



Announcements



Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress

Please consider presenting at the Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress in Brisbane in June 2020. Future Earth will be providing two ISE faculty with travel awards (\$2,500 each). The call for presentations is currently open at [SRI 2020](#). Please reach out to Aurali Dade at adade3@gmu.edu to inquire about the awards.

iWeek: Faculty 3-Minute Lightning Talks for Mason International Collaborative

All Mason faculty are invited to present during a lightning talk session hosted by iWeek and the Mason International Collaborative's Research Committee. This is specifically designed for faculty who are involved with research, scholarship, and creative activities in international locations or on international topics. This **form** should be completed by faculty who are available to give a 3-minute talk, or alternatively would like a slide included in the final program. The session will be held on **Friday, March 27 10am - 12pm in JC Bistro**.

Confirmation of program will be available in mid-March. Mason International Collaborative (MIC) is an 18-month initiative to review and to strategize on internationalization efforts. This is part of the American Council on Education Internationalization Laboratory. The MIC Research Committee is co-chaired by Dr. Aurali Dade and Dr. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer. For more information, please contact mic@gmu.edu.



50th Anniversary of Earth Day

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) and the Office of Sustainability (OoS) want to let you know that Mason partnered with the Earth Day Network (EDN) for their first-ever, state-based campaign to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd, 2020. We will also be celebrating Earth Month (April) and we need your help to do so effectively. One of our primary goals is to increase participation/engagement with the amazing sustainability-related programs, events, and initiatives faculty, staff, and students host throughout Earth Month. And we want to showcase and broadcast Mason's success.

To help us achieve our goals, we're asking that you **please complete a brief survey** (it should take approximately 3 minutes). **We'll use the survey data to build a calendar of ALL the sustainability-related programs, events, and initiatives happening at Mason during Earth Month.** Please feel free to forward the survey to interested groups and individuals at Mason. We can't wait to see the wonderful work you're doing! Thank you!

School of Business Sustainability Contest

We need your creativity and innovative solutions! Come help the School of Business reduce its ecological footprint and enter our sustainability contest. Cash prizes, food, and great mentorship opportunities are part of this experience! Plus, participation in the contest results in a Mason Impact + CECL program designation on your transcript. All majors are welcome!

Interested? Complete the Qualtrics [survey](#) and email sustain2@gmu.edu, Anne Lauer (alauer4@gmu.edu) or Lisa Gring-Pemble (lgringpe@gmu.edu) for more information.



Upcoming Mason Events

FACING EARTH: AGUSTINA WOODGATE

With the advent of digital mapping technologies, the use of globes and paper maps will likely continue to diminish, at least as reference tools. As geological and political territories erode, Earth becomes a more volatile entity

This exhibition features a collection of Agustina Woodgate's recent artworks in which the artist uses techniques of erasure using sandpaper to alter the surfaces of analog cartographic instruments and didactics such as maps, globes, and atlases. This elemental process of sanding reveals a complex poetics in the resulting objects, destroying their functional properties, while evoking their essential poetic and sculptural significance.

- **Date:** February 17 - March 28th, 2020
- **Location:** Gillespie Gallery of Art: Art & Design Building
- **Additional information**

Urban Issues Lecture Series

George Mason University is organizing a lecture series on urban topics to create an active community of connected experts. These talks aim to facilitate knowledge exchange and networking around urban topics and challenges, with participants from academia, industry and local governments.

Ben Levine, Executive Director of MetroLab Network, will deliver the second in our series of guest lectures on urban issues. Ben will share his views on a civic research initiative to transform state and local government. MetroLab Network is a collaborative of 29 cities, 5 counties, and 35 universities (including George Mason University) focused on civic innovation. MetroLab Network was launched as part of the White House Smart Cities Initiative in 2015.

- **Date:** February 26, 2020
- **Time:** 3pm - 4:30pm
- **Location:** Room 5117, Nguyen Engineering Building, Mason Fairfax Campus

A promotional poster for an urban lecture series. It features a circular portrait of Ben Levine on the left. The background is a blue gradient with abstract cityscape and data-like patterns. Text on the right includes the series name, speaker name, title, date, time, location, and RSVP information. The George Mason University and DataLab logos are at the bottom.

Urban Lecture Series

Ben
LEVINE
MetroLab Network

“A Civic Research Initiative to Transform State and Local Government”

Date: **Wednesday, Feb 26**
Time: **3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Location: **ENG 5117 (Dean’s Conference Room)**
RSVP: ntryfona@gmu.edu

 **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY** | DataLab

"Threats and Opportunities: Using Data and Technology To Protect Grid Resilience." Panelists and keynote speakers will discuss how Mason will be meeting energy security challenges in the digital economy through mitigation and resiliency planning. This event is part of the Arlington Forward 2020 series focusing on how innovation and technology impact Mason's Arlington Campus.

- **Date:** February 27, 2020
- **Time:** 8:00am - 4:00pm
- **Location:** Van Metre Hall, Mason Arlington Campus, Room 125/126
- **Registration**



4th Annual
Mason Energy Forum
Threats and Opportunities: Using Data and Technology to Protect Grid Resilience
8:00 am - 4pm April 27, 2020
Arlington Campus: Van Metre Hall MPR 125/126
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Highlighting cross-disciplinary collaborations in meeting grid security challenges through mitigation and resilience planning across Mason Campuses and with regional government, academic, and private sector partners. The symposium will showcase and give poster awards as well as feature key discussion panels and plenary speakers.
For registration [click here](#)
Poster Competition: \$500 in prizes
More information [click here](#)

"Talking to Strangers": An Evening with Malcolm Gladwell

Join George Mason University's Department of Criminology, Law and Society and esteemed guest Malcolm Gladwell on March 18th for "Talking to Strangers": An Evening With Malcolm Gladwell. Robinson Professor of Public Affairs Steven Pearlstein and Criminology, Law and Society Distinguished Professor David Weisburd will be in conversation with bestselling author, journalist, and speaker Malcolm Gladwell on his new book Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know. Attendees will be able to submit questions for Gladwell prior to the event.

- **Date:** March 18, 2020
- **Time:** 6:00pm - 7:15pm
- **Location:** Center for the Arts Concert Hall, Mason Fairfax Campus
- **Registration**



Steven Pearlstein



Malcolm Gladwell



David Welsburg

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch with Jennifer Baichwal

A cinematic meditation on humanity's massive reengineering of the planet *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* is a four-years-in-the-making feature documentary film from the multiple-award winning team of Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier, and Edward Burtynsky. Third in a trilogy that includes *Manufactured Landscapes* (2006) and *Watermark* (2013), the film follows the research of an international body of scientists, the Anthropocene Working Group. At the intersection of art and science, *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* witnesses in an experiential and non-didactic sense a critical moment in geological history — bringing a provocative and unforgettable experience of our species' breadth and impact.

- **Date:** April 8, 2020
- **Time:** 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- **Location:** Johnson Center Cinema, Mason Fairfax Campus
- **Additional information**

VISITING FILMMAKERS SERIES PRESENTS

ANTHROPOCENE: THE HUMAN EPOCH

with JENNIFER BAICHWAL

WEDS APRIL 8 at 7:30pm
JOHNSON CENTER CINEMA
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Congratulations!

Funding Announcements, Awards, and Accomplishments



Assessment of fish passage use and success in facilitating movement of regionally vulnerable and invasive fish species in northern Virginia portion of the Potomac River: Samantha Alexander Fellowship October 2019 - September 2020

Primary Investigator (PI): Kim De Mutsert, College of Science

Co-PI: Samantha Alexander, College of Science

Funding source: Virginia Institute of Marine Science and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, \$5,000

Public-School Security Simulation Experiment (SIMEX)

PI: Kathryn Laskey, Volgenau School of Engineering

Co-PI: Brenda Bannan, Volgenau School of Engineering

Co-PI: Stephanie Dailey, Volgenau School of Engineering

Funding source: The MITRE Corporation and US Department of Homeland Security, \$49,666

The Coronal Analysis of SHocks and Waves (CASHeW) framework - Tanmoy Samanta

PI: Jie Zhang, College of Science

Funding source: Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, \$64,595

Ten Billion: The Challenges of Global Demographics for American Prosperity — Politics and Prosperity in Majority Minority Societies

PI: Justin Gest, Schar School of Policy and Government

Funding source: George Mason University Foundation and Charles Koch Foundation, \$122,000

Microscopic and Microbial Insights into the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) Outbreak Across Multiple Coral Species on the Florida Reef Tract - Florida Keys Samples

PI: Jennifer Salerno, College of Science

Co-PI: Esther Peters, College of Science

Funding source: Florida Department of Environmental, \$85,184

Funding Opportunities

Optimizing Natural Systems for Remediation: Utilizing Innovative Materials Science Approaches

to Enhance Bioremediation

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) invites qualified investigators from domestic institutions of higher education to submit an application for Superfund Research Program. This funding opportunity focuses on research that will advance mechanistic understanding and effectiveness of bioremediation through incorporation of advanced, novel materials science approaches. Bioremediation refers to the use of biota (bacteria, algae, fungi, plants, etc.) to reduce or detoxify hazardous substances in the environment. Bioremediation is a cost-effective, low-energy-intensive remedy that has contributed to the cleanup and closure of sites impacted by hazardous substances.

- Funding source: National Science Foundation
- Amount: \$1,000,000
- Deadline: April 20, 2020
- Submission: grants.gov
- Contact: [Heather Henry](#), 984-287-3268

Special Research Grants Program - Aquaculture Research

The purpose of the [Aquaculture Research program](#) is to support the development of an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry in the U.S. and generate new science-based information and innovation to address industry constraints. This program funds applied aquaculture research projects to address issues related to: 1) Genetics of commercial aquaculture species; 2) Critical disease issues impacting commercial aquaculture species; 3) Design of environmentally and economically sustainable commercial aquaculture production systems; or 4) Economic research for increasing commercial aquaculture profitability.

- Funding source: National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Amount: \$1,200,000
- Deadline: April 22, 2020
- Submission: grants.gov
- Contact: [Gene W. Kim](#), 202-531-0636

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
- Submission: grants.gov
- Contact: Kimberlie Laing, 301-903-3026

Environmental Biology

The Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Core Track supports research and training on evolutionary and ecological processes acting at the level of populations, species, communities, and ecosystems.

Proposals should be submitted to the core clusters (Ecosystem Sciences, Evolutionary Processes, Population and Community Ecology, and Systematics and Biodiversity Sciences). DEB also encourages interdisciplinary proposals that cross conceptual boundaries and integrate over levels of biological organization or across multiple spatial and temporal scales.

- Funding source: National Science Foundation
- Awards: 120 awards each year
- Funding amount: \$100,000,000 for new awards each year pending availability of funds
- Deadline: Proposals accepted anytime
- Submission: grants.gov
- Contact: [Division of Environmental Biology](#)

Environmental Engineering Program

The [Environmental Engineering Program](#) supports potentially transformative fundamental research that applies scientific and engineering principles.

Integral to achieving these goals is a fundamental understanding of the transport and biogeochemical reactivity of pollutants in the environment. Research on environmental micro/biology, environmental chemistry, and environmental geophysics may be relevant providing the research has a clear objective of protecting human and ecological health.

- Funding source: National Science Foundation
- Amount: \$10,000,000
- Deadline: Applications accepted at anytime
- Submission: grants.gov
- Contact: [Karl Rockne](#)

Other Upcoming Events

Sixth Annual Clean Energy & Sustainability Extravaganza at UMD-College Park

The theme is “Innovative Trends on Campuses in Clean Energy and Sustainability”. This will include energy planning for carbon neutrality and smart city applications, renewable energy and energy efficiency, local food-to cafeteria and composting/reducing food waste, water efficiency, and sustainable transportation. This event will showcase new ideas, technologies, policies, products, and services.

- **Date:** February 28, 2020
- **Location:** A. James Clark Hall, College Park, Maryland
- **[Registration](#)**



6th Annual Clean Energy and Sustainability Extravaganza

-- Innovative Trends on University Campuses in Clean Energy and Sustainability

**You are cordially invited to join the Annual Clean Energy & Sustainability Extravaganza
University of Maryland-College Park, Friday, February 28th, 11 am – 6 pm**

Conducted by the Association of Energy Engineers-National Capital Chapter (AEE NCC) and Leaders in Energy (LE), our theme is “Innovative Trends on University Campuses in Clean Energy and Sustainability” including energy planning for carbon neutrality and smart city applications, energy efficiency and renewable energy, growing local food to cafeterias and composting/reducing food waste, water efficiency, and sustainable transportation. This event will showcase new ideas, technologies, policies, products, and services.

Extravaganza Agenda

- 11 am – 1:45 pm: **Luncheon Panel**, Council on Women in Energy & Environmental Leadership (CWEEL): Perspectives on Advancing Gender Equity in the Energy Industry
- 2:00 – 6:00 pm: **University and Business Showcase Panels:**
Innovative Trends on University Campuses
in Clean Energy and Sustainability
- 11 am – 6:00 pm: **Showcase Exhibitors**

Register today at aeenncc.org or leadersinenergy.org.

Registration includes all events including the luncheon and afternoon refreshments.

Job seekers, students, and everyone concerned about our future are welcome. Participants can connect with members of AEE and Leaders in Energy, university departments, cleantech businesses, and other Extravaganza attendees.

Register today to attend!

<https://leadersinenergy.org/sixth-annual-clean-energy-sustainability-extravaganza-at-umd-college-park-feb-28-2020/>



64th Annual Meeting of the Comparative and

International Education Society

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society will create opportunities for sharing cutting-edge research and practice, immerse in a welcoming professional community, and engage in meaningful intellectual exchange. Over 3000 researchers, students, practitioners and policymakers are expected to attend the 2020 CIES conference.

Conference participants will address the theme of *Education Beyond the Human: Toward Sympoiesis*. The conference theme challenges us to rethink the role of education in the era of epochal precarity associated with irreversible environmental catastrophe that is impacting all life on Earth.

- **Date:** March 20-26, 2020
- **Location:** Miami, Florida
- **Contact:** [CISE 2020](#)

Water Summit

Pollution can destroy our rivers, marshes and wetlands, which are home to diverse ecosystems. And rising water levels threaten coastal cities around the world. [The Atlantic](#) will gather leading voices in the world of water, from environmentalists and policymakers to academics and activists, to discuss the critical water issues of our time.

- **Date:** March 28, 2020
- **Location:** Dockmaster Building, Washington, DC
- **[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

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