

TPUG
Transportation & Public Utilities Group
Newsletter – February 2024

- 2023 Distinguished Member Award
- 2023 Dissertation Award Recipients
- Elections - TPUG Officers for 2024
- Propose a paper for TPUG Sessions at 2024 WEAI in Seattle
- ASSA 2025 in San Francisco
- Student memberships
- Donate to TPUG – it is tax deductible!

Distinguished Member Award



The recipient of this year's TPUG Distinguished Member Award is [Ken Boyer](#). Ken is Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University. He has written over 40 papers on the regulation of railroads and other transportation industries. Ken is also the author of the text "Principles of Transportation Economics." Over his career, Ken served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Regulatory Economics and Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review. He has been a member of four National Academies and National Research Council committees. Ken received the Distinguished Transportation Researcher Award from the Transportation Research Forum in 2017. Importantly, he was TPUG President from 1997 – 1999. In his acceptance speech at the 2024 ASSA meetings, Ken reflected on the history of railroad rate regulation and described key questions for future work in this area. Congratulations Ken!

Dissertation Award Recipients



The recipient of the 2024 TPUG Dissertation Award is [Vincent Thorne](#) from Trinity College Dublin. Vincent's dissertation estimates the impact of bike share programs on air quality. He combines data from New York City's bikeshare program with high-resolution air quality data from 2010–2019. He finds that areas where the bike share is expected to reduce road traffic experience a decrease in black carbon and nitric oxide pollution, relative to other areas in New York City. He estimates that the health and mortality benefits of bike sharing in New York City are worth over \$3 per bike share trip. He is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Paris School of Economics. Congratulations Vincent!

Elections – 2024 TPUG Officers

The election results are in and the 2024 TPUG officers are:

President: Jonathan D. Hall, University of Alabama
President-elect: Gordon Leslie, Monash University
Secretary: Misak Avetisyan, Texas Tech University
Treasurer: Monica Hartmann, University of St. Thomas

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

Propose a paper for TPUG Sessions at WEAI 2024



The WEAI North American meeting is in Seattle from June 29th to July 3rd, 2024. 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, 2024**. For more information on the conference go to: <https://weai.org/conferences/view/14/99th-Annual-Conference>

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

ASSA 2025 in San Francisco



It's already time to start planning for the ASSA meetings in San Francisco on January 3-5, 2025. 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.

Jonathan D. Hall
TPUG President 2024
Department of Economics, Finance, and Legal Studies
University of Alabama
jonathan.hall@ua.edu

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