

USC Price

Sol Price School of Public Policy

Change for the Common Good

Annual Report 2024–25





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95 Years of Service

The founding of our school in 1929 grew out of the good government movement of the late 1920s, when women’s and citizen groups began to advocate for professionalism among public servants. In the decades since, the USC Price School has demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to the principles of ethical service, professional integrity, and critical social awareness.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

4 Bachelor
14 Master
3 Doctoral

ROTC PROGRAMS

Air Force
Army
Navy

ENROLLMENT

743 Bachelor
816 Master
88 Doctoral

17% International
33% First-generation
>95% Graduate employment rate
484 Scholarships awarded
50% Students of color

FACULTY

73 Tenured and tenure-track; research and teaching
3 Nobel laureates

18 Memberships in National Academies



Associate Professor and Vice Dean for Research Alice Chen

Message from the Interim Dean



Genevieve Giuliano

*Interim Dean, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy;
Margaret and John Ferraro Chair in Effective Local Government*

As global challenges intensify with every passing year, thoughtful, evidence-based policy becomes all the more important. Thankfully, our country has many excellent public policy schools whose scholars are generating new knowledge and where students are being well-trained for critical leadership positions.

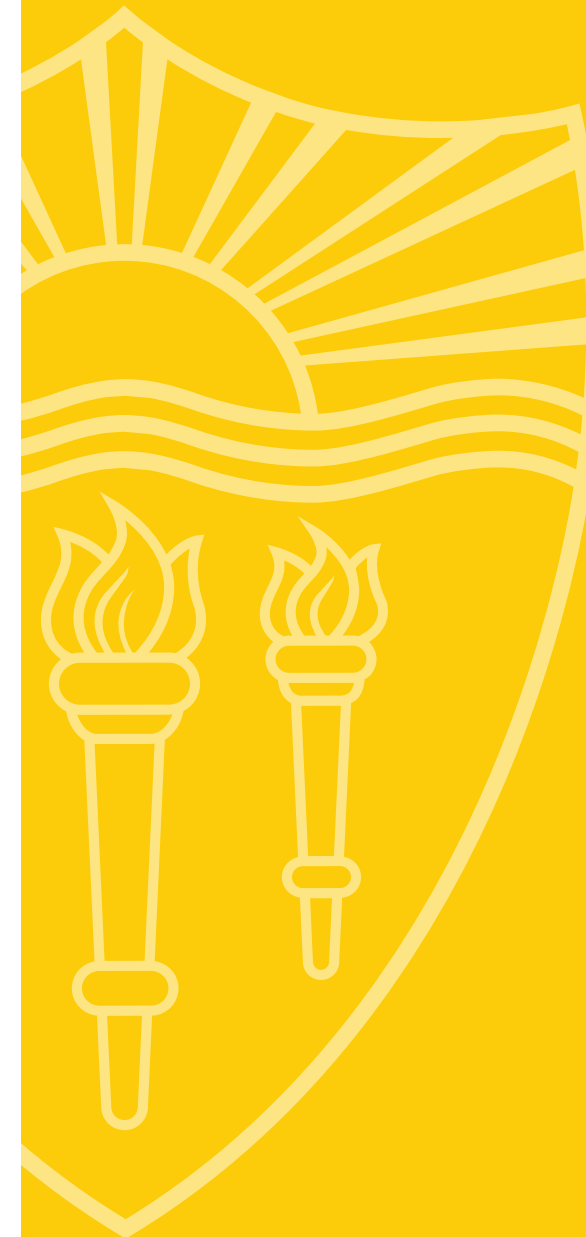
Although each school approaches its own curriculum and research in its own way, we are united in our belief that good policy is key to creating a better future. We accomplish that at the USC Price School of Public Policy by cultivating two of humanity's most powerful characteristics — pragmatism and idealism.

When it comes to our students, we welcome pragmatists who are looking for rewarding careers as well as idealists who want to change the world. We need both kinds of people — and people who are a little of both — to solve today's increasingly complex problems. Complexity also demands finding mutual understanding among people from diverse backgrounds and values — another one of our core values.

Like our students, our faculty are a diverse mix of pragmatists and idealists. Their research spans from urban planning to healthcare management, public policy to real estate development. This enormous range of disciplines has been critical to our success for 95 years. Today's problems can't be solved through a single lens. They have to be viewed through many.

We are fortunate to be located in the heart of Los Angeles, which, with all of its innovative policymaking and urban challenges, provides an ideal workshop for experimentation. And thanks to our affiliation with the newly opened USC Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service, with its office in Washington, D.C., we now have that much greater access to federal policymakers.

The following pages hold a small sample of the faculty and student research we've undertaken in the past 12 months. This roundup of selected research will hopefully give you an idea of the impact we're having. Combined with the work that our colleagues are doing at other public policy schools, it adds up to a powerful force for good.



A Research Powerhouse

The USC Sol Price School of Public Policy combines evidence-based research and rigorous education to improve the quality of life in communities worldwide.

Consistently ranked among the top five schools of its kind in the nation, the USC Price School pursues its mission through four departments, augmented by a mosaic of research centers and institutes that focus on specific topics. Together, these resources give the school unmatched power to explore and develop solutions to society's most pressing issues.

Our research has informed everything from policies related to vaccination, mask-wearing and the environment, to issues involving traffic safety, diversity and voting rights. It also informs our pedagogy. The USC Price School provides students with enormous opportunities to engage in research — a critical tool in teaching critical thinking. It helps explain why so many of our alumni have built rewarding careers in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Academic Departments

Department of Public Policy and Management
Shapes governance, policy, leadership, and nonprofit management through fact-based research; ranked among the nation's top-five public affairs programs.

Department of Health Policy and Management
Promotes health and value in healthcare delivery through innovative research, which has been featured in the annual economic reports of the past three U.S. presidents.

Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development
Examines development from multiple perspectives to help create communities with distinct identities and lasting value.

Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis
Engages in thoughtful planning — driven by data — that creates more livable and socially just communities. One of the top-ranked programs in the country.



USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy
Advances post-partisanship to encourage leaders to work together to find solutions that benefit the people they serve.

Research Centers and Groups

USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics
Measurably improves value in healthcare through evidence-based policy solutions, research excellence, and private and public-sector engagement.

Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy
Promotes effective philanthropy and strengthens the nonprofit sector through research that informs philanthropic decision-making and public policy.

Bedrosian Center on Governance
Through public discourse, examines pressing issues facing society and integrates new knowledge and ideas gleaned from this discourse into civic education — the key to strong communities.

Lusk Center for Real Estate
Advances real estate knowledge, informs business practices, and addresses timely issues affecting the real estate industry, the urban economy, and public policy.

METRANS Transportation Consortium
Addresses transportation problems of large metropolitan regions through interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach.

USC Price

Sol Price Center for Social Innovation
Develops strategies to improve the quality of life for people in low-income urban communities.

Center for Inclusive Democracy
Focuses on nonpartisan research related to elections, voting behaviors, and electoral and political participation.

Center for Economic Development
Facilitates sustainable economic development in Southern and Central California.

Safe Communities Institute
Engages in research, interdisciplinary education, and collaboration to advance public safety.

USC State Capital Center
Educates leaders and generates knowledge to improve public problem-solving.

Population Dynamics Research Group
Uncovers demographic trends that drive major changes in society, providing insights that lead to effective policies.

National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE)
Develops models and tools to evaluate risks, costs, and consequences of threats, and assesses strategies to mitigate risk and respond to emergencies.

Education

BACHELOR

- Bachelor of Science in Public Policy
- Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning
- Bachelor of Science in Real Estate Development
- Bachelor of Science in Real Estate Finance and Development

MASTER

- Master of Health Administration
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Public Policy
- Master of Urban Planning
- Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management
- Master of Science in Public Policy and Data Science
- Dollinger Master of Real Estate Development
- Master of International Public Policy and Management
- Master of Public Administration – Online
- Executive Master of Health Administration – Online

PROGRESSIVE

- Master of Health Administration
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Public Policy
- Master of Urban Planning

DOCTORAL

- Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management
- Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Development
- Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development



National study finds persistent lower voter turnout among people of color

While the United States has become more racially and ethnically diverse over the past decade, the pace of voter turnout among Latinos, Asian Americans and Blacks continues to lag behind that of white non-Latinos, creating a substantial voter participation gap, according to a study conducted by the USC Price School's Center for Inclusive Democracy.

Between 2010 and 2020, the Asian American, Latino and Black populations in the country grew 35%, 23%, and 6% respectively, while

the population of white, non-Latinos fell 2%.

Yet voters of color in the U.S. continue to be underrepresented in the electorate, casting a smaller share of votes proportional to their share of the eligible voter population.

The study also revealed that in the 2020 presidential election, Asian American, Black and Latino eligible voters comprised nearly 30% of all Americans eligible to vote, but represented just over 22% of all votes cast.

“Eligible voters of color have substantial potential to hold greater influence over the outcomes of local and national elections. There are millions of eligible nonvoters of color who, if mobilized, could have a transformative and immediate impact in the 2024 elections.”

— **Mindy Romero**, Director of the USC Price School's Center for Inclusive Democracy and the study's lead author



How to spot AI fake news

The rise of AI has made it easier than ever to create fake images, phony videos and doctored audio recordings that look and sound real. The emerging technology threatens to flood the Internet with disinformation, potentially affecting public opinion, our trust in institutions and each other, and the way we behave.

Here's how to recognize and ignore disinformation, according to experts who participated in the Center for Inclusive Democracy's webinar, "Elections in the Age of AI."

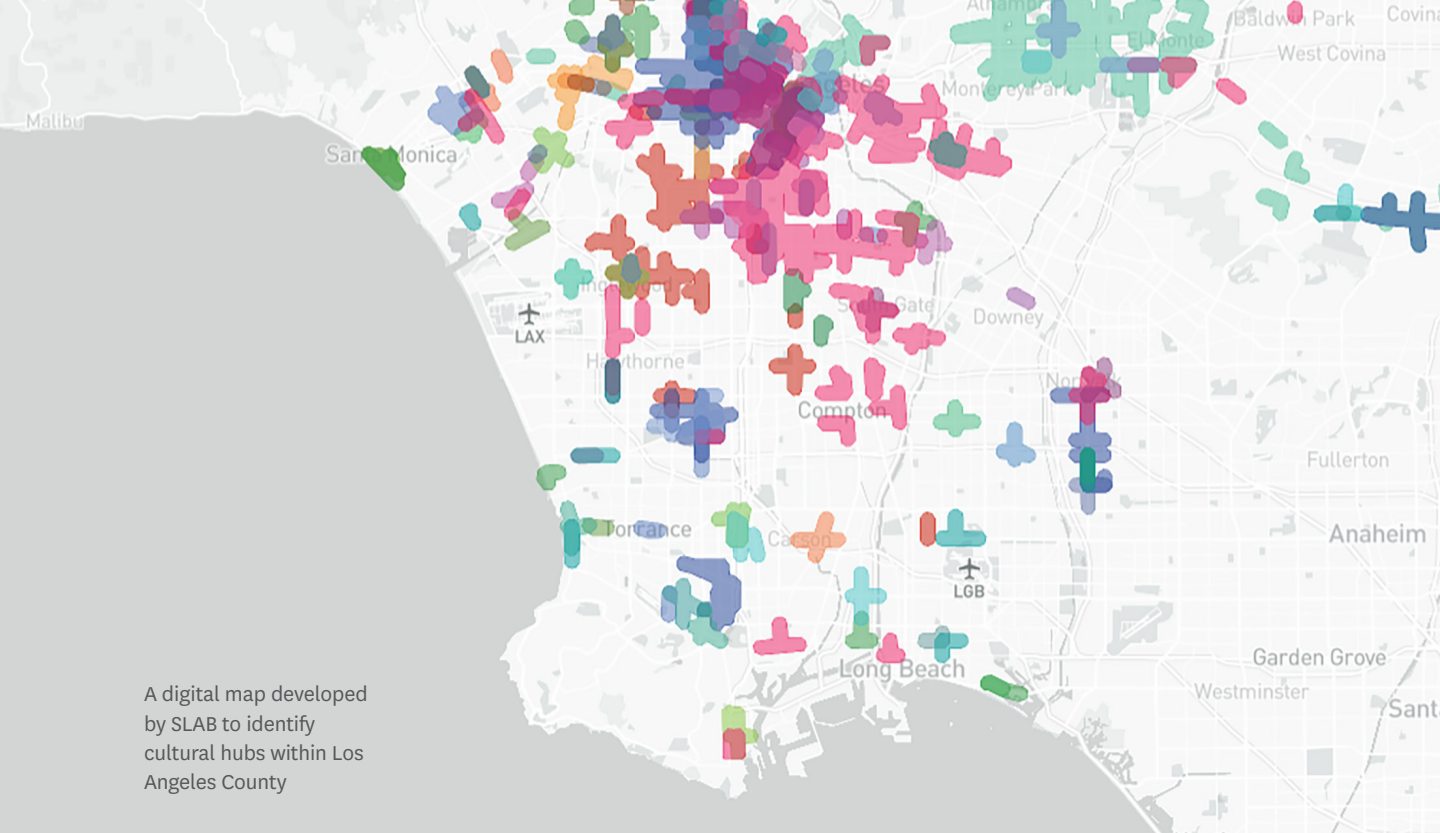
Be skeptical. It's not a bad thing to be skeptical of political news in general, noted Mindy Romero, Director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy at the USC Price School.

If the news doesn't seem quite right, if it's sensationalized, or evokes strong emotions, that should be a red flag.

Confirm across multiple sources. If you see an image or video that makes someone's point too perfectly, confirms a conspiracy theory, or attacks a candidate, take a moment before sharing, said Jonathan Mehta Stein, Executive Director of California Common Cause.

Use news from trusted sources. Consuming information from credible sources is one way to combat disinformation. People should also determine whether an article is news or opinion, said Romero, the webinar's host.





A digital map developed by SLAB to identify cultural hubs within Los Angeles County

L.A. County schools use Price professor’s interactive data maps

Thanks to digital maps developed at the USC Price School, high schoolers can go back in time to see Los Angeles County before European settlers arrived. One map shows students how Los Angeles urbanized over time, from a sparsely populated area in the 1890s to a bustling metropolis in 2010.

These digital maps, developed by Annette M. Kim, Director of the Spatial Analysis Lab (SLAB) at the USC Price School, have helped

teachers create innovative lesson plans for science, history, and ethnic studies.

Kim sees the maps as a way for people to better understand America’s complicated cultural history. The map of Indigenous people, for example, is meant to make viewers feel more grounded to the native history that is literally right underneath their feet.

“To some, native history is like a fairy tale, faraway land. They don’t realize they are right on top of it. I’m doing this to lay a new cognitive map foundation for people to realize where they stand in a new way, because I grew up in the public education system in California, and now I feel like I was so miseducated. There’s so many things I didn’t know.”

— **Annette M. Kim**, Director of the USC Price Spatial Analysis Lab



USC researchers building dementia cost model to help patients and families

An A-list of researchers from across USC, including the USC Price School, is building a model that will estimate how much dementia costs each year — to patients, families and society. The project is made possible by a five-year, \$8.2 million federal grant from the National Institute on Aging.

Knowing the actual costs of dementia could help families plan their budgets and support needs, inform treatment and caregiving options, and shape healthcare policy.

“We currently have estimates for a particular set of costs, but we’ve learned those estimates don’t encompass nearly all the costs to the person with dementia, their family and to society,” said USC Price Professor Julie Zissimopoulos, who is leading the project. “Everything about this disease affects the family’s pocketbook.”

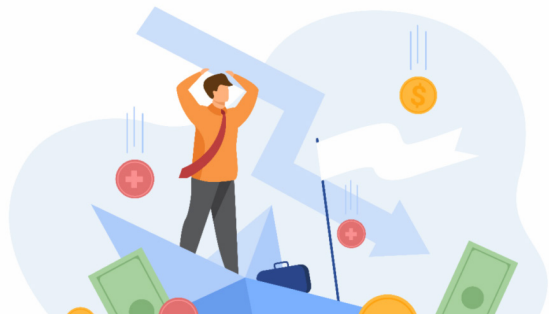


USC Price professor to investigate social factors affecting Hispanic health

USC Price Professor Emma Aguila has launched the Hispanic Well-Being Initiative to conduct research focused on Hispanics and Latinos to understand the social determinants of their health.

USC Price School researchers will deploy a “life course approach” — meaning they’ll analyze individuals’ entire life histories to gain insights — and will examine the lives of people in both the United States and their country of origin.

“It’s important to have cross-country comparisons because it allows us to get a better picture. We’re able to observe the whole population and understand their health better.” Professor Emma Aguila, an expert in aging and health economics.



Lower-middle-class Americans near retirement are worse off than 20 years ago, new USC and Columbia study shows

Lower-middle-class Americans nearing retirement age are worse off than their counterparts more than two decades ago, while upper-middle Americans have largely seen their life expectancy and wealth improve, according to a study published in *Health Affairs* by the USC Schaeffer Center and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

When it comes to assistance programs, policymakers have largely overlooked the lower-middle group of Americans. As a result, this group generally doesn't qualify for such programs.

The health status at age 50 for both the upper-and-lower middle has worsened over the past two decades, but health is deteriorating faster for the lower middle.

“Our study projects lower-middle Americans will spend a longer proportion of remaining life with significant healthcare needs, but with no more economic resources to attend to those needs than similar cohorts had 20 years earlier.”

— Dana Goldman, Co-Director of the USC Schaeffer Center



Darius Lakdawalla (right) testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Schaeffer Center researchers make an impact in Washington

Darius Lakdawalla waited more than three hours before he got his chance to speak at a recent Senate hearing. When he finally got his opportunity, he made it count.

He made Sen. Bernie Sanders laugh.

Near the end of a marathon hearing on drug prices, Sanders asked Lakdawalla — Chief Scientific Officer at the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics — what he thought about free-market capitalism, government protection, and monopolies.

“Truly free markets exist only on the whiteboard in my classroom at USC,” Lakdawalla quipped. “But it is also true that without patent protection there would be no innovation. That is a result that has been known in economics for centuries.”

Getting a chuckle out of Sanders was a rewarding moment for Lakdawalla, Professor of Pharmaceutical Economics and Public Policy at the USC Price School and USC Mann School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Such exchanges with lawmakers are becoming more common for Schaeffer Center researchers, who have become something of a regular presence in Washington, D.C., where they are informing federal agencies and members of Congress on important topics ranging from biomedical innovation to drug distribution chains. The Schaeffer Center

is one of more than a dozen research units affiliated with the USC Price School.

Schaeffer Center experts have appeared at five congressional hearings since February 2023. The center’s research was cited 33 times in government documents in 2023 alone. Presidents of both parties, meanwhile, have included Schaeffer Center insights in their annual economic reports since 2013.

The center’s presence in Washington is poised to grow further with the opening of USC’s Capital Campus and the launch of the Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service. The Schaeffer Institute, which opened on July 1, 2024, is composed of the Schaeffer Center and the Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service Program, as well as related initiatives.

Americans more likely to choose vegan food if labeled 'healthy' and 'sustainable'

Americans were far less likely to choose a gourmet gift basket without meat or dairy if it was labeled “vegan” or “plant-based,” according to a nationally representative survey of more than 7,500 U.S. adults. The survey found that Americans would be twice as likely to choose the gift basket labeled “healthy” or “sustainable.”

The findings — published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* — suggest that changing labels of vegan food products to focus on their health and environmental benefits, rather than their ingredients, may encourage people to eat meals without

dairy and meat. Studies show that eating fewer meat and dairy products is better for the environment, given the high amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of meat and dairy.

“The word ‘vegan’ has a negative connotation,” said study co-author Wändi Bruine de Bruin, Director of the Behavioral Science & Policy Initiative at the USC Schaeffer Institute. “Focusing on the health and environmental benefits is helpful because a lot of people are increasingly concerned about eating food that is healthy and good for the planet.”



Study: L.A.'s renewable energy plan won't tank the economy

The City of Los Angeles can move forward with its 100% renewable electricity plan without worry of significant direct or indirect harm to the local economy, according to a USC Price School study published in *Climate Policy*.

The net economic impacts from nine possible scenarios between 2026 to 2045 show L.A. losing 3,600 job-years annually or adding 4,700 job-years annually. Both amount to about 0.1% of L.A.'s average annual employment.

The main reason to make the transition is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change, study authors noted.

Research Professor Adam Rose and former Research Associate Professor Dan Wei co-authored the study, which estimates the economic impacts of nine scenarios in which L.A. would convert its electricity portfolio to 100% renewable sources.



How diversity could reduce excessive police force

Deploying more demographically diverse teams of police officers could reduce excessive use of force, according to research from Assistant Professor Danyao Li.

Li's research, published in *International Public Management Journal*, suggests an interesting theory: Police from diverse backgrounds may be less likely to trust one another, which can subsequently reduce counterproductive work behavior — in this case, excessive force.

Conversely, officers may be more likely to escalate a situation and use greater force when they trust their colleagues to support — or at least not report — their conduct.

Why congestion pricing is a tough sell, even if it's good policy

Congestion pricing — in which drivers are charged a fee for entering certain roads or lanes — is a more effective strategy for reducing traffic congestion than other transportation policies.

However, the pricing policies can be politically unpopular, as was seen in New York with the abrupt cancellation of a congestion pricing plan for motorists driving into Manhattan. Tolls can make drivers use other modes of travel or time schedules they don't prefer, said Genevieve Giuliano, Interim Dean of the USC Price School. In addition, drivers already pay gas and other transportation taxes, which they perceive as paying for the road system.

But congestion pricing can not only alleviate gridlock; it can facilitate policies that aim to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, said Antonio Bento, Professor of Public Policy and Economics at the USC Price School.

In California, for example, the key strategy has been to improve the efficiency of vehicles. “But what we are seeing is that — despite such fuel economy improvement — individuals are driving more and emissions from transportation continue to increase,” Bento said. “Therefore, coupling congestion pricing with mandates for cleaner cars will strengthen the effectiveness of these mandates.”

The upside of high gasoline prices (Yes, they do exist)

Marlon Boarnet, Director of the METRANS Transportation Consortium at USC and a professor at the USC Price School, provided perspective on the cost of gasoline.

What is the upside of higher gas prices?

No one likes high gas prices. But gas prices have long been too low. When you drive you contribute to traffic congestion, pollute the air, and at times contribute to safety risks and noise pollution. None of that is reflected in the cost of driving.

If all the external costs are not reflected in the price of gasoline, is it still a bargain at \$4 a gallon nationally, even \$5.40 in California?

Motor fuel is currently too cheap in that it does not reflect environmental costs. Does that mean \$4 is a bargain? Only if we accept that the bargain comes paired with 122-degree days across much of India, California wildfires that burn a million acres, and persistent western U.S. droughts. That doesn't sound like a good deal to me.

A measured, long-term approach to increasing gas prices would encourage car companies to build more fuel-efficient vehicles while providing incentives for people to buy those cars.



FEATURED STORY



New Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service to extend the USC Price School's impact

Leonard and Pamela Schaeffer's \$59 million gift established a new institute to address multiple public policy issues and educate new generations of scholars to help solve our nation's policy challenges.

Leonard D. Schaeffer and his wife, Pamela, donated \$59 million to establish the USC Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service, which is anchored at USC and in the university's new Capital Campus in Washington, D.C.

The Schaeffer Institute includes the existing USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics and the Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service. The Schaeffer Center operates in collaboration with USC Price School and the USC Alfred E.

Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The mission of the new institute is to produce research that informs evidence-based policymaking to address our nation's most pressing issues and to educate students to be responsible and involved citizens of a true, functioning democracy.

The institute gives a permanent presence for the university in the nation's capital and serves as a launching pad for interdisciplinary researchers and policy experts to address national and global challenges in close collaboration with leading government and academic institutions.

"The Schaeffer Institute is an invaluable resource for education and scholarship, not just for Schaeffer scholars and affiliated experts but for faculty members and students from multiple disciplines across USC," said Dana Goldman, Founding Director of the Schaeffer Institute. "Their ability to use our Capital Campus office to more easily engage with policymakers will give them far more impact."



Schaeffer Institute launches new initiative to improve public policy through behavioral science

The USC Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service launched a new initiative in July 2024 that leverages behavioral science to create more effective public policy.

The Behavioral Science & Policy Initiative at the USC Schaeffer Institute will conduct research to understand people's beliefs and behaviors to create policies and communications that better fit people's needs. The initiative will focus on policy topics such as climate change, health, and food insecurity.

"We want to help policymakers make a difference," said Wändi Bruine de Bruin, the initiative's Director. "That means creating policies and policy communication that keep in mind the people they want to reach."

Behavioral science is a growing interdisciplinary field that combines insights from psychology, economics, and other social sciences to understand how people perceive risks, how they process information about risks, and what motivates attitude and behavior change.

STUDENTS



Want to help healthcare run smoother? Remove the sludge

“Sludge is a policy or practice that makes it unnecessarily difficult to access public services,” said Nathan Hodson, a Ph.D. student in Public Policy and Management at the USC Price School and lead author of a study about sludge that was published in the *British Journal of General Practice*. “In our paper, we looked specifically at how sludge affects healthcare delivery in Great Britain.”

Sludge not only wastes patients’ time, it stresses and dissuades them from accessing the services they need. Sludge especially affects people from disadvantages communities.

Hodson and his co-authors' study recommends cleaning up sludge by conducting sludge audits, a process that involves identifying barriers to healthcare access, and then identifying steps to lower or eliminate the barriers. Frontline healthcare staff could conduct the audits themselves.



USC student helps police better prepare for mass shootings

The lack of incident command and unorganized self-deployment are among the most commonly reported problems during mass shootings, research by Ph.D. student Travis Norton has found.

The retired police lieutenant, now a Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development student, has become a leading expert in active-shooter response, identifying issues and potential solutions to better prepare first responders.

Norton is working to draft policies that would apply his research findings. He recently helped draft a California bill that would, among other things, mandate that law enforcement agencies identify an incident commander during an active shooting.



From left, USC Price School online students Andrew Padilla, Ryan Tyler and Adam Weiss, who are all members of the Clark County Fire Department.

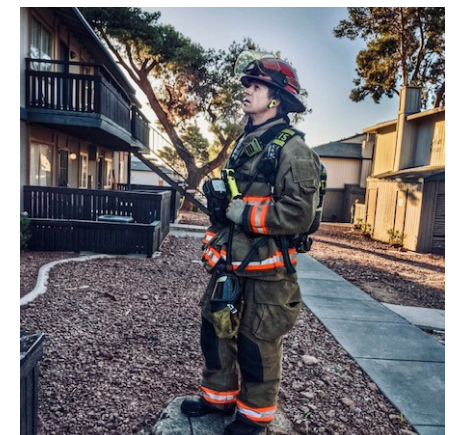
USC Price online students fight fires and save lives in Las Vegas

It isn't easy for first responders to squeeze advanced degree programs into their already-busy lives. But three Nevada firefighters found a way to make it work, thanks to USC Price School's online Master of Public Administration program.

The online MPA offers Clark County firefighters Adam Weiss, Andrew Padilla, and Ryan Tyler the flexibility to study when and where they choose, and a curriculum that will help them with both their current jobs and future employment.

Padilla and Tyler are both engineer paramedics, responsible for driving fire engines and ambulances, as well as managing the water flow used to put out fires.

Weiss has been a firefighter since 2005 and is looking forward to retirement. He said the MPA degree will help him pursue careers within public administration or emergency management, once he's no longer a firefighter.



“Having more highly educated people in the department — people who have had access to other ways of thinking — makes us more diverse and helps us do more for our current fire department and the county as well.”

Adam Weiss (MPA Online '25)

STUDENTS



Clockwise from upper left: Aurelio Aleman (MPA '23), Kevin Bautista (MPA '23), Alejandro Faz (MPA '23), Lia Jones-Karavokiris (MPA '23) and Ayesha Karriem-Mayagoitia (MPA '23) won the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation Recognition Award for Outstanding Performance, the top honor for capstone projects from the USC Price School's Master of Public Administration and Master of Nonprofit Leadership & Management programs.



Nina Nguyen, a USC Price student working to help people with medical debt, won the Fawn Lopez Health Advocacy Communication Excellence Award.



Four students from the USC Price School won first place and \$5,000 at the Sunstone Economic Development Challenge, a competition that tasks students with helping local governments create jobs in their communities.



Hafiza Nofitariani, a student in the Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management program, won Best Paper Award for a survey of giving behavior across generations. Her findings will help fundraisers craft new strategies for nonprofits.



ALUMNI

USC Price grad clowns around to help hospital patients

Phong Doozy shows up to work in an unusual uniform: a sleeveless Hawaiian blazer festooned with flamingos, pink pig ears, shorts covered in flowers, and a red clown's nose.

For five hours on Fridays, he transforms into a medical clown. Doozy, who graduated in 2024 with a Master of Health Administration, uses laughter as medicine, putting smiles on the faces of those facing serious injuries or terminal illnesses.

Doozy discovered the healing power of comedy while taking care of his grandparents.

While at USC, Doozy chaired the Wellness Committee of Undergraduate Student Government and developed a Wellness Resource Guide. The document identified local and national resources for students facing challenges with mental and physical health, sexual wellness, and substance use.



USC Price alum — and current Ph.D. student — advocates for Hispanic community

From humble beginnings, Domenika Lynch has ascended to a distinguished career that has taken her to the power corridors of Washington, D.C., and earned her recognition as a national Latina leader.

Lynch says challenges she faced early on in her life, including being an immigrant child and a teen mother, shaped her and built in her a strong sense of resiliency.

Lynch serves as an executive director at the Aspen Institute and leads Aspen Latinos and Society, a policy program with the mission to empower Latino communities and promote long-term economic growth.

“I want to change the systems that keep people of color locked in the cycle of poverty,” says Lynch, who earned an undergraduate degree from the USC Price School in 1998 and a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy in 2015 from the USC Rossier School of Education. She is currently pursuing her doctorate at the Price School.

USC Price grad and Marine vet makes documentary on opioid crisis

When Chase Millsap first visited his wife Maile’s hometown of Portsmouth, Ohio, it reminded the former Marine infantryman and Green Beret of the war-torn cities he’d seen in Iraq.

The buildings were broken down and businesses were boarded up. People were out on the streets, some looking like zombies. “It was almost like a bomb had been dropped there,” said Millsap, who earned his Master of Public Policy in 2016.

That bomb was drug addiction, which turned the town into a nationally known example of America’s opioid crisis. Yet as Millsap, now a filmmaker, continued to visit Portsmouth on holidays, he witnessed early signs of a recovery. “I remember thinking, ‘What is going on? What is the change?’”

Millsap answers those questions in his new documentary, *Small Town Strong*, which chronicles how the people of Portsmouth turned their town around. Millsap shows how people battling opioid addiction were restored through fitness and a supportive community.



USC Price alum tackles homelessness, mental health issues

In Los Angeles County, there is no shortage of groups working to address the homelessness crisis.

But none is quite like Hollywood 4WRD, which has brought together a coalition of public and private stakeholders dedicated to creating systemic change, says Brittney Weissman, the group’s first executive director.

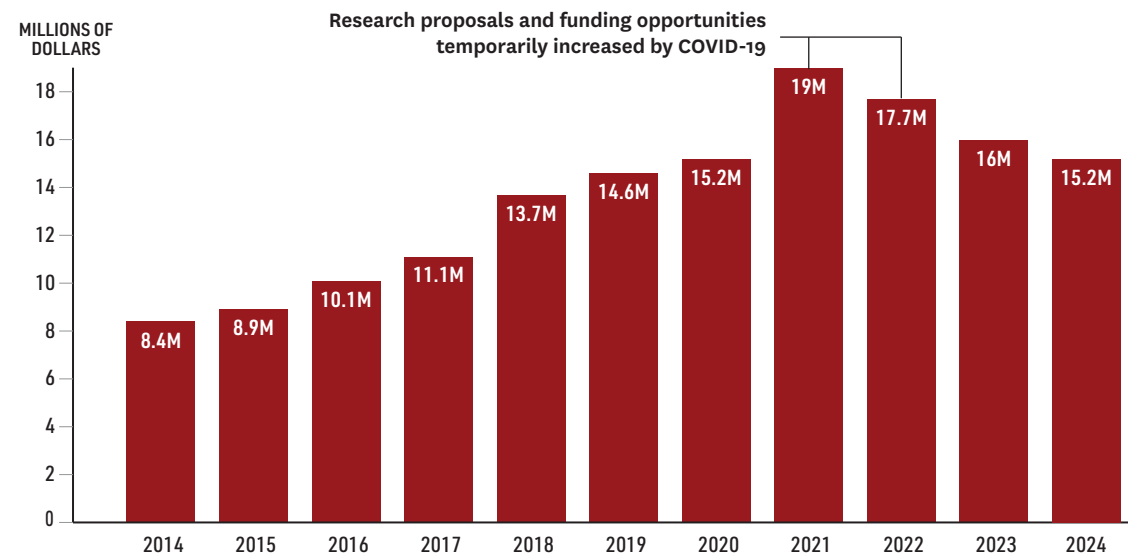
“Homelessness coalitions exist in other parts of the county,” says Weissman, who earned her Master of Public Policy in 2006. “But we’re unique because we include, in a robust way, the business community.”

Key goals of Hollywood 4WRD are providing holistic, human-centered, community-based care.

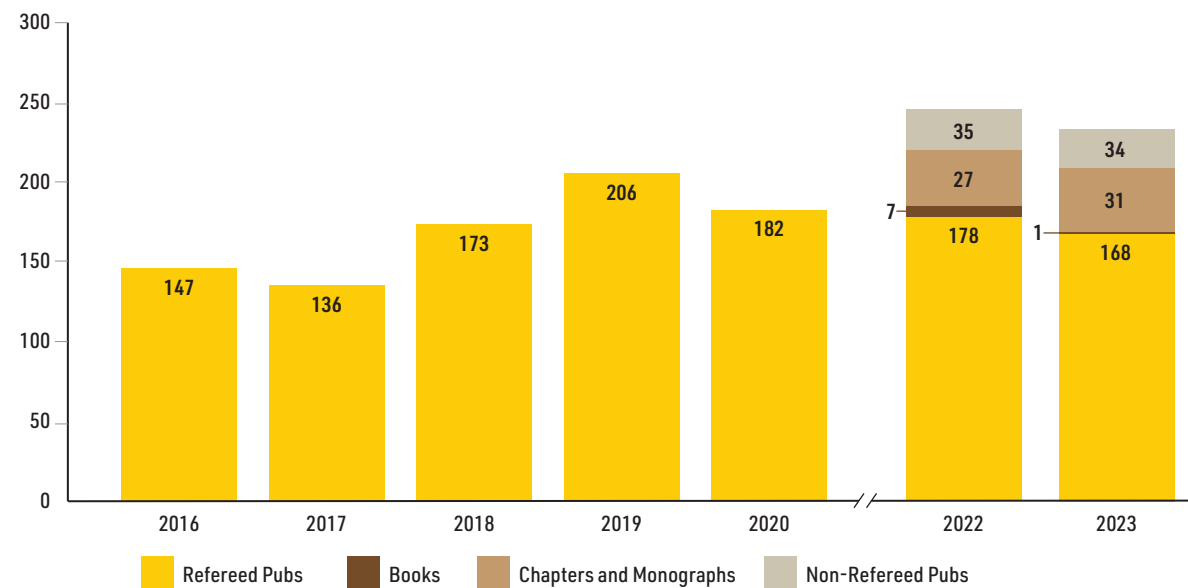
Despite cynicism in some quarters — fueled, in part, by the fact that homelessness continues to rise in the county — Weissman says fixing the problem isn’t a hopeless quest.

“We created these social and collective problems,” she explains. “They are the results of many decades of decision-making, so if we undecide or redecide, we can go down different decision paths and come out with different outcomes.”

2024 research expenditures expected to be on par with recent years



Publication record remains strong



NEW ARRIVALS



David Brady to head Public Policy & Management

David Brady joined the Department of Public Policy & Management in the fall of 2024 as a Visiting Professor and will become Chair of the department in July 2025. He comes to the Price School from UC Riverside, where his research focused on poverty, racial inequality, and social policy.



Matt Unrath joins Public Policy and Management

Matt Unrath has joined the Department of Public Policy & Management as an assistant professor. Unrath earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and served as Income Statistics Branch Chief at the U.S. Census Bureau.



Celebrated DEI expert joins the Price School faculty

Shaun Harper, one of the nation's foremost racial and gender equity experts, has joined the USC Price School as professor in the Department of Public Policy and Management. Harper teaches executive and certificate programs and advises doctoral students.



Kate Nelischer takes up residence in real estate

Kate Nelischer is the USC Price School's new Assistant Professor (teaching) in the Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Urban Planning & Spatial Analysis. Her background is in landscape architecture and urban design.



There's a new sheriff in town

Jim McDonnell, the Former Sheriff of Los Angeles County, brings more than 40 years of law enforcement experience to USC Price School as Director of its Safe Communities Initiative. McDonnell is using evidence-based research to explore critical issues in public safety.



Regina Birdsell embraces a new role at USC Price

The USC Price School welcomed Regina Birdsell as the new Director of the USC Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program, which provides critical skills and training for leaders of complex nonprofit and mission-driven organizations.

INFORMING POLICY

USC Price research is cited on both sides of the aisle



MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ACADEMIES



Dana P. Goldman
 • National Academy of Medicine
 • National Academy of Social Insurance
 • National Academy of Public Administration



Leonard D. Schaeffer
 • National Academy of Medicine
 • National Academy of Social Insurance



Yan Tang
 • National Academy of Public Administration



Jim Ferris
 • National Academy of Public Administration



Daniel McFadden
 • National Academy of Sciences
 • American Academy of Arts & Sciences



Elizabeth Graddy
 • National Academy of Public Administration



Paul B. Ginsburg
 • National Academy of Medicine
 • National Academy of Social Insurance



Geraldine Knatz
 • National Academy of Engineering



Dora Kingsley Vertenten
 • National Academy of Public Administration



Sir Angus Deaton
 • National Academy of Sciences
 • American Academy of Arts & Sciences



Wändi Bruine de Bruin
 • UK Academy of Social Sciences



Mindy Romero
 • National Academy of Public Administration

The New York Times

Feb. 19, 2024

The Future of Medicine Is Unfolding Before Us. Are We Nurturing It?



By Elizabeth Currid-Halkett

Dr. Currid-Halkett is a Guggenheim Fellow and Professor of public policy at the USC Price School.

On Jan. 8, 2020, as I was parking my car, I got a phone call from one of my son's doctors. She informed me that our 7-month-old son, Eliot, had Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal neuromuscular disease.

Our son had a fatal illness. He would die before us.

Over time, children with D.M.D. lose muscle mass and thus the ability to do basic things like run and walk. Eventually they lose their ability to breathe, and they experience heart failure. There is no known cure.

In my search for answers for how to save my son, I contacted Dr. Jerry Mendell, a now-retired neurologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, who was running clinical trials for an experimental gene therapy for boys with D.M.D. The treatment, now known as Elevidys, offered the prospect of not merely managing symptoms, but slowing the disease's progression or even stopping it in its tracks.

Before Eliot received his treatment, he had difficulty going up stairs. Hopping on one foot, a milestone for a 4-year-old, was impossible.

On Aug. 29, 2023, he finally received the one-time infusion. Six weeks after treatment, Eliot's

neurologist decided to re-administer the North Star Ambulatory Assessment, used to test boys with D.M.D. on skills like balance, jumping and getting up from the floor unassisted. In June, Eliot's score was 22 out of 34. In the second week of October, it was a perfect 34 — that of a typically developing, healthy 4-year-old boy.

But the goal to offer this possible future to more patients with D.M.D. is in jeopardy.

The biggest obstacle to getting these treatments is cost. Gene therapies cost, on average, \$1 million to \$2 million. At \$3.2 million per patient, Elevidys is the second-most-expensive drug in the world. Insurance companies would probably prefer not to foot the bill, and without full F.D.A. approval, insurance companies can refuse to cover these treatments by claiming they are medically unnecessary or experimental.

Dana Goldman, (the former) dean of the USC Price School, has argued that one way to incentivize insurance companies to cover the high costs of treatments like gene therapies is to amortize how much the companies pay over time if the effectiveness of such treatments does not last. Another option is for pharmaceutical



companies to offer a warranty that gives a prorated refund to the insurance company if a patient needs to return to prophylaxis treatment within a certain number of years. Some experts believe the federal government should do more to complement research funding for rare diseases. The government could also defray the cost to consumers by offering subsidies to patients.

There's another big role the government can play ... and that's to make the wheels of regulatory approval for these drugs less onerous. The F.D.A. acted swiftly to approve an antiretroviral drug for H.I.V. in the 1980s and the Covid vaccines in December 2020, saving millions of lives without putting people in harm's way.

But Elevidys is a case study in how the F.D.A. can get in its own way. D.M.D. patients 4 or 5 years old received access to the drug under fast-tracked approval, the first time a drug was approved under this new framework. But this was reportedly only because Peter Marks, director of the F.D.A.'s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, disagreed with his own staff's rejection.

Gene therapy is the future of medicine. Our bureaucracy and insurance companies should not hinder patients from receiving pioneering treatments that could transform their lives. As parents, we are not asking for the moon. We just want our children to live.

USC PRICE SCHOOL FACULTY IN THE NEWS

The New York Times

A 30-Year Trap: The Problem With America's Weird Mortgages

"Affordability, no matter how you define it, is basically at its worst point since mortgage rates were in the teens."



Richard Green, Director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the USC Price School

The Hill

DEI opponents expand their map with North Carolina

"It's really clear to me that they didn't think through the implications and the impact that those (DEI) bans would have on the multitude of student populations that make campuses (diverse)."



Shaun Harper, University Professor and Provost Professor of Education, Business, and Public Policy

CalMatters

The cost to inform California voters? \$118,000 a page for official guide

"People will turn to other sources including friends and family, but still, those official sources are where the bulk of voters are getting their information — so they're important. Voters need the information and have a right to that information."



Mindy Romero, Assistant Professor (Research)

THE HILL

Oct. 14, 2023



How the secrecy of middlemen inflates drug prices

Most Americans believe drugs cost too much and big pharma is to blame. That powerful political sentiment undergirds Medicare’s new authority to negotiate prices directly with manufacturers. The negotiations may result in lower revenues for pharma but will also imperil future drug development.

There is a better solution: Force transparency into the drug supply chain, unleashing market forces on middlemen whose hidden deals generate excessive profits. They contribute nothing to the development of new medicines yet soak billions of dollars from taxpayers, employers and patients.

As health policy researchers, we have seen how this plays out in secret. While drug spending based on manufacturers’ list prices (which are public) more than doubled in the last decade, what manufacturers collected based on net prices (which are confidential) increased only 15 percent.



by Neeraj Sood, Senior Fellow, and Karen Van Nuys, Senior Fellow and Executive Director of Value of Life Sciences Innovation at the USC Schaeffer Center

Los Angeles Times

May 21, 2024



How do L.A.’s ethnic communities keep their identities while living with others? Just read the signs

Los Angeles’ ethnic neighborhoods are not like those in most cities around the world. We have distinctive cultural hubs specific to this or that group — Greek Americans, say, or El Salvadorans or Japanese Americans — but in most cases these hubs are overlapping, sharing space with one another. We are an active example of one answer to a key question: How should we live among people with cultural differences? Diverse communities here keep their identities but live together, not in exclusive enclaves found in many other big cities.

As a professor of urban planning and director of USC’s Spatial Analysis Lab (at the USC Price School), I have generated data with my team about the millions of words found throughout L.A. — on shop signs, banners, fliers, posters and elsewhere. Because there are few regulations, these signs provide a unique lens to the words and the places people choose to mark as theirs.



by Annette M. Kim, Associate Professor at the Price School and at the Roski School of Art and Design at USC

STAT

April 3, 2024



Medicare coverage of weight loss drugs could save the U.S. billions of dollars

The latest weight loss drugs are good. They can save lives and could literally remake American health. But rather than celebrate, we’re having a political conversation that is all about price controls. Oscar Wilde’s warning is timely: Beware the fool who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

The initial list prices of around \$15,000 a year provoked doomsday fiscal scenarios. One estimate suggested that Medicare Part D would take a hit of \$268 billion per year by covering these weight loss drugs. Another figured that the cost to the federal government would top \$1 trillion per year.

The answer some have proposed? Federal intervention through Medicare to set prices at \$3,500 or lower.

But such analyses rely on inaccurate information and grossly underestimate the savings associated with a healthier populace. Most assume little or no price rebates in the private insurance market for GLP-1 therapies, despite recent evidence that these drugs sell for 48% to 79% below list prices. Most of the alarmist estimates also assume that prices will remain constant over the lifetime of new drugs. They won’t — not if growing competition drives down costs.



by Dana Goldman, Co-Director, and Alison Sexton Ward, Research Scientist at the USC Schaeffer Center

USC PRICE SCHOOL FACULTY IN THE NEWS

PBS News

Why school board elections are garnering national attention

“I think a lot of voters have gotten sort of weary, tired of talking about bathrooms, book bans, flags, pronouns.”



Julie Marsh, Professor of Education Policy and Public Policy

The New York Times

States Have Spent \$25 Billion to Woo Hollywood. Is It Worth It?

“You could find almost an unlimited number of better uses for the same dollars. Who on earth would say, ‘Keep giving the money to Hollywood; my kid’s school doesn’t need new books?’”



Michael Thom, Associate Professor (Teaching)

CBS News

How to solve America’s shortage of primary care doctors? Compensation is key

“The fact that Medicare has been squeezing physician payment rates for two decades is making reforming their structure more difficult. The losers are more sensitive to reductions in the rates for the procedures they do.”



Paul Ginsberg, Professor of the Practice of Health Policy and Management



The U.S. Senate Committee
On The Budget

Bottlenecks and backlogs: how climate change threatens supply chains



Adam Rose, Professor (research), testified before the Senate Budget Committee in October 2023. The following remarks were excerpted from his testimony.

Our research is focused on complex supply chain disruptions, where multiple events combine to have compound or cascading impacts across economic sectors or geographic areas. Currently, we are working on a case study that examines compound disruptions affecting barge traffic on the Mississippi, which is vital to agriculture and other industries.

Here are our major findings about the impact of this combination of disruptions:

GDP impacts: A national loss of \$18.1 billion, with the vast majority of the impacts incurred by the five upper Mississippi River states (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin).

Employment impacts: A net loss of 51,000 job-years. This figure would be higher except that, in our scenario, there is need for more labor to have to load and unload more barges because each can only carry a

lighter load at low water levels.

Price impacts: An increase in the Producer Price Index of 0.30% and in the Consumer Price Index of 0.25%. In an era of high inflation, these seemingly small percentages are very meaningful.

I've reported in depth on only one of a myriad of supply chain disruptions that will be caused by climate change. In fact, given the high degree of interdependence between sectors of the U.S. economy and our economy's connection with those of most every other country on the globe, it is only a very small proportion of the total negative impacts. Many people will be affected through loss of jobs and profits, but, most widely, every consumer in the U.S. will see their purchasing power diminished by the inflation caused by increased production costs, shortages, and delays of goods and services.

USC PRICE SCHOOL FACULTY IN THE NEWS

The Public's Radio

How can I explain climate change to my friends and family?

"Most people in US are now concerned about climate change, but many don't know what to do. One of the most climate-friendly actions you can take yourself is to eat less red meat, and together, we have the power to vote for a better climate."



Wändi Bruine de Bruin, Provost Professor of Public Policy, Psychology, and Behavioral Science

Phys.org

Studies highlight new approaches to addressing climate change

"By highlighting an additional benefit of the NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standard) that had previously been unaccounted for, our findings may contribute to the design or revision of pollution control policy."



Antonio Bento, Professor of Public Policy and Economics

NBC News

When to come out of Covid isolation, according to experts

"My personal view is that five days is more than sufficient" for isolation, said senior study author Neeraj Sood, a Professor of Health Policy, Medicine and Business at University of Southern California. Based on the findings, "maybe you could go with something a little shorter for kids."



Neeraj Sood, Professor

Los Angeles Times

With Kevin McCarthy out, Nancy Pelosi once again outlasts her foes

[Members of the] far-left wing of her party "have all been reasonable to work with, as they see the game of politics the same." The GOP far-right wing is "firmly antiestablishment" and uninterested in cutting deals with Democrats. This faction wants to "completely upend the system and drastically shrink the federal government."



Jeffery Jenkins, Provost Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Law

Politico

The politics of proposition numbers

"It's harder to predict the outcomes with citizen initiatives because they don't have Ds or Rs next to them. They don't have the usual cues that they do in partisan races, where somebody is a Democrat or somebody is a Republican and they say, 'I'm going to vote for [Adam] Schiff' or 'I'm going to vote for [Steve] Garvey because they're from my party.'"



Mark Baldassare, Senior Fellow on Governance

ABC7

Baltimore bridge collapse raises concerns about SoCal's bridges. How safe are they?

"In some way it surprises me that more accidents like this don't happen."



Adam Rose, Professor (research)



Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Hoesung Lee, Former Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and other experts examined the state of technology and policy options to address four fundamental aspects of climate change and the solutions unfolding in each area.

“Climate action requires the best of each one of us, and we need empathy to recognize that we live in a diverse world in which everyone has different responsibilities and different abilities to enact change. Some can do a lot while others will need help managing change, and that change will be shaped by the choices we make starting now.”

Hoesung Lee, Former Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

EVENTS



The George Washington Leadership Lecture

Justice for All: A Conversation with Attorney General Rob Bonta

“I believe people can change, be redeemed and be restored with support and love and compassion and humanity.”

Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California



The George Washington Leadership Lecture

The Importance of Libraries in our American Democracy

“The library has been the community’s anchor. It’s the heart of the community during good times and bad times.”

Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

EVENTS

The Holt Lecture

Election 2024: Democracy in the Crosshairs?

“Today, if you don’t like a fact, you just deny it. That has led to an erosion of trust, not just in democracy, but in almost every institution that undergirds our society.”

Bob Shrum, Director of the Center for the Political Future and the Carmen H. and Louis Warschaw Chair in Practical Politics at USC Dornsife



Conference

Politics of Affordable Housing



“There are so many political factors that prevent housing from being built. And as our professional experts noted, those factors often layer upon one another.”

Jeffery Jenkins, Director, PIPE Collaborative; Provost Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Law

Conference at USC Capital Campus

Building an Inclusive Democracy



“It’s never been more urgent to do all that we can to counter the misinformation and threats against our democracy and to ensure that our election systems are trusted, protected and accessible to all.”

Mindy Romero, Director of the USC Price Center for Inclusive Democracy

Price Presents

Price Presents is the USC Price School’s premier webinar series about issues confronting society. Each webinar features experts from the USC Price School and across USC, as well as from other universities, government agencies, the business sector, and nonprofits.



Mending Metro

Law enforcement and transportation experts discussed how to mend L.A.’s metro system so that it can realize its promise to provide affordable, efficient, and low-emission transportation.



Debt and Development

USC Price School experts delved into the ticking time bomb of commercial real estate debt and the hurdles developers are facing to convert commercial real estate into residential.



Food Foolery

Some of the nation’s leading experts discussed how to separate the bona fide from the bogus when it comes to food, diet, and nutrition.



Fixing the Border

Amid the dysfunction and polarization enveloping immigration, it’s hard to envision humane and workable policies. A panel of experts of varied viewpoints and experiences looked beyond the current crisis to explore solutions.

WHAT'S NEW



The PricePod

USC Price's primary podcast

Each month, the PricePod bridges the gap between theory and practice, offering new perspectives on how public policy impacts our lives and communities. Each episode features an in-depth conversation with a faculty expert from the USC Price School. Topics run the gamut from issues like traffic gridlock and the homelessness crisis to the spiraling cost of healthcare and corruption in politics. For policy wonks, students, and those who are curious about how research can change the world, the PricePod is a go-to source for informed, engaging, and thought-provoking discussions.



Political Pulse '24

Delving into California's politics with Mark Baldassare

California has long been the proving ground for what become national politics and policies. 2024 will be no exception, as Golden State voters head to the polls to weigh in not only on who occupies the White House and legislative seats but also on state and local ballot initiatives. The Political Pulse '24 series of webinars is hosted by Mark Baldassare, the state's leading pollster and Senior Fellow at the USC Price School's Bedrosian Center on Governance. The series features experts from academia, government, the private sector, and nonprofits.



New academic programs coming to Washington, D.C.

The USC Price School plans to launch the new Price Policy Semester in D.C. program in Spring 2025. The program is designed for undergraduates and will offer coursework in policymaking, internships at esteemed institutions, and networking opportunities with professionals and alumni. Plans call for introducing Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Policy progressive degrees in Fall 2025, each with a final year in Washington, D.C.



ACHIEVEMENT



The Los Angeles Police Commission elected Erroll G. Southers as its next president.



Dana P. Goldman was named University Professor, USC's highest academic honor.



Mindy Romero was named to the National Academy of Public Administration.

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Emma Aguila

Associate Professor

Economics of aging, health economics, applied econometrics

Grace Bahng

Professor (Teaching); Vice Dean for Undergraduate Programs

Policy analysis, experiential learning, community development, international development

Antonio M. Bento

Professor of Public Policy and Economics

Environmental and energy economics, urban economics, public economics, transportation policy, climate policy, environmental regulation

Tara Blanc

Associate Professor (Teaching)

Civic engagement, leadership, public service ethics, political behavior

Marlon Boarnet

Professor; Director, METRANS Transportation Center

Transportation, travel behavior, urban growth patterns, regional science, urban economics

Geoffrey Boeing

Assistant Professor

Transportation networks, urban form, data science, urban informatics

Mary Lynne Boorn

Associate Professor (Teaching); Program Director, Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development at USC Price School

Principles of real estate, real estate finance, real estate development

David Brady

Visiting Professor

Poverty, racial inequality, social policy, health, and immigration

Wändi Bruine de Bruin

Provost Professor of Public Policy, Psychology, and Behavioral Science; Director, Behavioral Science & Policy Initiative at the USC Schaeffer Institute

Psychology of risk perception and communication, behavior change interventions, social science of science communication, age differences in decision-making and well-being

Alice Chen

Associate Professor; Vice Dean for Research

Health economics, labor economics, applied microeconomics

Santina Contreras

Assistant Professor

Environmental planning, natural hazards, community engagement, international development, engineering for development

Spencer Couts

Assistant Professor

Alternative investments, commercial real estate finance, institutional investment

Elizabeth Currid-Halkett

Professor; James Irvine Chair in Urban and Regional Planning

Economic development, the arts, cultural economy, social networks, urban growth, economic geography

Phil Dalton

Professor of the Practice of Health Services Administration and Policy

Health policy and management, community health needs, national healthcare delivery, strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions

Jorge De la Roca

Associate Professor

Urban economics, labor economics, economic geography, urban migration

Angus Deaton

Nobel Laureate; Presidential Scholar; Distinguished Fellow, USC Schaeffer Center
Poverty and inequality, international affairs, determinants of health, economic development, randomized controlled trials

Moussa Diop

Associate Professor

Rental markets, real estate finance, mortgage securitization, corporate real estate, international real estate investment

Jason Doctor

Professor; Norman Topping National Medical Enterprise Chair in Medicine; Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

Physician behavior and psychology, behavioral economics and health, patient choice and decision-making, health policy and implementation, treatment preferences, prescriptions, health informatics

Nicolas Duquette

Associate Professor

Nonprofit economics, public finance, economic history

Nicole E. Esparza

Associate Professor

Nonprofit organizations, networks, philanthropy, urban inequality

Liz Falletta

Professor (Teaching); Program Director, Urban Planning Programs

Architecture, urban design, design criticism

James M. Ferris

Emery Evans Olson Chair in Nonprofit Entrepreneurship and Public Policy; Director, Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy

Philanthropy, nonprofit economics, public finance, public policy, institutional analysis

ACHIEVEMENT



Neeraj Sood was named to the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Health Advisers for 2024. This prestigious appointment recognizes Sood's significant contributions to health policy research.



Antonio Bento and his co-authors won top honors from the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists for a paper about the role of regulations and policies that unintentionally improve adaptation to climate change.

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Paul B. Ginsburg

Professor of the Practice of Health Policy and Management; Senior Fellow, USC Schaeffer Center
Health policy, healthcare financing and delivery, healthcare markets

Genevieve Giuliano

Interim Dean; Distinguished Professor; Margaret and John Ferraro Chair in Effective Local Government
Transportation policy, metropolitan spatial structure, travel demand, urban transportation

Dana P. Goldman

Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, Pharmacy, and Economics; Founding Director of Leonard D. Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service
Health economics and finance, health policy, the role of prevention in healthcare, healthcare reform, pharmaceutical regulation and innovation, precision medicine, value of delayed aging

Elizabeth Graddy

Professor; Jeffrey J. Miller Chair in Government, Business, and the Economy
Institutional economics, governance, nonprofit organizations, industry structure

Alexandra Graddy-Reed

Associate Professor
Public economics, philanthropy and nonprofits, social innovation, science and innovation policy, research and development

Richard K. Green

Professor; Director and Chair, USC Lusk Center for Real Estate; Chair, Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development
Economics, housing markets, housing policy, tax policy, transportation, mortgage finance, urban growth

Howard Greenwald

Professor
Health service delivery, organizational behavior, survey design

Christian Grose

Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Public Policy; Academic Director, USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy
American government; political institutions; political representation; the politics of the policymaking process; electoral behavior and campaigns; race, ethnicity, and politics; political and electoral reforms; field and survey experimental techniques to study the behavior of legislators, candidates, and other political elites

Norris Gunby

Associate Professor (Teaching)
Health services administration, strategic and operational management in long-term care, racial microaggressions in healthcare

Jane Harman

Presidential Scholar-in-Residence; Former U.S. Representative, California's 36th Congressional District
Distinguished Fellow and President Emerita of Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Shaun Harper

University Professor and Provost Professor of Education, Business, and Public Policy; Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership; Founder and Executive Director, USC Race and Equity Center
Race in K-12, Higher Education and Corporate Contexts, Urban Education, Boys and Men of Color, College Student Success, Intercollegiate Athletics

Michael E. Harris

Professor of the Practice of Health Services Administration and Policy
Healthcare contracting, healthcare policy and reform, emerging healthcare delivery business models, healthcare innovation and its impact on healthcare delivery systems, healthcare prevention, wellness, patient access

James Heckman

Nobel Laureate; USC Presidential Scholar-in-Residence
Economics of human development, skill formation, inequality, social mobility

Eric Heikkila

Professor
Urban development, economic development, East Asian cities, urban economics, urban information systems

Jeffery A. Jenkins

Provost Professor of Public Policy, Political Science, and Law; Maria B. Crutcher Professor of Citizenship and Democratic Values; Director, Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Collaborative
American political institutions and development, U.S. Congress, political parties, lawmaking, separation of powers, political economy

Rym Kaki

Associate Professor (Teaching); Director, Master of International Public Policy and Management
Public and nonprofit organizations management, public policy analysis, urban poverty policy, social entrepreneurship, institutional design, program evaluation and social impact assessment

Annette M. Kim

Associate Professor; Director, Spatial Analysis Lab
Housing and land use; international development planning; East Asian urbanization; race, arts, and placemaking; critical mapping and urban analytics

ACHIEVEMENT



Richard K. Green was selected as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Urban Institute.



Shui Yan Tang received the Mosher & Mosher Award for best academic article in *Public Administrative Review*.



Bryan Tysinger and his co-investigators won the President's Sustainability Initiative Large Program Award from USC.

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Geraldine Knatz

Professor of the Practice of Policy and Engineering

Seaport policy and management, maritime transportation, international trade, seaport sustainability, environmental impact analysis

Darius Lakdawalla

Professor of Pharmaceutical Economics and Public Policy; Quintiles Chair in Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Innovation; Director of Research, USC Schaeffer Center

Economics of health risks, value and determinants of medical innovation, economics of health insurance markets

William D. Leach

Professor (Teaching)

Collaborative governance, planning, social policy, environmental policy, health policy, marine aquaculture

LaVonna B. Lewis

Professor (Teaching); Vice Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

American politics, public policy (most notably health policy), interest groups, federal programs

Danyao Li

Assistant Professor

Public management, representation and diversity, bureaucratic decision-making, social equity and justice, law enforcement

John Loper

Professor (Teaching)

Real estate development, real estate finance, urban and suburban development, master planned communities, urban design

Pamela McCann

Associate Professor

American political institutions, bureaucratic delegation, intergovernmental politics, legislative behavior, public policy, policy diffusion

T.J. McCarthy

Associate Professor (Teaching)

Labor economics, health economics, economics of education, public economics, program evaluation

Daniel McFadden

Nobel Laureate; Presidential Professor of Health Economics

Health economics, economic theory and mathematical economics, environmental economics, econometrics

Glenn Melnick

Professor; Blue Cross of California Chair in Health Care Finance

Health economics, health finance, healthcare systems, managed care

Leonard Mitchell

Professor of the Practice of Economic Development; Executive Director, Center for Economic Development

Real estate development finance and law, regional and local economic development, economic development finance and law, international trade finance and law

Karen Mulligan

Assistant Professor (Research)

Health economics, applied microeconomics, labor economics

Juliet Ann Musso

Associate Professor; Vice Dean for Graduate Programs; Director, MPA Programs

State and local governance, federalism, urban political economy, fiscal policy, community governance, government performance

Dowell Myers

Professor; Director, Population Dynamics Research Group

Demographic change, future of California, housing impacts, workforce and education, immigration and assimilation, communication for consensus about change

Deborah J. Natoli

Professor (Teaching)

Adult development and learning, leadership, human behavior and organizations, depth psychology and psychoanalysis

Kate Nelischer

Assistant Professor (Teaching)

Participatory planning and design, public-private partnerships, urban governance, gender and planning

Lisa Ozaeta

Assistant Professor (Teaching)

Health policy, healthcare cost and resource utilization, health state preference assessment

Rosalie Pacula

Professor; Elizabeth Garrett Chair in Health Policy, Economics, and Law; Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management

Economics of addiction, addiction policy, delivery and financing of addiction treatment, cannabis and opioid policy

Mark Phillips

Associate Professor (Teaching); Program Director, Master of Public Policy and Master of Public Policy Data Science

Public finance, tax compliance, policy salience, applied microeconomics

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Jane Pisano

Professor

International relations, public administration, civic engagement

Kelly Rawlings

Associate Professor (Teaching)

Civic engagement and public participation, organizational behavior, nonprofit leadership and management, transformational leadership and change

Christian L. Redfearn

Associate Professor

Public policy, urban economics, housing markets, real estate finance

William G. Resh

Associate Professor; C.C. Crawford Professor in Management and Performance

Public Management, U.S. presidency and executive politics, policy implementation, organization theory, personnel policy, organizational behavior

Peter J. Robertson

Associate Professor

Organizational theory and behavior, organizational change, ecological governance, collaborative organizing, interorganizational networks

Mindy Romero

Assistant Professor (Research); Founder and Director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy

Political sociology, voting rights and electoral participation, Latino political behavior, collective political behavior, youth civic engagement, identity and political movements, social stratification, new technologies and civic engagement

John A. Romley

Associate Professor of Public Policy and Pharmaceutical & Health Economics; Director, Ph.D. Programs

Hospital industry, healthcare productivity/efficiency, environmental health disparities

Adam Rose

Professor (Research)

Energy and environmental economics, public policy, natural hazards and terrorism, regional science, applied general equilibrium modeling

Leonard D. Schaeffer

Judge Robert Maclay Widney Chair; Former CEO, Wellpoint, and former administrator, U.S. Health Care Financing Administration

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Former Governor of California; Governor Downey Professor of State and Local Policy; Chairman, USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy

Extremism, climate change policy, good governance, gerrymandering, infrastructure

Lisa Schweitzer

Professor

Environmental justice, sustainable transportation, hazardous materials in urban environments, community environmental quality

David C. Sloane

Professor; Chair, Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis

Urban history, community health planning, health disparities, cultural landscapes

Neeraj Sood

Professor; Director, COVID Initiative, USC Schaeffer Center

Infectious diseases, healthcare costs, global health, economic epidemiology, health insurance, markets and benefits design, medical innovation and regulatory policy, Medicare and aging

Erroll G. Southers

Professor of the Practice in National and Homeland Security; Associate Senior Vice President, Safety and Risk Assurance

Counterterrorism, homegrown violent extremism, school violence prevention

Shui Yan Tang

Professor; Frances R. and John J. Duggan Professor in Public Administration; Chair, Department of Public Policy and Management

Institutional analysis and design, collaborative governance, local and community-based governance, common-pool resource governance, environmental politics and policy, microfinance

Michael Thom

Associate Professor (Teaching); Director, Doctorate of Policy, Planning, and Development

Taxation, public finance, regulatory policy, public policy analysis, political philosophy

Bryan Tysinger

Assistant Professor (Research); Director of Health Policy Microsimulation, USC Schaeffer Center

Modeling health and economic outcomes over the life course, dynamic microsimulation modeling, valuing the burden of disease, medical innovation and disease prevention, international comparisons of health policy solutions, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

Matthew Unrath

Assistant Professor

Labor economics, public economics, social policy

Dora Kingsley Vertenten

Professor (Teaching); Coordinator, Master of Public Administration-Online

Public policy, intergovernmental management, non-profit management, strategic planning, social media and information technologies useful in collaborative and participatory democracy

Detlof von Winterfeldt

Professor of Industrial & Systems Engineering and Policy, Planning, and Development; J.A. Tiberti Chair in Ethics and Decision Making; Executive Director, USC Center for Sustainability Solutions

Decision analysis, risk analysis, environmental policy, behavioral decision research, homeland security

Frank V. Zerunyan

Professor of the Practice of Governance; Director, Executive Education Programs; Director, ROTC Programs

Local governments, administrative law, public private partnerships, leadership, negotiation, executive education

Julie M. Zissimopoulos

Professor; Co-Director, Aging and Cognition Program, USC Schaeffer Center

Economics of aging, economics of the family, labor economics, health economics





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