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Fall/Winter 2009-10

RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE ACADEMIC UPDATE

RFF Academic Update is a biannual newsletter from Resources for the Future that alerts subscribers to new RFF research and policy analysis on environmental, energy, natural resource, and public health issues.

Resources for the Future is pleased to announce the "RFF Academic Update" an e-newsletter geared toward academic scholars in the energy, environmental, natural resources, and public health policy disciplines. Founded in 1952, RFF is a nonpartisan, independent think tank headquartered in Washington. Our researchers conduct high quality, policy-relevant social science research rooted primarily in economics. I invite you to explore the RFF website for topics of interest to you in your research or teaching, visit RFF when you are in DC, and consider presenting a paper at our academic workshops. I hope you will find the RFF Academic Update a useful introduction to RFF and look forward to hearing from you with any comments or questions.

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New Fellows at RFF

Stephen P.A. Brown



Stephen Brown joined RFF in 2009 as its first nonresident fellow. During his 27-year career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, where he retired as director of energy economics and microeconomic policy analysis, he focused on domestic and international energy markets, energy security policies, public finance, and government performance.

Maureen L. Cropper



Maureen Cropper, a professor of economics at the University of Maryland and a former lead economist at the World Bank, joins RFF as a senior fellow. Her research has focused on valuing environmental amenities, estimating consumer preferences for health and longevity improvements, and the tradeoffs implicit in environmental regulations.

Shanjun Li



Shanjun Li joins RFF as a fellow. Recently he was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at the State University of New York (SUNY), Stony Brook. He received his PhD in economics from Duke University. His research has focused on empirical analysis of consumer behavior in various settings.

John A. List



John List is a nonresident fellow from the University of Chicago, Department of Economics. Professor List focuses on microeconomics, with a particular emphasis on the use of experimental methods to address both positive and normative issues.

Stephen W. Salant



Professor Salant is a nonresident fellow from the University of Michigan with a specialization in the fields of industrial organization and natural resource economics. Before joining the economics faculty at the University of Michigan in 1986, he worked at the Federal Reserve Board and the Rand Corporation, where he served as the first editor of the Rand Journal.

James N. Sanchirico



James Sanchirico is a nonresident fellow from the University of California, Davis, Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Professor Sanchirico's research applies quantitative empirical and theoretical methods to study the design and evaluation of policy instruments for the conservation of natural resources.

Roberton C. Williams III



Rob Williams joins RFF as a senior fellow. He is on leave from the University of Texas at Austin, and is a visiting associate professor at the University of Maryland. He has served as a co-editor of the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, and is currently a co-editor of the Journal of Public Economics.

Visiting Scholars for 2009-2010

Sheila M. Olmstead



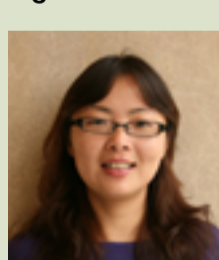
Sheila Olmstead is a visiting scholar on sabbatical from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where her research and teaching focus on environmental and natural resource economics and policy.

Arthur G. Fraas



Art Fraas joined RFF as a visiting scholar in April 2009 after a distinguished career in senior positions within the federal government. In 2008, he retired after 21 years as chief of the Natural Resources, Energy, and Agriculture Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

Ping Qin



Ping Qin is a visiting scholar with the Environmental Economics Program at Peking University. Qin's research interests include program and policy evaluation and the application of experimental and behavioral economics. Currently, she is working at RFF on willingness-to-pay for carbon emissions reduction and burden-sharing principles in the United States, Sweden, and China.

Nathan Richardson



Nathan Richardson is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and the University of Chicago Law School. His research interests include international and regulatory law, particularly environmental law and regulation of risk. He will spend the next year at RFF working on climate change issues.

RFF in the Classroom

Every week, RFF features a [Weekly Policy Commentary](#) from an invited expert on economic, environmental, energy, transport, and public health policies. The series provides an easy way for students and academics to learn about timely policy issues in a short, nontechnical format.

Highlights from a recently published RFF discussion paper geared toward teaching environmental economic theory and practice:

Teaching Opportunity Cost in an Emissions Permit Experiment
[RFF Discussion Paper No. 09-22](#)

Charles A. Holt, University of Virginia
Svante Mandell, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute
Dallas Burtraw, Resources for the Future
Markus Wråke, Swedish Environmental Research Institute
Erica C. Myers, Resources for the Future

This paper describes an individual choice experiment that can be used to teach students how to correctly account for opportunity costs in production decisions. Students play the role of producers who require a fuel input and an emissions permit for production. In one treatment, students have to purchase both a fuel input and an emissions permit for each production unit.

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Job Openings

[Current Vacancies](#)

Fellowship Announcements

RFF promotes research and policy analysis by supporting work at colleges, universities, and other institutions, and by bringing researchers to RFF to contribute to projects underway and to the formulation of new lines of inquiry.

[Fellowships available for 2010-2011](#)
[Deadline: February 23, 2010](#)

Winners of the 2009-2010 RFF academic awards:

Gilbert F. White Postdoctoral Fellowship

[Ali Mosleh](#), the Nicole J. Kim Professor and Director, Center for Risk and Reliability at the A. James Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland

Walter O. Spofford Jr. Memorial Internship

[Jess Alan Wilhelm](#), a master's degree student in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh

Joseph L. Fisher Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

[Tyler Felgenhauer](#), a PhD student in the Department of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
[Chieh Ou Yang](#), a PhD student at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

John V. Krutilla Research Award

[James M. Sallee](#), an Assistant Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago

Recently Published Journal Articles

Should Urban Transit Subsidies Be Reduced? [Ian Parry](#) and [Kenneth Small](#) | *American Economic Review* | 2009 | Vol. 99, 700-724 | [Related Discussion Paper: 07-38](#)

Putting Free Riding to Work: A Partnership Solution to the Common Property Problem
[Martin D. Heintzelman](#), [Stephen W. Salant](#), and [Stephan Schott](#) | *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* | May 2009 | Vol. 57, No. 3, 309-320

A Global Subsidy: Key to Affordable Drugs for Malaria?
[Ramanan Laxminarayan](#) and [Hellen Gelband](#) | *Health Affairs* | 2009 | Vol. 28, No. 4, 949-961

Payments for Ecosystem Services Programs: Predicting Landowners' Enrollment and Opportunity Cost Using a Beta-Binomial Model | [David F. Layton](#) and [Juha Siikamäki](#) | *Environmental and Resource Economics* | May 2009

Strangled at birth? Forest biotech and the convention on biological diversity | [Steven H. Strauss](#), [Huimin Tan](#), [Wout Boerjan](#), and [Roger Sedjo](#) | *Nature Biotechnology* | June 2009 | Vol. 27, No 6. | [Related Discussion Paper: 04-10](#)

Market Arbitrage: European and North American Natural Gas Prices | [Stephen P.A. Brown](#) and [Mine K. Yücel](#) | *The Energy Journal*

Collusion in Auctions for Emissions Permits: An Experimental Analysis | [Dallas Burtraw](#), [Jacob Goeree](#), [Charles A Holt](#), [Erica Myers](#), [Karen Palmer](#), and [William Shobe](#) | *Journal of Public Policy Analysis and Management* | Forthcoming | [Related Discussion Paper: 08-36](#)

Recently Accepted Journal Articles

Managing partially protected resources under uncertainty | [Carolyn Fischer](#) and [Ramanan Laxminarayan](#) | *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* | Forthcoming

Invasive Species Management in a Spatially Heterogeneous World: Spatial vs. Uniform Policies | [Heidi J. Albers](#), [Carolyn Fischer](#), and [James N. Sanchirico](#) | *Resource and Energy Economics* | Forthcoming