



Institute for a
Sustainable Earth

ISE NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2022

Upcoming ISE Events

Connecting/Not Connecting in Climate Justice Organizing: Formations of Community, Solidarity, Alienation, Antipathy

Friday, November 11, 2022 2:00PM - 3:30 PM EST

Hybrid Event: Merten 1204 or [via Zoom](#)

Co-hosted by [Mason's Center for Humanities Research](#) and [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#) and co-sponsored by Mason's [School of Integrative Studies](#), [Cultural Studies Program](#), and [Center for Climate Change Communication](#), join us for the panel "Connecting/Not Connecting in Climate Justice Organizing: Formations of Community, Solidarity, Alienation, Antipathy," moderated by [Tianna Cobb](#).

In this panel discussion, climate organizers will dialogue with academics about the ways that the climate crisis is driving changes in how we organize, through the emergence of both affirmative senses of collectivity grounded in solidarity, as well as agonistic senses of collectivity grounded in antipathy. What conflicts emerge from these shifts? What kinds of collective projects respond to them?

Panelists will draw on their climate organizing experiences and scholarship to explore the terrain of solidarity and conflict, in which questions about how groups connect—and fail to connect—are crucial for efforts to create a just and sustainable future for all.

Workshop: Incorporating Systems Thinking within Environmental Curricula

Friday, November 11, 2022, 9:00am - 3:00pm

[Registration](#)

Potomac Science Center

Systems thinking is often described as a core capacity for understanding sustainability and a critical skill for the 21st century. As such, this workshop is part of a George Mason University

Curriculum Impact Grant-funded project that seeks to convene faculty and graduate students to examine the current state of systems thinking pedagogies and explore how they are being incorporated within two undergraduate degree programs—the BS in Environmental Science offered by the Department of Environmental Science & Policy (ESP), and the BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies offered jointly by the School of Integrative Studies and ESP. Faculty and graduate students from other departments who teach related courses are also welcome. Workshop participants will share their own best practices in teaching students about systems and identify opportunities to integrate systems thinking within courses and throughout program curricula. The event will be held at Mason's Potomac Science Center and will include a catered lunch for participants. The first half of the workshop (9:30-11:30 am), comprised of introductory talks and a curricular review, will be live-streamed for those who wish to attend but are not available for the full day. Please register [HERE](#) and email organizers [K. L. Akerlof](#), [Andrew Wingfield](#), [Jeremy Campbell](#), [Ted Chen](#), and [Meaghan Caruso](#) with any questions you have about the event.



Announcements

Virginia Climate Center (VCC) Job Opportunity: Project Manager

Friday, October 28, 2022

[Online Application](#)

George Mason University's Virginia Climate Center (VCC) is seeking a dynamic, enthusiastic, skillful, collaborative, mission-driven, and results-oriented individual for the position of [VCC Project Manager](#) to coordinate a two-year pilot research project for the VCC. The incumbent will play a critical role in establishing the Virginia Climate Center and have the unique opportunity of bringing state-of-the-art climate science from the lab directly to stakeholders. George Mason University has a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff and strongly encourages candidates to apply who will enrich Mason's academic and culturally inclusive environment.

Mason Science is committed to advancing access, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (A-JEDI) throughout our STEM community, including within our hiring and retention practices. At

Mason Science, our values include fostering an organizational culture that promotes anti-racism, belonging, respect, and civility. We believe that a diversity of opinions, cultures, and perspectives is what provides vibrancy, innovation, and growth to an academic community. By prioritizing inclusive excellence in academics, teaching, research, and global engagement, we strive to attract a diverse pool of faculty and staff who exemplify the Mason Science mission and vision.



SRI2023 Themes



1. Turning the Tide for Climate: Collaborative Action for Institutional Transformation
2. Healthy and Inclusive Communities
3. A Peaceful Planetary Mind
4. Latin America and the Caribbean Science and Innovation for Sustainability

MITRE Capstones Project Portal

As part of its University Innovation Exchange (UIX) initiative, MITRE is partnering with universities to offer technical advisors and capstone project ideas that reflect real problems facing the United States government. The **MITRE Capstones Project Portal** is a web-based platform for university faculty and students to browse, select, and execute capstone projects with a MITRE technical advisor. There are several exciting opportunities currently on the Project Portal. You can review the full list [here](#).

25Live Guide – Feature Your Sustainability Events

The [Office of University Events](#), the [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#), and the [Office of Sustainability](#) collaborated to develop this [25Live Guide](#) to increase the visibility of and engagement with your sustainability-focused events at Mason. 25Live is Mason's institution-wide event and academic scheduling system which dovetails with unit calendars such as [Today@Mason](#). Please use this [25Live Guide](#) to ensure your sustainability-focused events, whether they are in-person or virtual, are featured on Today @ Mason and through ISE and the Office of Sustainability.

ISE Faculty Profiles

The [ISE faculty directory](#) is a tool for you to find others with complementing expertise and for external and internal audiences to find you! If you haven't yet submitted your research profile information for the directory, **please complete your profile [here](#)**.

In the News

- [Striving for a better understanding of autism diagnosis in gender diverse children](#), College of Humanities and Social Sciences News, October 21, 2022.
- [Networking event connects graduate students with Arlington's Movers and Shakers](#), Campus News, October 21, 2022.
- [In Sickness and Health: The Influence of Paid Leave on Employee Commitment](#), College of Health and Human Services News, October 19, 2022.
- [Four stop signs at intersections are one too many, suggests Mason researcher](#), School of Business News. October 19, 2022.
- [High COVID Vaccine Hesitancy in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), College of Health and Human Services News, October 17, 2022

Upcoming Mason Events



Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Conference

Monday, October 24, 2022, 8am - 6:30pm ET

Mason Square, Arlington, Virginia

[Registration](#)

You are invited to [George Mason University](#)'s Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Initiative at Mason Square. The ARIE Conference will provide a forum for higher education, industry, government, nonprofit, and other stakeholders to critically discuss anti-racism and inclusive excellence in the academy; share effective practices and resources to advance anti-racism and inclusive excellence; and amplify the visibility and impact of research, scholarship, and creative activities conducted by Mason researchers and other national scholars on anti-racism and inclusive excellence.



SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

Center for Security Policy Studies

at George Mason University

Fifth Annual Symposium on International Security

THE ARCTIC

October 27, 2022

9 AM to 2:30 PM

1. How the Arctic is Changing - Environment, Geography, Governance

Erin Sikorsky, *Center for Climate and Security*

Marisol Maddox, *Polar Institute of the Wilson Center*

Eugenie Panitcherska, *Embassy of Canada*

Moderator: Todd Laporte, *Schar School*

Time: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

2. The International Economic Dimensions of the Arctic

Lawson Brigham, *University of Alaska and Wilson Center*

Rich Kauzlarich, *Schar School*

Lucy Duncan, *Safe Ports*

Moderator: Ken Reinert, *Schar School*

Time: 10:30 - 11:45 PM

**Lunchtime Conversation with Professor Mark Katz and Andrey Toporov
on the Arctic and US-Russian Relations**

3. The International Security Picture

Dave Auerswald, *National War College*

Doyle Hodges, *Texas National Security Review*

Rebecca Pincus, *Polar Institute of the Wilson Center*

Moderator: Ellen Laipson, *Schar School*

Time: 1:00 - 2:15 PM

Location: 125 Van Metre Hall,
3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA



Register to attend
using the QR Code

Coffee and pastries will be available
before the event. A boxed lunch will
be served before the final panel.

Faculty Affairs-Research Development Services

November Faculty Matters Workshop

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 1pm ET

[Registration](#)

We invite faculty to the next Faculty Affairs & Research Development Services Faculty Matters Workshop, ***How to Write Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Statements***, which focuses on effectively conveying the impact of your research, scholarship, and/or creative work for promotion, renewal, and tenure. This workshop is recommended for tenured and tenure-line faculty. Participants will have the chance to win a free book, [On Writing Well by William Zinsser](#). The Zoom workshop is on November 1st from 1:00-2:30pm. [Registration is required](#).

Symposium: Thinking through American Polarization

Friday, November 18, 2022, 1pm to 5pm ET

Hybrid Event: Merten Hall 1201 or [via Zoom](#)

Join us for the [hybrid symposium: Thinking through American Polarization](#), sponsored by the Provost's Office and the George Mason University [Center for Humanities Research](#).

America's deep political and cultural polarization is widely acknowledged, and most frequently explored through its symptoms, how it manifests itself, rather than through its causes. In this state of deep polarization, the tendency is to vilify rather than to intellectually engage with the "other side." This symposium seeks to delve into the histories, root causes, and mechanisms of polarization—diagnosing the problems that have led to such deeply entrenched positions. Why now? What distinguishes current polarization from previous divisions in American life and why/how has it become unusually pervasive and bitter? What has happened to previously unifying values (a belief in the nation, a commitment to the common good)? To what extent does political and media polarization cause further division? To what extent is polarization a response to more basic social and economic changes in American life? To what extent is it connected to longstanding inequalities in American life? American polarization is of course not unique in the contemporary world, but it does seem unusually charged, and some comparative analysis with other national contexts may be an appropriate part of the overall evaluation.

The symposium will combine a panel of external presentations (each planned for 15-20 minutes) and conversation with a second panel led by Mason faculty, with ample opportunity for group discussion.

From Server Farm to Vertical Farm: A Case Study of Building Adaptive Reuse

Tuesday, December 1, 2022, 5pm ET

[Registration](#)

[251 Exchange Pl, Herndon, VA 20170](#)

Join the [Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship](#) for an on-site case study tour featuring the firm Beanstalk which is building the farm of the future by refurbishing commercial buildings with indoor vertical gardens. Their newest urban vertical farm repurposes a long-vacant and obsolete data center in Herndon with a fully automated indoor farm.

Co-founders Mike and Jack Ross will talk about their venture and vision for sustainable farming. Growing salad greens, herbs, and mushrooms, this vertical indoor farm doesn't need pesticides, is not limited to growing seasons, and helps the environment by recycling water and reducing carbon emissions with a growing system that is 100x more productive.

For more information, please contact: [Eric Maribojoc](#)

Funding Opportunities



RISE Launches \$1.5M Flood Insurance of the Future Challenge

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Registration

RISE, a Virginia-based, non-profit organization providing one-stop-shop resources to coastal resilience entrepreneurs, announced the launch of its Flood Insurance of the Future Challenge. The innovation competition will award up to \$1.5 million to businesses with solutions that reduce flood insurance premiums and payouts by 50%.

Individual Challenge winners will receive up to \$300,000 in funding and support, while teams of companies submitting integrated solutions will receive up to \$750,000. All winners gain access to resources from the RISE Resilience Innovation Hub & Testbed, a tailored business accelerator through 757 Accelerate, co-working office and testing space, and introductions to regional stakeholders to help shape and iterate upon their idea, among other benefits.

The Flood Insurance of the Future Challenge is possible with support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development. Winners of the Challenge will join more than 30 RISE-funded pilot projects, including sensors that collect critical stormwater system capacity data, applications to re-route drivers in real time using Waze to avoid flooded roads, and the nation's first home raising academy.

Submissions for the Flood Insurance of the Future Challenge are open through November 30. To learn more and apply, please visit the RISE website.



20th Annual People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Now Open: P3 20th Annual RFA

October 4, 2022 – February 1, 2023

Registration

EPA's People, Prosperity, and the Planet's (P3) Program is seeking applications from teams of U.S. college students proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real-world challenges that respond to the needs of people across the U.S, including those in small, rural, tribal, and underserved communities. P3 highlights the use of scientific principles in creating innovative technology-based projects that achieve the mutual goals of improved quality of life, economic prosperity and environmental protection.

Using a team approach, P3 empowers undergraduate/graduate college students to transform classroom learning through hands-on experience to create tangible solutions to environmental issues in their communities.

EPA is looking for research in the areas of clean and healthy air, clean and safe water, safeguarding and revitalizing communities, and ensuring the safety of chemicals.

Applications may incorporate climate change and environmental justice as appropriate.

Informational Webinar: October 25, 2022 at 2 p.m. ET

Please visit the [P3 webpage](#) for more information.



NSF launches entrepreneurial fellowships for engineers and scientists

The U.S. National Science Foundation announced a new \$20 million investment in Entrepreneurial Fellowships through a multi-year cooperative agreement with [Activate.org](#). The Activate Fellows supported by NSF will be scientists and engineers from a variety of backgrounds and regions across the U.S. who will translate research breakthroughs to new

products and services with broad societal benefits.

The Entrepreneurial Fellowships will help make entrepreneurship more accessible for people in less-developed innovation ecosystems, expanding geographic diversity and increasing participation of women and others who have been traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

To learn more about Entrepreneurial Fellowships including how to apply, visit <https://www.activate.org/apply>.

A promotional poster for NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Opportunities. The background is a dark space scene with a large, reddish-orange planet (Mars) on the right and a grey, cratered planet (the Moon) in the foreground. The NASA logo is in the top left corner. The main title "HELP NASA EXPLORE SPACE!" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the text "NASA SPACE TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES" and "FALL 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS" is in white. A blue tagline "Discover, achieve, collaborate..." is followed by a paragraph about the mission. Another paragraph describes the fellowship opportunity, including a stipend and support. A third paragraph states that fellows will collaborate with NASA experts. A fourth paragraph mentions that over 700 awards have been made since 2011. At the bottom left, it says "Proposals accepted via NSPIRES: https://tinyurl.com/NSTGRO23" and "www.nasa.gov". In the center is a QR code. At the bottom right, it says "The solicitation opened on September 2, 2022. Proposals are due by 6:00 PM ET on November 2, 2022. U.S. citizens and permanent residents only".

HELP NASA EXPLORE SPACE!

NASA SPACE TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FALL 2023 **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Discover, achieve, collaborate...

The NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate seeks to sponsor graduate student space technology research ideas that have significant potential to contribute to NASA's goal of creating innovative new space technologies for our Nation's science, exploration, and economic future.

This fellowship opportunity, up to \$84,000 per year, will coincide with the start of the 2023 academic year; up to four years of support are possible for doctoral students. In addition to providing a \$40,000 annual stipend, the grant provides support for tuition, health insurance, conference attendance, and the faculty advisor. The grant also provides support for onsite tenure at NASA Centers across the country. Current and prospective doctoral and master's students (see full eligibility requirements) may have proposals submitted on their behalf.

Fellows will collaborate with leading NASA experts in space technology to acquire a more detailed understanding of the potential end applications of their space technology efforts and directly disseminate their research results within the NASA community and beyond.

Since 2011, over 700 awards have been made to students attending 110 universities across 42 states and one U.S. territory.

Proposals accepted via NSPIRES:
<https://tinyurl.com/NSTGRO23>
www.nasa.gov



The solicitation opened on September 2, 2022
Proposals are due by 6:00 PM ET on **November 2, 2022**
U.S. citizens and permanent residents only

Dear Colleague Letter: Critical Aspects of Sustainability (CAS): Innovative Solutions to Sustainable Chemistry (CAS-SC)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the establishment of the Critical Aspects of Sustainability (CAS): Innovative Solutions to Sustainable Chemistry Program (CAS-SC), under the CAS metaprogram umbrella. The CAS-SC Program recognizes the importance of sustainable chemistry in addressing many societal challenges and aims to encourage the expansion of the Nation's research capacity in this topic area through submissions of research proposals. Proposals that emphasize a detailed and quantitative understanding of sustainable chemistry and include industrial partnerships are of particular interest.

Student Opportunities



Planet Forward's 9th Annual Storyfest Competition is Now Open

Deadline: February 6, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EST

Registration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 14, 2022) — Planet Forward, an environmental storytelling platform based at the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University, is pleased to announce the launch of Storyfest 2023, our ninth annual competition rewarding the best environmental storytelling by college students, and our fifth sponsored by partner Lindblad Expeditions.

Winners will travel to Iceland for a six-day voyage with Lindblad Expeditions aboard the National Geographic Resolution in July 2023, with a team of naturalists, photo instructor, and an expedition leader. Our Planet Forward storytellers will explore remote fjords and volcanic isles, while learning how Iceland is fighting water pollution and soil erosion, and of the potential impact of development pressures from tourism and energy production on wilderness areas. "We are thrilled beyond measure to continue our partnership with Lindblad Expeditions for our Storyfest competition," said Frank Sesno, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the School of Media and Public Affairs at GW and Planet Forward Founding Director.

The grand prize will be announced live at the 2023 Planet Forward Summit on April 20, 2023. Students can enter up to three stories in five categories — best science narrative, most compelling character, most creative story, best use of science or data, and best scalable innovation — now through Monday, February 6, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EST. You can see the complete rules and more information on PlanetForward.org.

EnergyTech UP Business Plan Competition Offers \$370K to Students

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 3pm ET

Registration

The next round of the [EnergyTech University Prize](#) (EnergyTech UP) from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Technology Transitions is now accepting applications!

This innovative prize, part of the American-Made Challenges program, asks multidisciplinary student teams to identify a high-potential energy technology, assess its market potential, and propose a strategy for commercialization—and compete for a share of \$370,000!

Prize administrators are holding an informational webinar to share details about the funding available to students, inspire ideas around energy technologies that teams can use to develop their plans, and answer questions from potential participants. Register now for the webinar, taking place on Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. ET.

The competition offers students the opportunity to build their leadership and entrepreneurial skills, while providing exposure to all of the innovative energy technologies out there waiting to be commercialized.

EnergyTech UP is truly a career-building experience unlike any other. Last year, the competition welcomed more than 500 competing students from 113 schools—who had great things to say about their experience. “The prize really gives people who aren't specialized in engineering or scientific topics a chance to make an impact and learn more about sustainability,” said one competitor. “I learned how to take an idea and turn it into a vision that could actually happen,” said another.

Any interested students or faculty are encouraged to [start following EnergyTech UP](#) now. It's the best way to stay up to date on submission deadlines and requirements, prize rules, and more.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs

Through its program of fellowships, the [Ford Foundation](#) seeks to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

Predoctoral, dissertation, and postdoctoral fellowships are awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation.

Awards will be made for study in research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. programs; practice oriented degree programs are not eligible for support (see eligible fields). Prospective applicants should carefully review the eligibility requirements, the terms of the fellowship awards, application instructions and other information pertaining to the individual fellowship (Predoctoral, Dissertation, or Postdoctoral) for which they are applying.

2023 Competition Dates

2023 Dissertation and Postdoctoral application deadlines

December 8, 2022

5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)

2023 Predoctoral application deadline

December 15, 2022

Supplementary Materials deadline for submitted applications

January 5, 2023

5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)

A promotional poster for the Ford Foundation Fellowships. The background is a vibrant blue with abstract white geometric shapes. On the left, the text 'FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. To the right, a circular inset features a smiling man with a beard, wearing a green cardigan over a white shirt, standing in front of a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations. Above this circle, the text 'OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS' is written in white. Below the circle, there are two white text boxes. The first box, titled 'WHAT IS IT?', explains that the Ford Foundation provides pre-doctoral, dissertation, and post-doc fellowships to students pursuing a career as a professor. The second box, titled 'CAN I APPLY?', lists the eligibility criteria: US citizens, prospective/current grad students with high academic achievement, and individuals committed to career teaching and researching in higher education. To the right of these boxes, a blue box with white text announces an 'In-Person Info Session: Oct. 12, 2-3pm', encouraging attendees to learn about the fellowships and the application process, and noting that registration is required on Mason 360. At the bottom right, a white box with blue text provides the email address for the Office of Fellowships: PGFS@GMU.EDU.

OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS

FORD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS

WHAT IS IT?

The Ford Foundation provides pre-doctoral, dissertation, and post-doc fellowships to students pursuing a career as a professor.

CAN I APPLY?

Ford Fellowships are open to:

- US citizens
- Prospective/current grad students w/high academic achievement
- Individuals committed to career teaching and researching in higher ed

In-Person Info Session: Oct. 12, 2-3pm

Learn about all three fellowships, the application process, and how the Office of Fellowships can help you create a strong application.

Registration required. Register on Mason 360.

EMAIL OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS:
PGFS@GMU.EDU

2023 Next System Fellows - Applications Open!

Deadline: Saturday, November 15th, 2022

Application

We are now accepting application for admission to the Spring 2023 cohort of Next System Fellows. Maybe you hope for a life in which you can make a real difference in the world. You seek a career in public service, research and education, social enterprise, activism, or advocacy. You need to build your practical experience and career networks. And you also want to make a difference right now.

If so, you should consider applying to become a Next System Fellow. The Next System Fellows are a part of Mason's prestigious Arlington Fellows program.

A Next System Fellowship becomes your Spring 2023 semester. You study with the same students. You work closely with our core faculty. You emerge at the end of the semester having completed a transformative educational process. This is the kind of college experience many of you are looking for.

We invite you to read more about [our courses](#), [internship program](#), and the [new field of Next System Studies](#) - a truly transdisciplinary approach to preparing for a transition to a better society that unites the social sciences and humanities, business and management, environmental and biological sciences, and technology and computer sciences. [Read about last year's cohort, our first Next System Fellows](#). Take a [look at this short video](#) to get a sense of one of the types of activities experienced by our Fellows.

Consider this opportunity and --if it feels right to you-- apply soon. Your application deadline is November 15th, but our admissions committee **begins formal review of applications on October 1st**. Apply here: <https://fellows.gmu.edu/next-system/application>

[The Institute for a Sustainable Earth \(ISE\)](#) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

[The ISE Newsletter](#) provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.



ise.gmu.edu

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