

## Transportation and Public Utilities Group 2019 News

TPUG is an international forum for researchers and practitioners interested in the economics of and public policies towards the transportation and public utilities industries. Each year we meet at the ASSA meetings and organize organization sessions for the ASSA meeting and the WEAI Meetings. Some major events have occurred in the last year.

- Through the efforts of former President and Distinguished Member Pat McCarthy, we have completed a multi-year effort to gain non-profit status. TPUG is now a registered 501(3)(c) non-profit organization. This means that donations are now tax-exempt. The webpage has been updated to facilitate donations and payments of dues through paypal. See [pages.uoregon.edu](http://pages.uoregon.edu) to donate and see <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/tpug/membership/> to pay dues. **2020 dues are due now.**
- Doug Jones, Pat McCarthy, President-Elect Anming Zhang have initiated and participated in a major effort to fund a PhD Dissertation Award. Thus, far many have donated and we are well on our way to fund the award for the next 10 years (or more). For information, see <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/tpug/dissertation-awards/>
- We have dramatically increased our contact list. The list includes our members, participants in the sessions, researchers in the areas of public utilities and transportation, policy and business. The list now numbers more than 1300 names and efforts are in the process of expanding it further.
- Sadly, Harry Trebing, a long-time member and mentor to many individuals passed away. We have tributes to Professor Trebing and others on our webpage. <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/tpug/in-memoriam/>
- We have a strong presence at the ASSA meetings, with attendance in the four sessions last year numbering from 20-50 people. We also have had a strong presence at the WEAI meetings in San Francisco with five different sessions, and we have an additional five sessions planned for the WEAI meetings in Shanghai. See <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/tpug/2016-2017-conference-meetings-aea-and-weai/>

We are anxious to continue to expand our membership base and participation in the various conferences and dissertation award. Through these efforts along with our non-profit status may allow for added efforts in terms of funding to expand the organization and to introduce a best paper award.

We are also anxious to include new people in the administration of TPUG. To that end, **we seek volunteers for a Program Committee and for a Development Committee.** Such activities are very well thought of tenure and promotion and expands your network within and outside of TPUG. If you are interested, please contact me at [wwilson@uoregon.edu](mailto:wwilson@uoregon.edu), Anming Zhang at [anming.zhang@sauder.ubc.ca](mailto:anming.zhang@sauder.ubc.ca), or Frank Wolak at [wolak@stanford.edu](mailto:wolak@stanford.edu).

**UPCOMING EVENTS: (for possible conference participation, please send title, abstract, emails and affiliations of all authors and an abstract).**

- **2020 WEAI Annual Conference**, Denver, Colorado, California, June 25-30. If you would like to organize a session, present or discuss please contact Wesley Wilson ([wwilson@uoregon.edu](mailto:wwilson@uoregon.edu)) no later than February 1 (Preferably earlier)

- **2021 ASSA meetings** will be held in Chicago, January 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Often a TPUG session is co-sponsored with the AEA. If you wish to participate, organize a session, or present, please contact Wesley Wilson ([wwilson@uoregon.edu](mailto:wwilson@uoregon.edu)) by March 1<sup>st</sup> for the joint session with AEA and by May 15<sup>th</sup> for the other sessions.
- **17<sup>th</sup> International Conference for WEAI is in Melbourne, Australia, April of 2021.** If you wish to participate, organize a session, or present, please contact Wesley Wilson ([wwilson@uoregon.edu](mailto:wwilson@uoregon.edu)) by October 31<sup>st</sup>.