



**Summer School on Sustainability and Governance in the
Anthropocene
Rutgers University New Brunswick
August 20-23, 2024**

Current emissions of greenhouse gases, alteration of critical ecosystems, and a host of other anthropogenic drivers present significant and cascading crises, threatening the prospects for sustainable development. Finding solutions to the unprecedented rate and magnitude of these social and environmental changes will require integrated and human-centered governance approaches at multiple scales, ranging from individuals and households to global multilateral bodies. Yet current policies tend to focus on single problems and at a single scale, while also failing to learn from insights grounded in social science. New approaches to governance and institutional architectures that are capable of addressing the multi-scale, urgent, and dynamic complexity of the Anthropocene are needed, requiring innovations across knowledge systems, attention to coproduction of solutions with multiple stakeholders who are empowered to act, and advances in understanding desirable visions of the future and how to achieve them.

With support from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers University-New Brunswick will be running an inaugural summer school for early career Ph.D. students working on governance and sustainability. The goal of the Summer School is to increase the capacity of early-stage researchers to learn more about this field and the need for interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration. During the workshop, we will bring together scholars from a range of disciplines in a small group setting to learn, exchange ideas, and build partnerships. Training on essential skills will be offered on topics suited to the applicants, and may include working in collaborative governance, science communication, social science methods, and grant and publication guidance. Interactions with faculty from across Rutgers working in the sustainability governance field will provide opportunities for career advice, mentorship, and networking. At the end of the workshop, the relationships built with other students will provide mutual support for the future.

Applications: Graduate students and early career researchers in diverse disciplines working on governance issues are encouraged to apply to the summer school. All travel expenses for accepted applicants will be covered. We envision a small cohort of no more than 15 students for the initial class. To apply, please fill out an expression of interest by **May 15, 2024** at <https://forms.gle/2XegHgkDj66HaVj46> Accepted applicants will be notified by May 30, 2024.

If you have questions about the application or summer school, please contact Dr. Pamela McElwee (pamela.mcelwee@rutgers.edu) and/or Dr. Rachael Shwom (shwomrac@sebs.rutgers.edu).

Tentative Agenda for Workshop:

Tues Aug 20

- 5pm – Arrival and Registration, University Inn, New Brunswick
- 5:30 – Welcome and introductions
- 6:00 – Dinner and speaker

Wed Aug 21

- 8:30 – Breakfast
- 9:00 – Welcome and agenda
- 9:30 – Speed talks from participants
- 12:00 – Lunch and speaker
- 1:00 – Working groups/teams
- 3pm – Speakers
- 6pm – Dinner

Thurs Aug 22

- 9:00 – Proposal workshopping
- 11:00 – Focus group discussion on training needs
- 12:00 – Lunch and speaker
- 2pm – Working groups/teams round 2
- 4pm – Speakers
- 6pm – Dinner

Friday Aug 23

- 9:00 – Working groups round 3
- 11:00 – Debrief and next steps
- 12:00 – Lunch and departure

Tentative topics for speaker sessions

- Art and sustainability
- Social science methods
- Science communication
- Stakeholder engagement & coproduction
- Policy advocacy
- Proposal writing
- Nonacademic jobs in policy/governance
- Working in interdisciplinary teams