

## Economics Faculty Updates: AY 2021-2022



Picture: Department members in newly renovated conference room (aka: room 41 (W-05-41))



## **Michael Carr**

Michael Carr continued his joint work on economic mobility, inequality, and earnings instability with Emily Wiemers at Syracuse University and Robert Moffitt at Johns Hopkins University. He also continued work with Randy Albelda and Emily Wiemers on the effects of temporary disability insurance on long-run employment outcomes. He taught Econometrics, Quantitative Methods I, and Quantitative Methods II. He also completed his last year as chair of the Department Personnel Committee, in which he oversaw several tenure cases and fourth year reviews, and the successful hiring of a new Labor and Gender Economist. He “looks forward” to starting his term as chair of the department in Fall 2022.



## **Jonathan Cogliano**

Jonathan Cogliano continued his ongoing research collaboration with Roberto Veneziani at Queen Mary University of London and Naoki Yoshihara at UMass Amherst on computational simulation models of exploitation and class and other topics in Marxian value theory; completing a paper on a new measure of unequal exchange and exploitative relations between countries, and a paper on the usefulness of a concept of labor values (or the labor content of goods) for analyzing fundamental features of modern economies. With the same co-authors, he also continued a recent project developing agent-based computational simulations of classical-Marxian competition and price formation. Professor Cogliano also finished a paper on the history of how the concept of “the core” was introduced to general equilibrium theory. He continued teaching History of Economic Thought and taught Applied Microeconomics for the MA program for the first time.



## **Leila Davis**

This year Leila Davis was on parental leave in the Fall semester. In the Spring she continued her research on profitability and markups in the United States with Joao de Souza, some of which appeared in *Metroeconomica*. She also published an article with Leopoldo Gomez-Ramirez on teaching upper-intermediate macroeconomics, which builds off her macroeconomics course in the MA program. She continued teaching Intermediate Macroeconomics and also taught the Applied Economics Research Practicum in the MA program.



## **Joao De Souza**

This year Professor Joao De Souza taught Macroeconomic Theory and Advanced Topics in Development, and he advised an MA capstone project. Together with Professor Leila Davis, Professor De Souza published a paper measuring how the entry and exit of firms contributed to regulating the distribution of profit rates in the US corporate sector. Professors Davis and De Souza started a new paper on the role of financial and intangible asset accumulation in reconciling the fact that profit rates (i.e. return on assets) have remained steady while profit margins (i.e. return on sales) have risen significantly since 1980. Professor De Souza also concluded a paper with Giacomo Rella, Y.K. Kim, and Leila Davis on the relationship between corporate debt and business cycles in advanced economies. Finally, Professor De Souza presented his research in a seminar at American University and in the 2022 Analytical Political Economy Workshop held at Wesleyan University.



## Anne Fitzpatrick

Professor Fitzpatrick had a busy year, teaching two classes in the fall (Econometrics and Health Economics). Spring semester she was on maternity leave. Elizabeth was born in February 2022. She is a joy and a source of constant entertainment for her parents and two older siblings. Everyone is doing well, although perhaps not sleeping as much as they should! She had two papers accepted this year, one in the *Journal of Development Effectiveness* and one in the *Journal of Health Economics*. However, the big professional accomplishment was a promotion to a tenured, Associate Professor. She is excited for this next step in her career. Professor Fitzpatrick also started two new evaluations abroad in 2022. First, she is piloting a new study in Kenya on whether providing childcare to small entrepreneurs ultimately improves the profits of these small firms. Second, in partnership with the Ghanaian Ministry of Education, she has just begun a large-scale randomized evaluation of a remote teacher professional development, and testing whether it improves learning outcomes compared to the status quo.



## Dania Francis

Professor Francis taught Intro Micro and Economics of Education in Fall 2020. In the spring semester, she taught Political Economy of Black America and stepped in to teach Political Economy of Class, Race, and Gender for graduate students – a course that Professor Randy Albelda developed and taught for years prior to her retirement last year. Professor Francis also advised Max May Fowler on their graduate capstone project and Claire Tang on her senior honors thesis this year. Regarding research, Professor Francis published six journal articles this year, including one with Professor Keren Horn titled “Stable School Integration” in *Race and Social Problems*, a co-authored paper in *AEA: Papers and Proceedings* titled “Black Land Loss: 1920-1997,” and an in-depth review in the *Journal of Economic Literature* titled “Black Economists on Race and Policy: Contributions to Education, Poverty and Mobility, and Public Finance” co-authored with Bradley Hardy and Damon Jones.



## Keren Horn

Professor Keren Horn published an [article](#) this year, co-authored with Professor Dania Francis, examining patterns of school racial integration in our nation. She also wrote a [policy brief](#), co-authored with Meghan Kallman, for the Boston Area Research Initiative, on what the next mayor of Boston needs to know about affordable housing. She has also been working on developing a number of different research projects. She is working with Professor Dania Francis to study the employment impacts of climate change, specifically examining the long run outcomes that result from hurricanes, floods and fires. She is further working with Dania Francis and Briana Stephenson, at the Harvard School of Public Health, to examine whether changing advertising patterns are impacting obesity rates in lower income communities. She is continuing to move forward a long term project examining how workers adapt to mass layoffs. In addition, she has contributed to public conversations on inflation and housing prices through articles on [boston.com](#) and [The Boston Globe](#). She taught the graduate capstone course for this first time this fall and is looking forward to teaching this again next year.



## Marlene Kim

Professor Marlene Kim had a head injury all year so could not perform her regular duties. Still, she presented her work at the International Association for Feminist Economics Conference in Geneva, Switzerland and “New Strategies for Making Economics More Inclusive” at the Allied Social Science Association in January 2022. She was a panelist (with Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and Representative Patricia Haddad) for the Equal Pay Massachusetts Roundtable Series: Findings, Report and Kick Off, on March 24, 2022, sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Economic Empowerment. She also participated in the invite-only convening, “[Women’s Racial and Economic Justice Roundtable: Labor Market Implications of the Pandemic](#),” in April 2022, co-hosted by The Century Foundation’s women’s economic justice team and the Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

Professor Kim appeared in the CBS news, USA Today and National Public Radio Marketplace on the gender wage gap and COVID, and policies that can shrink this gap. She taught the Internship in Economics course, where one student received a job offer, and served as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees.



## **YK Kim**

Professor YK Kim taught classes at both undergraduate and graduate levels during the academic year of 2021-2022. He also taught a new course, International Political Economy, for graduate students from International Relations, Public Policy, and Economics. It was an interdisciplinary class that covers the domain of Political Economy of Development and Globalizations. It was also real pleasure for him to supervise an Economics master student for his capstone and a visiting PhD student from the University of Siena Italy for his PhD dissertation. He also found it very meaningful to participate in the Asian American faculty mentor program for our students under the initiative of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI).



## **Harry Konstantinidis**

Professor Harry Konstantinidis continued serving as Graduate Program Director of the MA in Applied Economics and teaching Intro to Macroeconomics at the undergrad level. His paper on food insecurity and austerity in Greece was published in the *Review of Social Economy*. He also worked on a book chapter on Karl Marx's views on economic policy. Professor Konstantinidis was on parental leave in Spring 2022.



## **Rishabh Kumar**

This was Professor Kumar's first year teaching in person at UMass Boston, after remote teaching in AY20-21. He taught Introduction to Macroeconomics (Fall, Spring), Economics of Inequality (Fall) and Political Economy (Spring, MA program). He also organized (with Professor De Souza) the department seminar series for AY21-22 and a graduate school workshop (with MIT), for students interested in PhD programs in economics. Professor Kumar published a paper on the importance of location as a key determinant on inequality in India – despite the diversity of socioeconomics factors (gender, education, caste etc.) one can predict almost a third of the difference in people's living standard using their location. He also wrote a paper correcting India's official estimates of wealth inequality; between 2012-2018, according to his calculations, India's super-rich are second only to Russian oligarchs in control over their nation's wealth. He is looking forward to resuming international conference travel and taking trips with family outside the US.



## **Adugna Lemi**

Professor Lemi has received a research grant to study the challenges of the export sector of Ethiopia. He has also signed a contract with a publisher for his upcoming book tentatively titled "The Trade, Productivity, and Poverty Nexus in Africa: Policy Implications and Recommendations". In addition to the usual administrative duties as a chair of the department, he has served as external examiner for African Economics Research Consortium (AERC) to evaluate a master program, reviewed several journal articles and book proposals for publishers, and continued to serve as dissertation committee member for PhD students in MGS. He has submitted three papers for publication. Currently he is working on his book and also extending the location decision paper (with Ian Wright of Miami University) using firm-level data for the case of US firms investing in African countries.

After serving the department as a chair for the past seven years, Professor Lemi is looking forward to passing the baton to Professor Michael Carr. Professor Lemi would like to thank all faculty members and staff for making it possible for him to run the department as smooth as possible for the past seven years. He noted that it would be impossible to manage a department without the genuine and wholehearted support of its faculty and staff. He is grateful for the support and cooperation he received from member of the department and the Dean's Office Staff.



## **Sripad Motiram**

Professor Motiram enjoyed returning to the physical classroom in Fall 2021 and seeing students, although teaching with a mask was a novel experience that needed adjustment. He was on sabbatical during Spring 2022. Easing of travel restrictions allowed him to visit India during Dec-Jan to work on some research projects. He made progress on a book project on urban India and started a new project on wealth inequality in India.



## **David Timmons**

This year students in two of Professor Timmons' classes did research on economics of switching to electric shuttle buses at UMass Boston. Transportation is one of many energy-consuming services that needs to be electrified to mitigate climate change. For buses such as those used by UMass, electric versions are available but still quite expensive, making overall owner costs greater for electric than for diesel buses. But electric bus purchase subsidies are available, and some universities and cities are at least experimenting with electric buses. A more challenging question is how to promote electric cars, which are now widely available, and for which the economics are quite good (especially with \$5 per gallon gasoline). Though electric car sales are increasing, most new-car buyers still purchase gasoline models. Transportation electrification is clearly an issue that has economic dimensions as well as deeper social roots.