

COVID-19 ENGAGEMENT EVENT

MAY 6, 2020

MODERATOR



JOSEPH E. TRAINOR, *Associate Professor, Biden School*

Trainor conducts research, provides private consultation, teaches, and mentors students. His work includes mostly multi-disciplinary and mixed methods studies focused on different dimensions of disasters, leading to science insights and applied benefit. In addition to significant published research, he has worked with numerous local, state, and federal agencies on the application of disaster science findings. He has been involved in a significant amount of media and public outreach in response to COVID-19.



ERIC BEST, *Assistant Policy Scientist, Assistant Professor, Biden School*

Best is part of the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research and conducts research in disaster management and risk reduction, homeland security, transportation, and education. He is an alumnus of the Biden School's disaster science and management graduate program. Best is leading a data collection effort from Delaware healthcare providers and DEMA in light of COVID-19.



FEDERICA BIANCO, *Assistant Professor, Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Biden School*

Bianco works on data-driven solutions to problems that span from the nature of explosions in the sky to delays in the justice system. She studies lightcurves, time series of light, in astronomy to understand stellar evolution and cosmology, and in the urban environment at the Urban Observatory, where the study enables sociological, ecologic, economic inference. She is a TED 2019 fellow. Bianco has been working with Dobler to fit the available COVID-19 data to models.



GREGORY DOBLER, *Assistant Professor, Biden School*

Dobler is an urban data scientist whose research focuses on studying cities as complex systems. As director of the Urban Observatory (UO) facility at UD and NYU, he applies data analysis techniques from astronomy, computer vision, and machine learning to images of city skylines to study air quality, energy consumption, lighting technology, public health, and sustainability. He also leads urban data analysis projects related to the distribution of greenspaces, mapping economic trends across cities, and measures for traffic safety. His COVID data modeling work with Bianco is being used by local hospitals and emergency management to forecast Delaware healthcare needs and plan the state's response.



ERIC ANTHONY JOHNSON, *Chief of Economic Development, Housing and Neighborhood Services, Dallas, Texas*

Johnson, an alumnus of the doctoral program in urban affairs and public policy, is an accomplished urban redevelopment leader, consistently delivering results over his career by leveraging a solid academic, real estate development, community engagement and policy background. He currently oversees housing, urban planning and design, historic preservation and economic development. His team will be leading the Dallas economic resurgence post Covid-19.



KATE KITCHENER, *Chief of Staff, Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, New York City Department of Sanitation*

Kitchener, an alumna of the energy and environmental policy program, is integral in moving the Bureau's initiatives forward including programs to recycle organics, textiles, and electronics. She also has a strong focus on extended producer responsibility legislation and serves on the boards of both the Product Stewardship Institute and the New York State Product Stewardship Council. In the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commissioner of NYC's Department of Sanitation has been named food czar to address food supply chain issues and food insecurity. Kitchener's role includes pivoting existing staff to manage a number of emergency feeding programs.

