



UC Center Sacramento

“Land, Sea and Air: UC Graduate Students Explore California’s Environmental Future”

Wednesday, February 16th

12:00 - 1:30pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on February 15th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, February 14th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

This special UCCS Speakers Series program features the three top submissions from the 2021 UCCS Emerging Scholars Award Competition. Each year since 2017, UCCS has invited graduate students from all ten UC campuses to submit synopses of their policy-relevant research. Winners are chosen by a panel of UCCS-affiliated faculty, graduate students, and policy consultants. By coincidence, this year’s highest-rated proposals were all in the area of environmental science.



Melissa R. Cronin (UC Santa Cruz) is a PhD candidate in the Conservation Action Lab. She examines policies related to shark and ray bycatch (unintentional capture across five Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMOs). The goal of her work is to understand the extent and regulatory strength of bycatch policy, and to identify policy gaps and opportunities in tRFMOs for shark and ray conservation. Her results indicate that there are 45 active policies that address shark and ray bycatch, and that the vast majority of them (80%) are unlikely to avoid or minimize the likelihood of shark and ray capture.



Zoe Guttman (UCLA) received her PhD in Neuroscience and is currently a Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the California Council on Science & Technology. She argues that green spaces are associated with enhanced physiological and mental well-being of residents; a reduction in crime, aggression, and violence; improve social cohesion, mental acuity, and resilience in children and adolescents; and shade, cooling, and eliminate pollutants from the air. She urges municipal governments to consider the evidence in favor of green spaces and direct funding to enhancing green spaces in desolate and low-income neighborhoods.



Samuel Trachtman (UC Berkeley) is currently a postdoctoral fellow for the American Political Economy Project. His work explores the diffusion of rooftop solar policies across states. He shows how solar installer firms from states with solar-friendly policies can leverage their success to influence policy in other states.

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at uccs-talks@ucdavis.edu

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCCS.