Welcome to the Inaugural Issue

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Inside EPPS! It is an honor to share the accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni with you.

In each issue, we will share excerpts from recent faculty publications and highlights from news stories showcasing EPPS faculty and students.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Alumni, please also share your good news with us for the alumni notes section in future issues. Send updates or suggestions to epps@utdallas.edu. I hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends.

Best,
Jennifer S. Holmes, PhD
Interim Dean
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Research Spotlight: Pension Reforms and Public Sector Turnover

Over the past decade, many states have reformed their retirement systems by reducing benefit generosity, tightening retirement provisions, introducing non-defined-benefit (DB) plan options and even replacing DB plans with defined-contribution plans. Many of these reforms have affected post-employment benefits that public workers will receive when they retire. Dr. Evgenia Gorina and Dr. Trang Hoang ask, “Have these reforms also affected the attractiveness of public sector employment?” Read More

Research Spotlight: Study Ties Fire Station Proximity Firmly to Prevention of Injuries

Does living closer to a fire station equate to a higher level of safety? It’s a commonly held belief, and now Dr. Dohyeong Kim has gathered empirical evidence that does indeed support that assertion. Read More

Alumni Spotlight: Mary Elbanna

Mary Elbanna BA'16, MPP'16, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, discusses the value of her experiences at UT Dallas and her internships as a student. Elbanna’s first internship, which she discovered through UT Dallas, led to her jobs as campaign manager and chief of staff for Johnson. Read More

Submit Your Note for the EPPS Welcome Wall

The fall semester begins at UT Dallas on August 19. With just under a month until classes begin, we invite you to help welcome new and returning students with a note of welcome and encouragement for the “EPPS Welcome Wall.” We’ll print your note and hang it on a wall inside Green Hall. Notes will also be included on the EPPS website. Leave your message to let EPPS students know that you’re thinking of them! Write A Message

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

August 31: UT Dallas Night at the Texas Rangers
September 17: Leadership Luncheon Lecture - Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot
September 19: North Texas Giving Day

EPPS In the News

A curated look at recent articles by or about EPPS faculty, students and alumni

UT Dallas Graduate Who Survived Haiti Earthquake Inspires Others
Opinion: Diversity is Not Inclusion. Organizations Need Both
For a growing number of Americans, Socialism is OK
Will Americans Vote for a Woman? Obsessing Over the Question Makes it Less Likely
Hands-Off Parenting Tied to Higher Risk of Teen Gun Use
Four Years in a Row, Police Nationwide Fatally Shoot Nearly 4,000 People
Professors Earn University Honors for Mentoring Aspiring Researchers
Welcome to a new school year!

We have welcomed 1,300 EPPS students to campus for a new academic year and are excited about all the upcoming events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UTD’s founding. We hope you can join us for UTD events and for our own EPPS events, such as our Leaders and Luminaries speaker series.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Alumni, please also share your good news with us for the alumni notes section in future issues.

Best,
Jennifer S. Holmes, PhD
Dean
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

The New EPPS Dean Has Been Appointed

Dr. Jennifer S. Holmes has been appointed as the new Dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas. Dr. Holmes has served EPPS as interim dean since June 2018 and has been a member of the EPPS faculty for over 20 years.

“It’s really special to be given this opportunity. This was my first job out of grad school,” said Dr. Holmes. “I started as a half-time visiting assistant professor in the fall of 1998 and have worked through the ranks. To know this school, its faculty, and its students so well, and to be asked to lead the school at this critical moment is a great honor.”

Read More

Research Spotlight: UK faces unpredictable times and a reflection on Canadian election strategies

The United Kingdom appears on course for an election in a matter of weeks. Harold Clarke, Ashbel Smith Professor of Political Science at UT Dallas, and his co-authors considered results across 138 polls to forecast the election on UK's exit from the EU.

Read More

Dr. Clarke has also recently co-authored Absent Mandate: Strategies and Choices in Canadian Elections. This book develops the crucial concept of policy mandates and addresses the disconnect between election issues and government actions. This is a fragment emphasizing Canadian federal elections between 1993 and 2015.

Learn More

Research Spotlight: What we’ve learned since 9/11

This week marked the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. This unprecedented event has prompted many academicians to study terrorism, the violence of a subnational group to obtain a political goal through intimidation.

Dr. Todd Sandler, Vibhooti Shukla Professor of Economics and Political Economy at UT Dallas, is featured in the Washington Post discussing what we’ve learned about terrorism since 9/11.

Read More

The Political Science 400: With Citation Counts by Cohort, Gender, and Subfield

The journal PS: Political Science & Politics recently published “The Political Science 400,” an analysis of scholarly influence among Political Science faculty in the United States. Based on Belimie citation counts in Google Scholar, the list includes the following EPPS faculty members: Dr. Brian J.L. Berry, Dr. Harold Clarke, Dr. Paul Diehl, and Dr. Todd Sandler.

Dr. Sandler and Dr. Clarke have also been recognized as the top 25 scholars in the field of International Relations and Methodology, respectively. Dr. Berry and Dr. Diehl have been recognized among the top 25 scholars in the field of Public Policy, Public Administration, Public Law, Political Psychology.

Read More
The PEP Talk We All Need

EPPS recently launched the PEP Talk, a student-run podcast focused on policy, economics, and politics. The podcast features interviews with experts on topics ranging from politics and policy to criminology and trade. This podcast is an opportunity for listeners to learn about relevant topics, firsthand, as they are being researched and implemented.

Learn More

EPPS In the News

A curated look at recent articles featuring EPPS faculty, students and alumni

PBS NewsHour:  
In Dallas, how art and culinary skills are helping juvenile offenders stay out of jail

SydneyNews.net:  
No-deal Brexit: how some traders will be gearing up to short the pound

KXAS-TV:  
Experts Support DPD Efficiency Recommendations

Newsweek Online:  
Tearing down abandoned buildings may help lower gun violence, Detroit study shows

The Dallas Morning News:  
A child’s death prompts soul-searching for Dallas leaders grappling with spike in violent crime

We hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends!
Send your updates or suggestions to epps@utdallas.edu.
EPPS Criminology Professor Listed Among the World’s Most-Cited Scientists

Alex Piquero, UT Dallas Ashbel Smith Professor of Criminology and associate dean for Graduate Programs at EPPS, has been ranked #4 among the most cited criminologists in the world.

The ranking method is based on new, more accurate standardized citation metrics developed by scientists led by Stanford University.

Learn More

EPPS Professor Receives Prestigious Award for Creativity in Geography

Brian Barry, Lloyd Viel Berkner Regental Professor and member of the National Academy of Sciences, has been selected to receive the 2020 Stan Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography.

This annual award from the American Association of Geographers (AAG) recognizes an individual geographer or team that has demonstrated originality, creativity, and significant intellectual breakthroughs in geography.

Learn More

EPPS Associate Professor Receives Grant from UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dohyeong Kim, associate professor of Public Policy and Political Economy, Geospatial Information Sciences and director of Geospatial Health Research Group, has recently been awarded the NIH grant. Dr. Kim is a principal investigator on the project titled Reducing the Burden of Road Traffic-Associated Mortality using Mobile Technology, in collaboration with the UT Southwestern Medical Center.

During the next couple years (2019-2021), Dr. Kim will provide the overall direction and management of the project as well as participate in the fieldwork and technical research/publication activities, focusing on GIS analysis, mapping and spatial simulation of the road traffic injury data in Lagos, Nigeria.

Learn More

Research Spotlight: Buying blue helmets: The role of foreign aid in the construction of UN peacekeeping missions

While the evolving nature and proliferation of UN peacekeeping operations in the post-Cold War period is well documented, we know less about how personnel are recruited for these missions.

Vito D’Orazio, assistant professor of Political Science at UT Dallas, co-authors this article that theoretically advances the scholarly understanding of international organizations (IO) and cooperation by illuminating an informal, extra-organizational strategy by which IOs can facilitate cooperation.

Read More

Student Spotlight: Q&A with John Taden

John Taden is a doctoral student of Public Policy and Political Economy in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) at UT Dallas.

He has been invited to speak at TEDxUTD on Oct. 21, 2019. The talk will focus on combating mob justice in Africa and will take place at the UT Dallas Jonsson Performance Hall at 5 p.m.

Read the Interview with John

EPPS In the News

A curated look at recent articles featuring EPPS faculty, students and alumni.

San Antonio Post: UK general election? Here’s what the polls are telling us

The Gazette: Pulling the R-Word in Politics: How religion influences the biggest issue of the UK election

Reuters Online: Video games more often blamed when school shootings are white

ABC News: ‘Kendrick-Ho’ jury not seen as key factor in officer’s trial

The Dallas Morning News: ‘Ho’ jury selected as white suspect in Botham Jean’s death

The Philadelphia Inquirer: With Hahnemann closed, expect more shootings to turn into homicides

NBC DFW: UTD Professor Of Criminology Weighs In On Atatiana Jefferson’s Death

CBS DFW: Amber Guyger Jury Selection
Alumni Spotlight

Brandon Friedman MPA’06 spent years working for the Obama administration. Now he’s in Dallas, selling teas from post-conflict countries. As an army veteran, Friedman found purpose in familiarizing Americans with other cultures through tea. His company helps you enjoy tea from unlikely places but also learn about the countries it came from. Support this Comet-owned business on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

GIS Day 2019 Recap

Experts and students gathered to understand the importance of geographic information systems on UT Dallas’ 10th annual GIS Day. Events featured a speakers from Dallas Fire-Rescue, Google, and more.

Faculty Re-elected FARA Officer

EPPS Professor of Economics Dr. Kurt Beron was re-elected as an officer of the national Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA). FARA is the voice of faculty to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Dr. Beron is involved with discussions that affect the campus, conference, and national levels.

Recent Publications, Awards and Grants

Learn about recent research from EPPS faculty, students, and alumni including works from: Dr. Yongwan Chun, Dr. Evgenia Gorina, Dr. Daniel Griffith, Dr. L. Douglas Kiel, and Dr. Meghna Sabharwal.

Public Forum on Redistricting

EPPS Professor of Political Science Dr. Robert Lowry joined the League of Women Voters, the Texas Civil Rights Project and Fair Maps Texas in a public forum. The meeting was designed to help attendees learn about redistricting in Texas.

Listen: The PEP Talk Podcast

A curated look at recent articles featuring EPPS faculty, students and alumni.

U.S. News & World Report: Diversity of Jury seen as Key Factor in Officers Conviction

AP Online: Fort Worth Police Shooting Shatters Community Trust

The Conversation: UK Election: Head to the Polls in Haste, Repent the Result at Leisure

The Philadelphia Inquirer: How Hahnemann Closed, Expect More Shootings to Turn Into Homicides

UT Dallas News Center: Research Team Offers Healthy Take on Workplace Wellness Programs

CPAC: Unpacking Election 2019

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