Economics Faculty Updates

AY 2017-2018
Randy Albelda

Randy Albelda served as Graduate Program Director for the MA in Applied Economics program. Professor Albelda continued her research and public presentations on paid family and medical leave in Massachusetts, working closely with Massachusetts legislators, advocates and business leaders on the potential costs of a program in Massachusetts that will be on the Fall 2018 ballot. She co-authored a report on various paid leave proposal in December 2017. Professor Albelda provided testimony on minimum wage legislation at the Massachusetts State Legislature and was an invited guest speaker at the International Rescue Committee and the Center for American Progress.

Michael Carr

Michael Carr continued his joint work on economic mobility, inequality, and earnings instability with Emily Wiemers. Some of this work was presented at a conference honoring the 50th anniversary of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. He also continued work with Randy Albelda on the interrelationship between minimum wage increases and the receipt of public benefits. Finally, he is starting a new project with Randy Albelda and Emily Wiemers on whether access to Temporary Disability Insurance improves long-run employment outcomes.
Anne Fitzpatrick

Professor Fitzpatrick continued to work on several ongoing research projects. She began a new randomized trial examining the impact of a new remedial education program on student learning in Ghana in partnership with the Ghanaian Ministry of Education; the study launched in June 2018. She also presented her work at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Amherst as well as several conferences, including the Northeastern Universities Development Conference, the Population Association of America annual conference, the Allied Social Sciences Annual (ASSA) meeting, and a one-day Russell Sage Foundation Conference on the impacts of the Affordable Care Act. Her paper presented at the ASSA showing that fee elimination in several sub-Saharan African countries reduced maternal mortality was also published. In addition Professor Fitzpatrick worked with MA student Mark Soto on a new working paper examining the effects of the ACA’s individual market on the use of fringe banking services. She supervised independent research projects with MA student Magaly Saenz on the effects of a health insurance expansion in Mexico on household consumption and PhD student Anatole Pitroipa on the linkage between terrorist attacks and trust in police in Algeria. She also oversaw a capstone project for Osa Aimiuwu on intergenerational wealth inequality. Finally, Professor Fitzpatrick enjoyed creating an exciting new team-based learning course on Global Health Economics during the Spring semester.

Keren Horn

Keren Horn’s research with former graduate student Mark Merante, “Is Home Sharing Driving up Rents? Evidence from Airbnb in Boston” was published in the Journal of Housing Economics. This paper was covered by the Atlantic’s City Lab. This research was also cited by Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, when describing the importance of a new ordinance he crafted designed to regulate the short-term rental market. Additionally, the Washington Post highlighted some prior work conducted by Professor Horn and her co-author Katherine O’Regan showing that the Low Income Housing Tax Credit is linked to declines in racial segregation. Professor Horn has also published two additional papers this year, both in Housing Policy Debate, focusing on how the housing tax credits can be used to increase access to opportunity for low-income and minority tenants. She participated in the Harvard Kennedy School student led conference on Poverty and Inequality, speaking on a panel focusing on housing policy. She was also honored by the Hoyt Institute, as a post-doctoral honoree, and presented a working paper at their January meeting “School Accountability and Residential Location Patterns: Evaluating the Unintended Consequences of No Child Left Behind.” Professor Horn also taught graduate urban economics for the first time, where she thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the newest class of economics graduate students. Professor Horn and her husband, Zach Horn, also welcomed a new member to their family, Montgomery Horn, born August 19th.
Marlene Kim

Marlene Kim presented her research on race and gender gaps in earnings for Asian American women at the Association for Heterodox Economics Annual meeting in Manchester, England. Four articles she wrote were accepted for The Past, Present & Future of Radical Economics: URPE at 50 of the Review of Radical Political Economics. "URPE at UC Berkeley: The Activities, Protests and Legacy of the Economics Students and URPE's Once Largest Chapter," "What is Radical Political Economics?", "URPE at 50: Reflections on a Half-Century of Activism, Community, Debate (and a Few Crazy Moments)," and "Introduction to the Special Issue of the Past, Present & Future of Radical Economics: URPE at 50." She taught Economics 476, Internship in Economics, where one student received a job. She is the President of the Faculty Staff Union at UMass Boston.

Yun Kim

Professor Kim has been extending his research program of household debt and macroeconomy into new dimensions; induced technological change, the effect of household debt on labor market and barging power and its implications on macroeconomic dynamics, and comparative capitalism (Varieties of Capitalism). He is currently finishing up three new papers on these themes. He gave talks on his new papers at a workshop and conference in NYC and Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. He also gave invited seminars at the University of New Hampshire, Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, and Meji University in Tokyo, Japan. He also reactivated Advanced Macroeconomics course (which has not been offered for more than 10 years) for Spring 2018. In this course he discussed with students various macroeconomic topics such as financialization and crisis, distribution and growth, secular stagnation, and inequality from both mainstream and heterodox perspectives. Above all, his son, Leo, 2 years and 4 months as of June 2018, is rapidly growing and very active, often reckless. He is very demanding, but still gives the very best days to his parents!
Harry Konstantinidis

Harry Konstantinidis had two papers on the appropriation of natural assets during the Greek crisis, coauthored with Andriana Vlachou, published in Capitalism Nature Socialism. He also edited the Greek edition of Richard D. Wolff’s book “Democracy at Work: A Cure for Capitalism” and coauthored the introduction with Andriana Vlachou. He participated in the writing of a report examining the impact of austerity policies on the Right to Food in Greece during the crisis (coauthored with the Transnational Institute and FIAN International). He presented his ongoing work on food insecurity in three conferences: at the Allied Social Sciences Association conference in Chicago, IL; the Eastern Economic Association Conference in Boston, MA; and the World Congress for Social Economics in Fort Collins, CO. Finally, he taught three courses (Introduction to Macro, History of Economic Thought and Graduate Political Economy) and supervised two MA capstones: one on internal migration in China (authored by Wen Si) and one on ecosystem services valuation (Chris Ahern).

Adugna Lemi

Professor Lemi continued serving as a chairperson of the department. In addition to the usual administrative duties as a chair of the department, Professor Lemi has served as dissertation committee member for four PhD students in the Global Governance program of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. He presented his paper on aid for trade in Africa at the Beijing Forum, Beijing, China in November 2017. He also presented his paper on “Trade mis-invoicing and capital flight in Ethiopia” at the Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference in Boston in February 2018. Two of his papers have also been published; the paper on aid for trade in Africa was published in the Journal of African Trade, the other paper, co-authored with Ian Wright of the University of Miami, was published in the Journal of Empirical Economics. Currently Professor Lemi is working on two papers, one is on the location decision of firms investing in African countries (with Ian Wright) and another one on the role that trade and climate change plays in shaping farming communities’ cropping decision (with Michael Denney, a PhD student in the Global Governance Program). On the teaching front, after teaching a course in Political Economy of Development in African Economics for the past three years, Professor Lemi will teach a course in International Trade course starting Fall 2018.
**Sripad Motiram**

Professor Motiram presented his research on inequality in Indian cities in the political economy seminar at University of Massachusetts Amherst and at the Canadian Economics Association annual meeting in Montreal. He continued to work on his projects on urban India during his visits to India in the summer and winter breaks. During the year, he published several articles and working papers. His article on unemployment in India was published in *Review of Development Economics*. An article that he co-authored with several experts on inequality has just been published as a part of the report of the International Panel on Social Progress (IPSP) by Cambridge University Press: [http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/political-economy/rethinking-society-21st-century-report-international-panel-social-progress?format=WX&isbn=9781108399579#eMLcfGumPpPWyQvF.97](http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/political-economy/rethinking-society-21st-century-report-international-panel-social-progress?format=WX&isbn=9781108399579#eMLcfGumPpPWyQvF.97)

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**Julie Nelson**

Professor Nelson went to half-time this year for health reasons, but remained busy anyway. She worked on the Second Edition of her book *Economics for Humans*, which will be out in September from the University of Chicago Press. She was busy with personnel cases and student issues in the Fall, as Associate Chair of the department, and in the Spring also taught Gender and Economics. She traveled to Oregon and Scotland to give talks. At commencement this year, she was honored to receive the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship.
Guy Numa

During his third year at UMass Boston, Professor Numa continued to work on the French classical economist Jean-Baptiste Say. Numa’s session on the reappraisal of Say’s political economy at the 2018 annual conference of the American Economic Association in Philadelphia was a great success in terms of attendance and feedback. His archival research on the Say papers in Paris, France has been very productive. Two articles on Say’s Law and Say’s monetary theory were published, and another on Say’s free trade theory was accepted for publication. A paper about Say’s views on hoarding and money holdings was presented at three major conferences in Boston, Madrid, and Chicago. In Chicago, Numa also presented a paper on the diffusion of modern finance ideas in France since the 1970s. Moreover, Numa’s session proposal on the economics of Léon Walras was accepted for the upcoming annual conference of the American Economic Association in Atlanta. The session will include paper presentations by Roger Guesnerie and Alan Kirman, two scholars of international stature. Finally, Numa published a book chapter on the political economy of the French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique following the 2009 mass protest. Numa taught a new 400-level course, Public Finance, and enjoyed mentoring Economics and Honors students.

Andrew Perumal

Andrew Perumal was on sabbatical in Fall 2017, initiating research on the characterization and determinants of urbanization in Sri Lanka. Working with colleagues in Sri Lanka, Professor Perumal is helping objectively identify the rate and nature of urbanization across the country, as opposed to the current political delineation of such areas. This work will help redirect urban development funding to areas that are most in need of the assistance from the national government. Back in Boston in Spring 2018, Professor Perumal taught the first instance of the research practicum short-course in the Masters in Applied Economics. Professor Perumal also presented his use of active learning technologies in large enrollment courses at the UMass Boston Conference on Teaching, Learning and Technology in May 2018.
David Timmons

Professor Timmons and his wife Robin spent most of academic year 2017-18 on sabbatical in Mauritius (small island in south Indian Ocean), with a Fulbright grant to teach at the University of Mauritius and research the development of renewable energy on the island. Like many small island nations, Mauritius enjoys abundant solar, wind, and biomass energy potential, yet relies mostly on expensive, imported fossil fuels to meet most of its energy demand. These island nations thus provide valuable incubators where the world can gain more experience managing energy systems that depend largely on intermittent renewable sources such as wind and solar energy, of which there are currently few examples in the world. Professor Timmons also spent June and July leading an undergraduate study abroad program in Iceland, a country that already gets its electricity from renewable sources, though these are mostly from dispatchable hydropower and geothermal energy, which have less challenging economics than intermittent wind and solar sources.

Emily Wiemers

Professor Wiemers and a department colleague Professor Michael Carr continued work on a series of projects, funded by the Russell Sage Foundation and the Washington Center for Economic Growth, examining the consequences of earnings inequality for economic mobility over an individual’s lifetime, publishing a paper in the *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, and presenting the work at several conferences. She also finished two papers funded by the National Institute on Aging. The first examines whether financial and time transfers between parents and adult children differ between families with and without stepkin. The second considers the effect of income and wealth on parents’ decisions to provide financial support to their children in college and the consequences of this support on both the educational attainment of children and on parental and student debt.