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December 8, 2020

GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Grad Course of Interest in Spring 2021: Drinking Water & Health

Taught by GCC affiliate [Alasdair Cohen](#), Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Population Health Sciences.

Topics include: Drinking water contamination and associated health outcomes. Programs to improve safe water access. Viral, bacterial, protozoal, and helminthic pathogens. Heavy metals, pesticides, and other contaminants. Drinking water treatment and supply in rural areas. Study designs for health outcome assessment. Field-based intervention trials.

[Course Flyer](#)





Call for Abstracts: International Science of Team Science Virtual Conference

The SciTS2021 Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that next year's Science of Team Science conference will be presented 100% online. We ask you to save the extended dates June 7-11, 2021 to join us for an online conference rich in discussion and engagement infused with the principles of team science.

Our call for abstracts is now open! We invite team science academics, leaders and members of cross-disciplinary teams, institutional leaders and administrators, and funding agencies to collaboratively rethink how science of team science research and practice may serve as a foundation for positive change and justice.

The following options are available:

1. Individual Pre-recorded Splash Talks
2. NEW! Interactive and Participatory Sessions
3. Collaborative Panel
4. SIG Panel
5. Workshop
6. NEW! Early Career Colloquium
7. NEW! Graduate Student Colloquium

To view the full announcement and to submit your abstract for review, please follow this link: inscits.org/cfa2021. All conference-related questions should be directed to Briana Blanchard at bnblanch@vt.edu.

Science Policy Initiative (SPI) opportunity to provide scientific & technical advising to VA legislature

SPI is launching an effort to provide unbiased and nonpartisan scientific and technical advising to our Virginia legislature. We are currently building up a coalition of **graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and other early-career scientists from throughout Virginia** who seek to support science and evidence-based decision-making in our government.

To get involved, (1) fill out [this google form](#) to join our email list and (2) join our [va-scipol-advising workspace](#) - introduce yourself in [#general](#), then start browsing around the other channels - [#training-resources](#) is a good place to begin!



A **KICKOFF EVENT** will be held on **Wednesday, 12/16 from 5-6pm** ([zoom link](#)). We will go over the goals of this initiative and the logistics of how we will coordinate and collaborate, and

then walk through some resources on giving public comment and testimony.

For more information, visit the group's website: <https://spiatuva.org> or contact [Sarah Goggin](#), Co-President, Science Policy Initiative, University of Virginia

Tandon Faculty First Look Fellowship Opportunity

The NYU Tandon School of Engineering invites scholars currently underrepresented in **engineering** fields who are **nearing completion of their doctorates or who are in post-doctoral positions** to apply for Tandon Faculty First Look Fellowships.

Fellows will have the opportunity to present and receive feedback on their ongoing research, engage with NYU faculty from a range of engineering disciplines, and participate in workshops designed to help them advance their careers.

Application deadline is December 15.

[More information](#)



FACULTY & FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



Alasdair Cohen - Population Health Sciences

Dr. Cohen conducts research on drinking water (contamination, treatment, and supply) and environmental health in low-income rural communities, with a focus on developing safe water programs. He has over ten years of international experience and...

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Amanda Pennino - Forest Resources & Environ. Conservation

Amanda's work is focused on soil-water interactions in northeast hardwood forests, looking at how soil water chemistry changes across time, with depth, and along hillslopes. Her research site is located at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (HBEF)...

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COMMUNITY

IGC fellows share favorite recipes & local take out

Need some cooking or baking inspiration for the winter season? Or don't feel like cooking during this stressful part of the semester and want to support local businesses in Blacksburg? Look no further!! IGC social chair, Alaina Weinheimer, has spearheaded a fun compilation from fellows sharing special recipes and must-try local cuisine.



Recipe highlights include:

- Amanda Pennino's "Grandma's Baked Ziti"
- An authentic Turkish Börek, Spinach & Feta Layered Pastry, from Dustin Hoffman
- Ben Kligman's locally inspired Ghost Pepper & Peach Hot Sauce
- ...and many more!

[Recipes of IGC Google Doc](#) & [IGC Takeout Recommendations Google Doc](#)

Additions are welcomed and can be sent to [Alaina](#). *Thanks for sharing, IGC fellows!*



CENTER FOR FOOD SYSTEMS
AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

SOIL, CONSERVATION, AND PLACE

A Series of Conversations



We invite you to join for a series of conversations with farmers who exemplify agroecological values held from 11am-12:15 pm on December 1, 3, 8, and 11.

Visit our website for more information:
<https://foodsystems.centers.vt.edu/events-and-speakers.html>

"Equity, Dignity, and Health in Food and Agriculture"

"Soil Farming, Pollinator Habitat, and Engaging with Community"

Tuesday, 12/8 at 11:00 am

Listen, learn, and be inspired by their agroecological stories, actions, and visions for community and systemic change with Renard Turner of Vanguard Ranch LTD., Jonathan McRay of Silver Run Forest Farm, and Janet Aardema of Broadfork Farm.

[Register at this link](#)

Friday, 12/11 at 11:00 am

Learn from the experiences and journeys into soil and water conservation, biodiversity, soil farming, and community outreach with Amy Hicks of Amy's Organic Garden, CJ Isbell of Keenbell Farm and Gerald Garber of Cave View Farms.

[Register at this link](#)

Workshop Prospectus: INCLUSIVE SYLLABUS DESIGN
Lindsay C. Masland, Ph.D.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

- Facilitator works with host to tailor workshop to participants' needs
- Participants identify a syllabus they'd like to work on
- Participants familiarize themselves with "The Worst Syllabus Ever"

DURING THE WORKSHOP

Part 1
Following introductions, participants will break into groups and consider "The Worst Syllabus Ever": a fake syllabus designed with a mix of egregious and subtle errors that are at odds with best practices in syllabus design. Groups will reconvene and share insights with input from the facilitator.

Part 2
The facilitator will provide groups with student biographical sketches, which were constructed using reflections from real students, and which reflect a variety of intersectional identities. Groups will consider the unique challenges that their assigned student would have in navigating "The Worst Syllabus Ever."

Part 3
The facilitator will share research regarding equitable and inclusive syllabus design. An intersectional perspective will be utilized, emphasizing how the identities and lived experiences of students interact with teaching choices made in syllabi to enhance or attenuate student success.

Part 4
In context of the research shared in Part 3 of the workshop, participants will be asked to complete an evidence-informed self-assessment of one of their syllabi. We'll then brainstorm ways to enhance the language, structure, and content of our syllabi to enhance inclusion in our courses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be invited to:

- Sharpen skills in critiquing their own teaching choices
- Consider how the identities and lived experiences of students affect the ways they respond to syllabi
- Examine research supporting equitable and inclusive syllabus design
- Self-assess their own syllabi and create an action plan for syllabus enhancements

maslandl@appstate.edu [LindsayMasland](https://twitter.com/LindsayMasland)

Inclusive Syllabus Workshop Dec. 10th, 10 - 11:30 am

An Inclusive Syllabus Workshop, hosted by the Geosciences HHMI Inclusive Excellence Faculty Scholars, will be held virtually on Dec. 10th.

Specialist Dr. Lindsay Masland will lead this workshop from Appalachian State University.

Zoom information will be provided closer to the date of the workshop.

You can register for this event [here](#).

NEWSWORTHY



Virginia Tech pioneers smart reservoirs

There are smart phones, smart cars and smart homes. And now, a team led by Virginia Tech professor and GCC affiliate Cayelan Carey continues to pursue what's believed to be a first: a smart reservoir. In 2018 Carey and her colleagues partnered...

[Read more](#)
roanoke.com



Confronting ecological change takes a collaborative leap ...

Looking to predict beetle abundance and springtime greenness, among other things, the NEON Ecological Forecasting Challenge is looking to mobilize researchers and forecast answers to a complex set of ecological questions. GCC affiliate Thomas Quinn..

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Warmer mountaintops, wetter coasts

As sea levels rise and storms become more frequent and severe, there is an urgent need to understand community-scale responses to accelerating coastal risks. In Virginia, Assistant Professor and GCC affiliate Anamaria Bukvic works with stakeholders..

[Read more](#)
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Do you have an opportunity or announcement you'd like to share with the
GCC community? [Send us an email!](#)

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