Contributors

Ashraf Abdul-Mohsen is a Post-doctoral Fellow at the US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, USA. Ashraf Abdul-Mohsen’s area of specialization is environmental and resource economics. His primary research interests focus on the valuation of river ecosystems and environmental improvements using stated preference methods such as contingent valuation. Particularly, his research covers issues related to the validity of contingent valuation and environmental justice. His current research focuses on using referenda and ballot initiatives to value water quality improvements.

Radha Ayalasomayajula majored in Economics in undergraduate studies from Andhra University, India, and received a Master’s degree in Resource Economics from The Ohio State University, USA. She worked for a few years in the US with Rivers Unlimited, an environmental conservation organization, as a researcher. She now lives in India, working at the US Embassy. She also consults for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (India) in their Human Development Resource Centre. Her other interests include studying arts and craft through the ages, and understanding the relationship between science and spirituality.

Joana J. Ferreti-Meza obtained her BS in Economics at the Research Center “Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas” (CIDE) in Mexico City and her MS in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University (OSU) in the USA. She joined the multidisciplinary research center “Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias-Universidad Autonoma de Mexico” (CRIM-UNAM) in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for a few years and specialized in the Economics of Water. She is currently working at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on the Economic Assessment of Ohio’s Natural Resources. She has enjoyed the support of sponsors such as Fulbright-COMEXUS, CIDE, and CRIM-UNAM. Her passion is working with multidisciplinary teams on behalf of the environment and people. She loves spending her free afternoons dancing or admiring art.

D. Lynn Forster is a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University.
His research focuses on issues relating to farms, agribusinesses, and the environment. Courses taught regularly include principles of food and resource economics, principles of agribusiness finance, and a PhD seminar. He serves as the department’s undergraduate program leader and is a member of a regional research committee investigating agricultural finance issues.

Timothy C. Granata is a research scientist at The Ohio State University, specializing in eco-hydraulics and ecological engineering. He has over 18 years of experience in coastal zone and coastal watershed research. He is a licensed engineer and a registered senior ecologist.

Tim Haab is a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. Dr Haab has over ten years’ experience in the valuation of environmental amenities. He has published over 30 journal articles on valuation techniques, many appearing in the top environmental economics and economics journals. His 2002 book, Valuing Environmental and Natural Resources: The Econometrics of Non-Market Valuation, co-authored with Kenneth E. McConnell, has become a standard reference for nonmarket valuation researchers and practitioners.

Fred J. Hitzhusen is a Professor of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics and a Professor in the Environmental Science Graduate Program at The Ohio State University. Professor Hitzhusen has over 30 years of experience in doing research and teaching related to valuation of a wide range of natural resource and environmental systems in the US, Europe, and several developing countries. He has over 150 publications, has been Principal Investigator on $2 million+ in research grants, and has been a consultant to numerous organizations and served on several commissions concerned with the management of natural resources and the environment.

Marc Hnytka received his BSBA in Marketing from The Ohio State University. He is pursuing a graduate program at The Ohio State University in AED Economics. He plans to finish a master’s degree and pursue a PhD, and is interested in studying the social, political, and economic components of human sustainability. Primary interests are peak oil, natural and energy efficient building practices, sustainable and organic agriculture, and renewable energy resources.

Stephen Irvin has over six years’ experience in the field of environmental economics focusing mostly on renewable and alternative energy. Starting in 1999, Stephen began working as an economist for Rivers Unlimited to protect miles of rivers and streams throughout the Midwestern USA from industrial pollution and ecological degradation. He was awarded a National
Science Foundation Fellowship in 2002 at the University of California in Santa Barbara to study renewable energy in developing countries. This led him to Nepal in 2003, where he worked with the Nepali government providing subsidies for solar PV home systems, biogas digesters, and micro-hydro power plants. After leaving Nepal, he returned to the university to research the use of solar PV and biogas to reduce indoor air pollution in villages throughout Southeast Asia. Mr Irvin holds an MA in Economics from the University of California and an MS in Environmental Economics from The Ohio State University.

P. Wilner Jeanty is a PhD candidate in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. His research areas include environmental and development economics. Mr Jeanty has been working on estimating nonmarket economic benefits of using biodiesel fuel in Ohio, and assessing Ohio’s biomass energy potential using geographic information system (GIS). His recent studies have focused on determining the effects of local development pressure on land prices, estimating nonmarket economic benefits of river restoration, and analyzing the impacts of civil wars and conflicts on food security in developing countries using instrumental variable panel data models. He has strong interests in applied econometric methods of non-market valuation, spatial econometrics and GIS, discrete choice analysis, and panel data modeling.

Sarah A. Kruse received her PhD from The Ohio State University in environmental and natural resource economics. She currently serves as the staff economist at Ecotrust, a nonprofit think-tank in Portland, Oregon, where she conducts research to identify and analyze linkages between economic, environmental, and social systems. Before graduate school, she also spent time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay after completing a BS in Economics from the College of Wooster.

Sarah Lowder received her PhD in AED Economics from The Ohio State University in 2004, where she worked as instructor, teaching and research associate in various courses and projects on sustainable development (including the restoration of Muskingum River). She has held consultancies (with the World Food Program [WFP], OXFAM America, and Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]) doing research on food aid, which was the topic of her dissertation. She is currently based in Bangkok, working as an economist for the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In her spare time she enjoys studying foreign languages; she is currently learning Thai, has studied Swahili in Tanzania, and is fluent in French.
Chris Murray holds a BA in Economics from Wittenburg College and an MS in AED Economics at The Ohio State University, and has more than six years’ experience in economic and policy analysis in a broad range of issues including the environment and health care. Currently, Chris is employed by The Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes as the Director of Economic and Policy Analysis, where he performs analysis and research on issues in long-term care. Chris also teaches Economics at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Chris is the proud father of twin baby girls, Maya and Keira, and spends his free time doting on them.

Brent Sohngen is a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University. His research focuses on the economics of climate change and water quality issues. He leads a research-based outreach educational program on benefit cost analysis of conservation programs and water quality trading.

Allan Sommer is a watershed economist for the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he conducts benefit cost analyses for watershed protection and improvement projects. Allan has over six years of experience in environmental economics and policy analysis on topics ranging from greenhouse gas emissions to national park visitation. Allan holds a BS in resource management and an MS in environmental economics, both from The Ohio State University.

David Warren is Research Analyst at the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program in Washington, DC, where he conducts research on urban sprawl, demographic change, and geographic disparities. David holds a master’s degree in environmental economics from The Ohio State University and a bachelor’s degree in economics and environmental policy from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. If he is not at his desk toiling with SAS or ArcGIS, there is a decent chance you will find him at RFK Stadium catching a Nationals game.

Ulrike Zika received an ScD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. Dr Zika is an aquatic ecologist/environmental scientist with expertise in ecological engineering, stream restoration, stream classification, and habitat evaluations in fluvial and coastal systems. She assessed woody debris, deflectors and dam removal as stream restoration tools in Ohio and in watersheds in Switzerland, and settlement processes and habitat requirements of a littoral marine fish in Spain. She currently works for Oxbow River & Stream Restoration, Inc. in Ohio.