

Environmental Policy Initiative
March 2004 Newsletter

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Decision Making Under Uncertainty Working Group

In response to NSF's 2003 Human & Social Dynamics announcement, EPI formed a Working Group that grew eventually to 22 Ohio State faculty and post-docs, and several external collaborators. In July 2003, the group proposed a Center for Decision Making Uncertainty in the context of climate risk, with a budget of \$6 million over 5 years. Alan Randall was the PI, and Joe Arvai, Jay Hobgood, Mario Miranda, and Rich Petty served as co-PIs. EPI's proposal was selected among the finalists, and a site visit was held on campus on February 2 and 3, 2004. EPI is proud of the talent that was assembled and the effort that was brought to bear in preparing the written proposal and the full day of presentations during the site visit. Thanks to everyone involved! We await NSF's funding decision.

Biocomplexity Working Group Update:

In December 2003 the Biocomplexity working group submitted a revised proposal to the National Science Foundation Biocomplexity Program on modeling human and natural interactions in large lake ecosystems. The group worked together over the fall quarter to revise the proposal submitted in 2002, which was ranked 6th out of 72 total submissions. The proposed research goals are to develop a suite of models to explore the role of human-biophysical linkages in generating complex dynamics of the lake and human systems; to explain phenomena observed in the Lake Erie ecosystem such as adult fish kills and last summer's "Dead Zone;" and to contribute to the science of complex systems modeling by developing methods to aggregate fine-scale models of component processes to coarse-scale models of the coupled system. The group submitting the proposal is comprised of researchers from biology, civil engineering, physics, agricultural and environmental economics, ecological engineering, and social work.

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.

Although working groups can focus on any topic within environmental policy, EPI would like to draw our members' attention to the funding opportunities within the Human and Social Dynamics Program at the National Science Foundation. The program's FY05 budget request includes approximately \$24 million for interdisciplinary research in Human and Social Dynamics, and the priority area will continue through FY08. In FY05, the priority area will build on its three primary topic areas--agents of change, dynamics of human behavior and decision-making and risk. In concert with those topic areas, three resource areas--spatial social science, modeling human and social dynamics and instrumentation and data resources--will focus on research to improve the tools available for conducting cutting-edge social and behavioral science research. For more detailed information regarding this program visit the Human and Social Dynamics home page: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/hsd/start.htm>

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 \$20,000) 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.

Visiting Speaker: Professor Louise Fortmann, May 5-7

The Environmental Policy Initiative, in conjunction with Women in Development, will be hosting Professor Louise Fortmann on May 5-7. Louise P. Fortmann is Professor of Forestry and Sustainable Development at U.C. Berkeley as well as Chair of the Berkeley's Division of Society and Environment within the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management.

Her teaching and research address the outcomes of natural resource use and management for individuals and for communities. Specific questions of interest include: gender differences in control and management of natural resources and the resulting social and ecological impacts of these differences; structure and distribution of property rights to natural resources including factors impacting community control of natural resources; and the nature of poverty among natural resource dependent households and communities. For more information on Professor Fortmann, visit: http://espm.berkeley.edu/directory/fac/fortmann_1.html

EPI and WID Visiting Speaker Seminar

Title to be Announced

Prof. Louise Fortmann

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Mendenhall Lab

Room 100

(Reception will follow immediately after the seminar at the Faculty Club)

Departments or Professors interested in scheduling time with Professor Fortmann for meetings, coffee or presentations during May 5,6,7 should contact Erick Davidson at epi@osu.edu to set up a time.

Visiting Speaker: Sierra Club Executive Director, Carl Pope, May (*date to follow*)

Carl Pope, executive Director of the Sierra Club, will be an EPI guest speaker the third week of May. Pope heads Sierra Club's 700,000 members in lobbying and grassroots activities aimed at improving the Clean Water Act, ending commercial logging, limiting sprawl and expanding US wildland protection.

Pope has worked in environmental lobbying for nearly thirty years and has written 2 books on national and international environmental issues.

More information on Carl Pope's visit will follow. For more information on Carl Pope visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/leaders/#director>

EPI Seeking Suggestions for Spring Visitors

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.

EPI 2004 Winter/Spring Workshops

EPI is always looking for researchers, either professors or students, to present their research in a workshop setting. These workshops are an excellent opportunity to present new work and gather feedback from attendees. Interested parties should contact Erick Davidson at epi@osu.edu to set up a time and date. Usual workshop times are Monday afternoon and Friday mornings.

Seed Research Grant Request for Proposals

EPI is currently accepting submissions for Seed Research Grants to advance research on topics within the field of environmental policy science. Proposed projects must be collaborative and multidisciplinary, preferably across more than one department or college. Preference will be given to proposals that establish new collaborations among OSU researchers. 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.

Interested OSU faculty should submit a two-page preliminary proposal that emphasizes how the project meets the above criteria to epi@osu.edu. The EPI Executive Committee may then invite submission of a full proposal. Budget requests cannot exceed \$30,000 and funding is provided for up to one year.

The pre-proposal should include the following:

1. The role and contribution of each key investigator
 2. Clear statement of research project and goals
 3. Estimated timeline and budget
 4. 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 potential sponsors' interest in the project is encouraged).
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Summer Dissertation Prospectus Grants

The Environmental Policy Initiative offers a research grant program for OSU graduate students preparing doctoral dissertation proposals for work in environmental policy. Recipients receive an award of \$1200/month over the summer, and also have the opportunity to present their work before the EPI membership the following year.

Any doctoral student planning to write a PhD on any aspect of environmental policy, and expecting to take the PhD general exam by Winter Quarter 2005, is eligible to apply.

More information and submission details will be announced Spring Quarter.

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.

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

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