racial equity consultant](#). Her consultancy Stamey Street helps nonprofits, philanthropies, and businesses organizations move to the next stage in their racial equity journey.



## Keep in touch

We want to hear from you!

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

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



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