



Graduate Associate Positions Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab

The Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab (<http://ess.osu.edu/>) in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at the Ohio State University is seeking high-quality MS and PhD applicants to begin graduate studies during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Our curriculum includes foundational training in relevant theoretical areas (e.g., sociology, psychology, political science, communication, human geography) and related research methods and statistics. Our students and faculty engage in research within the U.S. as well as international settings with emphasis spanning both theoretical advancement and application. Our recent graduates have been offered positions in academic and applied settings (e.g., government agencies, nongovernmental organizations).

Several research positions are available in Environmental Social Sciences within the topic areas below. You are strongly encouraged to learn more by visiting our website and individual faculty webpages and then directly contact faculty before applying.

- 1. Natural resource management:** Projects examine factors that influence decision-making related to management and use of natural resources and public lands. Examples include assessing visitor use of parks and protected areas, management of wildland fires, citizen-agency interactions, endangered species management, and conducting life span studies of human-nature interactions. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Alia Dietsch, Robyn Wilson, Eric Toman, Kristi Lekies, and/or Ramiro Berardo.*
- 2. Environmental policy and agricultural decision-making:** Projects examine the interactions between environmental policy, individual land use/management decisions and physical/landscape outcomes. Examples include farmer decision-making related to nutrient loss and eutrophication, or the evolution of collaboration between multiple governmental and non-governmental actors to solve complex environmental problems. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Ramiro Berardo, Robyn Wilson, and/or Eric Toman.*
- 3. Environmental communication:** Projects examine the perceptions and decision processes of diverse audiences as they relate to science, environment, and risk communication challenges. Examples include public support for climate action, and household evacuation decisions during natural disasters. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Robyn Wilson, Alia Dietsch, and/or Eric Toman.*
- 4. Sustainable development and community well-being:** Projects exploring the relationship between human well-being, sustainable consumption, and the built and social environment in both urban and rural as well as national and international contexts. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Jeremy Brooks, Kerry Ard, and Kristi Lekies*



5. **Human-wildlife interactions:** Projects examine the socio-psychological factors (e.g., values, wildlife value orientations) that influence human-wildlife interactions and management of wildlife. Examples include assessment of tolerance for carnivores and other species posing threats, interactions that result in conflict, and exotic pet ownership. *Possible faculty advisor(s): Dr. Alia Dietsch*
6. **Environmental inequality:** Projects investigate how social processes create and sustain environmental inequalities by race and class, and/or how these unequal exposures are linked to health disparities. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Kerry Ard and Alia Dietsch*
7. **Cultural evolution and human behavior:** Projects using cultural evolutionary theories to explore consumption patterns, pro-sociality, and pro-environmental behavior. Experience with or interest in agent-based modeling would be ideal. *Possible faculty advisors: Drs. Jeremy Brooks and Alia Dietsch*
8. **Environmental Experiences, Education, and Outreach:** Projects focus on aspects of outdoor experiences, outdoor recreation, environmental education, program evaluation, and community outreach in Ohio, the United States, and international contexts. *Possible faculty advisor: Dr. Kristi Lekies*

Qualifications: Applicants should have a record of academic excellence (>3.6 GPA and >70th percentile in Verbal and Quantitative GREs strongly preferred). Strong oral and written communication skills are required. *Preferred, but not required qualifications include:* demonstrated coursework in social science theories, and/or research experience using quantitative (e.g., survey/experimental design, multivariate statistics) and/or qualitative (e.g., interviews, focus groups, and analysis) methodologies.

Support: Positions include a salary of \$20K + per year (higher salary for PhD students) plus tuition waiver and health benefits. Qualified students will be considered for college and university fellowships, research associateships, and/or teaching associateships.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter (with a description of interest areas and relevant faculty), CV, documentation of undergraduate and graduate GPA as well as GRE scores, and contact info for 3 references to essl@osu.edu no later than December 1, 2015. Applicants must also meet departmental requirements for admission no later than January 1, 2016: http://senr.osu.edu/graduate/prospective/admissions_info_all_applicants.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion: The Ohio State University is committed to establishing a culturally and intellectually diverse environment, and encouraging all members of our learning community to reach their full potential. We strongly promote work-life balance to support our community members. The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Qualified women, minorities, Vietnam-era veterans, disabled veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.