



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENT

AFRICA & THE ENVIRONMENT

SYMPOSIUM 2015

**Emerging and Contemporary Issues
of the Environment Beyond Ebola**



LEADERSHIP



FUTURE

PROGRAM BOOK

October 29 2015, 10:00-4:00

Wisconsin Institute for Discovery
333 N Orchard St; Madison WI

EVENT SPONSORS

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AFRICA & THE ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM 2015

Thursday, October 29, 2015

Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, 333 N. Orchard St, Madison WI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, MORNING

9.30 - 10.00 AM	Arrival and Check In
10.00 - 10.05 AM	Introduction and Welcome, Alhaji N'jai
10.05 - 10.10 AM	Purpose and Symposium Background
10.10 - 10.35 AM	Nathan Schulfer, Nelson Institute <i>Conservation networking in the Congo Basin</i>
10.35 - 11:00 AM	Mary Hark, School of Human Ecology <i>Papermaking in Ghana: Art, Craft, and Environmental Conservation</i>
11.00 - 11.25 AM	Jeremy Foltz, Agriculture & Applied Economics <i>Climate Change and Child Mortality in Mali</i>
11.25 - 11.50 AM	Linda Vakunta, Global Health Institute <i>Environment, Education, Youth Perceptions, and Sustainability in Sierra Leone</i>
11.50 - 12.00 PM	Poster Session
12:00 - 12.45 PM	Buffet Working Lunch <i>Action items due by 1:00 to Registration Table</i>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, AFTERNOON

12.45 - 1.10 PM	Janis Tupesis <i>Health Systems and Capacity Building in Liberia and Ethiopia</i>
1.10 - 1.35 PM	Matthew Turner, Geography <i>Political Ecology and Resource Management in Sahel</i>
1.35 - 2.00 PM	Paul Block, Civil & Environmental Engineering <i>Precipitation Forecasts and Water Resources Management in Ethiopia</i>
2.00 - 2.25 PM	Lesley Sager, School of Human Ecology <i>Design of the Dream School: A sustainable Micro Campus in Tharaka Nithi, Kenya</i>
2.25 - 2.30 PM	Refreshment Break
2.30 - 2.55 PM	Tony Goldberg, Pathobiological Sciences <i>Pathways of pathogen emergence</i>
2.55- 3.20 PM	Paige Andrews, Population Health Sciences <i>Liberia Ebola Outbreak: Response Notes from the Field</i>
3.20 - 3:50 PM	Yoshi Kawaoka, Pathobiological Sciences <i>Control of Ebola virus infection</i>
3.50 - 4:00 PM	Concluding Remarks & Thanks

WORKING LUNCHEON TOPICS

POSTER SESSION INFORMATION

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Paige Andrews

“Liberia Ebola Outbreak: Response Notes from the Field”

Project Assistant, Population Health Sciences

Paige Andrews is a first-year Epidemiology PhD student here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to joining UW, Paige worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she primarily worked with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services Division of Environmental Health in Micronesia. She was also deployed to Liberia for six weeks as a field epidemiologist during the Ebola Outbreak. Paige’s educational background is in economics and mathematics and her current research interests include environmental and global epidemiology.

Paul Block

“Precipitation Forecasts and Water Resources Management in Ethiopia”

Assistant Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering

The Block Research Group, which is part of the Water Systems & Society Research Group, aims to couple climate, hydrology, and management models and knowledge to reduce risks and promote sustainability of water resources for society benefit. The group creatively addresses critical water resources management challenges in local to international transboundary capacities through stakeholder and decision-maker collaborations. They work at the intersection of engineering and socio-economics to enhance management, adaptation, and sustainability of water resources by leveraging across the sciences.

Jeremy Foltz

“Climate Change and Child Mortality in Mali”

Professor, Agriculture & Applied Economics

The focus of Dr. Foltz’s research lies on the microeconomics of technology adoption, farm structure, agricultural biotechnology, intellectual property rights, land use, and economic development. In addition to his faculty position, he also enjoys an appointment with the UW-Extension System, where he focuses on development of useful systems for the Agriculture & Natural Resources Program, which is designed to help the structure, conduct, and performance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, CONT.

Tony Goldberg

“Pathways of pathogen emergence”

Professor, Pathobiological Sciences

Dr. Goldberg’s activities focus on the ecology, epidemiology, and evolution of infectious diseases. His research combines field and laboratory studies to understand how disease-causing agents are transmitted among hosts, across complex landscapes, and over time. This information is then combined with methods from the social sciences to understand the root drivers of disease emergences in “real world” settings and evolution that can be generalized across systems. Most of the projects are place-based, focused on well-defined ecosystems at fine spatial and temporal scales. He is the founder of the Kibale EcoHealth Project, which is a long-term study of health and disease in the people, primates, and other domestic animals of western Uganda.

Mary Hark

“Papermaking in Ghana: Art, Craft, and Environmental Conservation”

Associate Professor, School of Human Ecology

Professor Mary Hark (Design Studies, African Studies & Art) received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MA from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. Her work can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Smithsonian Museum of African Art, the Ginsberg Book Arts Collection in Johannesburg, South Africa, and in many university special collections in the United States and Canada. In 2006 Hark received a Senior Fulbright Research Grant to Sub-Saharan Africa, and continues to lead an initiative in Kumasi, Ghana, establishing Take Time Press with Atta Kwami and Pamela Clarkson, and building the first hand papermill in West Africa capable of producing high-quality papers entirely from local botanicals. Mary teaches textile design and papermaking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is invited to conduct workshops and lecture at Art Centers and Universities internationally.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, CONT.

Yoshi Kawaoka

“Control of Ebola virus infection”

Professor, Pathobiological Sciences

Dr. Yoshihiro Kawaoka was educated in Japan, receiving his DVM in 1978 and his PhD in 1983 from Hokkaido University. Early in his career, he identified a critical determinant for high pathogenicity of avian influenza viruses; this information is now used by world agencies as a criterion for rapidly identifying lethal and non-lethal avian influenza viruses. He also established the technique of reverse genetics, which allows for the generation of “designer” influenza viruses, a technology that has been used to develop candidate H5N1 influenza virus vaccines. In addition to this work, he also studies Ebola virus, becoming the first to establish a pseudotype virus system that allows the analysis of Ebola virus glycoprotein under reduced biosafety level conditions. He has been awarded the Robert Koch Award, the Medal of Honor from the Emperor of Japan, and is a Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

Lesley Sager

“Design of the Dream School: A sustainable Micro campus in Tharaka Nithi, Kenya”

Assistant Faculty Associate, School of Human Ecology

Professor Sager has found her passion in design, and how a powerful design process can help change how we live. After receiving her MS here at UW-Madison in Design Studies in 2001, she worked as a Project Designer for Architectural Building Arts, Inc., and is now a Faculty Associate through the School of Human Ecology. As an instructor, she provides both large and small design opportunities, the largest of which is designing a women’s maker studio in Kenya. Her work has led to an enormous impact in Kenya, from designing the previously mentioned studio, to distributing laptops for the use of the community of Bura Tana.

Nathan Schulfer

“Conservation Networking in the Congo Basin”

Senior Student Services Coordinator, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Nathan Schulfer has been working on his MS in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development at the Nelson Institute here on the UW-Campus. His research focus is on the contributions of ecosystem services and food security, with an emphasis on conservation strategies that contribute to resilience in both. In particular, he is interested in land tenure, species conservation, and protected land area management.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, CONT.

Janis Tupesis

“Health System and Capacity Building in Liberia and Ethiopia”

Professor, Emergency Medicine

Dr. Tupesis’ research interests focus on the intersection of resident education and global health; primarily, his interests lie at the development of new and innovative educational curricula and learner evaluation methodology. He is currently involved in projects working to establish graduate medical education programs in resource limited settings, both in Liberia and Ethiopia. This is a partnership that has been developed with many other academic institutions.

Matthew Turner

“Political Ecology and Resource Management in Sahel”

Professor, Geography

The research area of Dr. Turner rests in the political ecology, development theory, politics of conservation and conservation science. He uses remote sensing / GIS application on natural resource management, pastoralism, and common property theory. Interests include the ecology of tropical savanna / steppe vegetation and range ecology.

Linda Vakunta

“Environment, Education, Youth Perceptions, and Sustainability in Sierra Leone”

Research Associate, Global Health Institute

Linda Vakunta’s research has involved exploring young people’s environmental perceptions, focusing on future education and education in rural post-conflict Sierra Leone. She has worked closely with the Project 1808 Sierra Leone team since 2009, where she has participated in building community-school partnerships, encouraging innovative ideas, and providing community services.

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