



Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop on Sustainable Development

Speaker bios

Maryam Arbabzadeh (University of Michigan) – Maryam is a Doctoral Student at the School of Natural Resources & Environment. Maryam's research informs the development of rigorous sustainability assessment approaches for energy storage systems in grid applications to inform technology design, sustainable policy implications while considering environmental and economic impacts.

Raimundo Atal Chomali (Columbia University) – I'm a second year PhD Student in Sustainable Development. My focus is on environmental policy and regulation.

Ashenafi B. Ayenew (University of Copenhagen) – I am an Ethiopian born and raised in the north-western part of the country. I did my bachelor in economics in Ethiopia. In 2012, I travelled to Denmark to pursue further education at University of Copenhagen and completed my MSc in Economics in December, 2014. Since then I am a PhD student in Development Economics at the same department where I did my MSc. Currently, I'm visiting Agricultural and Resource Economics department at UC Berkeley, CA, USA.

Susanna Berkouwer (UC Berkeley) – Susanna Berkouwer is an economist researching topics in development and energy. She is currently a PhD student at the UC Berkeley Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. At UCB, she is also a Graduate Student Researcher at the Energy Institute, leading research projects on grid reliability, energy efficiency, and household energy use, in Kenya, South Africa, and Ghana, with Professors Ted Miguel, Catherine Wolfram, and Meredith Fowlie. Prior to joining UC Berkeley she worked as a Research Fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School and at NBER, studying various projects related to healthcare and environmental regulations in India. She previously studied at Yale University and at the University College London.

Ian Bolliger (University of California, Berkeley) – Ian is a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellow in the Energy and Resources Group at UC Berkeley. He is a member of the Global Policy Lab, the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Lab, and the “Environment and Society: Data Sciences for the 21st Century” NSF Research Traineeship. He is also the co-founder and Program Manager for Tiny House in My Backyard (THIMBY), an interdisciplinary team that designed and built an off-grid, 100% solar-powered tiny house in Richmond, CA. Before coming to UC Berkeley, he modeled global disease and injury trends at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in his hometown of Seattle, WA. His research interests lie in predicting regional impacts of climate change on energy and water management systems, as well as in developing tools to facilitate efficient resource management that is adaptive to these impacts. Ian holds a BA in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University, with a focus on earth systems science. He received his MS in Energy and Resources in 2016, and will receive an MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering, with a focus in Systems Engineering, in 2017.

Tamma Carleton (UC Berkeley) – Tamma is a PhD student in Agricultural & Resource Economics at UC Berkeley, a Doctoral Fellow in the Global Policy Lab at the Goldman School of Public Policy, a member of the Climate Impact Lab, and an EPA STAR Fellow. Tamma's research focuses on the impacts of climate change on social and economic systems, as well as the interactions between agriculture, farmer welfare, and global environmental change.

Ying Chen (London School of Economics) – Ying Chen is a PhD candidate at the London School of Economics with strong research interests in urban, labor, and development economics. Her recent and existing projects study various factors that drive urban growth and city size distributions in China, including capital market differentials, place-based policies, and air quality. She also works on evaluating the underlying impacts of urban infrastructure on health and labor market outcomes in Tanzania and Ghana.

Serena Cocciolo (Institute for International Economic Studies) – Serena joined the IIES as a graduate student in September 2016. She received her MSc and BSc in Economics and Social Sciences from Bocconi University. Her primary fields of interest are development economics, political economy and behavioral economics. In her research work, Serena studies political and social institutions, their persistence and how they interact with development policies, especially in the context of participatory governance.

Denyse S. Dookie (Columbia University) – Denyse S. Dookie is a student in the PhD program in Sustainable Development. A Caribbean national, Denyse is interested in solutions to reduce local vulnerability and enhance resilience in the wake of disasters and climate change within the region and other small island developing states. Her recent research has specifically focused on the potential role of encouraging disaster preparedness and climate information-sharing in the context of early action, as well as the value of remotely sensed data in data-scarce regions. She holds an MA degree in Climate and Society from Columbia University, MA Development Studies/Economics of Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, as well as a PG Diploma International Relations and B.Sc. Economics and Mathematics from the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago. She has worked as a research fellow with the Inter-American Development Bank in Trinidad and Tobago, most notably with the Multilateral Investment Fund, in addition to several research assistantships/internships relating to sustainable, socio-economic and environmental development at UNDP, Environment Statistics at UNDESA, The Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN, and with Caribbean development practitioners.

James Doss-Gollin (Columbia University) – I have been a PhD candidate in Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia and the Columbia Water Center since 2015, when I completed my BS in Mechanical Engineering at Yale. I am interested in using probabilistic forecasts (particularly of climate) for water management, and in understanding and modeling persistent weather regimes that drive many hydrologic extremes.

Eugénie Dugoua (Columbia University, SIPA) – Eugénie Dugoua is a PhD candidate in Sustainable Development at the School of International and Public Affairs, at Columbia University. Her research interests lie primarily in the economics and policy making of technological change in the context of environmental issues. In one project, she draws from patents and scientific publications to study the role of innovation during the crisis of ozone depletion that took place in the 1980s and 1990s. Eugénie's background is in economics, chemistry and chemical engineering. Before entering the program at Columbia, she worked for Procter & Gamble in Brussels, and spent one year on a solo around-the-world trip volunteering for various NGOs.

Léo Edel (Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, Palaiseau) – After my master of science on climate and the cryosphere in Grenoble (France), I decided to work on high latitudes areas using remote sensing. I focus my Ph.D. on the precipitation (solid and liquid) in the Arctic and its better characterization with Chantal Claud at the LMD in Palaiseau (France).

Gabe Englander (UC Berkeley) – Gabe Englander is a second-year PhD student in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department at UC Berkeley. He is interested in applying econometric methods to identify causal relationships in wildlife and habitat conservation.

Andrew Fang (University of Minnesota) – Andrew Fang is a PhD student at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs in the Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (CSTEP). His research focuses on the connection between greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution in cities. Most recently, he has been estimating community-wide greenhouse gas emissions using various methodologies in US and Chinese cities including Dane County, Wisconsin and Denver, Colorado and will be working with IIASA this summer to compare methods for modeling PM2.5 concentrations in cities.

Tim Foreman (Columbia University) – Tim Foreman is a fourth-year student in the PhD Program in Sustainable Development at Columbia University. He is working on climate change impacts and adaptation, particularly around dust storms, agriculture, and labor.

Eyal Frank (Columbia University) – Eyal Frank is a fifth-year in the Sustainable Development Program at Columbia University. He holds a BSc in Economics and Environmental Sciences as well as an MA in Economics, both from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. His main fields of interests are environmental and public economics. Specifically, he is interested in how biodiversity losses impact socioeconomic systems, and how economic activities further contribute to biodiversity deterioration. His dissertation estimates the increased use of insecticides as a result of declining bat populations, and its effect on infant health; how information shocks shift supply and demand in wildlife trade markets; and how conservation policies affect labor market outcomes.

Anaïs Goburdhun (École Polytechnique) – Anaïs Goburdhun has a scientific background and holds a diploma in engineering from AgroParisTech, a French “Grande École” specialized in agronomy. She has specialized in economics by completing a Master’s Degree in Sustainable Development, Environment and Energy Economics (EDDEE). Her main professional experience has been focusing on risk management and food security in developing countries. Currently completing a PhD in economics at École Polytechnique (CREST), she is working on catastrophic insurances and natural disasters mainly in developing countries.

Drew Gower (Princeton University) – Drew entered his PhD program after having previously worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso and a Middle East program specialist for the US Forest Service Office of International Programs. He is interested in how food security in developing countries is affected by hydrologic variability, particularly in the dryland regions of Africa.

Amanda J. Harker Steele (The University of Georgia) – Amanda J. Harker Steele is a graduate student and research assistant in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Georgia. Her research agenda focuses primarily on energy economics, with an emphasis on electricity markets, regional energy economic impacts, and energy efficiency and conservation initiatives. As one of her departments’ USDA National Needs Fellows, Amanda works on research targeting the future energy policy needs of the United States. Her work is primarily driven by the demand for better, more sustainable energy development.

Mathias Iwanowsky (Stockholm University) – I did my Bachelor at the University of Mannheim and the Master in International economics and economic policy in Goethe University Frankfurt. For my PhD I went to Stockholm University and the Institute for International Economic Studies and spent the academic year 2015-2016 at Harvard University. My research is related to the political economy of sustainable development, as my work on Cambodia shows how conflict, and its effect on trust, affect deforestation from the 1973 onwards. In my current project, I try to

identify whether the tragedy of the commons can be more efficiently solved by regulation or privatization of the land in question.

Jaehyun Jung (Columbia University) – Jaehyun Jung is a fifth-year student in PhD program in Sustainable Development at Columbia. His research interests include health and family issues in developing countries, especially in Southeast Asia. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration at Yonsei University, South Korea in 2008 and a Master of Public Administration at SIPA, Columbia University in 2012. Prior to Columbia, he was a research analyst at the Export-Import Bank of Korea for three years.

Midori Kaga (University of Ottawa) – Midori is a PhD Candidate at the School of International Development and Global Studies (Univ. Ottawa). Her research is focused on addressing protracted refugee situations in developing countries through development-led approaches. She is particularly interested in refugee agency and voice in the process of forced migration, and the need for including and recognizing refugees as important agents within broader development processes. She completed her MSc. in Social Development Practice at the University College of London and her B.A. in Political Science at the University of British Columbia.

Khaled Kheiravar (University of California at Davis) – I am a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of California at Davis. I am interested in energy and environmental economics. Previously I have presented my research at the 2015 and 2016 U.S. Association for Energy Economics (USAEE) Conference. I also have been selected to present my research at the 2017 Industry Studies Conference, and at an Association of Environmental and Resource Economists session at the 2017 Western Economic Association International Annual Conference.

Ruinan Liu (Columbia University) – Ruinan is a fifth-year PhD student with research interests in three areas: renewable energy finance, energy efficiency and air quality and health in China. She plans to utilize the interdisciplinary nature of the PhD program to professionalize her knowledge and research skills in applied econometrics and mechanical engineering in order to become a scholar who not only knows economics and statistics but also understands the engineering part of the energy picture. Simultaneously, she wants to cooperate with her college colleagues who are now PhDs in environmental science collecting and analyzing air quality data on site in China to study the relationship between air quality and health in China. Ruinan Liu holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering with a concentration in Urban Planning, awarded by the School of Urban Planning and Environmental Science of Peking University, and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. During her undergraduate and graduate study, she interned and participated in primary and secondary research of multiple organizations including the National Scientific Fund of China, the United Nations, the City of Chicago, Chicago Architecture Foundation, and the Program on the Global Environment at the University of Chicago. Prior to joining Columbia University, she was a research analyst in RCF Economic and Financial Consulting, Inc. working on energy efficiency related projects.

Hanna Mühlrad (University of Gothenburg) – In 2012, I started the doctoral program in economics at the School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg. I'm currently a visiting doctoral student at the Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University. My research mainly concerns fertility, children and women's health in both developing and industrialized settings. I take a specific interest in reproductive technology and its long-term effects on health and labor markets outcomes by studying: 1) abortion legalization and its effects on fertility and female empowerment, 2) long term aspects of an IVF-reform and 3) impact of delivery mode among high risk births.

Ehsan Najafi (City College of New York) – Ehsan Najafi obtained his BS and MS degrees of civil engineering from Iran. His master's research was about consequences management of hazardous materials intrusion in water distribution networks. He started his PhD studies in Civil Engineering, with a focus on water resources, at the City College of New York, in fall 2014, under the supervision of Prof. Reza Khanbilvardi and Prof. Naresh Devineni. His

research focuses on understanding the fundamental underpinnings of global food security and its relationship to climatic and non-climatic indicators.

Betsy Priem (University of Chicago) – Betsy Priem is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Social Science from the University of Chicago. Her focus discipline is sociology, with a strong emphasis on environmental sociology. She first became interested in environmental issues during a five-year career as a science teacher in Brooklyn, NY. For her MA Thesis, she is conducting qualitative interviews to examine the communication strategies between climate scientists and policy actors involved in climate change. Betsy attained a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Minnesota, and a M.S. in Education and Special Education from Touro College in New York.

Paulo Savaget (University of Cambridge) – Paulo Savaget is a PhD Candidate at the Centre for Industrial Sustainability of the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, funded by the Gates Foundation and Cambridge Trust. He’s also a Visiting Professor at Fundação Dom Cabral, in Brazil. Prior to his PhD, Paulo has worked as a lecturer, consultant, entrepreneur and researcher, committed to contributing to a more socially inclusive and environmentally resilient world. He worked in a wide variety of projects for large companies, for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), nonprofits, government agencies, and research institutes. He’s currently founding a social enterprise (on ICT education in India), and working with 2 nonprofits (one in Zambia, focused on public health) and the other in Brazil (focused on urban resilience). Paulo received the Green Talents Award in 2013, from the German government, and the Oldham Award in 2012, from the University of Sussex. He’s also a member of several international networks, including the Global Shapers (World Economic Forum) and Chevening (from the British government).

Thomas Stoerk (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) – Thomas is an applied microeconomist with research interests in environmental and energy economics. Thomas is a PhD student in Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain. He is also affiliated with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the LSE.

Margaux Vinez (Paris School of Economics (PSE)) – Margaux is a PhD Student in Development Economics at the Paris School of Economics. She holds a Master in M.Sc., Economics, Public Policy and Development from PSE and a Master in Management from HEC Paris specialized in Sustainability and Social Innovation. Margaux worked as a consultant for the World Bank in DRC, on the impact evaluation of a large agriculture project in the Equateur Province where she conducted extensive field work. She uses primary household level data to study the environmental impact of agricultural intensification, land conflicts, and the evolution of land institutions.

Sherry Xueting Wang (Columbia University) – Sherry Wang is a third year PhD student in Sustainable Development. Sherry completed her undergraduate degree with double major in chemistry and political science at National University of Singapore, and obtained her master degree in public policy at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Sherry’s current research interests are energy and industrial organization, and is working on deregulated wholesale electricity market.

Junfeng Zhang (Beihang University) – Junfeng zhang is a doctor graduate student of School of Economics and Management of Beihang university in Beijing of China. He’s work focuses on international trade, energy economics, energy and climate policy. He also studies other interdisciplinary aspects of global climate change and the development of lower-carbon energy sources. He holds an MA in Regional Economics from Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, and a BS in International trade from Dezhou University.