New ESPP Faculty

Dr. Joseph A. Herriges comes from Iowa State University, where he has been on the faculty since 1988. Prior to that, he was a Senior Economist at the consulting firm Laurits R. Christensen Associates in Madison, Wisconsin, where he specialized on incentive design and evaluation in the electric power industry. His areas of expertise lie in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Applied Econometrics. Professor Herriges brings to the position a broad understanding of the environmental economics field, having served as managing editor for the primary field journal in this area, the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM).

Dr. Jennifer Carrera recently completed her PhD in sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of impaired access to water and sanitation among low-income populations. For her doctoral research she conducted ethnographic research on water and sanitation struggles in Detroit, Michigan and Lowndes County, Alabama. Dr. Carrera recently completed a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for which her thesis research examined how engineers draw from different disciplines to develop sanitation technology interventions in developing countries. Previously, Dr. Carrera received a Master of Science degree from Emory University in biostatistics, for which she examined healthy

Dr. Joseph Ham is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Environmental Studies. A psychologist by training, his work lies at the nexus of institutions and the public where he investigates what trust is, how best to appropriately measure it, and its connection to “outcomes” like cooperation and compliance. Although he continues work with institutions like the courts and government, much of his work focuses on natural resource institutions. Joe’s work investigating the conceptualization, measurement, and outcomes of trust seeks to help researchers and practitioners in effectively leveraging this critical construct for natural resources management.

Dr. Lucero Radonic has a Ph.D. in Anthropology, with a minor in Geography, from the University of Arizona. Her research program lies at the intersection of political ecology and urban anthropology, and contributes to academic and policy debates on water governance and resource rights, urban indigeneity, and the right to the city. Her current project explores the historical relationship between the political ecology of water, urbanization, and indigenous rights in Northwestern Mexico, a region that faces continuous urban expansion and an intensifying water crisis due to high water demands and climate change.

Dr. Adam Zwickle conducts interdisciplinary social science research centered on communicating environmental risks and encouraging sustainable behaviors. Drawing from the fields of social psychology and risk communication, his work integrates theories of individual perception and message framing to aide communication practitioners. Specifically, his goal is to better communicate environmental risks in ways that reduce the amount that their long term impacts are discounted. He is also active in sustainability issues at the university level. He has worked with colleagues to develop a valid assessment of sustainability knowledge targeted at undergraduate students, partnered with university sustainability offices to increase conservation behaviors among students.

Dr. Amber L. Pearson obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 2010 where she worked with noted medical geographer Dr. Jonathan Mayer. Her Ph.D. Dissertation focused on land-use policies in Uganda, specifically the accessibility of permanent drinking water to nomadic pastoralists in the area of Lake Mburo. Dr. Pearson is currently working on three areas that are central to MSU’s Water Initiative, including 1) Rotavirus outbreaks in Auckland, New Zealand, 2) Accessibility of public drinking water child health in Wellington, New Zealand, and 3) the visibility of blue spaces associated with water to mental health. Dr. Pearson plans to rejuvenate her work related to the availability of drinking water in Uganda.