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## CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

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### E-Bulletin

#### December 2007

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HUD Fellow Tyler Boone finishes the semester with a paper for Applied Quantitative Methods.

#### CPPA News

##### A New Website for STS



STS has a new website! Please visit us at: [www.umass.edu/sts](http://www.umass.edu/sts)

The Science, Technology, and Society Initiative (STS) is a priority area of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and housed in the CPPA. It was established to promote multidisciplinary collaboration among the natural, physical and social sciences, engineering and public policy and it acts as a catalyst for innovative research as well as an interdisciplinary forum to discuss issues in science and technology. It encourages linkages of social science faculty with science and technology projects and the group provides a single point of contact for campus-wide faculty collaborations, enabling effective teaming on new proposals and initiatives.

##### CPPA Holiday Party Rescheduled

The CPPA Holiday Party, originally scheduled for December 13, is now going to be held on Thursday, January 31 from 5:30 – 7:30 in Memorial Hall. The gathering was postponed due the blizzard that

came storming in on the afternoon of the 13th. Please mark your calendars and join us for this post-holiday-welcome-back gathering!

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## Faculty News

### Krista Harper Discusses New Book

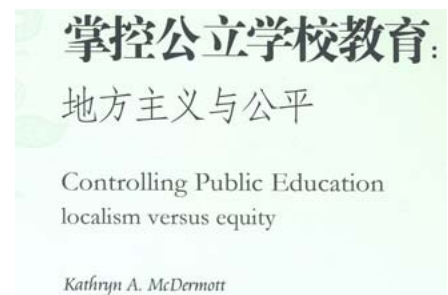


On Thursday, December 6, Krista Harper (Anthropology and CPPA) discussed her new book, Wild Capitalism at Food for Thought Books. Wild Capitalism examines environmental issues in the "New Europe" of the twenty-first century. Specifically, it looks at how the meanings of "civil society" and "environment" have changed as environmentalists encounter the political and ecological realities of life after state socialism. Although environmentalism is a global social movement, environmental politics is a grassroots process in which activists creatively translate environmental issues into cultural idioms and political processes.

Fluent in Hungarian, Krista Harper has studied social movements around the issues of health, environment, and human rights in Hungary since 1994. Her current research is based in a small city of 14,000, including over 2,000 Roma, located in economically depressed northeastern Hungary. Harper is working with the Sajó River Association for Environment and Community Development (SAKKF) to document health and environmental inequalities and to study organizing by grassroots activists.

### Controlling Public Education Published in China

Controlling Public Education: localism versus equity, a book by Katie McDermott (Education and Public Policy), was recently published in China. In the book, Professor McDermott addresses the tension between equal opportunity for all students and local control of public education, which often seems impossible to resolve. She argues that existing local institutions are no longer sufficient for achieving either equity or democratic governance. Using the results of field research in Connecticut, McDermott offers a solution to making the education system more democratic and equitable.



### Heim Contributes to Arizona Town Hall Report



Twice each year about 150 Arizona citizens come together for three days to address a topic of major concern to the state's future. Most recently, the 91st Arizona Town Hall focused on Land Use: Challenges and Choices for the 21st Century and included in the background report a chapter by Professor Carol E. Heim (CPPA and Economics) on "Taxes, Incentives, and Fiscal Policy Choices." Drawing on research she conducted while holding a David C. Lincoln Fellowship in Land Value Taxation, her chapter covered sales taxes and land development, competition among municipalities offering tax incentives to attract retail businesses, infrastructure finance for growing communities, the problem of declining construction-related revenues as build-out, and forward-looking planning and fiscal policies that can be

adopted.

Past Town Hall recommendations have influenced public debate and decision-making on important policies. The background reports are intended to be accessible to a broad audience and are circulated to all members of the state legislature and other elected officials. Professor Heim attended the Town Hall as a resource person for participants.

Please go to <http://www.aztownhall.org/Summaries.asp> for links to the background report and other items, including the recommendations adopted in the consensus document and remarks by Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior and former Governor of Arizona.

### Study Co-Authored by Lee Badgett Released

A study co-authored by CPPA Director Lee Badgett indicates that legalizing same-sex marriage in Maryland would provide a benefit to the state of approximately \$3.2 million annually. According to Badgett, "The discussion on same-sex marriage is often about rights and benefits. What we wanted to add to this was that marriage is not only about rights and benefits, it's about obligations and responsibilities. This is a way of seeing how those two sides have budgetary impact."



To read the study, please see:

<http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/pressrelease/MarylandFiscalImpact.pdf>

### Harper Receives Award for Upcoming Project



**Krista Harper** (Anthropology and CPPA) has received a \$500 award from the Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association for her proposed project, "Visualizing Environmental Justice and Community Development," at the A&E Business meeting on Nov. 30 in Washington, DC. She will use the funding for a participatory documentary film project with a team of young people from a Romani (Gypsy) community organization in northern Hungary in summer 2008.

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## Student News

Second year students **Mary Terry, Natia Verulashvili, Nadima Sahar, and Arezo Kohistani** presented at the Western Massachusetts Women's Fund Conference. The conference, entitled "At the Crossroads: Capacity Building for the Future," was held in Springfield on September 20, 2007. The group's presentation was entitled, "Trends in Women's Education Needs: Findings from the Women's Fund Community Research".

Mary presented an overview of her summer internship work for the Women's Fund which culminated in a paper entitled "The Crossroad of Education: Women, Access and Success in Higher Education & Building a Better Workforce in Hampden County, Massachusetts."

Natia, Nadima, and Arezo presented a summary of their Spring 2007 Policy Analysis client project entitled, "Why Low-Income Women in Hampden County Have Limited Access to Higher Education." The project was created for the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.

The conference was a day-long event focused on capacity building and skill learning for organizational excellence and social change, specifically related to women's issues. Attendees included foundation representatives, board members, human service professionals, business community members, higher education representatives and donors.

## Student Profile

### Ludgarda Rehfisch



Ludgarda Rehfisch, a first year MPPA student, is from Ecuador and moved to the U.S. last November with her husband. She completed her undergraduate degree in Statistics in Ecuador in 1999. Through 2006, she was working for a small Ecuadorian NGO (Fundacion EcoCostas) on Coastal Resources Management in Ecuador and Latin America. Her duties included coordinating, implementing and budgeting of projects. During this time she worked with various international organizations such as Coastal Resource Center of the University of Rhode Island, USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, and with the AVINA Foundation.

Ludgarda's experiences in her professional career increased her interest in the sustainable development field and in the non-profit sector, and motivated her to specialize in non-profit management in the MPPA program. She hopes the knowledge and new perspectives obtained from the program will help with her plan to establish an NGO with a group of colleagues to work on sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## Alumni Updates

**Irma Bushati-Bala, '99** – Irma is a senior analyst for the Foreign Credential Recognition Program, part of Human Resources and Social Development in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.

**Carrie Puglisi, '04** – Carrie is working as the Residential Project Manager for la Casa de Don Pedro, a community-based development corporation in New Jersey.

**Carlo Ruiz-Giraldo, '04** – Carlo has recently begun a new position as an advisor to the National Constituent Assembly in Ecuador. In this role, Carlo will be working on a new constitution for the country. He is also engaged and set to marry in July 2008.

ALUMNI - We'd love to hear from you! Send your updates to [info@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:info@pubpol.umass.edu) or use the online alumni update form.

<http://www.masspolicy.org/index.php?section=alumni&page=alumniupdateform>

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## Events

While there will be no CPPA events in January, please mark you calendars for the Spring 2008 Colloquium Series! All talks will be held in Thompson Hall 620 at noon.

### **Redefining Public Access in Emerging Video-Broadband Markets**

Martha Fuentes-Bautista, CPPA and Communication

Date: Monday, February 4, 2008

**Rules of Law and Political Rule: Evidence from Opposite Sides of the Arab World**

David Mednicoff, Legal Studies and CPPA

Monday, February 25, 2008

**Candidate Emergence: Does public funding of elections encourage people to run for office?**

Ray La Raja, Political Science

Monday, March 3, 2008

**Climate Change Research and Development Policy**

Erin Baker, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Monday, April 7, 2008

**The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century City**

Rudd Platt, GeoSciences

Monday, May 5, 2008

**Questions or comments about the CPPA E-Bulletin?**

Please contact **Colleen O'Shaughnessy** at [colleen@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:colleen@pubpol.umass.edu) or 413-577-0239.