HMP GOVERNANCE LAB

Annual Report, 2020-2021

M | Health Management and
Policy Governance Lab

INTRODUCTION

The HMP Governance Lab is officially one year old! It has been a great privilege to watch the Lab grow over the past year. I am, as always, awed at the high level of scholarship and policy engagement demonstrated by our Lab collaborators, who continue to teach me a lot about how to do policy-engaged work.

It's been a trying year for so many people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tragic loss of lives it is causing and the burdens it places on those left behind. Other sad events have also affected our community this year, including the loss of Governance Lab Collaborator David Jones, who was a champion for public engagement, equity and community in health research. We will miss him very much.

The pandemic has emphasized the great need for timely health policy research across governments. We've had opportunities to brief national and EU policymakers on COVID-19 response strategies, contribute to briefings for the White House and state leaders on rural health and vaccine equity, track the impact of Brexit on health in the UK with the Nuffield Trust and figure out how to evaluate whole-of-society approaches to health with colleagues at the WHO.

Above all, the Lab is delivering what I wanted -to amplify the policy-engaged research of my great colleagues and students. This report shares a just a few of the highlights from the work of our Fellows and collaborators, but you can find more at hmpgovernancelab.org (and on Twitter @HMPgovlab). I hope you feel inspired to think about the policy relevance of what you do and the power you have to make change.

Best wishes,
Holly Jarman

Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy,
University of Michigan

Images from '**Social Distance**', by HMP Governance Lab Fellow **Justin Howcroft**.
See the full project at www.hmpgovernancelab.org/social-distance-covid-pandemic-photography. More of Justin's work can be found at www.justinhowcroft.com.

Logo design by HMP Governance Lab Fellow **Noah Williams**.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Youth report Active Shooter Drills emotionally damaging, not effective

A recent study led by Governance Lab Collaborator **N'dea Moore-Petinak** was named one of the Journal of Adolescent Health's 'Distinguished Dozen', a collection of articles nominated by peer reviewers as the most impactful on the field. N'dea's research examines youth opinion on active shooter drills in US schools. She finds that many youth view drills as damaging to their mental health and rather than being prepared for an adverse event, view drills as ineffective. Read more about N'dea's work here.

Image: @nradzi

Supporting Michigan's Tobacco control community through research and analysis

As the Manager of the Smoke-Free Environments Law Project at the University of Michigan, Governance Lab Collaborator **Kara Kiessling** has spent much of the last year working to inform legislation banning flavored tobacco products. Menthol products, in particular, are more addictive than those without characterizing flavors and are also heavily marketed towards Black Americans. Other types of flavored tobacco products are targeted at young people, particularly new potential smokers. Kara's work with local groups focusses on highlighting these disparities and creating policies to address them.
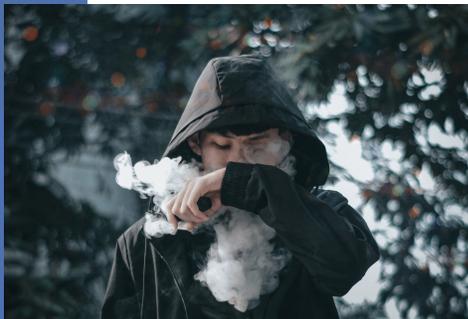
Image: @huxtoan

Vaccine hesitancy requires transatlantic translation

Both the United States and France have significant issues with vaccine hesitancy, but are dealing with this problem in different ways. What can these two countries learn from each other? Governance Lab Collaborator **Sarah Rozenblum** has spent the pandemic explaining these differences in politics and policy to audiences on either side of the Atlantic. You can find her latest piece, published in Le Monde, here.

Image:Justin Howcroft

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Better policy evaluation through an understanding of Bounded Justice

Are current health policies and programs capable of delivering justice or promoting health equity, given the social and historical context of the systems in which they are embedded? And if not, what does that mean for the practice of making health policy? A recent article by Governance Lab Collaborator **Melissa Creary** examines these questions. Using the concept of Bounded Justice, Melissa examines recent demands for justice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the trajectory of repeated "calls to action" to address Sickle Cell Disease in the United States and explores why such calls often fail. Read more about Melissa's work here.

Image: @jontyson

Disaster relief based on politics, not evidence

Image: @kellysikkema

In June 2021, Governance Lab collaborator **Charley Willison** testified in front of the United States Commission on Civil Rights about disaster relief. Her testimony drew on research with Gov Lab colleagues **Scott Greer**, **Melissa Creary** and **Phil Singer** on the failed response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017, which found disparities in resources and political attention when compared with hurricanes affecting the mainland US.

Translating COVID-19 policy decisions into practice requires public health and political expertise

As a Research Scientist working for the Army Corps of Engineers, Governance Lab Collaborator **Ben Trump** has spent the pandemic providing rapid responses to Federal and State decisionmakers' questions about the health risks of COVID-19, and advocating for the value of social scientific approaches to risk analysis. Translating policy into action on the ground requires not just understanding of health data and how to analyze it, but also how to communicate the findings to political audiences.
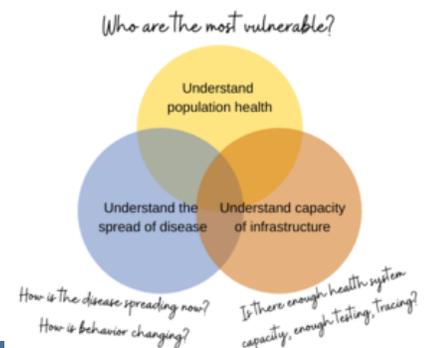

Image: HMP Gov Lab

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

More public health leaders should run for office

Public health policies and practices are inherently political, so why don't more public health leaders run for political office? In a recent article, Governance Lab Collaborator **David Jones** explored this question. David and his colleagues analyzed the biographies of every state legislator in the country- over 7000 people. Only 21 had a public health background, with strong implications for how public health values and policies are perceived by politicians. You can read David's article here.

Image: @robertwalsh0

Policies against opioid misuse proliferate, but do they work?

Image: @myriamzilles

In recent years, many policies designed to prevent opioid misuse have been put in place. But as Governance Lab Collaborator **Amanda Mauri** and colleagues discovered, we know very little about how effective these policies are, particularly about the potential unintended consequences of these plans, differential policy effects across populations, and patient-related outcomes. Amanda argues that policymakers interested in reducing the volume and dosage of opioids prescribed and dispensed can consider adopting robust prescription drug monitoring programs with mandatory access provisions and drug supply management policies. You can read more in Amanda's article, here.

Strategic purchasing policies don't match practice

Strategically purchasing health care has been and continues to be a popular policy idea around the world. In their recent paper, Governance Lab Collaborators **Scott Greer** and **Kasia Klasa** and colleague Ewout van Ginneken found that strategic purchasing in England, the Netherlands and the US has consistently failed to live up to its promises. Key asymmetries in information, market power, political power, and financial power hinder the effective implementation of strategic purchasing. You can read their work in _Milbank Quarterly_ and _Health Policy_.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Will Brexit break Britain's NHS?

In 2021, after years of negotiations, the UK finally left the European Union. But how will this separation change health policy and politics across the UK and its devolved regions? Governance Lab Collaborators **Holly Jarman** and **Scott Greer** are working with colleagues at the UK's Nuffield Trust, City University London and Rand Europe to create a Health and International Relations Monitor, tracking changes in UK health policy and outcomes in the aftermath of Brexit. You can find their articles on Brexit here, Scott's book on the aftermath of Brexit for European states here, and the first and second reports from the Monitor here and here.

Image: @groovelanddesigns

EU medical device market neither protective nor harmonized

Image: @spit

European health policies are supposed to protect the public against potentially harmful medicines and medical devices. The EU single market is supposed to enable the smooth transfer of goods between jurisdictions across the EU. But neither are working as anticipated when it comes to medical devices. In their new article in the journal of Health Economics, Policy and Law, Governance Lab Collaborators **Holly Jarman** and **Sarah Rozenblum** and their colleague Tiffany Huang examined the European Union's regime for regulating medical devices and found it wanting.

How did the EVALI crisis affect e-cigarette markets?

In mid-2019, a worrying number of young, healthy people who had recently used e-cigs were admitted to intensive care units with pneumonia-like lung injuries (EVALI). Some US governments responded to this crisis with a temporary full and partial bans on e-cigs. In a first look at the effects of the EVALI crisis on vaping, Governance Lab Collaborator **Alex Liber** and colleagues find that Massachusetts' ban on e-cigs was associated with increased cigarette sales among 'young' brands, suggesting that vapers switched to smoking. Read the paper in full here.

Image: @eliquidsuk

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Elize Massard da Fonseca led an analysis of Brazil's pandemic response that was cited in indictment proceedings against President Bolsonaro

Sarah Rozenblum examined how French political elites effectively sidelined public health actors in COVID-19 response

Marianthi Hatzigeorgiou and Mina Raj explored reasons why Greece defied expectations with its response to COVID-19.

How have governments around the world responded to the pandemic?

Rebecca Wai provided critical analysis of Singapore's response to the pandemic, labelled by some as a 'gold standard'
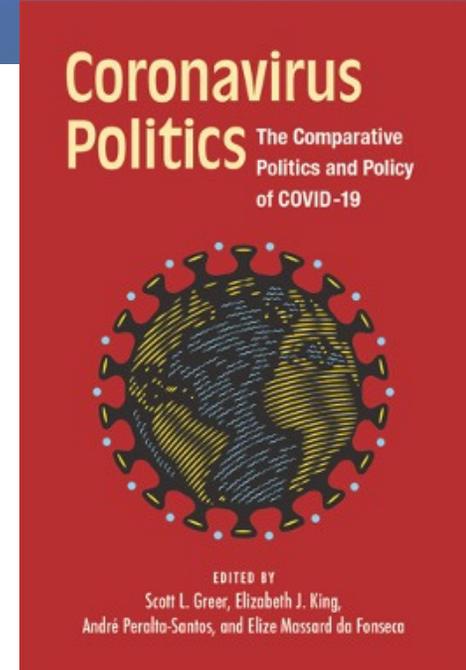
Emma Willoughby presented her work on Vietnam's COVID-19 policy response at Brookings Institute.

Margitta Mätzke unpacked the ways in which Austria's pandemic response relied on political resonance -the application of old ideas to new challenges
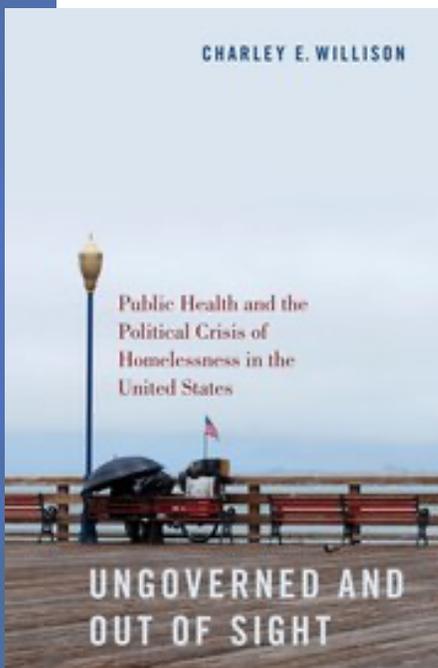
LATEST BOOKS

You can't understand pandemic policies without understanding pandemic politics

We often hear talk about 'evidence-based policy', but when it comes to pandemic response, why do some countries follow that evidence more closely than others? HMP Governance Lab Collaborators analyze COVID-19 politics in this new book, available as a free e-book from the University of Michigan Press. Edited by Lab Collaborators **Scott Greer**, **Elizabeth King** and **Elize Massard da Fonseca**, the book examines coronavirus politics around the world through over 30 country case studies from over 60+ authors. According to Altmetric, the book was **the most discussed monograph in 2021**!
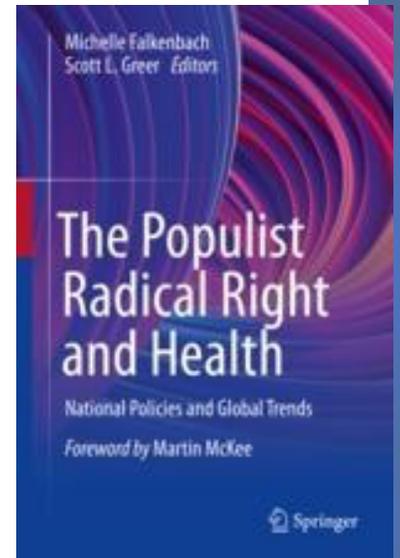
Homelessness is a public health problem

Nearly a decade after the Great Recession, rates of homelessness are once again increasing in the United States. Yet while politicians have acted more quickly to address public health issues like opioid use disorder or smoking, homelessness is not always accorded the same priority. In her new book, available from Oxford University Press, Governance Lab Collaborator **Charley Willison** explains why different cities in the United States approach solutions to chronic homelessness in different ways. Homelessness policy is a highly decentralized and fragmented policy space. This often creates conflicting policy solutions, where publicly funded, evidence-based solutions are often undercut by short-term, reactionary responses, including punitive policing, that may actually promote homelessness in the long term. Overall, the limited coordination between fragmented policy interests and strong trends in decentralization of homeless policy governance contribute to reduced policy opportunities for evidence-based, publicly funded responses.

LATEST BOOKS

Populism can be bad for your health

The prominence of authoritarian, nationalistic, and populist parties is expanding steadily. However, it is often difficult to discern what kind of policies they really stand for, particularly with regard to the welfare state and public health, where research remains sparse. _The Populist Radical Right and Health_, edited by Governance Lab collaborators **Michelle Falkenbach** and **Scott Greer**, fills this critical gap. The book connects populist radical right (PRR) parties and leaders with actual health and social policy effects in Eastern and Western Europe, the United States, Brazil, and the Philippines through ten individual country case studies authored by young scholars and professors with political science and health expertise.

Are you ok, Boomer? Population ageing need not cause political conflict

One of the most important political and economic challenges facing Europe and elsewhere is the ageing of societies. Must ageing populations create conflict between generations and crisis for health systems? In _Ageing and health: the politics of better Politics_ , Governance Lab Collaborators **Scott Greer, Michelle Falkenbach** and colleagues say - no. The problem is not so much demographic change as the political and policy challenge of creating fair, sustainable and effective policies for people of all ages. This book uses new evidence to challenge some of the myths surrounding ageing and its effects on economies and health systems. Cataclysmic views of population ageing are often based on stereotypes and anecdotes unsupported by evidence. How we address ageing societies is a choice. Societies can choose policies that benefit people of all ages, promoting equity both within and between generations, and political coalitions can be built to support such policies. Available for free through Open Access on Cambridge Core.
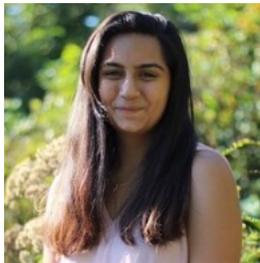
2020-21 FELLOWS

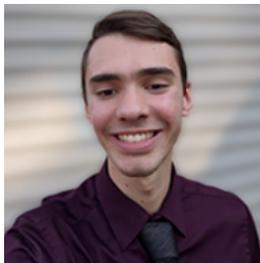## Natalie Hamilton, MHSA class of '22

Natalie Hamilton was our first ever Governance Lab Fellow, and we are so glad to say that she will be staying on with us for another year! This year, Natalie has been working on the Lab's Voices from Washtenaw project in a project management role. The Voices project aims to highlight the experiences of people in Washtenaw County Michigan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

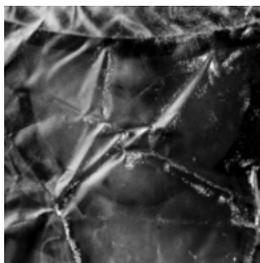## Vanya Bhardwaj, Undergraduate Fellow

Aspiring health researcher Vanya Bhardwaj participated in the HMP Governance Lab through UM's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). Vanya has a strong interest in health equity and its relationship with health policy. She won the UROP Blue Ribbon prize for her presentation on the Voices in Washtenaw project, which she helped to design.

Noah Williams, Undergraduate Fellow

Noah Williams participated in the HMP Governance Lab through UM's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). He is driven to understand the gaps between policy and practice in areas that include environmental health and health security. Noah was an invaluable contributor of work with the US Army Corps of Engineers on cross-national responses to the pandemic.

Justin Howcroft, Undergraduate Fellow

Justin Howcroft studies photography in UM's fine arts program. In Summer 2021, he acted as the photographer for our Voices from Washtenaw project, documenting pandemic signage and streetscapes throughout Washtenaw County. Justin's fellowship was supported by the UM Center for Academic Innovation. You can find other examples of his work here.

For updates on our work, visit www.hmpgovernancelab.org
and follow us on Twitter @HMPgovlab

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