



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

INSIDE EPPS

News from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas

[UT DALLAS EPPS WEBSITE](#)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Benavides Honored by Black Public Administrators Group

Dr. Teodoro Benavides, associate professor of practice of public and nonprofit management and director of the Master of Public Affairs program, was awarded the 2020 Educator of the Year Award by The National Forum for Black Public Administrators. Dr. Benavides was honored for his teaching, mentoring and service commitment for the advancement of Black public leadership in local and state governments.

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Dr. Yuan Named AAAS Fellow

Ashbel Smith Professor of Geospatial Information Sciences Dr. May Yuan has been selected as a 2020 fellow of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Yuan was elected for her contributions to fundamental and applied geographic information science (GIS), especially for developing new data models and analytical methods to address problems of significant societal concerns.

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PNM Project Receives 100K Strong in the Americas Innovation Grant

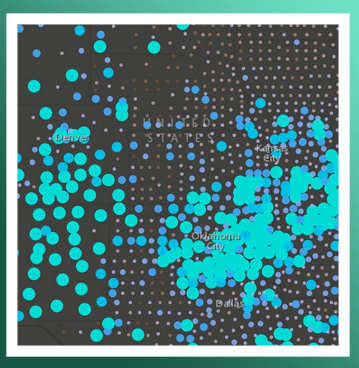
Dr. Meghna Sabharwal, program head and professor of Public and Nonprofit Management, has received a grant from the 100,000 Strong in the Americas (100K) Innovation Fund for the UTD-CIDE Student Exchange Program. This fund inspires U.S. universities to work with higher education institutions in Latin America and awards



projects marked by economic advancement, entrepreneurship, technology, workforce development, and other areas of study.

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PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT



Deeper Spatial Statistical Insights into Small Geographic Area Data Uncertainty

Dr. Daniel A. Griffith, Ashbel Smith Professor of GIS, Dr. Yongwan Chun, Associate Professor of GIS, and Monghyeon Lee, GIS PhD student, have published a paper about big spatial data with regard to their uncertainty through georeferenced data, coupled with small geographic areas. Impacts of interest concern the nature, degree, and mixture of spatial autocorrelation.

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Life, Death, and Zombies: Revisiting Traditional Concepts of Nonprofit Demise

Dr. Elizabeth Searing, assistant professor of public and nonprofit management, has published a study that revisits traditional definitions of nonprofit life and death to better reflect actual organizational operating status. Findings from this study show that certain internal and external characteristics are more important in determining a nonprofit's operational status.

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The Political Costs of Abusing Human Rights: International Cooperation in Extraordinary Rendition

Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Rebecca Cordell has published an article in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and has also written a blog about it in *Political Violence at a Glance* magazine.

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[READ THE BLOG](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

EPPS Alumna Appointed Director of Library Services for the city of Richardson

Jennifer Davidson, an EPPS Local Government Management Graduate Certificate alumna, has been



selected as the new director of Library Services for the Richardson Public Library. Davidson started working at the Richardson Public Library in 2003 and was most recently recognized as the Richardson Public Library Employee of the Year for 2019, among many other accomplishments.

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Check out our EPPS Entrepreneurs Series

Where do our graduates go after earning a degree from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences?

Check out the Pathways to Employment series on our [YouTube Channel](#) to learn more about EPPS Entrepreneurs.

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ACCOLADE SPOTLIGHT



ICMA Awards Winter Graduates Committed to Local Government Service

Five UT Dallas EPPS students have received the 2020 Winter ICMA (International City/County Manager Association) Local Government Early Career Service Certificate. This is a national award for students who have completed extensive projects for local governments. It also recognizes those who have gone beyond the requirements of their degree and displayed a commitment to local government service.

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UT Dallas Public Administration Program Ranked Top 15 for 2021

UT Dallas EPPS has been ranked 11th in the top 15 schools for the public administration degree program by Best Value Schools. The Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs and MPA program at UT Dallas are designed to prepare students to work in government and nonprofit organizations, as well as other fields. Schools are ranked based on in-state tuition and enrollment.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. Evelyn Courville Stutts

It is with great sadness we are sharing the news of the passing of Evelyn Courville Stutts on December 11, 2020.



Mrs. Stutts, former assistant to the Dean, retired from UT Dallas in 1992 after many years of dedicated service.

Evelyn was generous, loving, and strong — she persevered in every circumstance and was an example of determination to those around her.

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Mr. Robert Douglas Little

It is with great sadness we are sharing the news of the passing of Robert Douglas Little on December 29, 2020. Mr. Little had previously taught government for EPPS. He was a good friend to UT Dallas, as he taught for years at Brookhaven in Dallas Community College.

Bob Little's motto at his 75th birthday dinner was "Friendship Forever".

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UPCOMING EVENTS

With notable EPPS alumni, faculty, students, and community members from across the globe.

FRIDAY

05

February

5 p.m.

Slice & Dice with the Dean

King Arthur's Original Cake Pan Cake presented by Dr. Banks Miller

SLICE & DICE
with the Dean

Feb. 5, 2021
@ 5 p.m

utd.link/slice-dice

Join EPPS along with Dr. Jennifer Holmes and Dr. Banks Miller as we feature a different recipe every month.

Learn more and
join

EPPS IN THE NEWS

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

CBS 11

[UT Dallas Professor: Survey Shows COVID-19 Likely Cost President Trump A 2nd Term](#)

The Dallas Morning News

[UT-Dallas Graduates Draw Inspiration from Their Kids During Their Own Time in Remote Learning](#)

The Conversation

[Donald Trump: how COVID-19 killed his hope of re-election – new research](#)

Market News

[Fed Paper Makes New Case for Standing Repo Tool](#)

Lone Star Politics

[Dec. 20, 2020 Podcast](#)

[**LISTEN: PEP TALK PODCAST**](#)

[**READ: EPPS STUDENT BLOG**](#)

We hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends!
Send your updates or suggestions to epps@utdallas.edu.