

Session 2B: Climate Change and Sustainable Management of Resources

Friday 4:00 PM Tropicana 2

Session Chair: William Lalicker, West Chester University

## **Transforming the Field Education Landscape: The Green Social Work Advisory and Climate Action**

***Julie L. Drolet***

***University of Calgary***

Practicum, also known as field education, is the signature pedagogy in social work education. Practicum is the site where students learn to integrate and apply the values, knowledge, complex practices and skills of the social work profession. Despite its importance, field education is in crisis. Social work education programs are experiencing significant challenges with delivering practicum experiences for students. There is an urgent need for social work education programs to re-vision how the profession prepares the next generation of social workers. This presentation will discuss the TFEL partnership, and Green Social Work Advisory, that aims to integrate research and practice in the preparation of the next generation of social workers by developing partnered research training initiatives, both within academia and across the public and not-for-profit sectors, that enhance student and trainee research practice knowledge and applied skill development. The partnership is structured in three streams: (1) Digital Storytelling, (2) Development of Sustainable Field Education Models and (3) Applied Practice Research. A partnership approach is required to transform social work field education through multi-partner engagement, from a crisis model to sustainable models. This presentation will highlight the Green Social Work Advisory and how the partnership is facilitating climate action in social work. This partnership (2019-2025) is funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) partnership grant. Improved research training and mentorship related to field education and practice research will be discussed.

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**SEARCHING for IMF EXTERNALITIES in DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: the CASE of WATER and SANITATION EXPENDITURE in WEST AFRICA.**

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**\* Presenter**

Most African countries persistently face prolonged water and sanitation challenges. A growing class of research attempts to address these problems through the world systems and regional bodies that partner with these disadvantaged countries. However, no research has been done to explore the relationship between IMF conditionalities and water and sanitation expenditure. We considered the following questions: Do IMF conditionalities impact government water and sanitation expenditure? What is the relationship between IMF conditionalities and government social expenditure in West Africa? To investigate these questions, We document a strong association between the intersection of the IMF conditionalities and water and sanitation expenditure in sixteen West African countries - the critics view (McKee, & Stuckler, 2015).

Using a qualitative approach, we systematically evaluate the impact of IMF conditionalities in West Africa. We conclude that there are three pathways to which IMF conditionalities impact water and sanitation expenditure in West Africa. It includes the following: first, caps on recruitment and wages; second, budget execution and finally, fiscal space for investment.

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## **The Water Stressed World: Normative Policy Possibilities from Rachel Carson and Wangari Maathai**

**Peter J. Longo**

***University of Nebraska at Kearney***

The Water Stressed World: Normative Policy Possibilities from Rachel Carson and Wangari Maathai

The water stressed world has long concerned policymakers and the general population. Vulnerable populations live at the whim of Mother Nature. The increased global population and growth continues at the expense of long-term policymaking. Mitigation of the dire water shortage situation can be found in two environmental advocates--- Rachel Carson and Wangari Maathai. The normative values, including love, will be extracted from the works of Carson and Maathai to shape the policy narrative. This paper is three-fold: First, an overview of key water issues will be provided; laws and policies aimed at mitigation of the water crisis will be evaluated; second, the values formally offered by Rachel Carson and Wangari Maathai will be analyzed as possible solutions to the grave water situation; and third, recommendations to mitigate the parched West and beyond will be offered.

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**Public Opinion on Environmental Protection in the United States: the Impact of Citizens' Perceptions of Climate Change in Local, National, and Global Contexts**

**Satoshi Machida**

***University of Nebraska at Kearney***

Scientists have repeatedly issued warnings about climate change and its impacts on the environment. As scientists have widely predicted, one can observe signs of global warming around the world. While the issue of global warming poses a serious threat, public opinion on this matter is deeply divided in the United States. Some have expressed concerns about the impacts of climate change, but others have tried to deny the seriousness of global warming. Recognizing the deep division among people in the United States, the goal of this study is to explore the factors that shape individuals' opinions of environmental issues. More specifically, the proposed research examines how signs of climate change in local, national, and global contexts differently affect citizens' attitudes toward environmental protection. In order to dissect citizens' perceptions of climate change, this study conducts an online survey. Findings from the statistical analysis are highly useful in understanding the mechanism through which individuals develop their opinions of environmental protection.

*Confidential, proprietary information*