

Environmental Policy Initiative
December 2002 Newsletter

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Ohio NEMO Workshop on Stormwater Management

The Environmental Policy Initiative is happy to be co-sponsoring the 2003 Ohio NEMO Workshop on Stormwater Management. The one day event, to be held on **January 23rd at the Fawcett Center in Columbus**, will examine various approaches to stormwater management and is targeted to county engineers, county commissioners, township trustees, city officials, state and local agency personnel, and the business community. A brochure including the agenda and registration information can be downloaded at <http://nemo.osu.edu/workshop/storm.pdf>. For further details, as well as information about NEMO, please visit <http://nemo.osu.edu/>.

EPI 2003 Winter Workshops

EPI is still looking for more workshop participants for the upcoming quarter. These workshops are an excellent opportunity to present new work and gather feedback from attendees. Interested parties should contact Dave Warren at epi@osu.edu to set up a time and date. Workshops already scheduled are listed below.

John Simpson, Professor, Knowlton School of Architecture and the School of Natural Resources
Monday January 13, 2003
3:00-4:00pm
Room 175 Mendenhall Lab

Professor Simpson will be presenting insights regarding landscape history and environmental stewardship from his research in rural Scotland. This research recently became part of his latest book, *Yearning for the Land: A Search for the Importance of Place* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2002).

Paul Robbins, Associate Professor, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Friday January 24, 2003
9:00-10:00am
Room 175 Mendenhall Lab

The politics and management of the Northern Yellowstone Wolf Pack will be the focus of this workshop led by Paul Robbins, associate professor of Geography.

Visiting Speaker: Professor James Hammitt, February 27-28

The Environmental Policy Initiative, in conjunction with HOPES, will be hosting Professor James Hammitt on February 27-28. James K. Hammitt is Associate Professor of Economics and Decision Sciences and Director of the program in Environmental Science and Risk Management at the Harvard School of Public Health. His teaching and research concern the development and application of quantitative methods—including benefit-cost, decision, and risk analysis—to health and environmental policy in both industrialized and developing countries. Research interests include the management of long-term environmental issues such as global climate change and stratospheric-ozone depletion, the evaluation of corollary benefits and countervailing risks associated with risk-control measures, and the characterization of social preferences over health and environmental risks using revealed-preference and contingent-valuation methods.

Professor Hammitt is a member of the US Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board Advisory Council on Clear Air Compliance Analysis, the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Implications of Dioxin in the Food Supply, the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics (the Advisory Committee to the US Energy Information Administration), and the National Science Foundation panel for Decision, Risk and Management Science. He holds degrees in Applied Mathematics (A.B., Sc.M.) and Public Policy (M.P.P., Ph.D.) from Harvard University. Previously, he was Senior Mathematician at the RAND Corporation and on the faculty of the RAND Graduate School of Policy Studies. For more information on Professor Hammitt, visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/facres/hmmitt.html>.

Department of Agricultural, Environmental,
and Development Economics Seminar
Title to be Announced

Thursday February 27, 2003

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Ag. Administration Room 105

EPI and HOPES Visiting Speaker Seminar
Valuing Human Health Risks

Friday, February 28, 2003

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Health Science Library Medical Heritage Center

376 W. 10th Ave., 5th Floor

(Reception will follow immediately after the seminar)

New EPI Seed Research Grant Recipients

EPI recently provided seed research grants for the following multidisciplinary research proposals:

Title: Role of bounded rationality on environmental performance incentives

Investigator(s): Hal Arkes (Psychology), John Kagel (Economics), Tim Haab (AED Economics), Helen Pushkarskya (Post Doctoral Researcher).

Amount: \$25,000

Title: Economic Growth and Local Environmental Policies

Investigator(s): David Kraybill (AED Economics), Hazel Morrow-Jones (City and Regional Planning), Alan Murray (Geography), Linda Lobao (Human and Community Resource Development).

Amount: \$27,975

Title: Narrative risk communication for improving stakeholder involvement in environmental policy decisions

Investigator(s): Joe Arvai (School of Natural Resources)

Amount: \$9,000

Seed Research Grant Request for Proposals

Do you have an interesting research proposal in the environmental policy arena? The Environmental Policy Initiative offers Seed Research Grants to advance research on a particular topic within the field of environmental policy science. The projects must be collaborative and multidisciplinary, preferably across more than one department or college. They must also have a strong potential for future external funding. Interested teams of researchers should submit a one page preliminary proposal that emphasizes how the project meets the above criteria to epi@osu.edu. The EPI Executive Committee will then invite one or more teams to submit full proposals.

We are seeking proposals for research in all areas of environmental policy. Preference will be given to proposals that establish new collaborations among OSU researchers, and proposals that are interdisciplinary in nature. Budget requests should be in the range of \$7,500 to \$25,000, and funding will be provided for up to one year.

Examples of projects that may be selected for funding include:

- (i) New projects or proposals which could be developed to substantially improve the prospects for external funding;
- (ii) Development of new, and potentially fundable, dimensions of existing projects;
- (iii) Development of next-generation projects from established and successful research programs;
- (iv) Research to demonstrate the feasibility of a research idea and/or to generate some preliminary results.

A list of previous seed grants can be viewed on the EPI webpage:

<http://aede.osu.edu/programs/EPI/grants.htm>

In each case, a primary selection criterion will be the potential incremental contribution of a Seed Grant to the eventual establishment of a strong and well-funded research program.

OSU faculty, regardless of rank, are eligible to serve as investigators. Individuals interested in submitting a proposal should submit a two page pre-proposal to the EPI Executive Committee.

The pre-proposal should include the following:

- (a) The role and contribution of each key investigator;
- (b) Clear statement of research project and goals;
- (c) Estimated timeline and budget;

- (d) A clear statement explaining how and why the award of a Seed Grant will improve the prospects of eventual extramural funding for this research (details regarding potential external sponsors, and any indications of that potential sponsors' interest in the project is encouraged).

The EPI Executive Committee will then invite one or more teams to submit a full proposal, and will provide guidance for its preparation. Applications should be made by email to epi@osu.edu.

Working Group Request for Proposals

The Environmental Policy Initiative encourages the formation of working groups to facilitate new research, assist with program development on campus, and increase EPI interaction with the off-campus environmental policy community. In particular, working groups are designed to develop research programs on a defined subject matter. The first EPI Working Group on Biocomplexity was successful in bringing together new research collaborations on campus, and resulted in a NSF grant proposal currently under consideration. At this time, we would like to encourage the formation of new working groups.

Working groups can focus on any topic within environmental policy. The process for forming working groups will be to submit a short proposal (three-page maximum) to the EPI Executive Committee. The proposal should include the focus of the working group, names of founding members, a plan for seeking new members, and a plan of work that sets out the goals of the working group. The plan of work should be specific and should include a timeline of activities and products. Also, the proposal should provide a budget and the specific external funding target (program and agency). The EPI will provide modest mini-grants (maximum of \$25,000) to chartered working groups to help bankroll activities such as workshops, staff/student support, and release time for faculty with compelling justification.

Applications should be sent by email to epi@osu.edu.

Human and Social Dynamics: NSF is Preparing to Announce a New Priority Area ... and EPI wants to help you get ready!

According to a current draft document, NSF expects to announce a new priority area: research and education related to *Human and Social Dynamics*. This program will seek to better understand the causes and ramifications of change, to increase our collective ability to anticipate the complex consequences of change (cultural, economic, individual, political, and social), to better understand the dynamics of the human mind, to better understand the cognitive and social structures that create and define change, and to improve our ability to respond with profound or rapid change.

It is expected that funding for this priority area will be of the same order of magnitude as the Biocomplexity area.

According to the current draft document, in FY 2004 NSF hopes to fund interdisciplinary research on Human and Social Dynamics with special attention to the sub-priorities described below.

- **Enhancing human performance** – Research on behavior, cognition, development, emotion, language, neuroscience, and social interaction, in conjunction with advances in biology,

engineering, robotics and information technology, will aid in the development of approaches for enhancing human performance. Research on organizations, markets and informal groups will advance our understanding of how social phenomena within a broad chronological and spatial context will aid in understanding the current human condition and future development.

- **Decision making and risk** – Research will focus on decision making in normal and crisis circumstances; the implications of distributed versus centralized decision making systems; risk assessment and management; decision making under uncertainty; and the development of databases, decision-support systems, and other tools and approaches to facilitate effective decision making and risk communication. Especially important will be research on behavior in response to hazards and extreme events such as natural disasters and catastrophic terrorist attacks.
- **Agents of change** – Research will focus on better understanding large-scale transformations, such as globalization and democratization; the reciprocal relationship between individual and social action; the evolution of humans, society and their interaction with climate, geography and environment; vulnerabilities and resiliencies at individual, societal and other scales; the implications of cultural variation for conflict and assimilation; the implication of such transformations for diversity and equality; and adaptation and resistance to technological change and new science-based knowledge.
- **Modeling human and social dynamics** – Research will explore: 1) complex networks, such as social groups, large organizations, communication grids, and economic systems across time and space; 2) approaches that integrate formal modeling and empirical modeling in transparent ways; and 3) group and societal behavior that results from numerous individual, small group, or micro-cultural actions and decisions. Promising lines of inquiry include, but are not limited to, the development and application to stochastic agent-based modeling, complex social network analysis, and techniques for modeling human behavior and interaction using innovative information and engineering technologies.
- **Spatial social science** – Recent technological advances have the potential for qualitatively changing the nature of social science by providing tools and techniques for acquiring information about location that can be combined with demographic, political, health-related and other social data. Examples of such advances include the use of the global positioning system (GPS) for highly precise locational specification; the development of geographic information systems (GIS) for gathering, analyzing, and presenting spatial data; spatial decision making tools; and ever-expanding communications capabilities associated with the internet and related media. The potential for the use of mobile devices, integrated sensors/transmitters, and the design of intelligent environments for information access and transmission holds enormous promise. This area of emphasis will sponsor a broad range of research in the social and behavioral sciences which will use these and other technologies to explore human and social dynamics as well as research aimed at improving existing tools and technologies and making them more accessible.

These priorities allow plenty of room for environmental policy related research. The Environmental Policy Initiative is encouraging interested members to submit proposals for the establishment of a new working group or groups in one or more of these priority areas. Working Groups should propose a plan of team-building and preparatory research, with a view to submitting well-developed proposals to this NSF program in 2004. For details regarding EPI

submission procedures, please see *Working Group Request for Proposals* elsewhere in this newsletter.

EPI Seeking Suggestions for Winter Visitors or Workshop Speakers

EPI has the ability to bring in speakers from across campus or around the world to speak about issues in the environmental policy and science field. If you would like to have someone speak at OSU, please email epi@osu.edu and let us know! We'll do our best to secure a date.

Graduate Student Professional Travel Grants

The Environmental Policy Initiative is offering Graduate Student Professional Travel Grants of up to \$600 for graduate students presenting research papers at professional meetings related to environmental policy.

The EPI Professional Travel Grant Program is intended to increase graduate student involvement in EPI, and to increase EPI visibility beyond Ohio State. EPI will allocate \$4,000 of the annual budget to support graduate student participation in professional meetings related to environmental policy.

The travel fund program is offered to graduate students who hold associate membership status in EPI and are advised by an EPI faculty member. To qualify for a travel grant the graduate student must be the primary author and presenter of a paper at a professional conference related to environmental policy. In return for travel support, the recipient agrees to acknowledge the support of the Environmental Policy Initiative in a footnote on the conference paper and/or on a title page of their presentation.

Interested EPI members will submit an application to the EPI office prior to travel. The application will include the following:

- (i) a cover letter detailing the applicant's relationship to EPI (applicant should be an associate member, adviser should be a member);
- (ii) the title of the paper, and conference details (name, location, date, sponsor, and how it relates to environmental policy);
- (ii) evidence that the paper is included on the program and that the applicant is both the primary author and the presenter;
- (iii) a completed OSU Travel Request Form detailing expected expenditures for registration, travel, and hotel accommodations.

Applicants who qualify for the travel fund program will be notified, and must submit original receipts for reimbursement promptly after travel has been completed.

A maximum of \$600 per paper will be awarded. Only one person per paper may receive funding through EPI. Awards will be granted on a first come / first serve basis as long as the allocated funds last.

EPI Web Page Face-Lift

Between now and winter quarter, the Environmental Policy Initiative web site will be slightly redesigned to allow for easier use and more accessible content. Stop by at <http://aede.osu.edu/programs/EPI/> and let us know how it looks.

Feel free to send any comments, questions, or suggestions to:

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