

Amanda Kass
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EMPLOYMENT

Full-Time Positions

DePaul University, School of Public Service
Assistant Professor, September 2022 – Current

Government Finance Research Center, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago
Associate Director, July 2018 – August 2022

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

Affiliations and Visiting Appointments

Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois System
Affiliate, February 2021 – December 2023

Department of Public Administration, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago
Research Professor, December 2021- August 2022

EDUCATION

PhD, Urban Planning and Policy

Graduation: August 2021
The University of Illinois at Chicago — Chicago, IL
Dissertation: *Profit and Precarity: Real Estate Investing After the Global Financial Crisis*
Committee: Brenda Parker (Chair and Advisor), Janet Smith, Phil Ashton, Cedric Johnson, and Rachel Weber

MA, Geography

Graduation: 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*

BA, Geography and International Studies

Graduation: June 2008
The Ohio State University — Columbus, OH
Graduation with Distinction: Completed undergraduate honors thesis in Geography

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED AND ACCEPTED ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEW)

1. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. 2025. "Local Governments, Pandemic Aid, and Community Violence Intervention." *Urban Affairs Review* 61(1): 94-124.
2. **Kass, Amanda**, and Philip Rocco. 2024. "Issue Brief: Pandemic Cash to the Rescue? How Local Governments in Illinois Are Using Federal Aid from the American Rescue Plan Act." *Illinois Municipal Policy Journal* 9(1): 23-30
3. **Kass, Amanda**, and Carrie Craig. 2024. "Uncovering racialized geographies: Investor strategies and the legacy of the 2008 financial crisis in Chicagoland." *Geoforum* 156 (2024): 104141.
4. Albrecht, Kate*, Deborah Carroll*, **Amanda Kass***, Jason Michnick*, and Brooke Wetmore*. "Fiscal Institutions and Racial Equity: Determining the Price of Water." *Public Budgeting & Finance*, Published electronically April 21 2024. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pbaf.12361>
*Authors contributed equally to this paper
5. Rocco, Philip, and **Amanda Kass**. 2024. "Using National Data Sources to Compare Subnational Policies: Insights from the American Rescue Plan Act." *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice* 26 (6): 626–47. doi:10.1080/13876988.2024.2323482
6. **Kass, Amanda**, Andrew Crosby, and Brenda Parker. 2023 "A Vicious Cycle: Fiscal Intervention, Pension Underfunding, and Instability in (Re)Making Racialized Geographies." *Environment and Planning A* 55(7): 178-1798.
7. Michnick Jason, Deborah Carroll, **Amanda Kass**, Kate Albrecht, and Brooke Wetmore. 2022. "Networked Supply Chains: Describing the Costs of Lake Michigan's Drinking Water." *Illinois Municipal Policy Journal* 7(1): 29-48.
8. Rocco, Philip and **Amanda Kass**. 2022. "Flexible Aid in an Uncertain World: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program." *State and Local Government Review*. 54(4): 346–361.
9. August, Martine*, Dan Cohen*, Martin Danyluk*, **Amanda Kass***, Sage Ponder*, and Emily Rosenman*. 2022. "Reimagining Geographies of Public Finance." *Progress in Human Geography* 46(2):527-548, *Authors contributed equally to this paper
10. Rogers, D., Herbert, M., Whitzman, C., McCann, E., Maginn, P.J., Watts, B., Alam, A., Pill, M., Keil, R., Dreher, T., Novacevski, M., Byrne, J., Osborne, N., Büdenbender, M., Alizadeh, T., Murray, K., Dombroski, K., Prasad, D., Connolly, C., **Kass, A.**, Dale, E., Murray, C. and Caldis, S. 2020. "The City Under COVID-19: Podcasting As Digital Methodology" *Tijds. voor econ. en Soc. Geog.*, 111: 434-450. doi:10.1111/tesg.12426
11. **Kass, Amanda**. 2020. "Working with Financial Data as a Critical Geographer" *Geographical Review* 110 (1-2): 104-116.

12. **Kass, Amanda.** 2020. "How Many Illinois Public Safety Pension Systems Risk Running Out of Assets?" *Illinois Municipal Policy Journal* 5(1): 131-140. <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=20326>
13. **Kass, Amanda***, Martin J. Luby*, and Rachel Weber*. 2019. "Taking a Risk: Explaining the Use of Complex Debt Finance by the Chicago Public Schools" *Urban Affairs Review* 55(4): 1035-1069. doi:10.1177/1078087417748782
*Authors contributed equally to this paper

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Kass, Amanda**, Christiana McFarland, Farhad Omeyr, and Michael Pagano. 2023. "Municipalities in the Intergovernmental Revenue System: The Federal Government's Stabilization Function?" In *Research Handbook on City and Municipal Finance*, edited by Craig L. Johnson, Tima T. Moldogaziev and Justin M. Ross, 88-104. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing Inc.
2. Weber, Rachel, **Amanda Kass** and Sara Hinkley. 2021. "Devolution and Debt: Financing Public Facilities in an Age of Austerity." In *Private Metropolis: The Eclipse of Local Democratic Governance*, edited by Dennis R. Judd, Evan McKenzie, and Alba Alexander, 219-243. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. **Kass, Amanda.** 2023. "Review of Neoliberal Cities: The Remaking of Postwar Urban America." *Journal of Planning History* 22(1): 83-85. doi.org/10.1177/15385132211046229

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

1. **Kass, Amanda.** "Money Is Not Enough: The Temporary Impact of Pandemic-Era Aid on American Fiscal Federalism." *Publius*, Under Review (February 2025).

POLICY BRIEFS AND RESEARCH REPORTS

1. Kass, Amanda, and Philip Rocco. "COVID Funds for Violence Intervention"
<https://covidfundsforviolenceintervention.com/>
Note: This is a project website built for Joyce Foundation funded research project. It contains a series of blogs and downloadable datasets.
2. **Kass, Amanda**, and the Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University. (2024). Examining the Role of Corporate Landlords in the Chicago Region. November 8.
https://www.housingstudies.org/blog/Examining_Role_Corporate_Landlords/
3. **Kass, Amanda**, Philip Rocco, and Alexander Hawley (2023). Replenish, Replace, Repair: How Illinois is Using its ARPA Aid. January 25. Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Springfield: University of Illinois System. https://igpa.uillinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/IGPA_SLFRF_SpotlightG.pdf
4. **Kass, Amanda**, Philip Rocco, and Isabella Romano. (2021). Strengthening Local Government Finances: State and Federal Aid Policies for a Crisis Era. April. Government Finance Research Center, Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago. https://gfrc.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/188/2021/04/GFRC_Strengthening-Local-Government-Finances.pdf

5. **Kass, Amanda** and Isabella Romano. (2020). Slow To Spend? State Approaches To Allocating Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds. November. Government Finance Research Center, Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago. <https://gfrc.uic.edu/slow-to-spend-state-approaches-to-allocating-federal-coronavirus-relief-funds/>
6. **Kass, Amanda**, Mike Pagano, and Farhad Kaab Omeyr. (2020). How States Provide Cities with General Revenue: An Analysis of Unrestricted State Aid. September. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. <https://www.lincolninst.edu/publications/working-papers/how-states-provide-cities-general-revenue>
7. Merriman, David, Kenneth Kriz, and **Amanda Kass** (2020). What Policymakers Should Know About the Fiscal Impact of COVID-19 on Illinois. April 9. Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Springfield: University of Illinois System. <https://igpa.uillinois.edu/report/what-policymakers-should-know-about-fiscal-impact-covid-19-illinois>
8. **Kass, Amanda** and Andy Crosby. (2019). Life Preservers or Anchors? An Examination of State Intervention in Municipal Pension Funding in Illinois. July. Government Finance Research Center, Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago.
9. Bruno, Robert, **Amanda Kass**, and David Merriman. (2019). A “Pension Crisis” Mentality Won’t Help: Thinking Differently About Illinois’ Retirement Systems. February 19. Government Finance Research Center, Chicago: University of Illinois at Chicago.
10. **Kass, Amanda** and Jared Reynolds. (2018). From High to Low: Understanding How the Education Retirement Board of New Mexico Became Underfunded. January. Center for Municipal Finance. Chicago: The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy. https://harris.uchicago.edu/files/inline-files/From%20High%20to%20Low_Understanding%20How%20the%20Education%20Retirement%20Board%20of%20New%20Mexico%20Became%20Underfunded.pdf
11. **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. https://harris.uchicago.edu/files/inline-files/PATeachers_Final.pdf
12. **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. https://harris.uchicago.edu/files/inline-files/CMFComment_LockboxAmendment.pdf
13. Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, and **Amanda Kass**. (2016). Illinois on Autopilot, the Reality of FY2016. February. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/illinois-autopilot-reality-fy2016>
14. Martire, Ralph and **Amanda Kass**. (2016). Public Pensions: Frequently Asked Questions. January. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/public-pensions-frequently-asked-questions>
15. Hansen, Evan, Kendra Hatcher, Meghan Betcher, Rory McIlmoil, and **Amanda Kass**. (2015). Capturing Resource Wealth to Invest in the Future: Possible Structures and Potential Benefits of an

Illinois Coal Severance Tax. October. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/capturing-resource-wealth-invest-future-possible-structures-and-potential-benefits-illinois>

16. Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, **Amanda Kass**, Vasyi 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. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/it-all-about-revenue-common-sense-solution-illinois%E2%80%99-fiscal-solvency>
17. Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, and **Amanda Kass**. (2014). Issue Brief: The Pending FY2016 Fiscal Cliff. December. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/issue-brief-pending-fy2016-fiscal-cliff>
18. Martire, Ralph, **Amanda Kass**, and Bobby Otter. (2014). CTBA Analysis of Bruce Rauner’s “Bring Back Blueprint.” August. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/ctba-analysis-bruce-rauner%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%9Cbring-back-blueprint%E2%80%9D>
19. Martire, Ralph, **Amanda Kass**, and Bobby Otter. (2014). A Fiscal Review of the Chicago Housing Authority. July. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/fiscal-review-chicago-housing-authority>
20. Martire, Ralph and **Amanda Kass**. (2014). Fact Sheet: The High Cost of Doing Nothing. June. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/fact-sheet-high-cost-doing-nothing>
21. Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, **Amanda Kass**, Nancy Lopez, and Will Dickey. (2014). Analysis of the Proposed FY2015 Illinois General Fund Budget. May. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/analysis-proposed-fy2015-illinois-general-fund-budget-0>
22. Martire, Ralph, **Amanda Kass**, Bobby Otter, and Jennifer Lozano. (2014). Good for Business: How Illinois Can Best Support Small Business. April. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports?by_year%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=2014&by_date%5Bmin%5D%5Bdate%5D=&by_date%5Bmax%5D%5Bdate%5D=2021-10-08&by_word=&page=1
23. Martire, Ralph and **Amanda Kass**. (2014). The Millionaire Migration Myth: Why a Fair, Graduated Rate Income Tax Won’t Drive Away Millionaires. March. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. <https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/millionaire-migration-myth-why-fair-graduated-rate-income-tax-won%E2%80%99t-drive-away-millionaires>
24. 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.
25. Martire, Ralph, Bobby Otter, and **Amanda Kass**. (2013). Analysis of Proposed FY2014 Chicago Public Schools Budget. August. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/analysis-proposed-fy2014-chicago-public-schools-budget>
26. Martire, Ralph, **Amanda Kass**, Bobby Otter, and Jennifer Lozano. (2013). The Illinois State Budget and Tax Primer. March. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/illinois-state-budget-and-tax-primer>

27. **Kass, Amanda.** (2012). HJRC 49: A Constitutional Amendment Regarding the Rules Governing Pension Benefit Increases. August. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/hjrca-49-constitutional-amendment-regarding-rules-governing-pension-benefit-increases>
28. **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.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/issue-brief-analysis-governor%E2%80%99s-office-management-and-budget%E2%80%99s-pension-stabilization-summary>
29. **Kass, Amanda.** (2012). Issue Brief: Shifting the Normal Cost & Employer "Pick-Ups" for Teachers. March. Chicago: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.
<https://www.ctbaonline.org/reports/issue-brief-shifting-normal-cost-employer-pick-ups-teachers>

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

CONTRACTS, FUNDING, AND GRANTS

CURRENT

1. **Amanda Kass.** (August 2024-March 2025) Transformative Cash: The American Rescue Plan Act's Impact on Local Governments. DePaul University, University Research Council Paid Research Leave.

COMPLETED

1. **Amanda Kass.** (June 2023-August 2024) Understanding the Continued Presence of National Single-Family Rental Landlords in Chicagoland. DePaul University, Urban Collaborative Community Research Initiative. Total funding, \$24,020.
2. **Amanda Kass** (co-PI) and Philip Rocco (co-PI) (February 2022-September 2024). Local Governments' Use of ARPA Funds on Policing, Violence Prevention, and Criminal Justice Reform. The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, Illinois. Total funding, \$217,863.
3. Carroll, Deborah (co-PI) and **Amanda Kass** (co-PI; January 2022-August 2022). Municipal Water Rate Setting Practices in Illinois. The State of Illinois. Total funding, \$769,000.
4. Pagano, Michael (PI), Robert Chirinko, **Amanda Kass**, and Yonghong Wu. (September 2020-March 2021). Strategic Thinking: State Fiscal Policy Possibilities in the Covid-19 Era. The Joyce Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, Total funding, \$75,000.
5. Pagano, Michael and **Amanda Kass.** (July 2020-March 2021). Financial Condition Assessment Project. The Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago, Illinois. Total Funding, \$10,000.
6. Pagano, Michael (PI) and **Amanda Kass.** (February 2020-September 2020). State Revenue Sharing to Municipalities, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Washington, DC. Total Funding, \$30,000

SUBMITTED

1. **Amanda Kass.** U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Capital Access on the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; applied February 2024.
2. **Amanda Kass.** Short-Term Research Publication Grant. American Association of University Women. Washington, DC Total Funding, \$8,000; applied November 2023.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

1. *Alma H. Young Emerging Scholar Award*, Urban Affairs Association, 2023
2. *Delegate, 2022 Summer Institute in Economic Geography in Montreal (SIEG)*
3. *Evelyn L. Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research*, 2018-2019, Society of Women Geographers (\$9,200).
4. *Urban Planning and Policy Scholar Award*, tuition and stipend, 2014-2016, University of Illinois at Chicago.
5. *Mabel Duncan Memorial Scholarship*, 2010, University of Colorado at Boulder
6. *Huntington Award Winner*, 2008, The Ohio State University, Department of Geography. Departmental award for recognition of scholarly achievement, professional development, and departmental service by undergraduate Geography Majors

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

I am the presenting author unless otherwise noted.

1. “Who or What Exactly is Piloting this Ship: Understanding the Drivers Behind Decreases in U.S. State Public Pension Funding Levels” (with Andy Crosby and Ken Kris), Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Denver, CO, October 28, 2023.
2. “Using National Data Sources to Understand Subnational Policy: Insights from the American Rescue Plan Act” (with Philip Rocco*). Workshop on Comparative Policy Analysis at the Subnational Level, McGill University, Montreal, QC, June 22–23, 2023.
* Presenting author
3. “How Are Cities Using ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds to Reduce Violence?” (with Philip Rocco), Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, 2022.
4. “Splashing Around in Illinois: Assessing the Determinants of Drinking Water Rates” (with Deborah Carroll*, Kate Albrecht, Jason Michnick, and Brooke Wetmore), Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Miami FL, 2022.
* Presenting author
5. “Fiscal Interdependence and Collective Action: The Effect of a Networked Urban Water System on Residential Water Bills” (with Jason Michnick*, Deborah Carroll, Kate Albrecht, and Brooke

Wetmore.), Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Miami FL, 2022.

* Presenting author

6. "How Did this Happen? Understanding the Drivers Behind Decreases in U.S. State Public Pension Funding Levels" (with Andrew Crosby and Kenneth A. Kriz), Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Miami FL, 2022.
7. "When is a Crisis a Crisis? An Examination of Pension Underfunding and State Intervention in Suburban Communities" (with Andrew Crosby), American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Washington DC, 2019.
8. "When is a Crisis a Crisis? An Examination of Pension Underfunding and State Intervention in Suburban Communities" (with Andrew Crosby), Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, 2019.
9. "Life Preservers or Anchors? An Examination of State Intervention in Municipal Pension Funding in Illinois" (with Andrew Crosby), Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2018.
10. "The Politics of Public Housing Policy Devolution: Critical Perspectives on HUD's Moving to Work Demonstration." (with Amy Khare), Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2016.
11. "Innovation Districts: Economic Development Innovation or Shiny New Bottle?" (with Josh Drucker*) Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 2015. * Presenting author
12. "What's Being Valued? Understanding the Policy Decisions of the Chicago Housing Authority." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2015.
13. "'Tent Cities' in Haiti: A Gendered Analysis." American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, 2011

INVITED PANELS AND TALKS

1. "'How Mayors Stumble: Reflections on Public Service and Public Policy' A Conversation with Journalist Gregory Royal Pratt hosted by Amanda Kass, DePaul University's School of Public Service and Center for Journalism Integrity & Excellence, October 23, 2024.
2. "State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding for Community Violence Interventions", The Joyce Foundation and Chicago CRED , Virtual, October 9, 2023
3. "State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding for Community Violence Interventions", Learnings and Challenges related to Equitable, Sustainable Federal Stimulus Funding in the Great Lakes States, The Joyce Foundation and Brookings Metro, Virtual, September 27, 2023
4. "Chicago's Pension Challenge: Understanding Why the Pension Funds are Underfunded", Chi Hack Night, Virtual, September 19, 2023

5. Lunch and Learn Webinar, “Using Public Funding to Support Community Violence Intervention Strategies: Successes and Challenges”, Joyce Foundation, Virtual, January 18, 2023 (with Philip Rocco).
6. Panelist, “How did states, cities, and counties involve their communities in the allocation of pandemic relief funds?” Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Virtual, December 15, 2022.
7. Panelist, “Innovate and Invest: Building New Strategies to Fund and Finance Lead Service Line Replacement”, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, November 2, 2022.
8. Panelist, “Cannabis, Casino Gambling and Cash: Budgetary Implications and Beyond”, American Society for Public Administration Chicago Chapter, October 14, 2022.
9. “State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding for Community Violence Interventions”, The White House, Virtual – September 29, 2022 (with Philip Rocco).
10. “State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding for Community Violence Interventions: What the First Batch of Treasury Department Reports Tells Us”, U.S. Dept of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Virtual – June 14, 2022 (with Philip Rocco).
11. “Strengthening Local Government Finance: State and Federal Aid for a Crisis Era.” Community Development and Policy Studies, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Virtual – September 14, 2021.
12. “State & City Finances in the Wake of COVID-19.” State and Local Working Group, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Virtual, September 23, 2020.
13. “What Might Happen to Public Pensions in the Wake of COVID-19? Teasing Apart Material Issues from Politics.” Summer Wealth Series, Jain Family Institute, Virtual, August 2020.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sAD6z9jUnQ>
14. “Life Preservers or Anchors? Illinois Pension Intercept.” Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, Bloomington, IL - October 2019.
15. “A “Pension Crisis” Mentality Won’t Help: Thinking Differently About Illinois’ Retirement Systems.” State Universities Annuitants Association, Springfield, IL - June 2019.
16. “Who is Really Going to Pay the State’s Debt?” Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago, IL - March 2015.
17. Panelist, Information Management Network Midwest Public Funds Summit, Chicago, IL - June 2013.
18. “Public Pensions - Status and Solutions.” League of Women Voters-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area - October 2012.

MEDIA

COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS (AUTHORED)

1. **Kass, Amanda**, Philip Rocco, and Molly Clark, “Whose Recovery? What ARPA Spending Data Can Tell Us About the Challenges Confronting State and Local Governments,” PA Times, July 8, 2022. [Link](#).
2. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “Will recovery funds really allow state and local governments to build back better?” *Notes on the Crises* (guest commentary), June 25, 2021. [Link](#).
3. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “The Myth of ‘Unnecessary’ Federal Aid to State and Local Governments.” Opinion. *Governing*, March 3, 2021. [Link](#).
4. **Kass, Amanda**. “Is consolidating the assets of Illinois’ public pension funds a good idea?” Opinion. *Crain’s Business Chicago*, October 16, 2019. [Link](#).
5. **Kass, Amanda**. “Hasty, shortsighted reforms make for more pension pain later.” Opinion. *Crain’s Business Chicago Forum*, June 20, 2019. [Link](#).
6. **Kass, Amanda**. “Memo to the next mayor: Chicago’s pension pain is about to get sharper.” Opinion. *Crain’s Business Chicago*, September 10, 2018. [Link](#).
7. **Kass, Amanda**. “Why Illinois’s Non-Budget Is Actually the Worst Budget Ever.” *Chicago Magazine*, May 30, 2017. [Link](#). *Finalist for the City and Regional Magazine Association’s 2018 Civic Journalism award.
8. Martire, Ralph and **Amanda Kass**. “Bad news, Illinois: Pension deal didn’t actually solve anything.” Opinion. *Crain’s Business Chicago*, December 6, 2013. [Link](#).

BLOGS

1. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “Using ARPA Dollars to Support Community Violence Interventions: Where Are We Now?” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, December 2, 2024. [Link](#).
2. **Kass, Amanda**. “How Much of Chicago’s ARPA Aid Is Available for 2025?” Personal Blog, November 13, 2024. [Link](#).
3. **Kass, Amanda**. “What Are Chicago’s Advance Pension Payments?” Personal Blog, November 7, 2024. [Link](#).
4. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “How Have State and Local Governments Invested SLFRF Dollars in Community Violence Interventions, as of March 31, 2024” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, October 21, 2024. [Link](#).
5. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “State and local governments have less than a year to decide how to spend their remaining COVID relief funds. Here’s how 26 cities are doing” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, March 15, 2024. [Link](#).

6. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “How 26 Cities are Using SLFRF Dollars to Support Community Violence Interventions: A Look at the Latest Treasury Data” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, December 14, 2023. [Link](#).
7. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “How 13 Cities are Using ARPA Dollars to Support Community Violence Interventions: Insights from the First Quarter of 2023?” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, September 5, 2023. [Link](#).
8. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “How Have State and Local Governments Invested SLFRF Dollars in Community Violence Interventions Over the Last Two Years?” Project Blog, COVID Funds for Violence Intervention, June 9, 2023. [Link](#).
9. **Kass, Amanda**. “Pension Funding History Series: Part II – The City of Chicago’s Four Pension Funds,” Personal Blog, March 24, 2023. [Link](#).
10. **Kass, Amanda**. “Pension Funding History Series: Part I – The Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund,” Personal Blog, March 5, 2023. [Link](#).
11. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco. “Trends in ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund Spending So Far,” Personal Blog, December 20, 2022. [Link](#).
12. **Kass, Amanda**. “Tracking Chicago’s Recovery Plan Spending,” Personal Blog, October 28, 2022. [Link](#).
13. **Kass, Amanda**. “What Is Mayor Lightfoot’s “Advance Pension Payment” Proposal?” Personal Blog, October 6, 2022. [Link](#).
14. Rocco, Philip, Robert Dietterick, and **Amanda Kass**, “Are Emergency Relief Funds for School Districts Supporting Community Violence Interventions?,” University of Illinois Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, August 15, 2022.
15. Rocco, Philip and **Amanda Kass**, “State and Local Governments are Likely Overstating Their Use of SLFRF Support for Community Violence Interventions,” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, August 8, 2022.
16. Rocco, Philip and **Amanda Kass**, “The Treasury Department just released new data on state and local American Rescue Plan spending. Here’s what we’re learning,” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, July 26, 2022.
17. Rocco, Philip and **Amanda Kass**, “How Policy Legacies are Shaping Local Governments’ Use of SLFRF Dollars for Community Violence Interventions,” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, July 15, 2022.
18. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco, “A Close Up on State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending in Our 26 Sample Cities,” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, July 6, 2022.
19. Rocco, Philip and **Amanda Kass**, “What the First Batch of Treasury Department Reports Tells Us About How Governments are Using Their ARPA Money,” University of Illinois Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, June 15, 2022.

20. **Kass, Amanda** and Philip Rocco, “Are ARPA funds for states and localities being spent successfully,” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, December 14, 2021
21. **Kass, Amanda.** “What Might Happen To Public Pensions In The Wake Of Covid-19?” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, May 11, 2020. [Link](#).
22. **Kass, Amanda.** “COVID-19’s Implications for State and Local Governments’ Revenue Collections” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, April 6, 2020. [Link](#).
23. Merriman, David and **Amanda Kass.** “Do states with graduated structures change tax rates more frequently than states with a flat structure?” University of Illinois-Chicago, Government Finance Research Center Blog, April 6, 2020. [Link](#).
24. **Kass, Amanda.** “Thorny Property Politics: Cook County’s 2018 Democratic Primary for Assessor.” *Urban Affairs Forum*, October 30, 2018. [Link](#).

NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION (SELECTED; QUOTED AND CITED)

LexisNexis lists over 100 articles in media outlets quoting me and/or citing my work in print/internet outlets, including the *Associated Press*, *Bond Buyer*, *Bloomberg*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *New York Times*. In addition, I have been interviewed on and/or had my work cited in television and radio. Examples since 2013 include:

“Why Does Chicago Have Bad Credit?” [Audio podcast], *CityCast Chicago*, February 10, 2025.
<https://chicago.citycast.fm/podcasts/why-does-chicago-have-bad-credit>

“Pennsylvania, most of its municipalities on track to decide how to spend pandemic relief funding as deadline nears”, *Spotlight PA*, November 14, 2024.
<https://www.spotlightpa.org/statecollege/2024/11/pennsylvania-american-rescue-plan-act-arpa-covid-relief-funding-deadline-treasury-local-government/>

“Mayor Brandon Johnson’s borrowing plan raises questions about how the city will spend the money”, *WBEZ*, February 22, 2024. <https://www.wbez.org/stories/johnsons-borrowing-plan-raises-questions-about-how-the-city-will-spend-the-money/c7c6a108-3a5c-405e-9c01-84b63480b21b>

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“Johnson, Vallas weigh in on Trump, Arwady — and WBEZ weighs rivals’ facts on more familiar debate topics,” *WBEZ*, March 30, 2023. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/elections/2023/3/30/23664106/wbez-brandon-johnson-paul-vallas-debate-reset-forum-trump-indictment-arwady-health-fact-check>

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“A Chicago Bears stadium in Arlington Heights could get public help, village’s mayor says, but resources are limited,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 4, 2022. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-chicago-bears-arlington-heights-stadium-financing-20220404-iw62ca7zarhh5hpiobpcjawmka-story.html>

“American Police Say Officers Are Quitting in Droves. Federal Data Says Otherwise,” *Time*, September 1, 2021 (updated September 4). <https://time.com/6093684/police-quitting-federal-data/>

“The Recession Is About to Slam Cities. Not Just the Blue-State Ones,” *New York Times*, August 17, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/17/upshot/pandemic-recession-cities-fiscal-shortfall.html#:~:text=to%20Slam%20Cities.-,Not%20Just%20the%20Blue%2DState%20Ones.,assistance%20will%20face%20particular%20distresses.>

“Pension vise tightens on Illinois towns,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*, October 30, 2019.

“Gov. J.B. Pritzker proposes consolidation of suburban and downstate police and firefighter pension funds,” *Chicago Tribune*, October 10, 2019.

“Chicago research center wants to make a mark on government finance policy,” *The Bond Buyer*, July 24, 2018.

“Why Illinois Is Closing in on 700 Days Without a Budget?” *Chicago Magazine*, May 26, 2017.

“News Analysis: Massive State and Local Pension Debt Often Means Higher Taxes,” *Tax Analysts*, September 20, 2016.

“Rauner Inherits Illinois Downgraded by Bond Market: Muni Credit,” *Bloomberg*, November 13, 2014.

“Testy Illinois governor race holds no cure for state finances,” *Reuters*, October 31, 2014.

“Illinois pension battle could create deeper fiscal hole,” *Associated Press*, December 1, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Departmental Service

Graduate Assistant Selection Committee (2023-2024)

Master of Public Policy Committee (2022-Current)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

Association for Budgeting & Financial Management (ABFM)

Scholars Strategy Network (SSN)

Urban Affairs Association (UAA)

Janet Smith Emerging Activist Scholar Research Award Committee (Chair-2022-2024)
Finance Committee (Current)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ad-hoc reviewer: *Geoforum*; *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*; *Housing Policy and Debate*; *Local Economy*; *Urban Affairs Review*

TEACHING

DePaul University

- MPS 583: Research Methods for Public Service (Instructor of Record – Fall 2022, Winter 2022, Spring 2023; Fall 2023)
- MPS 593: Integrated Seminar (Instructor of Record – Spring 2023)

University of Chicago

- PPHA 32530: The Fundamentals of Municipal Bonds Spring; graduate course (TA, Spring 2017)

University of Colorado at Boulder

- Geography 3682: Geography of International Development; undergraduate course (TA, Summer 2011)
- Geography 3612: Geography of American Cities; undergraduate course (TA, Spring 2011)
- Geography 2002: Geographies of Global Change; undergraduate course (TA, Spring 2010)
- Geography 1992: Introduction to Human Geography; undergraduate course (TA, Fall 2009; TA, Fall 2010)

University of Illinois at Chicago

- Guest Lecturer, Public Administration 561: Intergovernmental Management; graduate course (March 18, 2021). Discussed COVID-19's fiscal impact, state-local aid programs, and public pensions.
- Guest Lecturer, Urban Planning and Policy: Urban Space, Place and Institutions; graduate course (October 11, 2021). Discussed COVID-19's fiscal impact, the City of Chicago's finances, and my research methodology (critical financial analysis).