

Amanda Kass
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I. EDUCATION

Doctoral Student in Urban Planning and Policy

The University of Illinois at Chicago—Chicago, IL

Dissertation: *Profit and Precarity: Institutional Investors and Housing After the Recession*

Committee: Brenda Parker (Chair and Advisor), Janet Smith, Phil Ashton, Cedric Johnson, and Rachel Weber

Master of Arts in Geography

Graduated: December 2011

The University of Colorado at Boulder — Boulder, CO

Master's Thesis: *Rebuilding Houses or Rebuilding Haiti? Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Efforts and the Reinscription of Inequality*

Bachelor of Arts, Geography and International Studies

Graduated: June 2008

The Ohio State University— Columbus, Ohio

Graduation with Distinction: Completed undergraduate honors thesis in Geography

II. ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Kass, Amanda, Martin J. Luby, and Rachel Weber, “Taking a Risk: Explaining the Use of Complex Debt Finance by the Chicago Public Schools” *Urban Affairs Review*, in press, online version available January 16, 2018

Weber, Rachel, Amanda Kass and Sara Hinkley, “Devolution and Debt: Financing Public Facilities in an Age of Austerity” in *Restructuring the Local State: Privatization and Governance*, University of Minnesota Press, in press.

III. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Politics of Public Housing Policy Devolution: Critical Perspectives on HUD’s Moving to Work Demonstration” Urban Affairs Association’s Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2016 co-presenter with Amy Khare

“Innovation Districts: Economic Development Innovation or Shiny New Bottle?” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 2015 co-presenter with Josh Drucker

“What's Being Valued? Understanding the Policy Decisions of the Chicago Housing Authority”
Annual American Association of Geographers Conference, Chicago, IL, 2015

“‘Tent Cities’ in Haiti: A Gendered Analysis” Annual American Association of Geographers
Conference, Seattle, WA, 2011

IV. WORK EXPERIENCE

*Government Finance Research Center, College of Urban Planning and Public Administration,
University of Illinois at Chicago*
Associate Director, July 2018-Current

Center for Municipal Finance, Harris Public Policy, University of Chicago
Assistant Director, August 2016-June 2018

- 2017-2018 Dean’s Excellence Award recipient

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Research Director, September 2014-August 2016
Budget Director and Pension Specialist, September 2013-August 2014
Research and Policy Specialist, Pensions & Local Government, November 2011-August 2013

V. RESEARCH REPORTS (SELECTED)

Kass, Amanda and Jared Reynolds. (2017). From High to Low: Understanding How the
Pennsylvania Public School Employees’ Retirement System Became Underfunded. July.
Center for Municipal Finance. Chicago: The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public
Policy.

Kass, Amanda. (2016). More Questions than Answers: Illinois Transportation Taxes and Fees
Lockbox Amendment. October. Center for Municipal Finance. Chicago: The University of
Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy.

Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, Amanda Kass, Vasyl Markus and Deborah Olaleye. (2015). It Is
All About the Revenue: Why Both Current FY2016 General Fund Budget Proposals Fall
Short. August. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

Martire, Ralph, Amanda Kass, and Bobby Otter. (2014). A Fiscal Review of the Chicago
Housing Authority. July. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

Martire, Ralph, Amanda Kass, Bobby Otter, and Jennifer Lozano. (2013). Analysis of the
FY2014 Illinois General Fund Budget. October. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget
Accountability.

Kass, Amanda. (2012). Analysis of the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget’s *Pension
Stabilization Summary*. August. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

VI. MEDIA COVERAGE

News Articles and Editorials (Authored)

Kass, Amanda. "Why Illinois's Non-Budget Is Actually the Worst Budget Ever." *Chicago Magazine*, May 30, 2017.

Martire, Ralph and Amanda Kass. "Bad news, Illinois: Pension deal didn't actually solve anything." Editorial. *Crain's Business Chicago*, December 6, 2013.

News Articles (Quoted and Cited)

2018

- "Researcher: Harvey's pension problems the first, but 'certainly won't be last,' to run afoul of state law," *Cook County Record*, June 21.
- "No layoffs, but underfunded pensions and \$1.3 million deficit loom large in North Chicago budget," *Chicago Tribune*, June 6.

2017

- "Why Illinois Is Closing in on 700 Days Without a Budget," *Chicago Magazine*, May 26, 2017.

2016

- "Illinois voters approve 'Safe Roads Amendment,'" *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 8, 2016.
- "The money behind the 'Safe Roads Amendment,'" *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 6, 2016.
- "Policy groups cautious about 'lockbox' amendment," *Pantagraph*, November 3, 2016.
- "What You Need to Know About the Transportation Lockbox Amendment," *Chicago Magazine*, November 3, 2016.
- "U of C's Harris School unit blasts Safe Roads Amendment," *Crain's Chicago*, November 1, 2016.
- "Midwest's Ballots Heavy on Bonds and Transportation," *Bond Buyer*, November 1, 2016.
- "News Analysis: Massive State and Local Pension Debt Often Means Higher Taxes," *Tax Analysts*, September 20, 2016.
- "Rauner Plays Down a Tax Hike, but Can the Pension Mess Be Fixed Without One?" *Chicago Magazine*, January 29, 2016.

2015

- "Illinois Comptroller says USD 4bn from income tax won't save state," *Debtwire*, September 1, 2015.
- "Rauner's incredible shrinking agenda," *Chicago Reader*, June 4, 2015.

2014

- "Emanuel takes symbolic step to highlight higher pension payments," *Crain's Chicago*, December 21, 2014.
- "Illinois Pension Reform Struck Down," *Crain's Chicago*, November 21, 2014.

- “Rauner Inherits Illinois Downgraded by Bond Market: Muni Credit,” *Bloomberg*, November 13, 2014.
- “Kankakee owes more in pensions than it can afford,” *the Daily Journal*, November 12, 2014.
- “Testy Illinois governor race holds no cure for state finances,” *Reuters*, October 31, 2014.
- “Illinois Yields Approach Junk as 2014 Rally Falter,” *Bloomberg*, August 5, 2014.
- “CHA saved millions while residents waited, report says,” *Chicago Tribune*, July 30, 2014.
- “Pension reform dealt blow by Illinois Supreme Court,” *Crain’s Chicago*, July 3, 2014.
- “Emanuel’s pension fix costly, but pain is likely to double,” *Crain’s Chicago*, April 7, 2014.
- “Amendments for the people pale against those by the people,” *Chicago Reporter*, March 26, 2014

2013

- “State Unions pledge to take pension deal to court,” *CINewsNow*, December 4, 2013.
- “Illinois pension battle could create deeper fiscal hole,” *Associated Press*, December 1, 2013.
- “In the Spotlight: Illinois in dire need of coal severance tax,” *Journal Star*, September 15, 2013.
- “Coal Expenses Surpass Profits in Illinois,” *Alton Daily News*, June 29, 2013.
- “Bipartisan pension reform bill creates new benefit plan category,” *The Daily Northwestern*, March 4, 2013.
- “Education, Social Services At Risk Due To Lawmakers’ Refusal To Truly Address Illinois Pension Crisis,” *Progress Illinois*, February 26, 2013.

2012

- “IL: Pension experts divided over Nekritz-Biss plan,” *Illinois Watchdog*, December 15, 2012.
- “Budget Cuts Are Not the Answer,” *Huffington Post*, June 11, 2012.
- “Forum to focus on governor’s latest pension plans,” *The News-Gazette*, April, 24, 2012.

TV Appearances

- “New Report Digs Into Drastically Underfunded Police, Fire Pensions”, April 16, 2018, *WTTW Chicago Tonight*.
- “City Looking At Raising Utility Tax To Pay For Worker Pensions”, August 2, 2016, *CBS Channel 2*.
- “For Some Chicago Residents, Mixed Emotions on Affordable Housing”, September 10, 2015, *WTTW Chicago Tonight*.
- “What’s Next for Pension Reform Across Illinois”, July 27, 2015, *CLTV/Politics Tonight*.
- “Mayor’s New Pension Plan Spreads the Pain”, April 2, 2015, *WTTW Chicago Tonight*.
- “Madigan’s Pension Reform Proposal”, May 1, 2013, *WTTW Chicago Tonight*.

VII. NON-ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

2016 – 2 presentations

- League of Women Voters, Chicago, IL Chapter
- Testimony to the Chicago City Council Committee on Housing and Real Estate about the Chicago Housing Authority's finances

2015 – 2 presentations

- National Association of Securities Professionals Conference
- Illinois Humanities Council

2014 – 5 presentations

- Elgin Community College Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association
- New Leaders Council Institute
- Skokie AFSCME Retirees
- Governors State University Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association
- University of Illinois at Chicago Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association

2013 – 3 presentations

- Elgin Community College Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association
- AFSCME Retirees, Subchapter 162
- IMN Illinois Public Employee Retirement Systems Summit

2012 – 11 presentations

- Illinois Chapter of the League of Women Voters
- University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for the Campus Faculty Association
- IMN Illinois Public Employee Retirement Systems Summit
- League of Women Voters, Glencoe, IL Chapter
- State Universities Annuitants Association
- Northern Illinois University's Annuitants Association
- Moraine Valley Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association
- League of Women Voters, Wheaton, IL Chapter
- League of Women Voters, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, IL Chapter
- League of Women Voters, Glen Ellyn, IL Chapter
- DuPage Democratic Club

VIII. SKILLS

Microsoft Excel, Stata, ArcGIS, qGIS