

AU 2030: Environmental Studies

SUMMARY: Environmentally-focused research takes place across the AU campus, with organized units in each of the schools and colleges and several cross-cutting efforts. Much of the research is applied, taking advantage of our Washington location, our commitment to leadership as a sustainable campus, and the environmental challenges and opportunities of our urban setting.

ILLUSTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (lead faculty noted):

Urban settlements and ecosystem health:

impacts of coastal development on coastal and reef ecosystems (Kim); urban impacts on hydrology and water quality (Knee); green infrastructure and urban water quality (McAvoy); Maryland rail construction and endangered species (Culver); linking specific water pollutants to mutations and tumor formation in urban fish (Cheh).

Environmental communication:

Filmmaking partnerships with e.g. Maryland Public TV, National Park Service, Nature Conservancy (Palmer); public communication on water; ethical treatment of wildlife and the environment (Palmer); public dialogue on engineered responses to climate change (Nicholson); Impact environmental production for web-based platforms (Engel).

Environment, justice, conflict, and risk:

Socioeconomic and human rights impacts of mining and infrastructure in Latin America (Broad, Hunter, Shapiro); water, peace and conflict (Conca); climate impacts, adaptation and human suffering (Wapner); disaster risk and resilience (Ranganathan); food sovereignty in indigenous communities (Graddy).

Environmental policy and management:

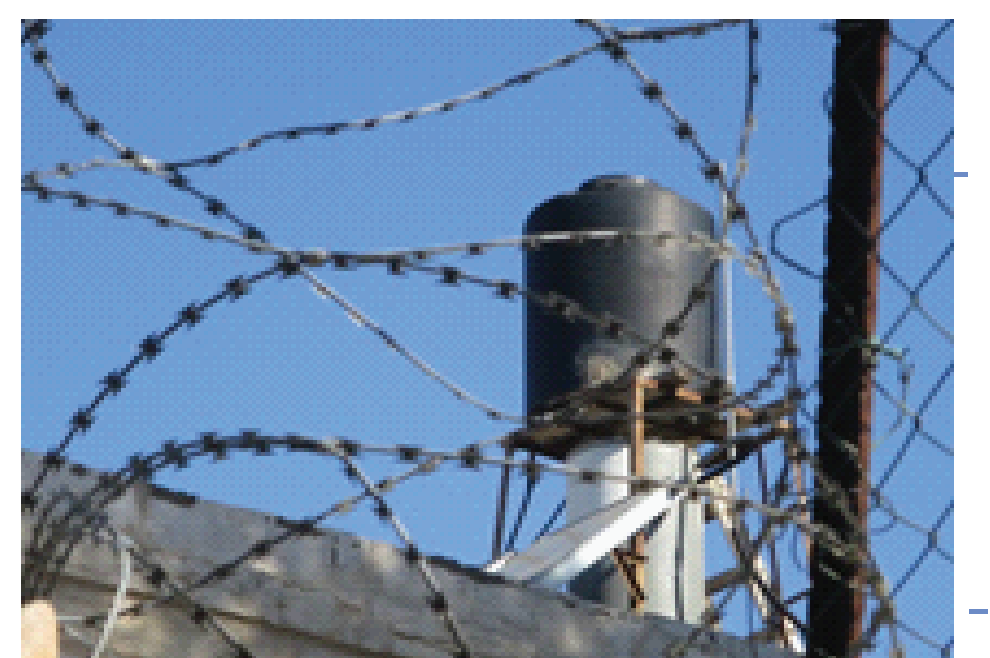
Role of conceptual innovations in environmental policy (Fiorino); international treaty secretariats in global environmental governance (Jinnah); UN system environmental reform (Conca); Partnership on Technology Innovation and the Environment—scaling and commercialization of green technologies (Fiorino); corporate executive green network (Linowes); Washington Geoengineering Forum (Nicholson); State Dept. sustainability challenges (Linowes).

Student engagement in research:

Students play an active role in all of the preceding. In addition: Classroom-in-the-Wild™; SIS practicum teams (on corporate social responsibility, AU's 2020 carbon-neutrality pledge, water & peacebuilding in the Middle East, the US Farm Bill, development & conflict on the Mekong, Brazil deforestation); interdisciplinary "Practice of Environmentalism" expeditions (Turkey, Galapagos, Costa Rica, Cuba); Environmental Defense Fund's "Climate Corps."



Karen Knee sampling at Meadowood



Environment, conflict, and peacebuilding



Communicating water



Nicholson TEDx talk on geoengineering



Assessing AU carbon offset purchases

CAMPUS UNITS:

- Center for Environmental Filmmaking, SOC
- Center for Environmental Policy, SPA
- Environmental Science, CAS
- Global Environmental Politics, SIS
- International and Comparative Environmental Law, WCL
- Sustainability Management, Kogod

