

American University Sustainability Research

Sustainability research focuses on a key principle of sustainability (such as social equity or environmental stewardship); addresses a sustainability challenge (such as climate change or poverty); or furthers our understanding of the interconnectedness of societal and environmental challenges. Sustainability research leads toward solutions that support economic prosperity, social wellbeing, and ecological health.

This guidance was developed by a committee of three faculty members, comprised of: Kathleen Getz, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Kogod School of Business; Dr. Sikina Jinnah, Assistant Professor, School of International Service; Stephen MacAvoy, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science.

A survey conducted by the Office of Sustainability in spring 2013 found that 116 members of American University's faculty, representing all six academic schools, are carrying out sustainability research:

College of Arts and Sciences			
Last Name	First Name	Department	Research Topic:
Bandarage	Asoka	Sociology	Sustainability and Well-Being: The Middle Path to Environment, Society and the Economy
Barnhart	Albert	Art	Title not yet reported
Berry	Evan	Philosophy & Religion	Title not yet reported
Blecker	Robert	Economics	Income distribution and economic sustainability: avoiding economic crises, sustainable balance of payments conditions, causes and consequences of increasing inequality.
Casey	Stephen	Mathematics & Statistics	Title not yet reported
Cheh	Albert	Environmental Science	Biochemistry of enzymatic digestion of non-food, waste biomass to produce cellulosic ethanol biofuel, a sustainable replacement for gasoline
Connaughton	Victoria	Biology	The effect of chemicals in water supplies and their effect on growth of organisms (fish).
Culver	David	Environmental Science	Conservation of Shallow Subterranean Habitats
Gunter	Bernhard	Economics	•Bangladesh and the Copenhagen Accord: How Much Carbon Dioxide Might Bangladesh Emit in 2050? •Achieving the MDGs and Ensuring Debt Sustainability
Hirzy	William	Chemistry	Net Social Cost Comparison of Water Fluoridation Chemicals
Hodges	Alex	Education, Teaching, & Health (SETH)	Information Literacy and Educational Technology: The effect of virtual schooling on higher education and lifelong learning.
Holtermann	Esther	World Languages & Cultures (Spanish)	La Parada: Explaining day laborers in Virginia. Illegality, loss, hope, and community.
Igoudjil	M. Kamel	SETH	Multiculturalism and Critical Literacy in Education
Jennings	Caleen	Performing Arts	WECYCLING: examining life cycles. This production involved research on waste, hoarding, and dumpster diving.
Kim	Kiho	Environmental Science	The role of nitrogen pollution in the ecology and health of coral reefs
Knee	Karen	Environmental Science	Anthropogenic influences on water quality, transport and fate of pollutants, water resources and coastal ecosystem management
Kraft	Evan	Economics	Macroeconomic and financial stability
Kraut	Alan	History	Immigration and assimilation in American History
Laney	Monique	History	Impact of racially and ethnically diverse highly-skilled immigrants on host communities
MacAvoy	Stephen	Environmental Science	Evaluating effectiveness of green roofs for reducing nutrients and runoff from storms
Mardirosian	Gail	Performing Arts	Social justice through the arts: connection to the arts as universal language to further cross-cultural dialogue and as a mechanism to further social equity and international communication.
Marin-Dale	Margarita	World Languages & Cultures	Social equity for the Andean indigenous peoples; the Native Andean cosmovision, which includes environmental stewardship and the rights of Mother Nature.
Maroto	Maya	SETH	Title not yet reported
McDonic	Susan	Sociology	International Development and Religious Movements
McNeil	Bryan	Anthropology	Combating Mountaintop Removal: New Directions in the Fight Against Big Coal
Miller	Sean	SETH	Green schools movement and best practices in the United States
Norris	Deborah	Psychology	Mindfulness for Social Change
Pascale	Celine-Marie	Sociology	Title not yet reported
Reksten	Nicholas	Economics	Voluntary Environmental Programs and Firm Decision Making

College of Arts and Sciences

Rojer	Olga	World Languages & Cultures	Social Equity
Vilanova	Nuria	World Languages & Cultures	Social/cultural studies
Vine	David	Anthropology	Bases Abroad: Exploring the Global Network of U.S. Military Bases Abroad
Weis	Lauren	Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies	The metaphysics of embodiment
Wisman	Jon	Economics	The Growth Trap, Ecological Devastation, and the Promise of Guaranteed Employment
Xiao	Chenyang	Sociology	Environmental beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors in the general public.
Yesuf	Mahmud	Economics	Climate change adaptation and food security in low income countries
Young	Gloria	Sociology	The Limits of Globalized (Labor Intensive, Export Oriented) Work For Enhancing Mexican Women's Well Being
Zhang	Xiaoquan	World Languages & Cultures	The concept of poverty in traditional (particularly 17th-century) China Ethics of Economy in the writings of Ye Shaoyuan and Henry David Thoreau

Kogod School of Business

Baker	H. Kent	Finance & Real Estate	Sustainable Buildings (real estate) for book on Real Estate (Oxford University Press)
Bruno	Valentina	Finance & Real Estate	Title not yet reported
Edgell	Robert	Management	How would Architects and designers approach sustainable organizational and institutional change and innovation?
Grier	Sonya	Marketing	Title not yet reported
Holmberg	Stevan	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging Green-Technology Entrepreneurs: Entrepreneurial Pathways to Growth in the Plug-in Electric/Hybrid Space Scandinavian Green and Clean-tech Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Leveraging Strategic Opportunities
Ionici	Octavian	Finance & Real Estate	Ethics scandals and value creation
Jacobs	Daniel	Management	BP Oil Disaster: Root Cause and Legal Ramifications
Jeong	Yujin	International Business	Who bribes? Evidence from the United Nation's Oil for Food Program Competitive Status and Bribery: Evidence from the Inside Accounting Books of Korean Dictators
Linowes	Richard	Management	Multinational Accommodation to Emerging Markets
Matos	Michael		Title not yet reported
Oetzel	Jennifer	International Business	How companies can contribute to the economic development of developing and emerging market host countries.
Russell	Cristel	Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The marketing of green products The impact of consumers' environmental consciousness on their responses to Corporate Social Responsibility efforts
Whitman	John	Management	Social Economy (includes examining how certain organizational models, such as nonprofit organizations and cooperatives, are suited to pursue social missions, promote equity and democratic values, address the needs of the disenfranchised, and strengthen the social, economic, and environmental health, wellbeing, and sustainability of communities)
Zhao	Yijiang	Accounting & Taxation	Corporate social responsibility: voluntary disclosure of corporate social responsibility

School of Communication

Arnold	Alice	Film & Media Arts	Electric Signs: Focuses on sustainability issues surrounding urban screens.
Cannon-Brown	Sandra	Film & Media Arts	Title not yet provided
Engel	Larry	Film & Media Arts	Title not yet provided
Feldman Rogers	Lauren		Climate change communication
Lewis	Charles R.	Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigative Reporting Workshop on Climate Change. The Future of Truth: the gap between current facts and effects of climate change and the unresponsiveness of the federal government.
Melillo Farrill	Wendy	Public Communication	Public service advertising messages about the environment and climate change.
Menke-Fish	Sarah	Film & Media Arts	Cross cultural filmmaking. Topics include the environment, politics, society, and culture.
Nisbet	Matthew	Communication Studies	The role of communication and advocacy in policymaking and public affairs, focusing on debates related to health, security and the environment
Palmer	Christopher	Film & Media Arts	Environment and wildlife filmmaking.
Puglisi	Gemma	Public Communication	Sustainability and the community.
Simpson	Christopher	Journalism	Agency/Institution Dynamics in Two Public Participation Geographic Information Systems Case Studies

School of International Service

Abu-Nimer	Mohammed	IPCR	Evaluation of Peacebuilding
Ashizawa	Kuniko		Peacebuilding in Afghanistan: A Comparative Analysis of the EU, Japan, and the US
Broad	Robin	International Development	Local Dreams: Finding Rootedness in the Age of Vulnerability.
Conca	Kenneth	Global Environmental Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Global environmental governance and the UN System •Water, social equity, and violent conflict •Environmental dimensions of post-conflict and post-disaster recovery
Diamond	Adam	Global Environmental Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social sustainability of organic dairy farming in the United States •Community and economic impact of food hubs in rural U.S. communities
Esser	Daniel	International Development	Urban development in the Global South (includes analysis of environmental, economic and social dimensions)
Goodman	Louis	U.S. Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Civil-military relations and development •Regional coalitions and development
Hanna	Loubna	International Development	Sustainability in terms of the policy, programs and interventions that reduce poverty and exclusion of children, women and youth.
Heng-Blackburn	Pek Koon	International Politics & International Economic Relations	ASEAN Connectivity and the ASEAN Economic Community 2015
Kiechel	Victoria	Global Environmental Politics	Spatial dimensions and tangible details of sustainable urban planning
Mittelman	James	Comparative & Regional Studies	Universities and international relations
Nicholson	Simon	Global Environmental Politics	Global food politics
Redvers-Lee	Peter	International Development	Strengthening Civil Society, Sustainable Livelihoods and the Environment in Ecuador
Reese	Katherine		Sustainability in transportation: Repaving the way: Automobiles and the politics of the future
Said	Abdul	International Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR)	Title not yet reported
Tuomi	Krista	International Economic Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ecolabelling •Environmental cost benefit analysis •Fisheries
Venturelli	Shalini	International Communication	Cultural foundations of knowledge and perceptions of sustainability.
Wand	Patricia	International Development	The role of information centers in developing knowledge-based economies
Wapner	Paul	Global Environmental Politics	Climate suffering
Wien	Barbara	IPCR	Green economics, energy and jobs
Yamanis	Thespina	International Development	A Multilevel Intervention to Reduce HIV Risk among Networks of Men in Tanzania

School of Public Affairs

Bachiyska	Korneliya	Government	Title not yet provided
Baehler	Karen	Public Administration & Policy	Sustainability policy analysis and system-based approaches to understanding interrelationships between economic, social, environmental, and governance sustainability.
Bennett	Richard	Justice, Law, & Society	Poverty, Community Cohesion, Collective Efficacy and Crime
Beyoghlou	Kamal	Government	Chem/bio/nuclear/radiation agents and weapons and their impact on environment within the context of defending the homeland; tracking radiological agents through intelligence
Bronfman	Javier	Public Administration & Policy	Title not yet provided
DeGregorio	Christine	Government	Power asymmetries: Who has it, who does not have it and why.
Durant	Robert	Public Administration & Policy	Collaborative Environmental Governance
Eisenstadt	Todd	Government	Lawsuits for the Pacha Mama [Mother Earth]: Indigenous Mobilizations, Environmental Impact Statements, and the Battle for Ecuador's Rainforests
Fiorino	Daniel	Public Administration & Policy	Research on the design of a sustainability policy analysis, role of sustainability in public administration, the capacity of the U.S. political system for a sustainability transition.
Hunt	Gregory	Justice, Law, & Society	Disparity of sentencing of minorities
Klepetar	Dillon	Government	Market failures surrounding climate change and governmental and private initiatives to correct perverse incentives to pollute.
LeBas	Adrienne	Government	Title not yet provided
Leighley	Jan	Government	Political inequality relating to race, ethnicity and class
McCurdy	Howard	Public Administration & Policy	Innovation in government.
Quirk	James	Government	Title not yet provided
Shiffman	Jeremy	Public Administration & Policy	Global Health
Singerman	Diane	Government	Title not yet provided

Washington College of Law

Bender	Raymond	N/A	Advantages of various forms of ADR over litigation, including societal and economic advantages
Contreras	Jorge	N/A	Standards for sustainable building materials
De Schutter	Olivier	N/A	Human rights and sustainable development
Eubanks	William	N/A	Title not yet reported
Gardner	Nina	N/A	Title not yet reported
Hunter	David	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The evolution of international environmental standards in international finance •International Environmental Law and Policy
Leiter	Amanda	N/A	Title not yet reported
Markowitz	Kenneth	N/A	Title not yet reported
Mattar	Mohamed	N/A	Encouraging legal reform in the MENA Region to better foster sustainable social and economic policies which promote the rights of women and girls
Miller	Binny	N/A	Lawyering and lawyering theory, and the administration of clinical and other experiential programs, with a focus on representing underrepresented client communities.
Nicola	Fernanda	N/A	Waste legislation and policy, environmental law and policy in the EU
Rosser	Ezra	N/A	Natural Resource Use by Indian Nations
Snape	William	N/A	Energy consumption issues
Wallace	Perry	N/A	Clean Energy, Sustainable Development, especially as regards business and finance
Wiley	Lindsay	N/A	Environmental public health and food systems