



MaPHSA

USC Master of Public Health
Student Association



Upcoming Events

ARE YOU READY...



FOR THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR....

USC|MaPHSA
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Master in Public Health Student Association (MaPHSA)
maphsa@usc.edu
2001 N. Soto Street, Los Angeles, CA 90032



GO TROJANS!

TAILGATE TICKETS



vs.



GAME - NOVEMBER 10 | 7:30PM

**TAILGATE - IN FRONT OF HANCOCK,
ACROSS MORETON FIG
STARTS 3:00PM**

Purchase at: <https://squareup.com/store/USCMAPHSA>

Tailgate ticket is not a ticket to the game.

Faculty Spotlight Spotlight

Dr. Thomas Valente
E-mail: tvalente@usc.edu



What is your career and educational background? How did it lead you to pursue your PhD?

I started college (at Mary Washington College) in 1977 not having a clue of what I wanted to do or study. It was a Liberal Arts education but my junior year I was still taking Math classes and enjoying them so decided to major in Mathematics. I worked a boring corporate job for just over a year and was unhappy and got fired. I had applied to the Master's program in Mass Communication at San Diego State University and enrolled there for three years from 1983 to 1986. It was there that I learned about social science research and Diffusion of Innovations theory in particular so applied and enrolled at the Annenberg School for Communication at USC for my doctorate from 1987 to 1991.

Do you have any advice for students interested in applying for a PhD?

The primary purpose of getting a PhD is to do research and once I discovered research I knew this is what I wanted to do with my career. I wasn't sure how, what, or where, but knew I wanted to investigate how new ideas and practices spread within and between communities. Apply to many programs as you never know which one will be the right fit. Also, make sure to consider programs in which there is more than one or two faculty during work you might be interested in. Any one faculty member can move, change direction, or not be very nice and you don't want your career dependent on that one person. Moreover, your interests may evolve while you're in the program and you want room to grow and explore.

Are there any current projects that you are working on?

We've been developing an R library called netdiffuseR used to estimate network diffusion models. This has been a lifelong ambition and it feels great to be developing it, but it needs more attention and better documentation.

Do you have any advice for future MPH graduates?

Be persistent and be positive. There will be many challenges you face as you enter the workforce or further training but remember we do this to help improve the lives of the people in the communities we serve.