

Graduate Diploma in Economic Policy: ECON 5065 - Summer 2022

Selected Topics in Economic Policy for the Environment and Food Systems



Instructor: Dr. Vivian Hoffmann

The economics of the environment and food systems share many common features. This course provides an introduction to economic tools for the analysis and management of problems in these two areas. We will discuss market failures associated with environmental problems and aspects of food systems that affect human health, for example through nutrition, food safety, and zoonotic disease transmission. We will survey the types of instruments that policy makers have at their disposal to reduce environmental damages and promote population health through food systems. We will cover techniques developed by economists to quantify the value of environmental services and human health, and how these can be used to set policy targets. Students will select topics on which to deepen their understanding through class presentations and written work.

Course delivery: Virtually via Zoom.

Program information and registration: [click here](#).

About the Instructor: As a previous Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, Vivian is now a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute with experience working in Kenya, Africa. Vivian previously served as Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and has published extensively in leading peer-reviewed field journals in Development and Agricultural Economics. In 2016, Vivian published an article titled 'Targeting health subsidies through non-price mechanism: A randomized controlled trial in Kenya' in *Science* - considered to be among the very top inter-disciplinary journals in the world - with internationally renowned researchers, including Michael Kremer (University of Chicago, 2019 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics).