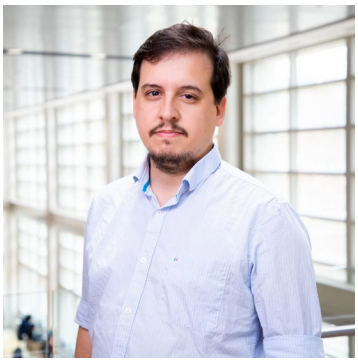
Baltimore Avenue Connected Communities: Smart Cities Roundtable
Tuesday, December 2, from 3:30-5:00 pm
Please note: this session will be recorded.

Zoom Video **Link**; Meeting ID: 973 2445 9276 (no password required); Call-in #: +13092053325,,97324459276#

Agenda:

1. **Tara Burke** 3:30-3:35 pm
   UMD Smart Cities Initiative, Welcome and Introduction

2. **Daniel Trielli** 3:35-4:05 pm
   AI for (not against) journalism: increasing capacity, reach, and impact of news



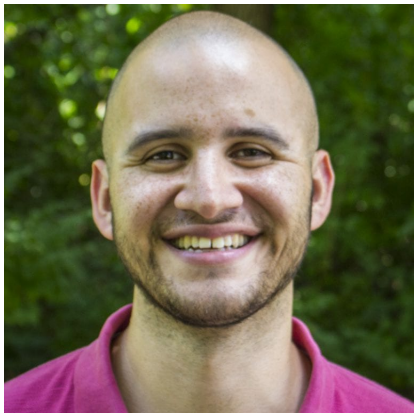
Dr. Daniel Trielli joined the University of Maryland (UMD) **Philip Merrill College of Journalism** in Fall 2023 as an assistant professor of **media and democracy.** A Merrill Master's alumnus (2016), he completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in 2022. He teaches courses in data journalism and journalism statistics.

His research examines how algorithmic curation—particularly by Google—impacts journalism, political information, and audience behavior. He is interested in data and computational journalism, media literacy and algorithmic accountability.

Before academia, Trielli spent 10-years as a journalist in Brazil at the national newspaper, O Estado de S. Paulo, and the regional newspaper, Diário do Grande ABC. As a Merrill graduate assistant he reported for Capital News Service and led the CNS data team that helped win a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in 2018 for "Home Sick" a report on income disparities and their effect on asthma rates in Baltimore.

Trielli's research has been published in Information, Communication & Society and the journal of the International Symposium on Online Journalism. He has presented at the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, and the Computation + Journalism Symposium. He contributes to public-facing media both in the United States and Brazil.

3. **Sergio García Mejía & Michelle (Shelby) Bensi** 4:05-3:35 pm
   Graduate research at the UMD Center for Disaster Resilience: Applications of data analytics to strengthen communities and critical infrastructure against hazards



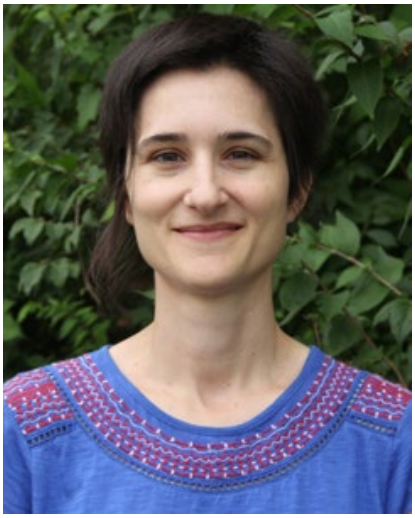
Sergio García Mejía is presenting on behalf of the UMD Center for Risk and Reliability graduate students.

Sergio García Mejía is a Ph.D. candidate in the Civil & Environmental Engineering department at the Center for Disaster Resilience at the University of Maryland (UMD). His research explores the intersections between infrastructure resilience, household recovery, disaster aid, and disaster management, explicitly concerning their manifestations in multi-hazard-prone locations and vulnerable populations.

Sergio graduated from Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala with a BA in Civil Engineering and then came to the US with a Fulbright grant to obtain an MSc in Civil & Environmental Engineering at UMD. In 2022, Sergio was a NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Fellow at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), where he worked on advancing Environmental Justice policies focusing on the analysis of the agency's renewable energy environmental assessments. Sergio also has significant experience working in municipal and non-profit organizations in rural and semi-rural environments in Guatemala. Sergio has a keen interest in disaster science communication and has collaborated with multiple media outlets in Guatemala and Latin America. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, cycling, and playing soccer.

Michelle (Shelby) Bensi, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the UMD Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with Designated Emphasis in Computational Science and Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. She holds a Master of Applied Sciences from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Toledo. Dr. Bensi leads research on the application of probabilistic risk assessment concepts and tools as well as statistical/machine learning techniques to problems involving engineered systems exposed to natural hazards.

4. **Vanessa Frias Martinez** 3:35-4:55 pm
   AI Clinic—Experiential Learning at UMD



Dr. Vanessa Frias-Martinez is an Professor in the UMD College of Information and University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS) and an Affiliate Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science. She leads the Urban Computing Lab.

Her research uses large-scale, ubiquitous data to model the interplay between human mobility and the built environment with applications in poverty reduction, disaster response, and smart cities implementation.

She focuses on policy making through data-driven approaches that leverage emerging data sources—such as cell phone and GPS data—to advance the social good with projects that inform emergency response, socio-economic development, and smart transportation.

5. Wrap-up 4:55-5:00 pm

RSVP

Jurisdictions/Municipal/County/State/Federal

- Tracey Douglas—City of Hyattsville
- Alexander Frane—FEMA-DHS
- Bill Gardiner—City of College Park
- Alex Hirtle—Prince George's County Council
- Ifiok Inyang—Town of Riverdale Park

- Emmett Jordan—City of Greenbelt
- Fazlul Kabir—City of College Park (tentative)
- Lora Katz—Town of Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee
- Chloe Kauffman—City of Hyattsville
- Jeff Ulysse—City of Hyattsville

Industry/Organizations/Individuals

- Erica Bannerman—GEM COMM
- Samantha Berenschot-Bucciero, Habitat for Humanity International
- Tricia Bishop—Baltimore Sun
- Susan Cargill-Collura—CISCO
- Ra-Jan Kelly—Washington Informer
- Sharon O'Malley—StreetCar Suburbs Publishing
- Scott Pomeroy—Smart City Media, LLC.
- Elise Rankin
- Jhoselyn Rodriguez—Coaching Salud Holistica
- Joseph Sexton—terraPulse, Inc.
- Valarie Woodall—Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

UMD/Academia

- Priscila Alves—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience & Justice Lab
- Michelle (Shelby) Bensi—A. James Clark School of Engineering; Center for Disaster Resilience
- John Baras—A. James Clark School of Engineering and the Institute for Systems Research
- Tara Burke—School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation
- Qingbin Cui—A. James Clark School of Engineering; Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Jen Cotting—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, Environmental Finance Center
- Sheena Erete—College of Information; Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute (AIM)
- Brandy Espinola—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, Environmental Finance Center
- Andrew Fellows—College of Information, Campus Community Connection; iConsultancy
- Gabriel Fumero—College of Agricultural and Natural Resources; UMD Technology Extension
- Sergio García Mejía—A. James Clark School of Engineering; Center for Disaster Resilience
- Eid Gul—College of Agricultural and Natural Resources; Environmental Science & Technology
- Mike Hunninghake—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, Environmental Finance Center
- Kathryn Howell—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, National Center for Smart Growth
- Matthew Justin Jones—SVPAAP, Enrollment Management, Undergraduate Studies
- Roy Kohn—Vice President for Research Office
- Axel Persaud— Division of Information Technology; Enterprise Engineering and Operations
- Samantha McDonald—College of Information
- Roddy Moscoso-College of Engineering; Center for Advanced Transportation Technology
- Polly O'Rourke—College of Information
- Francesca Polito—College of Information
- Sammy Popat—Division of Research; Economic Development & Innovation
- Caitlin Rice—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation, National Center for Smart Growth
- Catherine Roach—Facilities Management; OM&U

- Neil Schulman— A. James Clark School of Engineering, Project Management Center for Excellence
- Alibi Shokputov—S. of Architecture, Planning & Preservation; Urban & Regional Planning
- Le-Marie Thompson—Robert H. Smith School of Business; Management & Organization
- Ali Tohidi—A. James Clark School of Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering
- Daniel Trielli—Philip Merrill College of Journalism
- Bahereh Vojdani—School of Architecture, Practice, & Preservation; Urban & Regional Planning & Design Program
- Susan Winter—College of Information
- Xin Zan—A. James Clark School of Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering