



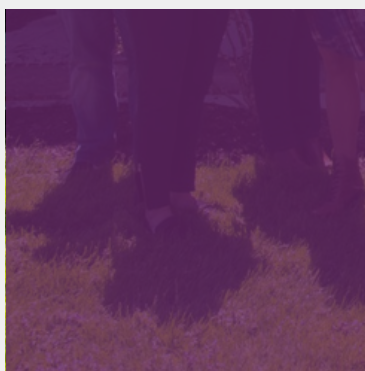
LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

# Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

2022-2023



201 W. Roanoke Street  
Blacksburg, VA 24061



# Table of Contents

2	About IPG
3	Director's Note
8	Our People
13	Projects
16	Community Change Collaborative
20	Published Work
23	Partners
25	Stay in Touch!



# About IPG



Founded in 2006, the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance is actively involved in empirical and theoretical research, and supports sponsored research endeavors for the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA).

We engage in research, capacity building, technical assistance and community-based participatory inquiry with and on behalf of those we serve, principally public, nonprofit and private organizations, and the vulnerable populations and communities these entities support.

Our projects broadly encompass research and praxis in the areas of Urban & Community Development, Health & Human Services, Governance & Management, Sustainability & the Environment, and Democracy & Civil Society. Through this work, we support graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, and coordinate with academic partners across the University, nation, and beyond.

Our main office is located in Blacksburg, however we also have faculty and project associates based in northern Virginia. The Institute employs faculty and staff, in addition to collaborating with dedicated Project Associates, Senior Fellows, and Affiliated Partners.

Curiosity

Integrity

Reflexivity

Collaboration

Innovation

Transparency

Human Dignity

Empathy

Social Justice

# Key Highlights from the Past Year: A Note from the Director



June 2023

The 2022-2023 academic year has been an eventful one for the Institute and I seek to offer a brief overview here. Here are some highlights, grouped by topic for convenience:

## *Institutional Changes*

- The School of Public and International Affairs and the Institute formally transferred to the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences in July 2022 and that transition continues. We are delighted to have so many new colleagues with whom to develop and deepen ties.

## *People*

- We bade farewell to our long-time Fiscal and Research Associate Karen Boone, as she elected to retire. We all miss her.
- Two Institute leaders garnered new titles this year, reflecting their vital roles and institutional responsibilities. Mary Beth Dunkenberger is now serving as our Deputy Director and Dr. David Moore is now our Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships. Congratulations to both!
- While an old friend of IPG, we were very pleased this year to welcome Professor Robert (Bob) Leonard, Professor of Theatre Arts, to serve as a Senior Fellow in the Institute. It is a delight to have him affiliated with us in this way.



## People, cont.

- Dr. Andrea Briceno Mosquera joined us at the Institute as a Post-Doctoral Researcher in June for the coming year. She is working closely with Dr. Sharon Mastracci of the Center for Public Administration and Policy and with me, Mary Beth Dunkenberger and Dr. David Moore as she pursues her scholarly interests and is engaged in IPG's sponsored research projects. We are very happy to welcome Andrea and to work closely with Professor Mastracci.
- We were very pleased to learn that we will be hosting a University of Istanbul Ph.D. student, chosen in a national competition in Turkey, for a calendar year beginning in August 2023. Aziz Ardiç will work closely with me and his advisory committee chair in Turkey as he develops his dissertation during his stay.
- We were also most pleased to be asked to host an exchange visitor in May 2023 from Mongolia, Khishi Enkhbayar, as a part of the National Committee on U.S. China Relations Professional Fellows program. Khishi is the co-founder and Secretary-General of the United Nations Association (UNA) of Mongolia. Our own Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships, David Moore, traveled to China some years ago as a Fellow in this program.

## Publications

- This year saw the publication of two books in the Institute series. Virginia Tech Publishing published the third and final volume in the *RE: Reflections and Explorations* series, edited by me and Dr. Lyusyena Kirakosyan, on February 8, 2023. Special thanks to Non-Resident Research Associate, Dr. Kirakosyan, for her outstanding work throughout this series.
- Meanwhile, Virginia Tech Publishing also published *Conversations in Community Change: More Voices from the Field* edited by Cathy Grimes and myself. This *Conversations* volume features edited interviews with a range of leaders engaged in efforts to promote democratic social and political change. The book includes interviews with a Nobel Peace Prize winner and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation (“Genius Award”) Fellowship, among many other notable professionals.

### *Publications, cont.*

- Professor of Political Science, Yannis Stivachtis and I, Eds., also published another book in April 2023 entitled *Policy and Politics of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Eastern Mediterranean States: National and Institutional Perspectives*, E-International Relations, Bristol, U.K., 2023, featuring authors from the nations most affected by that still unfolding scenario. Non-Resident Research Associate, Dr. Neda Moayerian, co-authored two chapters in the book.
- I also edited a special issue of the journal *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* with Professors Kim Niewolny, Laura Zanotti and Anna Erwin that resulted in 14 published articles.
- In addition to these works, our Institute faculty and research associates published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters related to community-based participatory design, cross-sectoral partnership building, and community cultural development initiatives, among other topics. You may review a more complete list of the year's publications on page 20.

By any measure, IPG has had a productive year in published research!

### *Sponsored Research*

- One of the Institute's flagship research projects over the past few years has been the Roanoke Valley Connection to Care (C2C) grant, funded by the University of Baltimore's Center for Drug Policy and Prevention (CDPP) Combating Overdose Through Community-level Intervention Initiative (COCLI) and directed by PI Mary Beth Dunkenberger. The project has strengthened community partnerships, led to pilot innovations, and improved our understanding of the recovery ecosystem in the Roanoke Valley and West Piedmont regions for housing insecure people struggling with substance use disorder (SUD).
- IPG continues its long-running partnership with Total Action for Progress (TAP) on a number of projects. TAP is a community action agency serving the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Highlands. PI Dr. David Moore, Lara Nagle, and Liz Allen completed TAP's Triennial Community Needs Assessment, identifying the top priorities for low-income households within TAP's multi-locality service area to inform strategic planning.

### *Sponsored Research, cont.*

- Other projects with TAP this year included a program evaluation of TAP RESTORE, led by Lara Nagle (co-PI) and Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), which examined participant outcomes following their participation in the Re-Employment, Support, and Training for the Opioid Related Epidemic (RESTORE) program. RESTORE assisted women directly and indirectly affected by the opioid epidemic by providing career services and job training. Dr. David Moore (PI) is also supervising the implementation of a Pathway Home grant at TAP, providing pre- and post-release services to incarcerated individuals in need of employment assistance, transportation, housing, and other wraparound supports. Both of these projects are funded by the US Department of Labor.
- Led by Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), IPG faculty including Liz Allen (co-PI) and Laura York (co-PI) continue to support client tracking, needs assessments, and program evaluation for several Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants supporting behavioral health services provided by Mount Rogers Community Services and New River Valley Community Services.
- Among other new initiatives at IPG, Dr. David Moore and Lara Nagle serve as evaluators for a two-year NOAA-funded, multi-stakeholder collaboration with Carilion Clinic, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA), the City of Roanoke, and Virginia Tech to mobilize healthcare professionals, youth, and community groups to address the issue of heat-related illness due to climate change and warming summer temperatures, particularly in Roanoke's more vulnerable neighborhoods.

A more comprehensive list of this year's sponsored research projects can be found on page 13.

### *Community Change Collaborative*

- The Community Change Collaborative (CCC) is a faculty-advised, interdisciplinary graduate-student group at IPG that examines the methods, frameworks, and forces leading to community change. CCC has hosted a podcast on these topics, called Trustees Without Borders, engaging community change scholars and practitioners for more than a decade.

*CCC, cont.*

- The Collaborative hosted a number of faculty forums and guests this year, including Professors Marc Stern of our Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Claire Cahen of Urban Affairs and Planning in SPIA, Jessica Taylor of our Department of History and Colorado State University Associate Professor of Political Science, David McIvor. Doug Jackson, the Arts and Culture Coordinator for the City of Roanoke, also joined us to talk about the Year of the Artist in Roanoke.
- CCC was also engaged in a successful effort this year along with partners, Reynolds Homestead and the Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC), as well as Professor Lisa Tucker's Interior Design studio, to assist the Patrick County-based nonprofit organization Envision Critz in creating and implementing a community consultation process to develop a design for a community cultural center in Critz. Special thanks to all of our partners in this exciting project!
- The Collaborative is also now working closely with a group called St. Paul's College for Life (SPC4Life) in Brunswick County, Virginia, which is comprised of alumni and friends of the now-closed St. Paul's College, long located in that community. SPC4Life is developing educational curricula for Brunswick County's most vulnerable young people and CCC is helping them with their governance strategy and strategic positioning.
- Finally, CCC/IPG is also collaborating on producing a new podcast series in partnership with VT Publishing and VT Libraries, called Social Science for the Public Good. Interspersing interviews with prominent theorists and explanations designed to provide context, the series will seek to communicate not only the content of social science theorizations but also how they are relevant for those seeking to promote change. Please read more about CCC's important work on page 16.

As I close, I would be remiss not to thank all of those who have worked with or supported the Institute this year. You are, we realize, why we exist when all is said and done. Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Max O. Stephenson Jr., Professor of Public and International Affairs and  
Director, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance**



# IPG Faculty, Staff, Research Associates, Fellows and Graduate Students

## Faculty



### **Max O. Stephenson, Jr., PhD**

#### **Director and Professor of Public and International Affairs**

Dr. Stephenson has served as the Director of IPG since its founding in 2006. His research areas include nonprofit and nongovernmental organizational governance, international development, and public policy and theory.



### **Mary Beth Dunkenberger, MBA**

#### **Deputy Director**

Mary Beth Dunkenberger has been with the Institute since its founding in 2006. Her research areas include organizational and program assessments, policy and program innovations, and connections between social programs and economic and community development.



### **David Moore, PhD**

#### **Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships**

Dr. Moore has been with the Institute since its founding in 2006. His research areas include organizational development and capacity building, early childhood and workforce development, and nonprofit and NGO governance.



### **Melony Price-Rhodes, PhD**

#### **Senior Program Director**

Dr. Price-Rhodes is the principal investigator for the Federal Reimbursement Unit (FRU) in Fairfax County. The FRU team assists in securing all relevant support from federal entitlement and state programs to maximize the services provided to children in foster care in the County.

**Elizabeth Allen, MS****Senior Research and Project Associate**

Liz Allen has been with IPG since 2015. Liz is a data manager, evaluator, and project specialist on Institute sponsored research projects, including National Outcome Measures (NOMS) reporting for SAMHSA projects.

**Lara Nagle, MSLA, MURP****Community-Based Research Manager**

Since 2019, Lara Nagle has managed community-based research projects and conducted program evaluations, needs assessments, and strategic planning. Her research interests include sustainable community development.

**Laura York, MPH****Health Program and Policy Research Associate**

Laura York has been with IPG since 2021. Her research areas include community health and program development, substance use disorders, and brain health in the geriatric community.

**Staff****Billy Parvatam, MA****Communications Coordinator and Administrative Specialist**

Billy Parvatam has worked at IPG since 2021, supporting the Institute's communications and social media campaigns, as well as fiscal and project administration.

**Heather Nolen, BBA****Business Manager, School of Public and International Affairs**

Heather Nolen has assisted in the fiscal transition following Karen Boone's retirement. We thank Heather for her continuing support of the Institute!

**Karen Boone (Retired in 2022)**

Karen Boone managed fiscal operations at IPG from its founding in 2006 to her retirement on December 31, 2022. Karen was an essential member of the IPG family for many years. We are thankful for her numerous contributions!

**Research Associates****Neda Moayerian, PhD****Assistant Professor, University of Tehran School of Urban Planning & Non-Resident Research Associate, VTIPG**

Dr. Moayerian is currently involved in several of IPG's collaborative research projects on the Syrian refugee crisis in multiple countries, art-based development in a Brazilian favela, international development and hybrid NGOs.

**Lyusyena Kirakosyan, PhD****Non-Resident Senior Research Associate**

Dr. Kirakosyan's research interests focus on critical disability studies, particularly in the context of the Paralympic Games and their legacy. Since January 2016, she has been a research member of the Brazilian Paralympic Academy collaborating on the inquiry into paralympic sports in Brazil.





**Bryce Hoflund, PhD**  
**Research Scientist**

Dr. Hoflund was an associate professor and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Chair of Healthcare Administration and Policy in the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha before rejoining IPG in 2022. Her research areas include food policy, health policy, and network management.



**Andrea Briceno Mosquera, PhD**  
**Post-Doctoral Research Associate**

Dr. Mosquera specializes in mixed-method analyses of policy-making processes and program evaluation. She has taught courses in policy analysis, research methods, diversity, equity and inclusion, and economics.

### Senior Fellows



**Andrew Morikawa**  
**Executive Director Emeritus of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (Virginia)**

Andy Morikawa has served as a Senior Fellow at IPG since 2010. His consulting and research work includes nonprofit leadership, governance, and board of directors' development. He is long-time host of the *Trustees Without Borders* podcast.



**Bob Leonard, MFA**  
**Professor, VT School of Performing Arts**

Bob Leonard is a theatre maker, writer, teacher and arts organizer in the School of Performing Arts, where he is the primary advisor for the MFA program in Directing and Public Dialogue. His creative work includes multiple public projects with the Council on Virginia Tech History, which he chairs.



*Graduate Students Affiliated with IPG*



**Ali Hartwick**  
Graduate of Masters in  
Urban and Regional  
Planning (MURP)



**Amin Farzaneh**  
PhD Student in  
Planning, Governance,  
& Globalization (PGG)



**Brad Stephens**  
PhD Student in  
Planning, Governance,  
& Globalization (PGG)



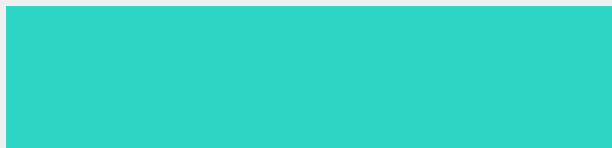
**Marcel Pambo**  
PhD Student in  
Planning, Governance,  
& Globalization (PGG)



**Mia Williams**  
Graduate of Masters  
in Public Health  
Program



**Yugasha Bakshi**  
PhD Student in  
Planning, Governance,  
& Globalization (PGG)



# Community-Based Projects



## Roanoke Valley Connection to Care (C2C)

2019-2023

**Key Investigators:** Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), Laura York, (co-PI), Lara Nagle (co-PI), Elizabeth Allen (co-PI)

The C2C project is a novel multi-stakeholder intervention using referral, crisis response resources, case management capacities, and backpacks equipped with potentially life-saving tools to address goals of: 1) timely referral of persons experiencing or at-risk of overdose or other substance use health-related consequences; 2) reduction in overdose and relapse; and 3) connecting consumers to appropriate harm reduction, treatment and recovery programs. [Learn More](#)

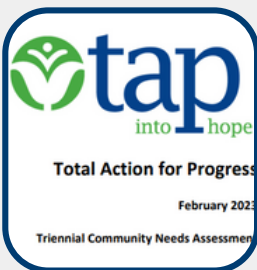


## C2C Housing First Toolkit and Recovery Housing Summit

2022-2023

**Key Investigators:** Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), Lara Nagle (co-PI), Mel Jones (co-PI) (Virginia Center for Housing Research)

The toolkit features pro formas, position descriptions, annual reports, organizational leadership diagrams, rules and regulations for residents, harm reduction guides, and other resources for Housing First providers to inform the development and operations of Housing First facilities. An accompanying virtual summit was held in May 2023 that featured panelists with expertise in Housing First and recovery housing. Recordings from this event are also available in the toolkit. [Learn More](#)



## Total Action for Progress (TAP) Triennial Community Needs Assessment

2022

**Key Investigators:** Dr. David Moore (PI), Lara Nagle (co-PI), Liz Allen (co-PI)

IPG conducted TAP's recent triennial Community Needs Assessment (CNA), including collection and analysis of statistical data, survey data, and qualitative interviews with key agency, community and client stakeholders across eleven localities. TAP will use the assessment results to guide the continued development and improvement of its programs and services through strategic planning in 2023. [Learn More](#)



## Peer Empowered Addiction Recovery Living (PEARL) for Pregnant and Postpartum Women 2020-2023

Key Investigators: Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), Lara Nagle (co-PI), Laura York (co-PI)

IPG provides evaluation and technical assistance for the PEARL program of Piedmont Community Services (PCS). PEARL provides mothers with a 6-12 month residential stay in safe, supportive recovery housing, including access to counseling, case management, office-based addiction treatment (OBAT), and wrap-around supports. Partners with the Virginia Center for Housing Research, including Andrew McCoy, advised on the redevelopment of the Grace House for PEARL. [Learn More](#)



## TAP Pathway Home 2022-2025

Key Investigators: Dr. David Moore (PI)

Dr. Moore is working with the community action agency Total Action for Progress (TAP) to manage a Pathway Home grant in partnership with local jails serving the Roanoke Valley. The \$3 million Pathway Home grant is from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training and re-entry services to previously incarcerated people. This proposal was one of 18 initiatives in 14 states selected to participate in the \$50 million program. [Learn More](#)



## NOAA Heat Ready, Roanoke! Evaluation 2022-2024

Key Investigators: Dr. David Moore (PI), Lara Nagle (co-PI)

IPG serves as the lead evaluator on the Heat Ready, Roanoke! project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The project is led by Carilion Clinic in partnership with Virginia Tech, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA), and the City of Roanoke to enhance environmental literacy about extreme heat and health, and to strengthen climate resilience. It engages students and families, community health professionals, and city government. [Learn More](#)



## SAMHSA Evaluation Team

2018-2026

**Key Investigators:** Mary Beth Dunkenberger (PI), Liz Allen (co-PI), Laura York (co-PI), Dr. David Moore (co-PI)

IPG has provided grant performance evaluation and outcome assessments for several Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants for Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS) and New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS), including Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Expansion, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC), and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Improvement and Advancement (CCBHC-IA) for MRCS, as well as CCBHC and CCBHC-IA for NRVCS. These programs expand mental health and substance use services to medically un- or under-insured youth and adults. [Learn More](#)



## Federal Reimbursement Unit (FRU)

1994-2023

**Key Investigators:** Dr. Melony Price-Rhodes (PI), Chris Elam, Vickie Grazioli, Claudia Malenich, Erin Mooney, Brian Salazar Zamora

The Federal Reimbursement Unit (FRU) is a long-term contract that provides research, technical expertise and human capacity to Fairfax County's Department of Family Services Child Protective Services (CPS), Foster Care and Adoptions (FC&A), and the Fairfax/Falls Church Children's Services Act (CSA) Programs. The goal of the FRU team is to identify, pursue, and provide a seamless process in maximizing resources from federal entitlement, state programs, and families per local program policies to reduce the local costs of providing services to children in foster care or CSA services while optimizing support for affected individuals. [Learn More](#)



## University of Fondwa (UNIF)

2010-2023

**Key Investigators:** Dr. Max O. Stephenson (PI), Dr. Laura Zanotti (PI) (Department of Political Science)

VTIPG hosted Lesly Joseph, Dean of Agronomy, and Thomas Moteler, Vice Rector for University Affairs, from the University of Fondwa (UNIF) from October 2-6, 2022. Their visit was the latest in a collaboration of more than a decade in which Drs. Stephenson and Zanotti have been involved in supporting development and continuity of the private non-profit Haitian university's curriculum and social infrastructure. [Learn More](#)





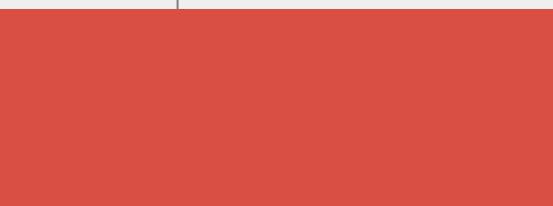
# Community Change Collaborative Academic Year in Review

The **Community Change Collaborative (CCC)** is a graduate-level initiative of IPG that examines the methods, frameworks, and forces shaping community development, approaches to community engagement, and how to build sustainable, cross-sectoral partnerships. CCC's interdisciplinary research scope ranges from the local to the international, including a variety of mixed methods approaches to connect theory and praxis. Members meet weekly, host guest speaker and faculty forum series, and help to facilitate community-engaged projects focused on democratic and political agency and cultural and community development.



CCC is also affiliated with a peer-reviewed, graduate student journal called **Community Change**, which recently launched its fourth issue focused on Transmission and Transition. The journal is open access and supported by VT Publishing.

*Community Change* promotes quality graduate student publications and educates graduate students about the editorial, peer review, and scholarly publication process through applied learning. The journal was launched in 2017 by members of Community Voices, what is now CCC.



## Guest Speakers & Events

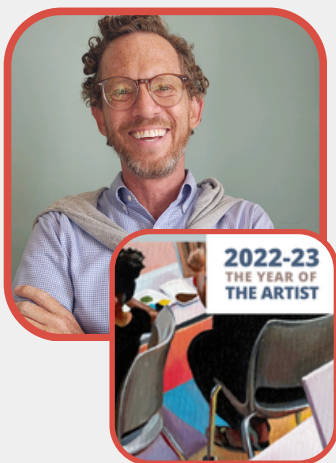


### The Frontera Project October 2022

After nearly two years of preparation, the cast of [The Frontera Project](#), a bilingual theatre experience addressing life along the U.S.-Mexico border, performed that drama at Theatre 101 on Virginia Tech's campus on October 1, 2022.



While in residence in Blacksburg, members of the cast also conducted three workshops addressing social dynamics and change for interested students and faculty. VTIPG Director Max Stephenson, Jr., School of Performing Arts Professor and IPG Senior Fellow Bob Leonard, and ASPECT PhD student and CCC President Molly Todd were all deeply involved in bringing this powerful production to Blacksburg. [Learn More](#)



### Doug Jackson: "Year of the Artist" November 2022

Doug Jackson is the Arts and Culture Coordinator at the City of Roanoke, where he provides support and leadership for arts funding and cultural planning. Mr. Jackson is also a Capacity Development Specialist with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, where he provides facilitation and strategic support to Virginia communities. Mr. Jackson participated in a [roundtable discussion](#), [podcast interview](#), and offered a [public lecture](#) with the CCC on Nov. 14, 2022.



### David McIvor, PhD: "Democracy & Fugitivity" April 2023

Dr. David McIvor is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Colorado State University. His research interests include democratic theory, critical theory, and psychoanalysis. Dr. McIvor presented a talk to CCC called "Democracy and Fugitivity." A recording of the event can be found [here](#).

## Faculty Forums with Virginia Tech Faculty



### **Jessica Taylor, PhD: "Doing Oral History"** **October 2022**

Dr. Jessica Taylor is an Assistant Professor of Oral and Public History at Virginia Tech. Her research interests include early American history, historic preservation, and Native American history. Dr. Taylor presented her work collecting oral histories in several contexts. A recording of the forum can be found [here](#).



### **Marc Stern, PhD: "Social Science Theories"** **March 2023**

Dr. Marc Stern is a professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. Dr. Stern presented a talk entitled "Social Science Theories: Their Value in Community Change Work, How to Use Them, and Where to Find Them." A recording of the forum can be found [here](#).



### **Claire Cahen, PhD: "Spatializing Ignorance"** **April 2023**

Dr. Claire Cahen is an Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning at Virginia Tech. Dr. Cahen presented a Faculty Forum talk entitled, "Spatializing Ignorance: Making Sense of the Truncated Politics of Charter School Teachers." A recording of the forum can be found [here](#).

## Community-Engaged Projects



### **"Social Science for the Public Good" Podcast** **Co-Hosted by Brad Stephens & Yugasha Bakshi**

IPG is excited to partner with VT Libraries and VT Publishing on a new podcast series called "Social Science for the Public Good." The new podcast program, funded by a Collaborative Research Grant from VT Libraries, will focus on connecting practitioners to social science theories and research that will help them conceptualize social change to encourage more effective community action.





## Maré Research Group (2019- )

The Maré Research Group is a multi-stakeholder, international research and artistic partnership led by Professors Desirée Poets, Max Stephenson, and Nicholas Barnes, as well as community organizer Henrique Gomes de Silva, and graduate students Andreza Jorge and Molly Todd. The team has been conducting ongoing research documenting the lives of residents of the Complexo da Maré in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, through library exhibits, roundtable discussions, and written works. [Learn More](#)



## Reimagining St. Paul's College (2022-2023)

IPG Director Max Stephenson, Jr., Senior Fellows Bob Leonard and Andy Morikawa, and Graduate Research Assistant Brad Stephens have been working with alumni of St. Paul's College (SPC) in Lawrenceville, VA to re-envision the role of this historically Black college (HBCU) that closed in 2013. VTIPG has assisted with the group's strategic planning process and board development, led by SPC4Life director Chris Stephenson. [Learn More](#)



## Envision Critz Community Engagement (2022)

CCC members Lara Nagle, Max Stephenson, Andy Morikawa, Kim Felix, Joong Won Kim and C. Meranda Flachs-Surmanek partnered with Reynolds Homestead, the Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC), and Envision Critz to conduct a series of local workshops to envision the renovation of a historic Critz, VA home into a community center. The final vision engages the community's middle school, as well as encompasses multiple indoor and outdoor uses for the 13-acre property. [Learn More](#)



# Selected Publications and Scholarly Presentations

## Books and Book Chapters

### Books

Stephenson, M. O. Jr. & Y. Stivachtis, eds. (2023). *Policy and Politics of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Eastern Mediterranean States: National and Institutional Perspectives*. Bristol, U.K.: E-International Relations.

Stephenson, M.O. Jr. & C. Grimes, eds. (2023). *Conversations in Community Change: More Voices from the Field*. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Publishing.  
<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/113728>

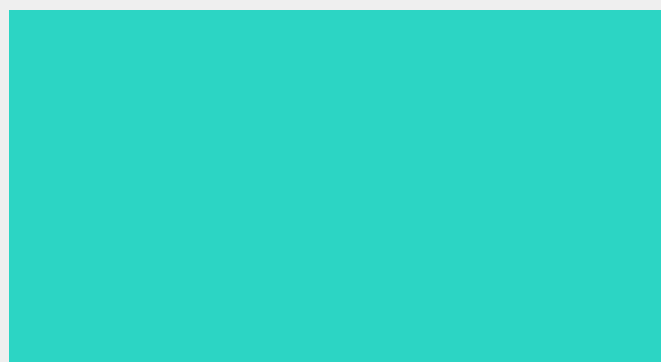
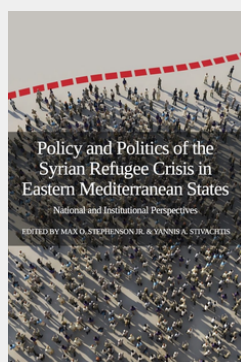
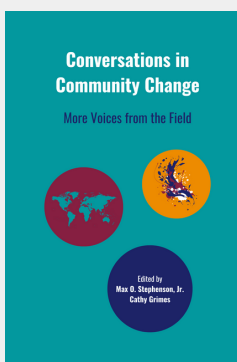
Stephenson, M.O. Jr. & L. Kirakosyan, eds. (2023). *RE: Reflections and Explorations: Volume 3*. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Publishing.  
<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/113727>

### Book Chapters

Abbadi, R., M. Karaki & M.O. Stephenson Jr. (2023). Investigating Refugee Agency Amidst Widespread Popular, Political and Economic Discrimination and Alienation. *Policy and Politics of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Eastern Mediterranean States: National and Institutional Perspectives*. Bristol, U.K.: E-International Relations.

Stephenson, M.O. Jr. & N. Moayerian. (2023). UNHCR, National Policies and the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon and Jordan. *Policy and Politics of the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Eastern Mediterranean States: National and Institutional Perspectives*. Bristol, U.K.: E-International Relations.

Stephenson, M.O. Jr., Nagle, L., & N. Moayerian. (2022). Arts, Culture and Community Building in Rural Virginia. *Vibrant Virginia: Engaging the Commonwealth to Expand Economic Vitality*. Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Publishing.



## Edited Journal Volumes

Stephenson, M. O. Jr., Niewolny, K., Zanotti, L., & A. Erwin. eds. (2023). *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, “Critical Praxis and the Social Imaginary for Sustainable Food Systems,” 14 articles.

## Articles

Briceno Mosquera, A. (2023). "They asked for more, more and more paperwork": Administrative Burdens When Undocumented Youth Claim In-State Resident Tuition Policy Benefits. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, forthcoming.

Kelinsky-Jones, L., Niewolny, K., & M.O. Stephenson, Jr. (2023). Building Agroecological Traction: Engaging discourse, the imaginary, and critical praxis for Food System Transformation. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1128430>

Moayerian, N., Stephenson, M.O., Jr. Abu Karaki, M., & R. Abbadi. (2023). Exploring Syrian refugees’ access to medical and social support services using a trauma-informed analytic framework. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20032031>

Moayerian, N., McGehee, N. G., & M.O. Stephenson, Jr. (2022). Community cultural development: Exploring the connections between collective art making, capacity building and sustainable community-based tourism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 93, 103355. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2022.103355>

Moayerian, N., Nagle, L., & M.O. Stephenson, Jr. (2022). Conceptualizing cross-sectoral partnership building in two small Central Appalachian towns. *Community Development Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsac012>

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## Conference Papers and Presentations

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Dunkenberger, M.B., Nagle, L., & L. York. (2022). "Building a Connection to Care: Community-Engaged Evaluation for Policy and Product Development." American Evaluation Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 9-12.

Moayerian, N., Stephenson, M.O., Jr. Poets, D., & C. Grimes. (2023). "Storytelling, Performing Arts and Collective Capacity in One Rio Favela." Annual Conference of The International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, March 15-18.

Stephenson, M.O., Jr., Moayerian, N., Guerra, V., & D. Poets. (2023). "Countering Persistent Alterity: Fostering Advocacy and Agency." 15th annual conference of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Toronto, Canada, May 29-31.

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Stephenson, M.O. Jr., Moayerian, N., Poets, D., & C. Grimes. (2022). "Community Cultural Development and Collective Agency in a Brazilian Favela." International Society for Third Sector Research Conference, Montreal, Canada.

**BUILDING A CONNECTION TO CARE (C2C)**  
Community-Engaged Evaluation for Policy and Product Development

2022 American Evaluation Association Conference | New Orleans, LA  
Presented by the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy & Governance  
Mary York, Dunkenberger, Ph.D. American Director (mdunken@vt.edu)  
Laura York, Research Associate in Public Health (loryk1@vt.edu)  
Lisa Nagle, Community Based Research Manager (lnagle@vt.edu)

**The C2C Project**  
Community-Engaged Evaluation for Policy and Product Development

**Control and approach**  
The C2C project was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process.

**Ongoing Assessment**  
The C2C project was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process.

**Evaluation for Policy & Product Development**  
The C2C project was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process. It was designed to be a flexible, iterative, and community-driven process.

# Partners and Collaborators

IPG is privileged to work with a wide variety of academic and community partners, both within Virginia Tech and beyond. We list nearly 60 collaborators with which the Institute has been engaged in the past year, below.

## At Virginia Tech

- Center for Economic and Community Engagement (CECE)
- Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation
- Center for Humanities
- Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention
- Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies
- College of Architecture, Arts, and Design (CAAD)
- College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS)
- Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC)
- Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
- Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
- Department of Population Health Sciences
- Graduate School
- Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE)
- Office of Inclusion and Diversity
- Outreach and International Affairs (OIA)
- Reynolds Homestead
- School of Performing Arts
- School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)
- University Libraries
- Virginia Center for Housing Research (VCHR)
- VT Publishing

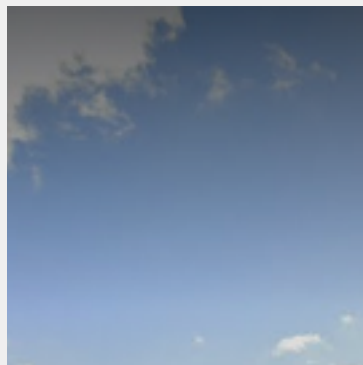
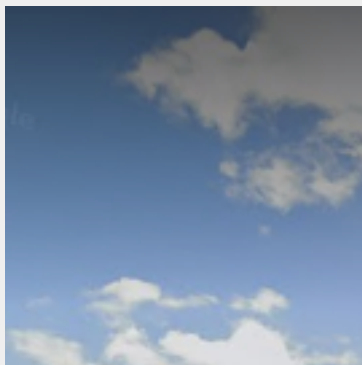
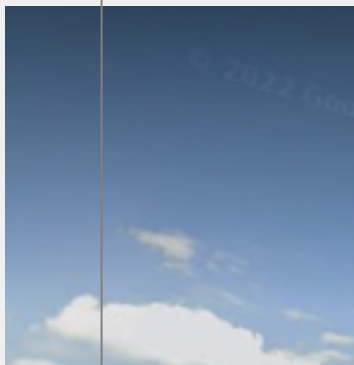




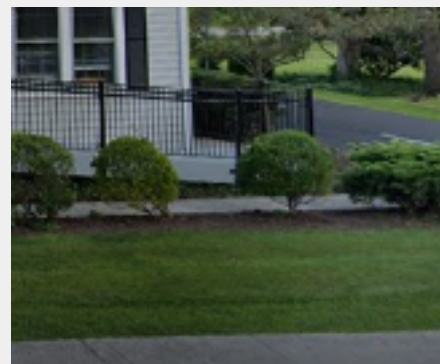
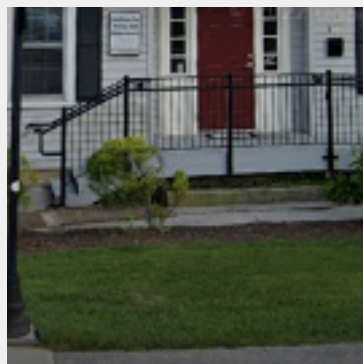
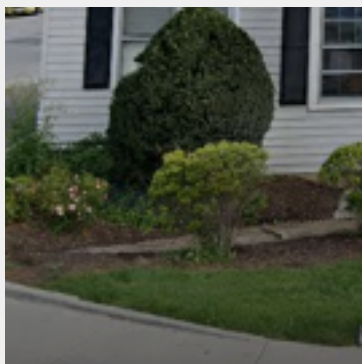
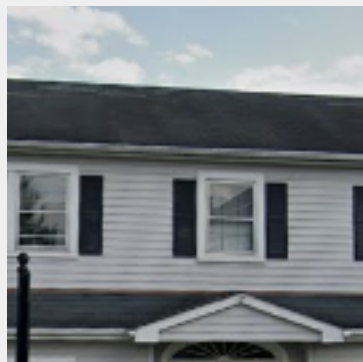
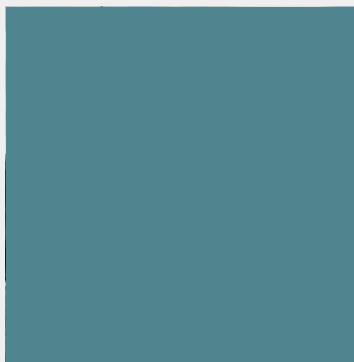
## Community and Non-VT Partners

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (BRBH)
- Bradley Free Clinic/HOPE Initiative
- Calfee Community & Cultural Center
- Carilion Clinic
- City of Roanoke
- Colorado State University
- Council of Community Services' Drop-In Center
- DESC
- East Tennessee State University (ETSU)
- Envision Critz
- Fairfax County Department of Family Services
- Fletcher Group
- Fralin Biomedical Research Center
- Franklin County EMS
- Housing Forward Virginia
- MeckFuse
- Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS)
- National Committee for United States-China Relations
- New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS)
- Piedmont Community Services (PCS)
- REAL LIFE
- Redes da Maré
- Roanoke City Alleghany Health District (RCAHD)
- Roanoke Valley Collective Response to the Opioid and Addiction Crisis (RVCR)
- Roof Above
- Salem City EMS
- St. Paul's College 4 Life (SPC4LIFE)
- The Rescue Mission
- Total Action for Progress (TAP)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- United Nations Association of Mongolia
- University of Fondwa (Haiti)
- Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA)
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition (VHRC)
- Virginia Supportive Housing
- Western Virginia Regional Jail (WVARJ)







*This report was prepared by Lara Nagle & Billy Parvatam with help from VTIPG faculty, staff, and students.*




# Please stay in touch!

We value hearing from you regarding new projects and opportunities to partner, affiliate updates and announcements, and any recent news you'd like to share. We are excited to continue strengthening our network and hope you will stay in touch!

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