

FORWARD
FEST

RESOURCE GUIDE

October 2020

A YEAR OF
FORWARD
THINKING



A Y E A R O F
F O R W A R D
T H I N K I N G



»»»»»»»» What is A Year of Forward Thinking? »»»»»»»»

A Year of Forward Thinking spans the 2020–21 academic year and engages the entire Princeton University community — alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends — in a global conversation about pioneering solutions for today’s challenges.

forwardthinking.princeton.edu

F O R W A R D >>>>>>>>> F E S T

What is Forward Fest?

Forward Fest is a monthly, online series of discussions with Princeton faculty, students, staff, alumni and other interested thinkers who will explore, engage, and develop bold thinking for the future.

How to Use This Resource Guide

Binge as background reading to prepare for the Forward Fest discussions, follow along during the programming, and use the information to fuel conversations with Princetonians and others about ideas that are worth Thinking Forward together.

<https://forwardthinking.princeton.edu/festival>

FORWARD

THINKERS

forwardthinking.princeton.edu/forwardthinkers

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET
Forward Fest Kickoff

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM ET
Thinking Forward
Public Health

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM ET
Thinking Forward Justice

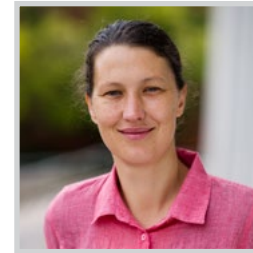
5:00 PM – 6:15 PM ET
Thinking Forward to
Election 2020



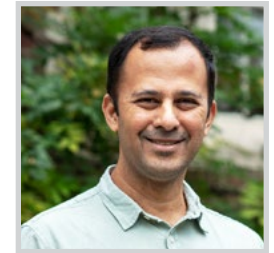
Anne Case '83 '88
Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor
of Economics and Public Affairs,
Emeritus



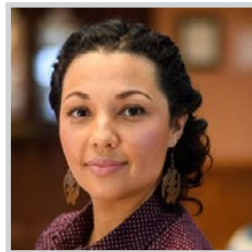
Sir Angus Deaton
Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor
of International Affairs, Emeritus;
Professor of Economics and
International Affairs, Emeritus;
and 2015 Nobel Laureate



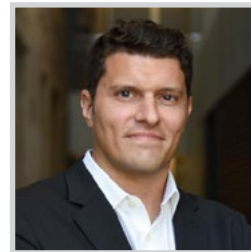
C. Jessica Metcalf
Associate Professor of Ecology,
Evolutionary Biology and Public
Affairs and Co-Director of the
Program in Global Health and
Health Policy



Ramanan Laxminarayan
Senior Research Scholar and
Lecturer, Princeton Environmental
Institute; and Director, Center for
Disease Dynamics, Economics
and Policy



Aisha Beliso-De Jesús
Professor of American Studies
and Director, Program in American
Studies, Asian American Studies
and Latino Studies



Jonathan Mummolo
Assistant Professor of Politics and
Public Affairs and the Arthur H.
Scribner Bicentennial Preceptor



Laurence Ralph
Professor of Anthropology and
Director, Center on Transnational
Policing



Patrick Sharkey
Professor of Sociology and
Public Affairs



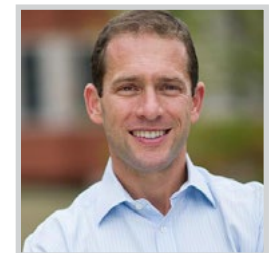
Andrew Appel '81
Eugene Higgins Professor of
Computer Science



Heather Howard
Director, State Health and Value
Strategies; and Lecturer, Princeton
School of International and
Public Affairs



Kevin M. Kruse
Professor of History



Jacob Shapiro
Professor of Politics and
International Affairs

THINKING FORWARD PUBLIC HEALTH

Princeton pursues public health research in and across a multitude of disciplines, including economics, natural sciences, environmental studies and engineering. One nexus for such research is the Center for Health and Wellbeing. Founded in 2000 as an interdisciplinary unit within the School of Public and International Affairs, the CHW has become a research hub on the multiple aspects of health in both developed and developing countries.

Across the University, Princeton's scientists and researchers are making groundbreaking discoveries at the cellular level to unlock our understanding of cancer and other diseases (such as COVID-19), and to inform the design and testing of new drugs and therapies.

Voices

“Superspreading events are the rule rather than the exception when one is looking at the spread of COVID-19, both in India and likely in all affected places.”

— RAMANAN LAXMINARAYAN

“The connection between less-educated Americans and pain is shaped by a number of factors, from income to social isolation to rising deaths of despair.”

— ANNE CASE *83 *88

“The pandemic is exposing and exaggerating longstanding inequalities in health and wealth. It will worsen the inequalities between black and white, between the more and the less educated, and between ordinary people and the well off.”

— SIR ANGUS DEATON

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE

JANET CURRIE *88, the Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs and co-director of Princeton's Center for Health and Wellbeing — a leading scholar and policy advocate focusing primarily on children's health.

BRYAN GRENFELL, the Kathryn Briger and Sarah Fenton Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs — a population biologist focused on the dynamics and control of infectious diseases in space and time.

MOHAMMAD SEYEDSAYAMDOST, associate professor of chemistry — a biological chemist whose groundbreaking work in transforming the landscape of antibiotic development earned him a 2020 MacArthur Fellowship.



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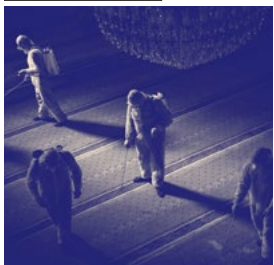
THINKER

C. Jessica Metcalf

Jessica Metcalf is a demographer who studies evolutionary ecology, the spread of infectious disease dynamics and public policy. Such expertise places her and her colleagues at the Metcalf Lab at the nexus of crucial COVID-19 research. Data is the foundation of her work, and the ability to collect and interpret massive sweeps of information — which she first demonstrated while researching measles and rubella vaccines in Madagascar — is already paying dividends in the understanding of the current pandemic. “I like asking esoteric, academic-sounding questions along with pointed, practical questions,” said Metcalf, who has a joint appointment with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and is also co-director of the Global Health Program at the Center for Health and Wellbeing. “At SPIA, I have access to academics who think hard about using the best possible information for shaping public policy.”

RECOMMENDED READING:

A Demographer's View of the Coronavirus Pandemic



Credit: Chris McGrath / Getty

Faculty Spotlight: C. Jessica Metcalf



Mathematical models to guide pandemic response



Science Forum: A Global Immunological Observatory to meet a time of pandemics



Which interventions work best in a pandemic?



» I wanted to be able to go beyond descriptions, to build models that allowed me to ask larger questions within the context of ecology and infectious disease dynamics. »



THINKING FORWARD JUSTICE

Understanding the state of justice is strengthened by the academic research of Princeton faculty who help analyze, understand and critique the policies that drive social, racial and environmental inequalities. Professors in the Department of African American Studies, led by chair Eddie Glaude, Jr. *97, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor, are authoritative voices in the national conversations around race in America. Colleagues in the multidisciplinary Program in American Studies, as well as researchers from departments across the social sciences, provide valuable insights on the socioeconomic disparities that undermine equal opportunity. Faculty in the Princeton Environmental Institute investigate policies and conditions at the intersection of environmental stewardship and social justice.

Voices

“We support research and inquiry [of policing and law enforcement] in the spirit of changing the suffering and social inequality experienced by **marginalized people**.”

— AISHA M. BELISO-DE JESÚS

“Decades of criminological theory and growing evidence demonstrate that residents and local organizations can indeed ‘police’ their own neighborhoods and control violence — in a way that **builds stronger communities**.”

— PATRICK SHARKEY

“Seeing **militarized police** in a news report—relative to traditionally equipped police—lowers public support for both the funding of police agencies and the presence of police patrols.”

— JONATHAN MUMMOLO

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE

MATTHEW DESMOND, the Maurice P. Daring Professor of Sociology — the principal investigator of **The Eviction Lab** examined more than 80 million court records to study the intersection of poverty and housing.

V. MITCH MCEWEN, assistant professor of architecture — an innovative designer who uses artistic approaches to **reinvent urban spaces** in order to address social and environmental issues.

KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR, assistant professor of African American studies — an award-winning author who writes about Black politics, social movements and **racial inequality** in the United States.

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Laurence Ralph

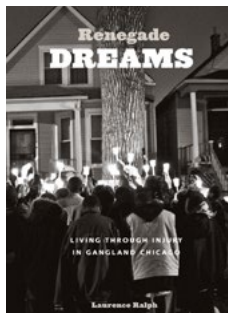
Laurence Ralph is an anthropologist who has published on topics such as police abuse, mass incarceration, the criminalization of the drug trade, disability and premature death for urban residents of color. “Each of my projects, in its own way, uses experiences of violence, debilitating injury, and/or death to examine the stereotypes and prejudices embedded in narratives about inner-city violence,” said Ralph, who is a professor of anthropology and co-director of the Center on Transnational Policing (CTP), a collaborative research hub that he co-founded with Aisha Beliso-De Jesús, professor of American studies. CTP brings together scholars to understand policing in the U.S. and internationally. Ralph’s latest book, “The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence,” explores a decades-long scandal in which 125 African Americans were brutally tortured while in Chicago police custody.

RECOMMENDED READING:

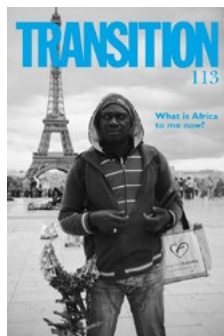
The Scars of Being Policed While Black



Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago



Legacies of Fear



Sapiens podcast: “Police Violence and the Pandemic”



»» Fear of ‘the other’ made it possible for torture to become a routine part of interrogating criminal suspects in certain Chicago precincts. »»

THINKING FORWARD TO ELECTION 2020

Princeton has been committed to American democracy ever since it was conceived — not just studying historical events but often playing a significant role in them. In 2020, when the American electorate is questioning the legitimacy and efficacy of the process of selecting the president and other officials, Princeton's experts from the fields of history, politics and computer science have come together to address some of the issues surrounding this election year like no other.

Voices

“It's easy to make a computer program that you can install to make [voting machines] shift votes from one candidate to another. And there is no way to detect the presence of fraudulent software.”

— ANDREW APPEL '81

“Health care is intensely personal and to the extent that changes impact the daily lives of Americans, it will always be politically charged.”

— HEATHER HOWARD

“There have increasingly been incentives for different political actors not to resolve [divisive] issues — things like partisan news outlets which present viewers a worldview that discourages compromise, or gerrymandered congressional districts.”

— KEVIN KRUSE WITH JULIAN ZELIZER

MORE FORWARD THINKERS OF NOTE

College students make a lot of noise during political campaigns, but they fail to show up on election day. That's been the conventional wisdom about young voters for decades, a maxim that was reinforced in 2014 when less than 11 percent of Princeton undergraduates voted in that year's midterms. VOTE100 was established to reverse that statistic, setting a goal of 100-percent voter turnout. Launched in 2015 and led by student leaders, VOTE100 organizes campus outreach to register every student and provides information about all voting opportunities. This year, events such as Tiger Ballot Day helped raise awareness, and Princeton sports teams competed to reach 100 percent participation.

Several VOTE100 fellows also joined other college students to co-found Poll Hero Project, a national effort to recruit young volunteers to fill a pandemic-caused shortage of poll workers on election day. “If I don't do it, will there be enough people there at the polls?” cofounder Kai Tsurumaki '23 told NBC News. “Is everyone going to be able to vote? Just thinking about that really motivates me.” That's in the nation's service.

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Jacob Shapiro

Jacob N. Shapiro is professor of politics and international affairs and co-director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC), a multi-university consortium that analyzes micro-level conflict data and other information on politically motivated violence in nine countries. He studies conflict, economic and political development and security policy. In Fall 2018 he began collecting data on political misinformation around the world and developed tools to find it. In March 2020 he embarked on a study with ESOC research specialist Jan Oledan to look at coronavirus misinformation narratives.

These efforts grew into a collaboration between ESOC and Microsoft Research, with student researchers from Princeton and several universities fact-checking social media and websites with the use of a coding manual to characterize the type of stories they find. “Our ultimate goal is to contribute ground truth on narratives so that researchers can develop better knowledge about who shares misinformation and its impact,” Shapiro said. “This also will help industry partners like Microsoft develop better tools to prevent their systems from spreading it.”

RECOMMENDED READING:

How Russia, China, and other governments use coronavirus disinformation to reshape geopolitics



Credit: Remy Steinegger/World Economic Forum

Coronavirus misinformation is a global issue, but which myth you fall for likely depends on where you live



Credit: Scott Barbour/AAP

Fact-checking networks fight coronavirus infodemic



Credit: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Content-based features predict social media influence operations



Coronavirus: Don't forget about poor kids



Credit: LUIS ROBAYO/AFP via Getty Images

Are influence campaigns trolling your social media feeds?



Credit: Jason Alden/Bloomberg News

» Almost all of the misinformation coming from state actors is about laying a political groundwork, setting a narrative that is going to be favorable to them once the virus is contained. »

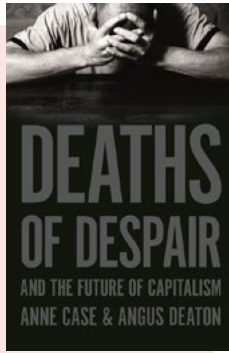


Additional Resources

BOOK

Deaths of Despair

Economist Anne Case '83 '88 and Nobel Prize winner Sir Angus Deaton outline how social and economic forces are making life harder for the working class, resulting in a lower life expectancy in the U.S. for three years in a row due to “deaths of despair” from suicide, drug overdose and alcoholism. Watch the authors discuss their 2020 book [here](#).



VIDEO

The Torture Letters

Anthropologist Laurence Ralph based his [13-minute animated film](#) on research from his book, “The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence,” which explores a decades-long scandal in which 125 African Americans were tortured while in police custody. “This film is meant for everyone who has felt alone and violated after being subjected to police violence,” he wrote on the New York Times website, where the film debuted. “It’s also for anyone who has wept over the memory of a victim or taken to the streets in protest.”



TEDx Talks: “Internet Voting? Really?”

TEDxPrincetonU

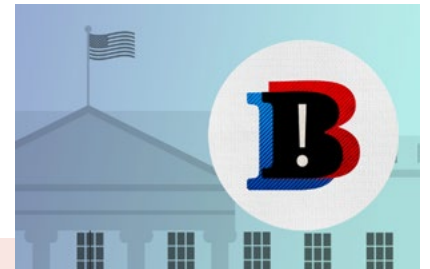
x = independently organized TED event

In his 2016 [TEDx Talk](#), Andrew Appel '81 explores the history of voting and voting fraud and how the system transitioned from paper ballots to mechanical voting machines. What does the future of voting and voting security look like in the United States?

PODCAST

“Before the Ballot”

The [new podcast series](#) from Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs aims to educate voters about policy choices before they cast their ballots this November. The 11-episode series is hosted by Associate Dean of Public Affairs and Communications Elisabeth Donahue and features members of the SPIA faculty discussing crucial election issues, including the United States Supreme Court, health care and climate change.



A YEAR OF FORWARD THINKING



Forward Fest is a monthly, online event series open to the public.

November's theme:

DATA SCIENCE AND
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

What Are YOU Thinking Forward?

Share it now.

forward@princeton.edu

[#PrincetonForward](https://twitter.com/PrincetonForward)

For more information on future programming, visit

forwardthinking.princeton.edu/festival

forwardthinking.princeton.edu

