



2019 CURES Connections Workshop: New Voices and Paths to Urban Sustainability

August 7-8, 2019

Discovery Partners Institute, Chicago IL

Speakers and Panelists



Aaron Packman

Twitter: @NUWaterCenter
#drinc_hub

Aaron Packman is the Director of the Center for Water Research and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University. He is also a Senior Fellow in the Northwestern-Argonne Institute of Science and Engineering, and the Water Lead in the Manufacturing Science and Engineering Initiative at Argonne National Laboratory. Dr. Packman is an internationally recognized expert in water resources, surface-groundwater interactions, and biological and biogeochemical processes in aquatic systems. Dr. Packman's research team is working to solve a variety of problems, including nutrient pollution, urban flooding, ecosystem degradation & restoration, and waterborne disease transmission. Packman has received numerous awards and honors, including a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering, the Huber Research Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and research Career Awards from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering and Science from the California Institute of Technology.



Alan Hamlet

Dr. Alan F. Hamlet is an Associate Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. He is a specialist in the integrated computer modeling of climate, hydrologic systems, water resources systems, and ecosystems. These activities include construction of historical hydrometeorological data sets, statistical and dynamic downscaling of climate model output, large- and small-scale hydrologic modeling of surface and groundwater systems, analysis of hydrologic extremes (floods, droughts), water resources modeling (simulation and optimization of reservoir operations), and ecosystem modeling of oceans, rivers, estuaries, wetlands, and lakes. Dr. Hamlet has also participated in modeling studies of regional energy systems, agricultural systems, as well as urban heat-related deaths stemming from changing temperature and humidity regimes. The tools employed in these diverse research activities can be readily applied at local- to global-scales to suit a wide range of applications, and Dr. Hamlet has been involved extensively in integrated modeling studies in North America (e.g. in the western, central, and southeastern U.S.) as well as at the global scale.







Amy Ando





Twitter: @AmyEcon

Amy Ando is a Professor of environmental economics in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She studies the economics of environmental justice, approaches to reduce climate change uncertainty in conservation outcomes, policies to improve urban stormwater management, and methods for estimating the values of ecosystem services.






 <p>Anne-Marie Hanson</p>	<p>Anne-Marie Hanson is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at UIS. She merges humanities and scientific approaches to study the social and environmental impacts of material discards – i.e. urban garbage, marine debris, wastewater, plastics, and microplastics. Dr Hanson is a gender and social science consultant for the United Nations Environment Programme and a 2019-2020 Public Voices Fellow with The OpEd Project.</p>
 <p>Ashish Sharma Twitter: @A_Sharma007</p>	<p>Ashish Sharma is the Illinois Research Climatologist at the Illinois State Water Survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests lie in atmospheric sciences and land/ocean-atmosphere interactions at a range of spatial scales (regional to local) that are relevant to the management of human and natural systems. His research focuses on reducing vulnerabilities and increasing readiness in urban, agricultural, and natural environments in a changing climate. He performs targeted dynamical downscaling experiments with the overarching goal of creating “bridges” between global, regional and micro-scale modeling. Another dimension of his research is to work at the intersection of science, engineering, and social sciences to perform collaborative and translational research that benefits society. He is a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. He is also one of the organizers of the Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES) workshop.</p>
 <p>Brant Walker</p>	<p>Brant Walker is the Mayor for the City of Alton.</p>
 <p>Cara Bader</p>	<p>Cara Bader is Chief Sustainability Officer in the Office of Mayor at the City of Chicago. She has served in a variety of roles during her time in the Mayor’s Office, including Chief of Policy for former Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and also currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Infrastructure and Services. Cara joined the City as member of the Innovation Team, a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative to design and implement effective solutions to pressing challenges. She has held previous roles in research at World Business Chicago (WBC), a public-private partnership between the City and Chicago’s business community, and the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.</p> <p>Cara has a Master of Urban Planning and Policy, concentrating in economic development, from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Studies from the University of Iowa.</p>







	Connie Frey Spurlock, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She teaches courses in research methods, sustainability, and criminology. Her research focuses on sustainability pedagogy, recycling, and community-engaged learning. Frey Spurlock serves as Director of SIUE's Successful Communities Collaborative , a cross-disciplinary program that supports partnerships between SIUE and Illinois communities to advance local resilience and sustainability based on community-identified environmental, social and economic issues and needs. She has also served as a Trustee for the Village of Williamson, a community of approximately 220, since 2017. Since joining the Village Board, Williamson has secured almost \$150,000 in grant funding to improve the quality of life for its residents.
Connie Frey-Spurlock Twitter @ProfSpurlock	
	Cynthia Klein-Banai is Associate Chancellor for Sustainability and adjunct assistant professor in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She leads campus sustainability initiatives at UIC and conducts research on metrics for sustainability in higher education using UIC-campus generated data for improving sustainability outcomes.
Cynthia Klein-Banai	
	Devin Hunter is a public historian and urban historian with interests in community development and engagement. He is completing a manuscript titled <i>City within a City: Politics, Culture, and Diversity in Uptown Chicago, 1950 to 1980</i> , which traces liberal and radical aspirations for a culturally diverse neighborhood that is seemingly on the perpetual verge of urban renewal, redevelopment, and gentrification. He is also in the early stages of a project that follows the history of the commemoration of the Springfield Race Riot of 1908, from the immediate aftermath of the violence through the present day. Devin is the co-director of two projects funded by the University of Illinois Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Arts and Humanities: one focused on building local capacity for cultural heritage tourism, and the other to curate an exhibit that connects history to contemporary issues of social and economic justice.
Devin Hunter	
	Donald J. (Don) Wuebbles is the Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois. Dr. Wuebbles is an expert in atmospheric physics and chemistry, with over 500 scientific publications related to the Earth's climate, air quality, and the stratospheric ozone layer. However his work goes well beyond that through providing analyses and development of metrics used in national and international policy and in developing analyses for understanding climate impacts on society and ecosystems, plus potential resilience and societal responses. He has co-authored a number of international and national scientific assessments. He co-lead the first volume of the 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment published in November 2017 that assesses the science of climate change and its effects on the United States, as required by the U.S. Congress under the 1990 Global Change Act. He also co-authored Volume 2 of the 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment, released in November 2018. He led a new assessment on the impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes that was






Don Wuebbles	published in March 2019. Dr. Wuebbles is the founding Director of the Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.
 <p>Elizabeth A. Kócs</p>	<p>As Director for Partnerships and Strategy, Dr. Elizabeth Kócs provides strategic leadership for UIC's Energy Initiative (EI) expanding its reach and influence by supporting collaborative research and education, spearheading innovative solutions through extensive partnership building and stakeholder engagement, and driving the EI brand and visibility as a thought leader with a focusing on energy storage for grid and transportation and electrification of transportation, and providing unique insights on policies and planning for cities. She serves several complimentary roles within the university including Technology Commercialization Fellow and Adjunct Faculty, as well as co-founder and executive leader for the Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability. She is also currently a 2019 NREL Energy Executive Leader.</p>
 <p>Hilary Pearson</p>	<p>Hilary Pearson is the Energy & Environmental Policy Manager at Exelon Utility's Strategy and Policy organization. Working across Exelon's portfolio of utility companies, she is responsible for assessing policy issues that impact technology feasibility, economics, and overall market potential consistent with the company's Utility of the Future strategic plan. Prior to ComEd and Exelon, Hilary worked as the Policy Director at Sungevity, a rooftop solar company that was active in the US, Australia, and Europe. She was also on the Board Directors with the California Solar Energy Industries Association (now the California Solar and Storage Association). Prior to her work in solar, Hilary worked for the former Chair of the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, California Senator Barbara Boxer. While with the Senate office, Hilary created and managed a federal grants program for California, in addition to serving in a variety of legislative and field-based roles. A California native, she holds a degree in Political Science from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and a certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from the University of California Berkeley.</p>
 <p>Kevin Burns Twitter: @mayorburns</p>	<p>Kevin Burns has served in elected office in his hometown of Geneva, Illinois for more than 23 years - first as a Geneva Library Board of Trustee, Alderman 1st Ward from 1997-2001 and as Geneva's Mayor since 2001. On April 4, 2017 Burns was elected to his fifth consecutive term as Mayor – Geneva's longest-serving Mayor. In the private sector, Burns has held executive positions with non-profit organizations including the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, Midwestern University, National Safety Council, United States Olympic Committee, United States Equestrian Team and United States Figure Skating Team. Currently, Burns is the Director of Giving Initiatives for Special Olympics Illinois. Born in Oak Park, Illinois, Burns has lived in Geneva since 1974. He is a 1982 graduate of Geneva Community High School and 1986 graduate of Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois) where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Speech Communications. Burns is the father of three daughters, Emma (29), Grace (27) and Florence (25) and the grandfather of Micah Emma White (4) and Bosco White (2).</p>






	<p>Kim Stone has served as a Councilwoman at the City of Highland Park since May 2013. Kim has over 20 years of environmental and management experience, having previously worked at the Midwest Pesticide Action Center, Great Lakes Protection Fund, and Environmental Law and Policy Center. She has served on the National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists since 2005, and on the Board of Community Partners for Affordable Housing since 2014. She previously served on the Highland Park Transportation Commission and the Board of Directors of the Active Transportation Alliance. Kim graduated from Middlebury College and earned Masters degrees in Population Planning and Public Policy from the University of Michigan.</p>
	<p>Dr. Ladd Keith is the Chair of the Sustainable Built Environments program and will transition from Lecturer to Assistant Professor in Planning at The University of Arizona in 2019. He is an interdisciplinary researcher working at the intersection of urban planning and climate science and explores how policy innovation in local governance can make more sustainable and resilient cities. He is the principal investigator of a NOAA-funded research project evaluating the use of urban heat maps in urban planning and is co-investigator on a project developing community climate profiles tailored to local needs. Dr. Keith is an active member of the American Planning Association and the Urban Land Institute, and recently chaired a ULI Advisory Service Panel on increasing the resilience of Miami's downtown and urban waterfronts to sea level rise and extreme heat.</p>
	<p>Luis M. A. Bettencourt is the Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago and Professor of Ecology and Evolution at the College. He is also Associate Faculty and Special Friend of the Department of Sociology and External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute. He conducts interdisciplinary research on complex adaptive systems and leads efforts in the areas of the science of cities. This research focuses on the identification of cities' systemic processes and properties, as well as their local histories and contexts in identifying paths for a better quality of life, economic growth, and sustainable development. He works with international networks of researchers, local governments and NGOs to understand and systematise urban knowledge, and to create solutions to urban issues. His work is well-known academically and has been influential in developing new theory and empirical perspectives on cities and urbanisation worldwide</p>
	<p>Mario Longoni, Urban Anthropology Manager in the Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum, uses research and collaborative programming to empower communities to leverage their existing cultural and natural assets to address pressing challenges. Much of his work centers on connecting underserved NW Indiana and Chicago communities to natural areas, promoting research-to-action techniques, and convening local artists and organizations to create culturally resonant spaces and events.</p>







Mario Longoni	
 <p>Moira Zellner Twitter: @MoiraZellner</p>	<p>Moira Zellner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Policy, a Research Associate Professor in the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy, and Director of the Urban Data Visualization Lab at UIC. Moira earned her undergraduate degree in ecology at the Centro de Altos Estudios en Ciencias Exactas and pursued graduate studies in urban and regional planning and in complex systems at the University of Michigan. She has served as primary investigator and co-investigator for multi-disciplinary projects studying how specific policy, technological, and behavioral changes can effectively address a range of complex social and environmental problems, where interaction effects make responsibilities and burdens unclear. Her research also examines the value of complexity-based modeling for participatory policy exploration and social learning with stakeholders. Moira teaches a variety of workshops on complexity-based modeling of socio-ecological systems, for training of both scientists and decision-makers.</p>
 <p>Nancy Cole</p>	<p>Nancy Cole is senior strategist and corporate campaign advisor for the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. A corporate campaigning and grassroots-organizing veteran, she developed the strategic framework for and launched the organization's fossil energy accountability campaign, and currently oversees its work focused on the legal aspects of holding fossil fuel companies accountable for climate deception and harms.</p> <p>For the past ten years, Ms. Cole served as director of campaigns in the Climate and Energy Program, managing the program's efforts to secure policies that reduce US global warming emissions and speed the country's transition to a clean energy economy. She also works with scientists across the country to bring the voice of the scientific community to bear on critical global environmental issues.</p> <p>Ms. Cole joined UCS in 1992 as campaign organizer for a national drive to educate citizens about renewable energy options. She subsequently became director of public outreach with overall responsibility for planning and developing UCS's education, organizing, and outreach efforts. In 1995, she co-authored the book <i>Renewables Are Ready: People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions</i>.</p> <p>Before joining UCS, she worked for the national organization INFACIT, now called Corporate Accountability International, for a decade. Between 1984 and 1992 she served as the executive director of the consumer-oriented, corporate accountability group. As executive director, she oversaw the production of the Academy Award-winning documentary <i>Deadly Deception</i>.</p> <p>Ms. Cole earned her BA in 1971 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School with a specialty in constitutional and administrative law. She was licensed to practice law in Minnesota.</p>
 <p>Naomi Davis</p>	<p>Naomi Davis is an attorney, entrepreneur, activist, and granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers who founded Blacks in Green(TM) to remind generations of our great cultural legacy - which is our stewardship of the land - and to reinvent that legacy in the age of climate change. Naomi serves on the boards of the Illinois League of Conservation Voters and Climate Justice Chicago; the Steering Committees of the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative, Chicago Green Jobs For All, and Good Greens in Illinois; the Environmental Justice Advisory Group of the Illinois EPA and Economic Justice Committee of BALLE; and the editorial board of Environmental Justice.</p>

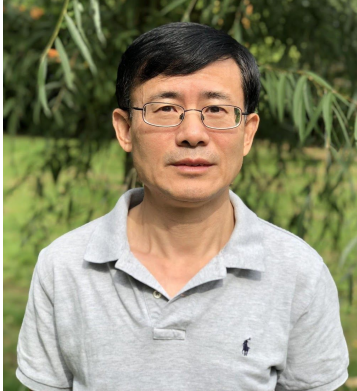


 <p>Nicole Lombardo Twitter: @nlombar</p>	<p>Nicole Lombardo leads business strategy and partnerships across Google’s Geo’s organization for the Environmental Insights team. In this role, Nicole is responsible for partnering with product management and engineering teams to pioneer new products, set strategic go-to-market plans, and manage partnerships for providing access to high quality data. These tools enable public sector and commercial businesses to drive smarter climate policies and profitable solutions to advance sustainability and a resilient, low-carbon future.</p> <p>Her work has led to receiving the UNFCCC Climate Change award for the launch of Project Sunroof which utilize Google’s extraordinary mapping capabilities enabling the world’s renewable energy transition. More recently, the work she did to develop and launch Environmental Insights Explorer, led to receiving Google’s Green Award, which recognizes teams for their significant contributions that drive sustainability across the company.</p> <p>She has over a decade of experience in renewable energy and software technologies. Prior to Google, Nicole held senior roles at Intel, Solarcity, and Oracle where she led high performing teams with a focus on business strategy and operations, product management and advertising, partnerships and sales across customers in public/ private sectors. Nicole holds a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Design from the University of California at Davis.</p>
 <p>Patricia Romero-Lankao Twitter: @prlankao</p>	<p>Dr. Patricia “Paty” Romero-Lankao has a joint appointment with NREL’s Transportation and Hydrogen Systems Center and the University of Chicago’s Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation. From a behavioral science perspective, she examines the interactions among people, mobility, the built environment, and energy systems, as well as their resilience to disruptive events. Previously, she worked at the NCAR, examining urbanization and the risks associated with food, energy, and water systems along with related governance and the capacity of these systems to adapt to and mitigate climate risks. She has played leadership roles in various interdisciplinary and international research projects, resulting in several research grants and some 120 peer-reviewed publications. She was a co-leading author in one of the working groups contributing to the Nobel Prize-winning Fourth Assessment Report published by the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).</p>
 <p>Rachel Switzky</p>	<p>Rachel Switzky is the inaugural director of the Siebel Center for Design. Prior to her current appointment, she has been a global design leader working with Fortune 100 companies over the past 20 years. Most recently, she served as an Executive Director at IDEO, the company who pioneered the concept of design thinking. In this role, she helped teams imagine futures and then put them into action, focusing on digital design, emergent technologies and impact at-scale.</p>



 <p>Raj Rajan Twitter: @RajVRajan</p>	<p>Raj has over 35 years of experience in legacy and current operational and supply chain environmental impact management for the commercial and industrial sectors. Over the last decade, he helped drive top-line growth in the private sector companies by embedding sustainability thought leadership into innovation management. He chaired the External Advisory Committee of an NSF Funded Project on Sustainable, Healthy, and Livable Cities and served as an adviser on the Urban Adaptation Assessment project, funded by the Kresge Foundation and led by the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index.</p>
 <p>Scott Tess Twitter: @cityofurbana</p>	<p>Scott R. Tess is the Sustainability & Resilience Officer for the City of Urbana, IL. He supervises the commodities recycling and landscape recycling programs and is responsible for working with the Sustainability Advisory Commission to implement the City's Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Water Management Plan. Scott is also responsible for the solar redevelopment of the City's closed landfill. Scott earned his B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his Masters of Planning from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.</p>
 <p>Steve Frenkel Twitter: @CurrentWater</p>	<p>Steve directs <i>Current's</i> strategy, operations and programs to advance innovative water research and technology. Prior to his appointment as <i>Current's</i> Executive Director, Steve was a management consultant helping power-sector clients develop wind and solar energy projects. He previously led the Midwest office of the Union of Concerned Scientists and directed Midwest operations of Renew Financial, LLC, an innovative clean energy financing firm. Steve also served as Chief Policy Advisor at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and as Senior Advisor for Energy and Environment and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Illinois Governor's office where he oversaw energy, environmental and climate policy. Steve holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.</p>
	<p>Suzanne Malec-McKenna is the Interim CEO of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI). The organization's membership is comprised of Mayors on both the Canada and U.S. sides of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. GLSLCI focuses on policy, local solutions and advocacy for key issues impacting local government agencies and their constituents. Current priority issues include: invasive species and the Asian Carp barrier; shoreline and community climate resiliency; microplastics; and agricultural solutions to addressing nutrient loading. For the past two years prior to joining GLSLCI, Suzanne worked on the transition team for new Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, led collaboration building for ConTextos and consulted on sustainability issues. Prior gigs include serving as Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness where she where she led strategies and actions to advance its conservation</p>



<p>Suzanne Malec-McKenna Twitter: @gslcities</p>	<p>mission for the alliance, made up of two hundred conservation organizations in the business, government, nonprofit, and institutional sectors. Additionally, Suzanne served as Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Environment for seventeen years, leading efforts in Natural Resources and Water Quality, Brownfields restoration, Energy and Sustainable Business, Permitting and Enforcement, green buildings, and environmental communications and education. She was responsible for management of the City's Climate Action Plan, which coordinated nearly 40 agencies to carry out robust mitigation and adaptation efforts. Suzanne holds a Bachelor's degree from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Master's and Doctoral degrees from Northwestern University.</p>
 <p>Xuhui Lee</p>	<p>Professor Lee's research and teaching concern the interactions between the terrestrial biosphere, the atmosphere and anthropogenic drivers. His areas of interest include boundary-layer meteorology, micrometeorological instrumentation, remote sensing, and carbon cycle science. One focus of his research activity is on biophysical effects of land use on the climate system. Other ongoing projects investigate greenhouse gas fluxes in the terrestrial environment (forests, cropland and lakes), isotopic tracers in the cycling of carbon dioxide and water vapor, and urban climate mitigation. His lab group deploys an array of research methodologies, including field observations (eddy covariance, optical isotope instruments, and high-precision greenhouse gas analyzers), mathematical models (land surface models, large-eddy simulation, WRF, and earth system models), and environmental remote sensing (satellites and drones). He is Sara Shallenberger Brown Professor of Meteorology, Director of the Yale Center for Earth Observation, and Program Coordinator of the Yale-Tsinghua dual degree program. His recent textbook Fundamentals of Boundary-Layer Meteorology offers the accumulation of insights gained during his academic career as a researcher and teacher in the field of boundary-layer meteorology.</p>