

DC Area Working Group: Energy and Environment

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What?

The Initiative on Sustainable Energy Policy ([ISEP](#)) invites doctoral students and junior faculty in the DC area to join a working group on energy and environment. The goal of the group is to forge and support dynamic collaborations among talented and energetic young scholars. The working group supports work that contributes to the design and implementation of sustainable energy and environmental policy, with a particular focus on emerging economies.

What's ISEP?

While robust economic growth across all continents has lifted billions out of abject poverty, it has also created new energy challenges that undermine human development and threaten environmental destruction. The Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP) at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) is an interdisciplinary research program that uses cutting-edge social and behavioral science to design, test, and implement better energy policies in emerging economies. A unique feature of ISEP is the pragmatic recognition of the administrative, political, and socio-cultural constraints on energy policy reform. The initiative is based on the premise that the obstacle to energy policy reform is rarely the lack of better alternatives to the current situation, but rather the vexing difficulty of enacting, implementing, and sustaining these alternatives. As such, the initiative focuses on innovative ways to overcome obstacles to energy policy reform in emerging economies.

Why a working group?

Energy and environment are the two greatest challenges that the human civilization faces today. Cutting-edge social science can make major contributions to sustainable human development. Unfortunately, graduate students and junior faculty in the social and natural sciences lack the contacts, funding, mentoring, and community to realize their full potential.

What's in it for you?

Joining the working group offers substantial benefits to early career talent:

- ISEP team offers rigorous feedback on early ideas, research designs, and working papers. We have extensive experience publishing with early career scholars, the end result being great jobs for people who deserve them. Joining the working group will substantially expand your opportunities to publish your research in top journals in the near future.
- With a robust fundraising strategy and the full support of SAIS leadership, ISEP offers opportunities to join ambitious, high-reward projects with leading scholars in the field. Joining the working group opens opportunities for research experiences that are typically not available to early career researchers.
- ISEP has an extensive network of government, civil society, and corporate contacts around the world. Joining the working group facilitates your field research.
- ISEP creates a community of ambitious scholars working on today's most pressing challenges. Joining the working group offers an opportunity to meet and learn from brilliant young scholars.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for ambitious, talented, and energetic early career scholars.

For graduate students early in their program, the key qualifications are a deep interest in environmental and energy policy and willingness to work hard to learn and contribute to the working group.

For advanced graduate students and junior faculty, the key qualifications are a deep interest in environmental and energy policy, exceptional research skills, and willingness to work hard to initiate and develop ambitious research projects.

What's DC area anyway?

We are looking for people who are able to participate in old-fashioned meetings at SAIS about two times a year. If you're able to travel for such meetings during the academic year, then you're in the DC area. Yes, it definitely includes the JHU main campus in Baltimore.

How do I join?

Email Johannes (JohannesU@jhu.edu) and tell us about your research area, skills, and interest in the working group. Please also include a recent CV. We'll invite you to a brainstorming session.