

The Duke Center for Environmental Solutions

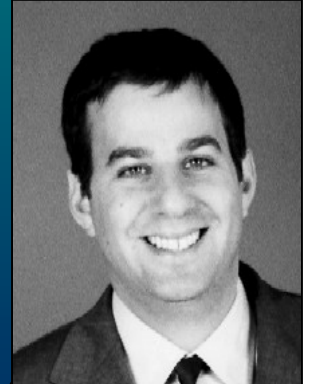
The Environmental Institutions Seminar Series



Presents

CES Grant Recipients
Friday, March 21, 2003
12:30pm –2:00pm

Levine Science Research Center, Room A150
Research Drive, Duke University



Karineh Samkian

2nd Year Masters Student,
Nicholas School, Duke University

Marinas and Shellfish Closures: Protecting Human Health

Abstract:

Areas adjacent to marinas frequently have elevated counts of fecal coliform bacteria. Bivalve shellfish, such as oysters and clams, filter feed thereby concentrating pathogens in their tissue, which poses a potential human health threat to consumers. For this reason, North Carolina automatically closes marina waters for shellfishing and sets the closure boundary based on a formula that includes the marina type and the number of boat slips. Though the boundary delineation has been generally successful in protecting human health, it fails to include other parameters recommended by national guidelines. With increasing shoreline development, the current method may be challenged by the stakeholders. In collaboration with the North Carolina Shellfish Sanitation Section, Samkian recommends a more comprehensive formula that would adequately protect human health and also maximize areas open to shellfishing. This formula was developed by examining the effectiveness of other state policies, and it was tested using actual marina examples. In addition, it includes parameters for which actual data exist or uses liberal assumptions in an attempt to avoid ultra-conservative closure areas.

Speaker Biography:

Samkian is a Master of Environmental Management candidate in the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences with a concentration in coastal water quality. She received her B.A. in biology and environmental science from Occidental College, California in 1999. After graduation, she worked as an environmental consultant. This talk is based on her Master's Project and is also part of a year long research project that will help examine other aspects of the current North Carolina marina and shellfishing policies.

Justin Pearlman

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science
Duke University

Globalization and the Political Economy of Environmental Regulation in Mexico

Abstract:

Globalization, in the form of foreign investment and trade, has been both touted as an engine of environmental reform in developing countries through the transfer of green technology and practices; and at the same time pilloried for undermining environmental standards through a "race to the bottom" by politicians. This debate is particularly intense when dealing with Mexico, which has sought to combat dramatic levels of pollution while at the same time integrating into the global economy via North American Free Trade Agreement.

After describing several ways in which the strength of environmental standards varies widely across a range of manufacturing industries in Mexico, Pearlman will discuss whether Mexican industries that are more closely tied to international trade and investment have gone further in enacting environmental regulations, or whether they have lagged behind other sectors in Mexico.

Speaker Biography:

Pearlman is a doctoral candidate in Political Science. His dissertation looks at environmental regulation of industrial activity in Latin American countries with field work in Mexico and Argentina. He explores how foreign investment and trade affect the process of environmental policy reform; and how differences in domestic political institutions shape the development of national environmental policies.

His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Organization of American States. He has worked at a number of research organizations including the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs and the United States Institute of Peace.

Please RSVP by March 19 via email to : leithec@duke.edu

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