

**Department of Earth & Environment**  
**2021 Graduate Research Symposium**



**School of Environment, Arts and Society**  
**College of Arts, Sciences and Education**  
**Florida International University**

**Virtual on Zoom (It will be video recorded)**  
**Friday, February 19, 2021**

**Schedule**

*Welcome and Opening Remarks*

- 8:30 **Dr. Assefa Melesse**, Graduate Program Director
- 8:40 **Dr. Leonard Scinto**, Chairperson, Department of Earth & Environment
- 8:50 **Dr. Todd Crowl**, Executive Director, FIU Institute of Environment
- 9:00 **Invited Speaker**, Dr. Florentin Maurrass, Department of Earth & Environment

*Graduate Student Presentations*

- 9:30 – 10:30 am      Session 1 – Oral Presentations
- 10:30-11:00am      Break
- 11:00am – 1:00 pm      Session 2 – Poster Tour, authors present on Gather app
- 1:00 – 1:55 pm      Session 3 – 3 Minute Presentations
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm      Session 4 - Oral presentations
- 2:50 - 3:00 pm      Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm      Session 5 - Oral presentations

*Awards*

- 4:15 – 5:00 pm      Presentation of awards for best posters and best talks

<b>Session 1 – Oral Presentations (9:30 - 10:30)</b>			
<b>Moderator: <i>Krish Jayachandran</i></b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>ORAL-Presentation Title</b>	
09:30	Bradbury, Mason	PhD	Differences in the conservation histories of pine rockland and tropical hardwood hammock ecosystems in Miami-Dade County
09:42	Garcia, Ellen	MS	Study of Symbiotic Relationship between Mycorrhizal Fungi and Native Orchids in Different Micro-Climates
09:54	Gervasi, Carissa	PhD	Bottom-up conservation: Using stakeholder knowledge to inform conservation priorities for an unregulated and recreationally valued fish species
10:06	Herdocia, Carlos	PhD	Characterization of the Geochemical Changes Associated with Carbon Sequestration Before, During, and After Oceanic Anoxic Event 1a within Aptian Sediments of the Subbetic Basin, Southern Spain
10:18	Katz, Jeremy	PhD	How Differential Changes of Mixing Length Impacts Hurricane Intensification
<b>Coffee Break &amp; Poster session</b>			
<b>Session 2 – Poster Presentations (11:00-1:00, with first authors present)</b>			
<b>Moderator: <i>Rodolfo Rego</i></b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>POSTER-Presentation Title</b>	
Khadka, Ganesh	PhD	Isolation and characterization of endophytic fungi isolated from medicinal plant <i>Agave Americana</i> from south Florida (Poster #1)	
Lau, Melissa	MS	Placed-Based Meanings and Attachments: The Case of the Miami River (Poster #2)	
Onwuka, Ikechukwu	PhD	Minimizing phosphorous loads from increased freshwater deliveries to the Everglades (Poster #3)	
Paduani, Melinda	PhD	"Microplastics as novel sedimentary particles in coastal wetlands: A review" (Poster #4)	
Islam, Tania	MS	Factors associated with household wellbeing following the Texas Hurricane Harvey (Poster #5)	
Calagna, Oriana	PhD	Latinos and environmentalism (Poster #6)	
<b>12:00-1:00PM: Lunch</b>			
<b>Session 3 – Three Minute Theses (1:00-1:55 pm).</b>			
<b>Moderator: <i>Shimon Wdowski</i></b>			
1:00	Campo, Stephanie	PhD	Casual Mechanisms of Resilient Practices: Informing Environmental Education at the Organizational Level
1:05	Castillo, Nicholas	PhD	Examining the presence of pharmaceutical contaminants on a large spatial
1:10	Emer, Lauren	PhD	Does exposure to Peruvian crude oil alter prey behaviors of Amazonian freshwater fish? A proposal
1:15	Guzman, Hugo	PhD	Utilizing Expert Stakeholder Interviews to Develop Models of Critical Infrastructure Resiliency in the Face of Escalating Climate Risk
1:20	Kleiman, Blaire	MS	How do weeds affect insects in mango cultivation of South Florida?
1:25	Linenfelter, Joshua	MS	Nutrient enigma: Source of nutrients to the Coastal Everglades Lakes

1:30	Rodemann, Jonathan	PhD	Impact of extreme disturbances on suspended sediment in Western Florida Bay: Implications for seagrass resilience
1:35	Lacy, Lulu	PhD	Mapping fish migrations in the Andean-Amazon of Peru
1:40	Cordoba, Nicole	MS	Understanding Hydraulic Connectivity and Identifying Distinguishing Characteristics Between Mangrove and Sawgrass Peat from Everglades National Park
1:45	Parades, Marco	MS	Numerical Simulation of Tornadoes in Tropical Cyclones.
1:50	Villalba, Daniela	MS	Land Subsidence in Miami Beach based on Precise Leveling Measurements on Precise Leveling Measurements
1:55	Luba, Nilima Islam	PhD	Factors Affecting Hurricane Evacuation: Lessons from Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael
<b>Session 4 – Oral Presentations (2:00 – 2:50 pm)</b>			
<b>Moderator: <i>Elizabeth Anderson</i></b>			
2:00	Londono, Vanessa	PhD	Controls on Sedimentary Accumulation of Organic Matter During Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Event 2, Southeast Newfoundland Ridge
2:12	Zhang, Boya	PhD	Space-based mapping of the Everglades mangrove canopy height with multi-sensor observations and machine learning
2:24	Mullin, Drew	MS	Tissue Culture and Acclimatization of Endangered and Threatened Native Orchids
2:36	Pena, Francisco	PhD	Multivariate statistical and deterministic modeling of compound flooding drivers in North Miami
<b>Break 2:50 - 3:00 pm</b>			
<b>3:00 - 4:03 pm Session 5 - Oral presentations</b>			
<b>Moderator: <i>Laurie Collins</i></b>			
3:00	Moncada, Angelica	PhD	Characterizing water quality from different canals
3:12	Seeteram, Nadia	PhD	Resilience for Whom: A Climate Mobility Framework for Assessing Equity Outcomes in Sea Level Rise Adaptation
3:24	Vorseth, Chloe'	PhD	Tight Lines and Survey Designs: A Comprehensive Recreational Economic Valuation of Lake Okeechobee and the Northern Estuaries
3:36	Rogers, Martina	PhD	Analysis of well water level time series for aquifer parameter estimation
3:48	Mekdelawit Messay Deribe	PhD	Equitable and sustainable use of transboundary waters: the case of the Nile Basin
<b>4:15 – 5:00 pm      Presentation of awards for best posters and best talks</b>			

## **Awards**

A panel of judges will announce the winners at 4:45 PM. Awards for best oral presentations, best posters, and best 3-minute talks, will be given in both the MSc and PhD cohorts. Best Poster, Best Oral Presentation and best Three-Minute Thesis awardees, plus runners-up will receive a certificate and monetary award.

## **Acknowledgements**

All of us are grateful to Rodolfo Rego, Caridad Machado, Gail Excell, and Kristen Davis for their organizing efforts that have brought the Earth and Environment faculty, staff and students together to experience and celebrate the terrific research of the graduate students.