



Social Justice & the Environment

University and Community Engagement

**Honoring the 100th Birthday
of Barry Commoner**

**November 2, 2017, 4-6 pm
Washington University in St. Louis
Clark-Fox Forum, Hillman Hall**



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Clark-Fox Forum, Hillman Hall, George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Agenda

- 3:30** **Registration, refreshments**
- 4:00** **Welcome to the Brown School**
Dean Mary M. McKay
- 4:05** **Reflections on Barry Commoner and Transforming Science into Policy**
Himadri Pakrasi, Myron and Sonya Glassberg/Albert and Blanche Greensfelder
Distinguished University Professor, and Director, International Center for Energy,
Environment, and Sustainability (InCEES)
- 4:15** **“Lightning Talks” on Social Justice and the Environment**
Moderator: Phil Valko, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Sustainability
Fernando Serrano: *Speaking truth to power: Extractive Industries, public health,
and environmental justice in Peru*
Bret Gustafson: *Fossil Fuels and Environmental Justice*
Stephen Bell (Lumbee) and **Julian Wahnee** (Comanche/Dine):
Environmental (In)Justice: Resiliency in Indigenous Communities
- 5:00** **Community Partners for Environmental Justice**
Co-Moderators: Scott Krummenacher, Lecturer, Environmental Studies
Angela Hobson, Assistant Dean for Public Health, Brown School
Georgia de la Garza, Shawnee Hills and Hollers
Sunni Hutton, Dutchtown South Community Corporation
Heather Navarro, Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Karen Nickel and **Dawn Chapman**, Just Moms STL
- 5:45** **Opportunities for Engagement and Action**
Hannah Schanzer, Student Associate, Office of Sustainability
Annalise Wagner, Student Associate, Office of Sustainability
- 6:00** **Closing remarks**
Michael Sherraden, George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor,
and Director, Center for Social Development

Sponsors

Brown School of Social Work, Center for Social Development,
International Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability,
Office of Sustainability, Department of Political Science



Stephen Bell is a second year Master of Social Work student and a citizen of the Lumbee Nation of North Carolina. He is originally from Greensboro, North Carolina. Before moving to St. Louis, he spent three years in Tulsa, Oklahoma, teaching middle school. His MSW concentration is in Native American Communities with a focus in children, youth and families. After graduating, he hopes to return to the education system to work to help strengthen student identities and improve schools in underprivileged communities.



Dawn Chapman and Karen Nickel are co-founders of the group Just Moms STL. They formed the organization in March 2013, not long after they became aware of the nuclear waste history of the Westlake Landfill in Bridgeton, Missouri. Nuclear waste left over from the Manhattan Project to produce atomic weaponry was dumped in the unlined landfill in the 1970s. Chapman and Nickel, with others, have worked tirelessly to understand the environmental and human health risks the radiation poses, to educate community members and policymakers, and to seek environmental justice for the families impacted by the landfill and its contents. Just Moms STL's mission is to create a safe and permanent solution for managing, and ultimately removing, the radioactive waste.

Georgia de la Garza is a community organizer and founder of Shawnee Hills and Hollers, an environmental justice organization in Southern Illinois. She has spent decades battling the fossil fuel industry throughout Illinois. Through her organization, de la Garza continues to fight for a transition away from coal and other fossil fuels in the Southern Illinois region.



Bret Gustafson, PhD, is an associate professor of SocioCultural Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. He focuses on the anthropology of politics and the political, with a particular interest in Latin American social movements, state transformation and the politics of development. Since 1992 his work in Bolivia has focused on Indigenous movements and questions of language, territory and rights through collaboration with Indigenous organizations and allied social movements, most intimately with the Guarani People of Bolivia. His current research is on the impact of natural gas on regional and national politics. Gustafson also engages in the wider field of fossil fuel research and activism, including research and action in St. Louis to demand climate accountability, improve air quality, protect public health and demand a real transition to clean energy. His teaching includes the courses Culture, Power, and the State, Social Movements, Indigenous Peoples and Movements in Latin America, and Global Energy and the American Dream.



Angela Hobson, PhD, is the assistant dean for Public Health at the Brown School. She teaches principles and cases of environmental justice in the course Foundations of Public Health: Environmental Health. She also teaches Epidemiology and the Public Health Seminar. Hobson has more than 15 years of research and practice experience. Previous research has included occupational exposure assessment methodology for Parkinsonism among welders, heavy metal contamination assessment in the Peruvian Andes, and asthma management programs for low-income students in urban schools. She has also worked as a registered environmental health specialist in Jefferson County, Colorado, where she conducted regulatory inspections of local facilities, instructed courses in food safety and investigated foodborne illness outbreaks.



Sunni Hutton is a community development manager working on the So Fresh So Clean So Creative Southside St. Louis project funded through an environmental justice grant by the Environmental Protection Agency. Her organization, Dutchtown South Community Corporation (DSCC), supports four vibrant neighborhoods in South St. Louis City: Dutchtown, Gravois Park, Marine Villa and Mount Pleasant. Through the initiative, DSCC works to address local solid waste concerns and promote sustainable solutions for the community.



Scott Krummenacher, PhD, is a lecturer of environmental studies at Washington University in St. Louis. He is author of the forthcoming book *Metroparks, Metropolitics*, by Island Press. He currently teaches and advises students in the environmental policy major. Prior to joining Washington University, he was a sustainability scholar and visiting assistant professor of public policy at Saint Louis University. His current research focuses on important questions of justice in urban agriculture, urban parks and other forms of urban greening.



Mary M. McKay, PhD, joined the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis as dean in 2016, continuing the school's legacy of creating vital knowledge, initiating social change, and preparing leaders to address social and health challenges both locally and globally.

Dean McKay's academic experience connects deeply to both social work and public health. She has received substantial federal funding for research focused on meeting the mental health and health prevention needs of youth and families impacted by poverty. She also has significant expertise in child mental health services and implementation research methods, as well as over 20 years of experience conducting HIV prevention and care-oriented studies, supported by the National Institutes of Health. She has authored more than 150 publications on mental and behavioral health, HIV/AIDS prevention and urban poverty, and more.

Previously, Dean McKay was the McSilver Professor of Social Work and the inaugural director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University's Silver School of Social Work.

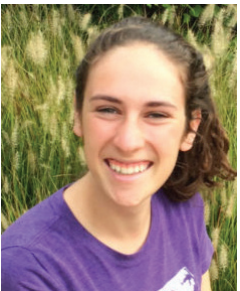


Heather Navarro is the executive director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and recently elected alderwoman for the 28th Ward. She holds a bachelor's in environmental studies and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Before coming to the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, she spent more than three years practicing as a civil rights lawyer at a private firm in St. Louis.



Himadri B. Pakrasi, PhD, is currently the Myron and Sonya Glassberg/Albert and Blanche Greensfelder Distinguished University Professor and Director of the International Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (InCEES) at Washington University in St. Louis. Pakrasi is a biochemist recognized for his work on photosynthesis and bioenergy production. He has a keen interest in bridging the differences between the biological and physical sciences, and leads large-scale multi-institutional synthetic and systems biology projects.

Professor Pakrasi has been an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Munich University, Germany; a Distinguished Fellow at the Biosciences Institute, Nagoya University, Japan; and a Lady David Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Microbiology and a Wiley Fellow at the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Pakrasi serves as the Washington University ambassador from the McDonnell International Scholars Academy to Jawaharlal Nehru University in India.



Hannah Schanzer is a junior at Washington University in St. Louis from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, majoring in Environmental Policy. She joined the Office of Sustainability's Food Team in the fall of 2016. She enjoys hiking, camping, gardening and long walks on the beach. She is an active member of the Green Events Commission, Burning Kumquat, and Washington University Green Ambassador program. She is also a member of the campus improv troupe K.A.R.L. and sketch comedy group Kids on Campus. She is excited to try to lessen Washington University's impact on the surrounding environment and climate.



Fernando Serrano, PhD, is an assistant professor at the College for Public Health and Social Justice at Saint Louis University. His service and research has involved policy decisions concerning the contamination by metals and other pollutants associated with extractive industries in the United States and in Latin America as well as the role of community-based participatory research and community-university partnerships in promoting environmental health solutions. Serrano has been the principal investigator in the evaluations of childhood lead poisoning prevention projects in St. Louis and environmental assessments of metals in areas affected by mining and smelting activities

in Peru. He has also worked on water quality in Ecuador and the environmental effects of mining in Bolivia. Serrano has provided scientific testimony on his research in Peru to the International Commission on Human Rights and United States House of Representatives. He has also served as a panel member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grants program.



Michael Sherraden is the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and founding director of the Center for Social Development at the Brown School of Social Work. With colleagues at CSD and many partners, Sherraden creates and tests innovations to improve social and economic well-being. He has defined and informed a growing body of applied research and policy to promote inclusion in asset building. This work has influenced asset-based policies and programs in the U.S. and many other countries. His research results have also informed inclusive and progressive child development accounts (CDAs) in St. Louis, other U.S. cities and states, and internationally. In addition, Sherraden's research on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s contributed to the creation of AmeriCorps.

Sherraden serves on the board, and is a co-director of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare's national initiative Grand Challenges for Social Work. Among other awards, he has been a Fulbright Scholar and listed by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



Phil Valko, assistant vice chancellor for sustainability, works with senior administrators, faculty, staff and students to incorporate and implement sustainable practices into Washington University in St. Louis' strategic planning, operations and resource management. Since joining the university in 2011, Valko and his team have significantly expanded the university's sustainability work through strong partnerships with staff, students and faculty.

Valko is a social entrepreneur who enjoys tackling challenging problems with interdisciplinary groups of collaborators. A 2003 graduate of Washington University, he worked as a climate change researcher at the University of California, Davis, before his passion for community development brought him back to St. Louis to develop The Urban Studio Cafe, a nonprofit focusing on community building, arts and job skills training. Concurrently, he worked at Rise, a nonprofit developer working to revitalize communities, to create a neighborhood indicators database for tracking the impacts of community development investments.



Annalise Wagner is a senior majoring in environmental policy and philosophy. As a St. Louis native, she has enjoyed hiking, biking, camping and other outdoor activities in the area from a young age. Her love of the outdoors contributes to her passion for environmental justice. She looks forward to helping Washington University encourage the campus and community to guarantee equal access to environmental benefits, and equal protection from environmental dangers. As organizations and communities collaborate on environmental justice work, Wagner hopes that justice will become a more central aspect of environmentalism. On campus, she runs on the track and field team and serves on the executive board of the university's pre-law fraternity, Phi Delta Phi.



Julian Wahnee is a second year MSW student. He is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation Tribe of Oklahoma and also Navajo from Shiprock, New Mexico. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in Indigenous American Indian Studies with an emphasis in social welfare from Haskell Indian Nations University. Wahnee's concentration is American Indian/ Alaska Native studies. This concentration grounds students in the historical and contemporary issues facing Native populations from culture, policy and practice perspectives. He is specializing in sexual health and education as it relates to American Indian populations. Upon graduation, he plans to work in Indian Country. He is a recipient of the prestigious Kathryn M. Buder Scholarship. Wahnee is an active member of the American Indian Student Association and the co-chair of the contesting committee for the 2018 Annual Washington University Pow Wow.