

Environmental Studies

Newsletter

February 2023

*ENST-270&SOC1-270: Food & Environment class.
Follow-up conversation with Joe Flueckiger & Megan Scutt from Dining Services & Hospitality Services*



Photo taken by Catherine Gasteyer, Anthropology & Sociology Dept

Save the date...

MAJORS FAIR!

The AAS (Associate of Amherst Students) is bringing back the Majors Fair!

Saturday, March 25th (1-3pm) on the First Year Quad!

The ultimate goal is for underclassmen to gain tangible and meaningful advice from peer students' unique and candid perspectives to supplement those from professors, staff, and administration.

Internships & Job Opportunities:

RAY Fellowship Program: [Roger Arliner Young \(RAY\) Diversity Fellowship](#) is now accepting applications for the '23-'25 RAY Fellow. Applications close March 27. [Apply today.](#)

The Women's Energy Network of Boston scholarship is now. [WEN Boston](#) supports women working in the energy field with community networking, career development, and opportunities to hear from leaders in our field. Our members currently work in numerous disciplines across local energy, renewable, and utility companies. The [WEN Scholarship](#) was established to support students as they consider building a career in the energy and renewables industry. The application will close on March 31st and can be accessed through our [Scholarship Portal](#).

Check out other (& active) opportunities on the [ENST Research/Job Opportunities page](#)

Prospective ENST Senior Thesis Writers

Deadline for juniors who are interested in writing a senior honors thesis for the 2023-2024! Deadlines for proposals are:

Monday, March 27, 2023

(for thesis students starting research in the summer 2023)

Mark you calendar...upcoming ENST Speakers:

- **March 7:** John Larsen, US Energy system and climate policy specialist, Rhodium Group at 1:00 PM in Paino Lecture Hall.
- **March 9:** Professor Rebecca Hewitt is speaking at this year's [Daffodil Lecture on Sustainability and the Environment at UMass](#).
- **April 4:** Dr. Laura Vandenberg, UMASS-Amherst, School of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Sciences at 1:00 PM in Paino Lecture Hall.
- **April 9:** TJ Evans '89 an Amherst College alum, is a master winemaker at Domaine Carneros, Napa CA. TJ will give a talk about shifts within the industry, and his experience as a winemaker and wine educator in California, Chile, France, and New Zealand. The title of his talk "**Three Decades of Change: An Amherst Alum's Journey through the World of Wine**". *Sponsored by the Environmental Studies Department, supported by the Lamont fund.*
- **April 26:** Lazerowitz Lecture on "**Decision-Making in the Face of Melting Ice: How Do We Consider Earth's 'Unknown Unknowns'?**" at 4:30 PM in Pruyne Lecture Hall



Please [send us](#) your news & announcements... we would love to hear from you!

New courses for Fall 2023



ENST-236: Finding the Humanity in Nature

Over the past three decades, the new field of Environmental Humanities has become a widely recognized area of research and cultural engagement. Bringing together insights and approaches from fields as diverse as history, philosophy, religious studies, anthropology, literature, gender studies, the performing and visual arts, cultural studies, and communication studies, practitioners of the Environmental Humanities have been exploring new ways to understand, evaluate, and address planetary ecological crises and sustainability issues. In this course, we will introduce students to the key concepts and influential texts that animate this exciting sphere of inquiry. In addition to visits from several guest speakers, we will travel to regional museums and outdoor spaces. Students will write throughout the semester, and they will also pursue independent research that explores some aspect of the Environmental Humanities.

Professors Ted Melillo and Joe Moore; Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:20am

ENST-274: Qualitative Research Methods for Environmental Studies

This is a seminar on qualitative research methods drawing from and providing examples for interdisciplinary environmental studies. This course introduces students to various qualitative research methods, including discourse analysis and archival research methods (especially digital living archives, including materials from social media), field site and participant observation, individual structured and semi-structured interviews, focus group interviews, oral history, and innovations in ethnographic research methods. Practical exercises will involve taking field notes, recording and transcribing interviews, and coding qualitative material for analysis. We will discuss the relationship between theory and methods, compare and assess the advantages and disadvantages of various methods, and guide students to learn how to determine which particular combination of methods are necessary, useful, and feasible for their proposed research projects. We will also work on the development of research design, the selection of field sites and research subjects, carefully examine ethical principles and requirements, and provide practical training in fieldwork safety. Students will produce a full-length research proposal with detailed presentation of methods.

Assistant Professor Li Zhang; Mondays & Wednesdays 3:00-4:30pm

GEO-253/ENST-253: Qualitative Research Methods for Environmental Studies

Geospatial inquiry is an iterative creative process that involves asking, answering, and communicating the results of questions using data linked to geographic locations. The anticipated results of this process are thoughtfully assembled maps and geographic datasets that serve as accessible, persuasive, and even beautiful means of conveying large amounts of complex information. Geospatial thinking is a critical skill for pursuing a systems-based perspective on our rapidly changing and interconnected world. This course is a hands-on introduction to geospatial inquiry using geographic information systems (GIS) software applied to a variety of intersecting topics in environmental studies, natural science, and the humanities. Technical topics include geospatial data acquisition and database management, coordinate systems and projections, creation and manipulation of raster and vector datasets, data digitization, incorporation of field data into GIS, use of lidar, aerial imagery, and other remote sensing tools, and the production of professional quality final maps.

Visiting Assistant Professor: Michelle Fame

Student and Faculty Update



[Article in *Wired* featuring Professor Becky Hewitt's research](#)

Alaska's Arctic Waterways Are Turning a Foreboding Orange. **Professor Rebecca Hewitt** is working with Roman Dial, a professor of biology and mathematics at Alaska Pacific University, who has spent the last 40 years exploring the Arctic, gathering data on climate-change-driven changes in Alaska's tree line for a project that also includes work from ecologists.

Milo Leahy-Miller '24: is in Bhutan! I'm taking classes on environmental policy, land use, ecology, and culture. The structure of the program is really cool: all the courses heavily relate to one another to explain the current state of environmental issues and development in Bhutan. We've done field exercises where we've visited monasteries, holy sites, and a Forest Management Unit where we learned about the unique forestry policy in Bhutan. We've had a guest lecture by an extremely prominent Bhutanese historian, and have spent time in the capital, Thimphu, where we visited museums, parks/preserves, and one of the tallest Buddha statues in the world!



Ney of Guru Rinpoche in Jigme Dorji National Park, the second Buddha.