

## Reflections on Presenting My Dissertation Paper at Camp Resources XXVIII

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With the support of the CIERP (Center for International Environment and Resource Policy) Travel Fund for Experiential Learning, I attended Camp Resources XXVIII hosted by NC State University on August 7-9, 2022, in Asheville, NC. At this conference, 27 graduate students and young professionals in the field of environmental and energy economics presented their works, and there was also a learning tutorial by Professor Spencer Banzhaf of Georgia State University on "Benefit-Cost Analysis, Distributional Effects, and Public Decision-Making."<sup>1</sup>

I have benefited from attending this conference in two ways: (i) Receiving feedback on my dissertation paper from researchers outside Tufts that will help me incorporate new ideas in my paper, (ii) Networking with researchers in the same research field that will help me prepare for the job market from this fall.

First, I made a 30 minute presentation on my dissertation paper "Unintended Consequences of Sanitation: Negative Externalities on Water Quality and Health in India" and received valuable feedback from professors and Ph.D. students from many universities. In this paper, I show that large-scale latrine construction in India increased river pollution by 72% due to the dumping of emptied fecal sludge. While latrine construction reduced diarrheal mortality overall, the positive health effect was offset by water pollution externalities. The positive health effect is two-thirds smaller in areas with lower wastewater treatment capacity where water pollution externalities are larger. During my presentation, I received feedback that will be useful for revising this paper. Several comments include (i) I may examine who will benefit and lose from this policy (related to environmental justice), (ii) I may examine the nonlinear effects of water pollution on health as water pollution may become larger at the timing of emptying, (iii) I may consider how much people actually use latrines after construction in the analysis.

Second, I was able to network with professors and Ph.D. students in the same research field. This networking experience will help me navigate the job market this fall and continue research after obtaining a Ph.D. degree. By listening to my fellow attendees' presentations, I got to know many researchers and became familiar with their work, covering a wide variety of topics, including energy, environmental justice, non-market valuation, trade and environment, and water. Also, I had many opportunities to talk with participants during coffee breaks, lunch,

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<sup>1</sup> The final program is available at the following link. [https://cenrep.ncsu.edu/cenrep/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Program\\_Camp\\_Resources\\_XXVIII\\_final-1.pdf](https://cenrep.ncsu.edu/cenrep/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Program_Camp_Resources_XXVIII_final-1.pdf)

receptions, and dinner. This in-person networking experience was particularly valuable for me because I have mostly attended virtual conferences previously due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to thank CIERP for their kind support and for giving me this invaluable opportunity to present my paper at the conference.