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.

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**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.

**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.


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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.
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

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

Register to attend using the QR Code
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
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.

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**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.
Planetary Forward’s 9th Annual Storyfest Competition is Now Open

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 14, 2022) — Planetary 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 Planetary 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 Planetary Forward Founding Director.

The grand prize will be announced live at the 2023 Planetary 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.

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**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
We are now accepting applications 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.
Subscribe to our email list.