

IPPSR Public Policy Forum Series Spring 2019 – April 17<sup>th</sup>

## **Oil Spills on Winter Lakes: Risk Perception, Detection, and Remediation**

The April forum discussion will present preliminary research findings that have implications for identifying best practices and developing spill remediation policy for the State of Michigan. A research panel will report on public perceptions of the risks associated with underwater oil spills based on surveys and modeling. Additionally, the MSU team will provide a research status update on a first-time investigation into how oil accumulates and spreads beneath lake ice in the winter season. The forum will outline considerations such as tourism, employment, revenue, and safe transport of fuel supplies for policy makers striving to maintain the health of the Great Lakes.

*Thank you to our speakers today.*



**Douglas Bessette, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University.**

Dr. Bessette earned his PhD in Geography from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada and his Master of Science from the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies here at MSU. Following completion of his PhD, Dr. Bessette worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State University and as a Senior Research Associate at Ohio State University. Before completing his undergraduate degree he served four years in the U.S. Army as an M1A1 tanker. At MSU, Dr. Bessette researches and teaches courses in sustainable energy, energy transitions and community energy development. In his applied work as a Co-Investigator, he develops and deploys structured decision-making frameworks that incorporate value-focused thinking and help stakeholders to identify objectives, generate alternatives, predict consequences and make explicit tradeoffs between values and strategies.



**Vlad Tarabara, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Michigan State University.**

Prior to joining MSU, Dr. Tarabara earned his PhD in Environmental Engineering from Rice University in Houston, Texas. Currently, he teaches courses on environmental transport and unit processes. Dr. Tarabara's research interests are at the junction of colloid and interface science and separation science. Most of his current work as a Co-Investigator focuses on membrane processes with projects on emulsion separation, virus removal by porous membranes, and catalytic membrane reactors.

Dr. Tarabara is a member of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, International Water Association, and North American Membrane Society and serves as a Special Collections Editor of the ASCE Journal of Environmental Engineering. Dr. Tarabara was also awarded as a U.S. Fullbright Scholar in the Republic of Georgia in 2014.



**Michelle Rutty, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University.**

Dr. Rutty holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Waterloo and a BA in International Development Studies from the University of Guelph. Prior to joining MSU, Dr. Rutty was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change at the University of Waterloo. During this time, her research examined the vulnerability of coastal tourism in the Caribbean, as well as winter sports tourism to climate change. This work has received international recognition, including awards and invitations to speak at a number of industry conferences to translate scientific knowledge into relevant information to aid tourism communities with climatic adaptation. At MSU, her research as a Co-Investigator involves interdisciplinary scholarship that brings together social and natural scientific approaches to examine human dimensions of climate change, particularly as it relates to the tourism sector.



**Robert Richardson, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University.**

As an ecological economist, his interests are in the study of the environment and development, particularly the contribution of ecosystem services to socioeconomic well-being. Dr. Richardson's research, teaching, and outreach program focuses primarily on sustainable development, and he uses a variety of methods from the behavioral and social sciences to study decision-making about the use of natural resources and the values of ecosystem services. He has conducted research related to agricultural-environmental linkages, household food and energy security, and tradeoffs in decision-making about environmental management in southern and eastern Africa, Central America, Southeast Asia, and the United States. His work has been published in *Ecological Economics*, *Environment and Development Economics*, and *World Development*.

**Sponsor Leadership – Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), College of Social Science, Michigan State University**



***Arnold Weinfeld, Acting Director of IPPSR and Director of Urban Policy Initiatives for University Outreach and Engagement (UOE)***

Arnold assists with the coordination of IPPSR programs such as the Michigan Political Leadership Program, Legislative Leadership Programming, State of the State Survey and issue forums. He assists the Institute’s undergraduate and graduate fellows with their research work. At UOE, Arnold serves as a connector and boundary spanner, working with offices such as the Center for Community and Economic Development as well as MSU faculty, local officials and community stakeholders to develop university-community partnerships and affect urban systems and policy change at all levels of society.



***AnnMarie Schneider, Director for Program Planning & Policy Education, IPPSR and Director of the Canadian Studies Center***

AnnMarie’s lead responsibilities are the Michigan Applied Public Policy Research (MAPPR) Grant Program and Policy Briefs, in addition to coordinating and facilitating a policy forum series featuring research expertise on current legislative issues. AnnMarie also advises marketing and communication of IPPSR programs. She bridges state and international policy as director of MSU’s Canadian Studies Center, where the focus is on U.S. and Canada relations and Canada’s cultural and economic profile. AnnMarie is most interested in building networks of issue expertise, advancing civil discourse, and securing opportunities for faculty research and student learning.

**Next Spring Forum**

May 8<sup>th</sup> - Michigan’s Response to PFAS

*Presentations and additional resources are posted at [www.ippsr.msu.edu](http://www.ippsr.msu.edu).*