

# SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH and PRACTICE SEMINAR



Join us every Wednesday at lunchtime – in person or via Zoom – to learn how WCU scholars, staff, students, and friends explore and apply principles of sustainability in their research and on-campus work.

*Students, faculty, staff, and community members are all welcome.*

**Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:50 pm**  
in person (209 Sykes Student Union) and via Zoom

**<https://wcupa.zoom.us/j/95444388826>, passcode: 121829**

## FEBRUARY 5, 2025

**Dr. Megan Heckert**, *Geography & Planning*,  
**Dr. Randall Cream**, *English*, and **Dr. Tina Rosan**,  
*Temple University Geography, Environment and Urban Studies*  
Using Walk Audits and Storytelling to Understand  
Neighborhood Environmental Problems

## FEBRUARY 12, 2025

**Dr. Emily Southerton**, *Learning Sciences*,  
and **Kate Southerton-Castillo**, *Transformative  
Education and Social Change '26*  
Getting “out in the woods” with students:  
intergenerational work centering learners  
as creators of sustainable futures

## FEBRUARY 19, 2025

**Dr. Abbie Ganas**  
*Chemistry*  
Sustainable Synthesis of  
Cellulose-Derived Carbon Materials

## FEBRUARY 26, 2025

**Dr. Lorenzo Cena**, *Public Health Sciences*, **Victor Nwinee**,  
**Daniel Engelbrecht**, and **Jess Hampton**  
Why do mushroom farms in PA smell so bad?

## MARCH 5, 2025

**Dr. Manu Ramalho**  
*Biology*  
Fostering and understanding diversity: within the  
ant microbiome and our research group

## MARCH 19, 2025

**Dr. Nica Davidov**  
*Associate Professor of Anthropology, Monmouth University*  
Nature Is Good To Think With: How Biomimicry  
Creates a “Sustainabling” Resource

## MARCH 26, 2025

**Dr. Jason Vanfosson**  
*English*

“For All Its Problems, It’s Mine”: Writing and Sustaining  
Queer Appalachian Stories in Youth Literature

## APRIL 2, 2025

**Dr. Nur Ritter**

*Steward of the Gordon Natural Area*

Nobody Told Me There’d Be Otters! Species,  
Patterns, and Insights from 2+ Years of Wildlife  
Camera Monitoring in the Gordon Natural Area

THIS WEEK ONLY: SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN SECC 107

## APRIL 9, 2025

**Dr. Jason Wozniak**

*Educational Foundations & Policy Studies*

On Environmental Debts, and Debt Abolition  
to Fight the Climate Crisis

## APRIL 16, 2025

**Nick Ventrola**

*Resident District Manager, Aramark*

Pursuing Sustainability in Campus Dining Services

## APRIL 23, 2025

**Dr. Linda Stevenson**

*Political Science*

Teaching and Learning Sustainability:  
An Interdisciplinary Global Studies Approach

## APRIL 30, 2025

**Dr. Karin Volkwein-Caplan**

*Kinesiology*

Healthy Aging in a Sustainable Manner