



# Inside EPPS

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

Greetings from EPPS Dean Jennifer S. Holmes!

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences has been busy innovating. This fall, we launched two new degrees.

First, we established a [B.A. in Public Health](#) for students to study the human factors in health. Career options will be broad, ranging from the public and non-profit sectors to major hospital systems.

Second, we are now offering a dual degree option in our M.S. in [Social Data Analytics and Research \(SDAR\)](#) with National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) in Taiwan. Students participating in this program will work with scientists, engineers and data science experts in Taichung City and will have access to research and job opportunities in both Taiwan and the United States.

We have also hired five new faculty members: [Tony Love](#) in Criminology, [Elias Cisneros](#) in Sustainability Policy, [Sean McCandless](#) in Public Nonprofit Management, [Jonathan Pinckney](#) in Political Science, and [Curtis Bram](#) in Survey Research.

On a sad note, [Dr. Rodney Andrews](#) unexpectedly passed away in May. Dr. Andrews was a renowned labor economist and Fellow, Vibhooti Shukla Professor of Economics and Political Economy. He also was a one of the leaders of the *Texas Schools Project* (TSP) at UT Dallas.

UT Dallas family, friends, and alumni are invited to join us for a celebration of his life on September 27th at 1 pm in Founder's Atrium. Please RSVP at [epps.deansoffice@utdallas.edu](mailto:epps.deansoffice@utdallas.edu) for more information.

RSVP

## Research & Publications

### New IUPR Report on Human Trafficking

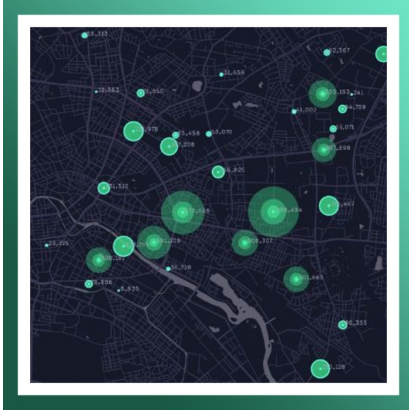
The City of Dallas Police Department (DPD) partnered with the Institute for Urban Policy Research (IUPR) at the University of Texas at Dallas to develop a needs assessment project to measure human trafficking-related services that exist and those that are unmet within the county. DPD partnered with IUPR due to the primary investigators' past project experience in conducting needs assessments and evaluation research in conjunction with the Dallas City Council, Dallas Mayor's Office, and DPD on previous studies and projects related to the Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce.



[Dr. Denise Paquette Boots](#) (Professor of Public Policy, Senior Research Fellow within IUPR, and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas), and [Dr. Timothy Bray](#) (Professor of Practice within the Program of Public Policy and the Director of the Institute) worked closely with DPD to oversee the needs assessment project from development through conclusion. Ms. Whitney Sanders, IUPR Senior Research Associate and Doctoral Student in the Public Policy Program at UT Dallas, rounded out the leadership team. The initial draft of the project findings were shared with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services in late August 2023 and the final report will be released to the public in November 2023 with recommendations for improving the region's response to human trafficking, holding perpetrators accountable, and assisting survivors in health and recovery.

### New Publication on Spatial Statistics

Dr. Daniel Griffith, Ashbel Smith Professor of Geospatial Information Systems, Dr. Yongwan Chun, Professor



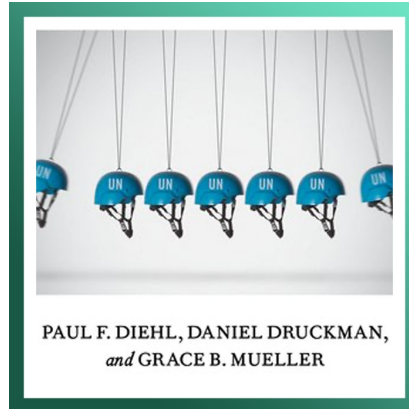
of Geospatial Information Sciences, and PhD Student Changho Lee have co-authored the article ***Effects of geographically stratified random sampling initial solutions on solving a continuous surface p-median location problem using the ALTERN heuristic.***

Read

### ***When Peacekeeping Missions Collide***

A new book from Oxford University Press is coming out in late September, authored by Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus of Political Science Paul Diehl and Grace B. Mueller PhD'22, recent UT Dallas Alumni.

Learn More



PAUL F. DIEHL, DANIEL DRUCKMAN, and GRACE B. MUELLER



### **New Publication by Alero Akporiaye MA'10, PhD'14**

Alumna Alero Akporiaye MA'10, PhD'14 has recently published ***Competing investor response to direct and indirect expropriation: evidence from the extractive sector.***

Read

## **Accolades**

### ***Dr. Brandt Awarded NSF Grant***

Patrick Brandt, professor of political science, and three co-principal investigators have been awarded a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for their research on "Infrastructure for Political and Social Event Data using Machine Learning." Latifur Khan, professor of computer



science in the Erik Jonson School of Engineering and Computer Science, is one of the co-principal investigators on the grant. The existing approach used by conflict scholars relies heavily on costly manual coding of vast amounts of information on armed conflicts, social demonstrations, and other politically significant events across the globe. This initiative will harness recent advancements in artificial intelligence and large language models to address this core challenge in conflict research.

[Learn More](#)

### **Dr. Boots Named 2023-24 Love of Learning Award Winner**

Dr. Denise Paquette Boots, Professor of Public Policy and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education within the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, was recently named a Love of Learning Award winner for the 2023-24 year by the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Boots will use funds from the award to support her travel for a new study abroad program of UT Dallas students to Sydney, Australia in the Summer of 2024.



The program, "Culture & Crime in the World Down Under," will include six hours of credit for two classes-- one on gender-based violence and another on Australian Indigenous culture and justice. Dr. Boots is the founding President of the UT Dallas Chapter of PKP and a long-time Executive Board member. She has been an active PKP member since her induction as a graduate student in 1999.

## Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY

27

September

1:00 p.m.

Dr. Rodney Andrews Celebration of Life

[Join](#)

## EPPS In The News

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

### **D Magazine**

*Dallas Tops Gallup Poll of Safe Cities, But the Fine Print Tells a Different Story*

### **KRLD**

*Ask the Expert: What can we expect from Wednesday's GOP presidential debate?*

Ways to Give and Make a Difference.

*We hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends! Send your updates or suggestions to [epps@utdallas.edu](mailto:epps@utdallas.edu).*

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