Announcements

4th ISE Webinar TODAY!

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic reveal both fragilities and resiliencies in our global society. Mason's Institute for a Sustainable Earth is hosting this webinar to discuss the social inequities and disparities of impact caused by the pandemic.

- **Date**: Monday, June 1, 2020
- **Time**: 10-11am
- **Location**: **WebEx Event Link**

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | Institute for a Sustainable Earth

Social Inequities and the Disparities of Impact

Monday June 1, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Panelists:

Jhumka Gupta – Associate Professor, Department of Global and Community Health, College of Health and Human Services, Mason.

Ken Reinert – Professor and Director of the International Commerce and Policy Program, Schar School of Policy and Government, Mason.

Colleen Vesely – Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science and Early Childhood Education, College of Education and Human Development, Mason.

Jim Witte – Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Director of the Center for Social Science Research, and Director of the Institute for Immigration Research, Mason.

Moderator:

Bethany Letiecq – Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science Program, College of Education and Human Development, Mason

Contact: mise@gmu.edu

Ed Maibach and Jenice View Honored with 2020 Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence

Dr. Ed Maibach, communications faculty member and Director of the Center for Climate Change Communication, has been honored as one of the four Mason faculty members chosen

for the 2020 Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Maibach has been honored with The Beck Family Medal for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.

Dr. Jenice View, associate professor of transformative teaching in the College of Education and Human Development, has been honored with The Earle C. Williams Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Social Impact.

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 this brief survey**.

Upcoming Mason Events

Rural Populations and Infectious Disease Transmission: Implications for COVID-19

More than 15% of the US population lives in rural areas, and rural populations experience adverse health disparities due to a variety of contributing factors, such as differential access to healthcare and geographic barriers to receiving care. In order to provide context for rural areas, epidemiologists and network scientists will discuss the demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic factors that characterize rural populations, what has been observed for other infectious disease transmission in rural areas, and epidemiological modeling of COVID-19 transmission and applications for rural Virginia.

- **Date**: Tuesday, June 2, 2020
- **Time**: 4:30-5:30pm
- **Location**: Virtual
- **Registration**

C-RASC Seminar: Predicting COVID-19 from a Quantitative Finance Perspective

Dr. Jian Chen has recently used the quantitative model of credit risk for the prediction of COVID-19 outbreaks. This approach is proven to be robust and flexible and can get accurate forecast results. He has published several medical papers with his medical colleagues. He has been invited to discuss the Asian experiences with Dr. Zhang Wenhong, Dr. David Ho, along with other leading medical experts at the Brookings Institution online forum, to share insights about the predictive model.

- **Date**: Thursday, June 4, 2020
- **Time**: 11am
- **Location**: Virtual
- **Registration**

Mason Online Pandemic Modeling Forum

Professor Robert Axtell, Computational Social Science Ph.D. Program, Department of Computational and Data Sciences, College of Science, will be hosting the Mason Online Pandemic Modeling Forum to be held weekly on Fridays throughout the summer, focusing on the effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. During this first session, speakers from all over the world will discuss their models.

- **Date**: Friday, June 5, 2020
- **Time**: 3-4:30pm
- **Location**: **WebEx Event Link**

Congratulations!
Funding Announcements, Awards, and Accomplishments

Deployment of a Full-Scale Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Swarm System

Primary Investigator (PI): Cameron Nowzari, Volgenau School of Engineering

Co-PI: Feitian Zhang, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: US Department of the Navy

RAPID: A Portal to Support Models for Assessing Strategies for Hospitals in th COVID-19 and other Pandemics - MASH-Pandemics

PI: Elise Miller-Hooks, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: National Science Foundation

SBDC Cares ACT 2020 State Office

PI: Jody Keenan, Academic Administration

Funding source: US Small Business Administration

Complete Care Partners RNR

PI: Jennifer Lerch, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Funding source: Complete Care Partners LLC

RAPID: Networked Meta-Population Modeling and Analysis for COVID-19

PI: Cameron Nowzari, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: National Science Foundation

Post-Doctoral Research in Prediction Markets for Confidence Scores

PI: Kathryn Laskey, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: The KeyW Corporation

Multi-domain C2 (MDC2)"Clean Sheet" Applications to Joint All Domain C2

PI: James Elder, Volgenau School of Engineering

Co-PI: Alexander Levis, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: Griffiss Institute

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

The Research Development Services office has organized a detailed database of funding opportunities pertaining to COVID-19. The database is updated as new opportunities become available. If you would like to add opportunities to the database please contact Heather Arold.

Additional Funding Opportunities

Civic Innovation Challenge

The Civic Innovation Challenge is a research and action competition in the Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) domain designed to build a more cohesive research-to-innovation pipeline and foster a collaborative spirit. CIVIC will fund projects that can produce

significant community impact within 12 months (following a four-month planning phase) — in contrast to many community-university partnerships that take years to provide tangible benefits to communities — and have the potential for lasting impact beyond the period of the CIVIC award.

In the first stage (Stage 1), up to 12 awards per track will be made for Planning Grants – each with a budget of up to $50,000 for four months to undertake pre-development activities, including solidifying the team, maturing the project plans, and preparing to submit a well-developed full proposal for Stage 2. Only awardees of Stage 1 will be eligible to submit proposals for Stage 2.

In the second stage (Stage 2), up to four teams per track will be selected from Stage 1 award recipients to receive a full award— each with a budget of up to $1,000,000 for up to 12 months to execute and evaluate their research-centered pilot projects.

- **Funding source**: National Science Foundation
- **Estimated Number of Awards**: 24 to 32
- **Estimated Funding Amount**: $9,000,000
- **Deadline**: Stage 1: July 1, 2020; Stage 2: March 31, 2021
- **Contact**: David Corman, Program Director

AI for Earth Innovation

National Geographic Society and Microsoft's AI for Earth Program partnered to support novel projects that create and deploy AI tools to improve the way they monitor, model, understand, and ultimately manage Earth's natural resources for a more sustainable future.

- **Funding source**: National Geographic Society and Microsoft's AI for Earth Program
- **Amount**: Applicants may request $5,000 to $100,000
- **Deadline**: July 22, 2020
- **Contact**: AI for Earth Innovation

Coastlines and People

The Coastlines and People program supports diverse, innovative, multi-institution awards that are focused on critically important coastlines and people research that is integrated with broadening participation goals. The objective of this solicitation is to support Coastal Research Hubs, structured using a convergent science approach, at the nexus between coastal sustainability, human dimensions, and coastal processes to transform understanding of interactions among natural, human-built, and social systems in coastal, populated environments.

- **Funding source**: National Science Foundation
- **Estimated Number of Awards**: 8 to 10
- **Anticipated Funding Amount**: $29,500,000
- **Deadline**: September 9, 2020
- **Contact**: CoPe Working Group

FY 2020 Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program

The Office of Science of the US Department of Energy is providing funding for research in the following program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics.

- **Funding source**: Office of Science, Department of Energy
- **Amount**: Up to $5,000,000
- **Deadline**: September 30, 2020
- **Contact**: Kimberlie Laing, 301-903-3026

Global Innovation Fund

The Globa Innovation Fund seeks to invest in social innovations that aim to improve the lives and opportunities of millions of people in the developing world. Open to funding innovations in any sector as long as they can demonstrate their innovation improves the lives of those living on less than USD 5 PPP per day.

- **Funding source**: Global Innovation Fund
- **Amount**: $50,000 - $15,000,000
- **Deadline**: Proposals accepted at anytime
- **Additional information**

Other Upcoming Events

Time #ForNature World Environment Day Virtual Symposium

Jeffrey Sachs (SDSN), Adenike Akinsemolu (Green Institute), and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar Foundation) are gathering sustainability experts from across the globe to host a virtual summit Time #ForNature for the World Environment Day, a United Nations awareness campaign for environmental protection, held annually since 1974.

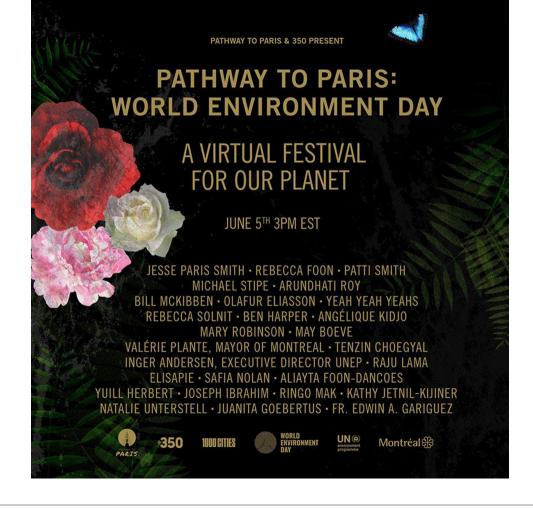- **Date**: Friday, June 5, 2020
- **Time**: 7am - 11:59pm (GMT)
- **Location**: Virtual
- **Registration**

Pathways To Paris: A Virtual Festival For Our Planet

The COVID-19 and climate crises push us to ask: how do we chart a path forward for humanity? As we move towards a collective vision of recovery and justice, we want to build unity and guidance. That's why we're excited to announce this Virtual Festival for Our Planet! A global online broadcast to mark World Environment Day, on June 5, 2020. The event features a host of incredible musicians, frontline activists, thought leaders, artists and political heroes to create a moment of solidarity.

- **Date**: Friday, June 5, 2020
- **Time**: 3-9pm (EDT)
- **Location**: Virtual
- **Registration**

The 8th World Sustainability Forum

The 8th World Sustainability Forum (WSF2020) is an international scientific conference coordinated by MDPI under the patronage of the University of Basel, the University of Geneva and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN). In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the theme for the meeting include: 1) health and medicine; 2) mobility and transport; and 3) food security and agriculture.

- **Date**: September 15-17, 2020
- **Location**: Virtual
- **Registration**

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