

An experienced environmental/agricultural policy analyst with 10+ years solving difficult problems in support of strategic decision-making, using diverse research methodologies and tools to identify and present the fundamentals of complex issues in intellectually comprehensible and visually attractive ways

Overview

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Public Policy; M.S. in Conservation Biology; B.S. in Finance

WORK EXPERIENCE: Environmental policy research, 10+ years; University teaching, 5+ years

LANGUAGES: Fluent in English and Russian; proficient in German; beginner Spanish

SPECIAL SKILLS: Identifying and evaluating natural experiments to observe policy outcomes; analyzing strategic policy decisions and predicting possible outcomes; employing creative graphic design to explain complex concepts

Current employment

Policy Analyst at the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dec. 2012 — present

Soil Survey & Resource Assessment Deputy Area (GS-13)

Feb. 2017 — present

Soil Survey & Resource Assessment Deputy Area (GS-12)

Feb. 2016 — Feb. 2017

Science & Technology Deputy Area (GS-11)

Dec. 2012 — Feb. 2016

Agency Scientific Integrity Officer

May 2014 — May 2016

Provide policy analysis and writing support for a variety of projects across agency units

Draft multi-chapter manuscript of an agency-wide report for Congress called Resource Conservation Act appraisal

Draft written materials, articles, summaries, briefings, reports to present to internal and external partners

Develop strategic plans for organizational subunits

Collaborate with partners to identify emerging needs and develop a strategic approach

Coordinate across agency units on multiple projects

Analyze the effects of proposed policy changes for NEPA (environmental assessment) analyses

Report and brief agency leadership on ongoing projects and summaries of analytical reports

Create visual materials to communicate complex ideas; sample at: vimeo.com/100549782 with password: NRCS

Review relevance of emerging issues for the agency and propose recommendations

Adjunct Professor at University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

August 2013 — present

Courses:

Sustainability

Falls & Springs

Undergraduate upper-level course, lecture with 150+ students

Curriculum explores how economic, political, natural, and personal dimensions interact to move us toward or away from sustainability and critically investigates the concept itself

Ecological Economics

Fall 2013 & Fall 2014

Master-level course, seminar with ≈20 students

Curriculum probes how taking into account the economic system's fundamental dependence on the environment alters conventional economic goals, priorities, theories, and prescriptions

Research interests

Agricultural-environmental policy; sustainability in agriculture; big data and governance; inter-bureaucratic dynamics and policy effects; government activities and effects on research, innovation and employment; ecological economics concepts of growth and development

Education

Ph.D., School of Public Policy, Public Policy

University of Maryland

Dissertation topic: Role of Information in U.S. Agricultural Environmental Policy

College Park, MD

Dissertation committee chair: Robert H. Sprinkle, M.D., Ph.D.

Aug. 2008 — Dec. 2012

Program focus: Agricultural policy; historical evaluation; quantitative analysis complemented by statistical approaches and modeling; qualitative research techniques; econometrics and ecological economics; political institutions analysis and program evaluations

Defended in July, 2012

M.S., College of Life Sciences, Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology

U. of MD, College Park

Thesis topic: Comparative smart growth strategies in two Maryland counties

Aug. 2005 — Aug. 2008

B.S., School of Commerce and Business Admin., Finance Major with Honors, Minor in German

University of Illinois

Extracurriculars: Treasurer of "Students for Political Openness", founder of "Education for Social Change," active member in other environmental and social justice organizations

Aug. 1999 — May 2003

Study Abroad, Ruprechts-Karls Universität

Heidelberg, Germany

Distinctions	
Ph.D. dissertation honored as the single nominee from the School of Public Policy for the annual Distinguished Dissertation Award at University of Maryland	2012
Secured +\$100,000 for Ph.D. research from US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service	2010-2012
Secured +\$25,000 for M.S. research from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	2007-2008
100 Senior Honorary Award from the University of Illinois Alumni Association (from a class of over 7,000)	2003
Recipient of the William T. Cameron Banking Scholarship	2002
Recipient of North Suburban Association of Educational Office Professionals Scholarship	1999
Research & reports	
Experience with diverse research techniques, methodologies, and databases	Aug. 2002 — present
<i>Qualitative research skills:</i> Archival research; interviews; literature reviews; case and historical studies	
<i>Quantitative research skills:</i> Statistical software STATA, SPSS and SAS; dynamic modeling with STELLA software; geospatial analytical skills using ArcGIS; complex survey analysis	
Notable reports and publications	
<i>Current position:</i> primary responsibility is to write analytical reports analyzing trends and assessments and producing recommendations on emerging topics with over 30 reports written on a variety of topics for senior leadership	
<i>Published reports:</i>	
“Climate Change and Regional Impacts” in Handbook of Regional Science, primary author	Springer, 2013
“How Far Can Corn Take Us? Evaluating the Impacts of Ethanol” http://www.efc.umd.edu/pdf/EthanolFinalReport010208.pdf	Environmental Finance Center, Jan. 2008
“The US Economic Impacts of Climate Change and the Costs of Inaction: A Review and Assessment,” co-author of multiple regional and state reports: www.cier.umd.edu—index.html	Center for Integrative Environmental Research, Oct. 2007
<i>Book manuscript in progress:</i> based on my 523-page Ph.D. dissertation	
Prior work experience	
Policy Analyst at the Center for Integrative Environmental Research	May 2007 — May 2010
Evaluated and utilized available research and data across a variety of issues (climate change, urban planning, human development, socio-economic dimensions) and worked with clients with a variety of interests to recommend policy actions; employed a variety of statistical and analytical methods; worked as a team leader	College Park, MD
Represented organization in media interviews; one of primary contact for media	
Developed a dynamic model on alternative indicators of economic progress for the State of Maryland	
Primary author of report used in Congressional hearings on the topic of climate change	
Developed communications protocols on high-profile topics for the public and the media	
Consultant at David Gardiner & Associates	May 2008 — Aug. 2010
Brought together a variety of stakeholders to arrive at a common vision and to recommend policy alternatives and plans	
Primary consultant with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Task Force on “National Energy Policy and Midwestern Regional Competitiveness,” a sweeping collaborative project of political and industry leaders of Midwestern states	Washington, DC
Worked on projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation within the private sector	
Researcher at UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production	Sept. 2006 — Dec. '06
Worked directly on research projects and program evaluations with senior staff, such as writing background paper on the Marrakech Process for a Sustainable Development Conference	Wuppertal, Germany
Drafted a report commissioned by UNEP titled “Greening of Development Financial Institutions”	
Worked on developing a project for UNEP on Human Development through the Market presented at UNEP’s 9th Int’l Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP9)	
Assistant to the President at Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine	Sept. 2003 — Aug. '05
Worked to further the organization’s goals of promoting environmentally sustainable dietary habits through nutrition education and informing federal nutrition policies; dealt with media and public inquires related to high-profile topics	Washington, DC
Worked independently on a multitude of projects ranging from organizing lecture tours, analyzing research papers, assisting with an NIH-funded study to collaborating with a TV network, producers, and writers on a TV series	
Functioned as the primary channel of communication between a staff of over 70 and the president of this non-profit organization and worked to promote a collaborative team environment	
Other activities	
Volunteer coordinator of “Policy Circle” for Ph.D. students at the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland	Aug. 2012 — May 2013
Volunteer Russian teacher at the Global Language Network in Washington, DC	Summer 2011
Volunteer English as a Second Language teacher at the Newcomer Community Service Center, DC	Fall 2008
Paid student trainer of community organizing for United States Student Association, U.S.-wide	Aug. 2001 — Aug. 2003
Volunteer accountant for the Channing-Murray Foundation, Urbana, IL	Aug. 2001 — Jan. 2002
Assistant librarian at the Slavic library, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	Sept. 1999 — Aug. 2003