

TPUG

Transportation & Public Utilities Group

Newsletter – February 2023

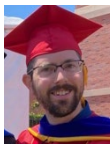
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Distinguished Member Award



The recipient of this year’s TPUG Distinguished member award is [John Mayo](#). John is the Elsa Carlson McDonough Chair of Business Administration and Professor of Economics, Business and Public Policy in the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. He is also a past TPUG President (2005 – 2006) and from (2014 – 2015). John has written extensively on the regulation of utilities, telecommunications and railroads – publishing over 50 papers and testifying before Congress, federal and state regulators over 30 times. In his acceptance speech at the 2023 ASSA meetings, John reflected on the long arc of research on transportation and public utilities and highlighted the important role of economics in addressing future regulatory challenges.

Dissertation Award Recipients



The recipient of the 2022 TPUG dissertation award is [Tal Roitberg](#) from the University of Southern California. Tal’s dissertation focuses on the issue of urgency both in understanding commuters’ travel choices and as it relates to optimal tolling. Using a combination of theoretical and empirical tools, he models drivers’ decisions to use toll (Express) lanes and estimates the value of urgency using toll and travel time data for Southern California highways. He finds “the commuters most susceptible to urgency leave home earliest and are therefore less likely to use the express lane, but they nonetheless benefit most from the option to pay to avoid late arrival.”



[Zakhary Mallett](#), also from the University of Southern California, was awarded honorable mention for his dissertation evaluating equity in rail transit fare policies. He first evaluates how costs and costs per rider vary across space and time for two transit rail networks. Then, he tests whether cost recovery patterns and therefore transit subsidies, vary across space and time. He documents differences in cost recovery patterns for outlying areas compared with central areas of the networks.

Congratulations to both winners.

Elections – 2023 TPUG Officers

The election results are in and the 2023 TPUG officers are:

President: Jonathan E. Hughes, University of Colorado
President-elect: Jonathan D. Hall, University of Toronto
Secretary: Misak Avetisyan, Texas Tech University
Treasurer: Patrick S. McCarthy, Georgia Tech

TPUG is managed by a Governing Body comprised of these four elected positions and the three immediate past presidents (Ian Savage, Frank Wolak and Anming Zhang).

Propose a paper for TPUG Sessions at WEAI 2023



The WEAI North American meeting is in San Diego on July 2-6, 2023. TPUG is sponsoring sessions on both transportation and public utilities. For more information on submitting a paper proposal go to:

<https://sites.macalester.edu/tpug/weai-meetings-call-for-papers/>

The deadline is **February 10, 2023**. For more information on the conference go to:

<https://weai.org/conferences/view/13/98th-Annual-Conference>

The TPUG contact is Akshaya Jha akshayaj@andrew.cmu.edu .

ASSA 2024 in San Antonio



It's already time to start planning for the ASSA meetings in San Antonio on January 5-7, 2024. The call for papers is now open with a deadline of **May 15**. For more information and a link to the submission form: <https://sites.macalester.edu/tpug/annual-assa-meetings/>

Student Memberships



Student memberships in TPUG are free of charge. Please help support the next generation of transportation and public utilities economists by encouraging your students to join TPUG. For more information see: <https://sites.macalester.edu/tpug/membership/>

Donate to TPUG



TPUG is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your donation is tax deductible. Among the leading uses for donated funds is supporting our annual dissertation awards to recognize and encourage the work of young researchers. You can donate through PayPal at our home page: <https://sites.macalester.edu/tpug/>

We thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hughes", is positioned above the printed name.

Jon Hughes
TPUG President 2023

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