



## Global Environmental Politics Program

School of International Service  
American University

The Global Environmental Politics program focuses on the global challenges of environmental protection and sustainability. Housed within American University's School of International Service, the program's mission is to



Field work in Costa Rica

understand causes of environmental harm and identify ways to build a more sustainable world. Through coursework, individual and team research, and internships in Washington and around the world, students develop the knowledge, perspective, and skills to address today's most important environmental challenges, including food security, water, climate change, sustainable energy, biodiversity conservation, and more.

GEP's internationally renowned faculty works at the cutting edge of these issues through research, partnerships with Washington-based and international organizations, and civic engagement. Our core faculty (see bios pp. 3-4) and affiliates across the AU campus form one of the strongest teaching and research teams of its kind in the world. Small classes, accessible faculty, and student involvement in faculty research and policy initiatives characterize the program's learning environment.



Travel course to Cuba

### Program features:

- **Innovative degree options:** Choose our professional Master's degree in Global Environmental Policy (GEP) or our dual-degree program in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (NRS), offered in partnership with the UN-mandated University for Peace (Costa Rica)
- **Commitment to service:** The School of International Service is the most diverse international studies program in the US. Our core mission is service, with strong commitments to globalism, social justice, sustainability, and civil society.
- **Strategic Washington location:** Washington contains a host of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations for site visits, research, internships, and employment. Our large alumni network gives our students access to institutions, mentoring, and networking opportunities.
- **Leading by example:** Our certified green building is a hub for sustainability events in Washington. AU has more installed solar capacity than any institution in Washington. We are an active part of the campus commitment to carbon neutrality by 2020.
- **Faculty expertise:** Our faculty includes recognized global leaders. Core faculty are allocated full-time to SIS—professors are in the building and accessible! Affiliates across campus include world-recognized scholars in development, international law, economics, communication, and more.
- **Learning by doing:** Our student research teams do applied research and policy analysis in partnership with leading organizations. Recent partners have included the World Resources Institute, State Department, Family Farm Coalition, and peacebuilding organizations in the Middle East.



## A Message from GEP Program Director Ken Conca

Welcome to the Global Environmental Politics Program at American University. We are a community of faculty, staff and students committed to working on the environmental and sustainability challenges facing the planet and its people. Our faculty are more engaged than ever in research projects, as well as collaborative activities with several Washington-area environmental organizations and overseas research partners. For our graduate students, GEP offers flexibility, rigor, and the opportunity to spend time in Washington, which has an unparalleled concentration of environmental agencies, advocacy organizations, social movement groups, and think tanks. For many of our students, time spent overseas provides experiences that further enrich their studies. In addition to the students in our Natural Resources and Sustainable Development Program, who spend a year in Costa Rica, we have students working, studying and conducting research across the globe — from Mexico to Norway to India. Each year we also send several students abroad to participate in global conferences, including the World Water Forum, the annual Conferences of the Parties (COPs) for international treaties, and global summits such as Rio+20.

Students also gain experience through applied research projects that build knowledge and identify solutions for environmental challenges. This past year, we've had student practicum teams working in partnership with the U.S. State Department (on development and conflict in the Mekong River basin); with the World Resources Institute (on corporate social and environmental responsibility); with a network of community-farming groups (assessing the effectiveness of federal programs that support community farming, here and abroad); with peacebuilding NGOs in the Middle East (on water and peacebuilding with the Israeli-Palestinian dispute) and, right here in town, with the DC-area planning authority (on sustainable neighborhood design issues). Other students choose a route of individualized, self-designed research on a topic of their choice, in collaboration with a faculty supervisor.

A large part of GEP's work takes place through events and public outreach. Be sure to visit our website's events calendar for a rich array of lectures, workshops, film screenings, panel discussions, and more. Whether you intend to work on the scale of a neighborhood, a watershed, a nation, or the planet as a whole, I think you'll find that the Global Environmental Politics Program and the School of International Service provide uniquely rich settings from which to operate.

Join us! We have work to do.

### For further information:

- Visit our web site: <http://www.american.edu/sis/gep/>
- E-mail us at [gep@american.edu](mailto:gep@american.edu) or call us at +1 202-885-1683
- Visit in person! We are located in the SIS Building, corner of Nebraska and New Mexico Avenue, NW. Prospective students are encouraged to visit, sit in on classes, and meet with faculty and students.



**Eric Abitbol**

**Research interests:** environmental peacebuilding; peace and conflict studies; water conflict and cooperation; Israeli-Palestinian relations

**Grad courses:** -Environmental Peacemaking  
-Peace Paradigms



**Ken Conca (GEP Program Director)**

**Research interests:** water governance; environment, conflict and peacebuilding; global environmental governance and institutions

**Grad courses:** -Water Governance  
-Policy Analysis for Global Environmental Policy  
-GEP Research Practicum



**T. Garrett Graddy**

**Research interests:** Political ecology of food and agriculture; international agricultural policies; social dimensions of agro-ecology; human geography; the Americas.

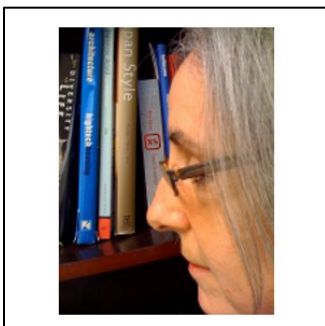
**Grad courses:** -Political Ecology of Food & Agriculture  
-Environment and Politics  
-GEP Research Practicum



**Sikina Jinnah**

**Research interests:** international organizations & global environmental politics; biodiversity; climate change; international trade and environment

**Grad courses:** -Global Climate Change  
-Environment and Politics



**Victoria Kiechel**

**Research interests:** sustainable architecture and urban planning, climate responsive design, adaptive reuse, green rating systems, sustainability metrics

**Grad courses:** -Sustainable Design/LEED Training  
-GEP Research Practicum



**Simon Nicholson**

**Research interests:** climate change; food security and food sovereignty; biotechnology; geo-engineering; post-carbon transitions

**Grad courses:** -Environment and Politics  
-Post-Carbon Transitions



**Malini Ranganathan**

**Research interests:** urban political ecology; urban environmental politics and policy; human geography; environmental justice in the North and South; access to water and energy resources; climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction; South and Southeast Asia

**Grad courses:** -Urban Political Ecology



**Judith Shapiro** (Director, NRS D dual-degree program with U Peace)

**Research interests:** environment and society in China; environmental justice; civil society and environmental organizations

**Grad courses:** -Environmental Politics of Asia  
-Environment and Politics  
-Workshop: DC-based Environmental Organizations



**Erich Vogt**

**Research interests:** environment and development; climate change; climate adaptation financing

**Grad courses:** -Political Economy of Climate Change



**Paul Wapner**

**Research interests:** global environmental politics; environmental activism; climate change and climate adaptation; environmental ethics

**Grad courses:** -Environment and Politics  
-Future of Environmentalism