

2025-26

YEAR IN REVIEW

Building shared prosperity in a changing global environment through innovative, solutions-driven research and training of the next generation of leaders



CIERP BY THE NUMBERS: JULY 2025-JUNE 2026

24

AFFILIATED FACULTY

22

ACTIVE GRANTS

16

SUPERVISED CAPSTONES

24

PUBLICATIONS

25

MEDIA OUTPUTS

20

EVENTS

37

BLOG POSTS

\$4.5M

RAISED FOR
RESEARCH

\$60K

**IN CORE
SUPPORT
GIFTS**

33

COURSES

\$2.5M

ANNUAL BUDGET

7

**FUNDED
INTERNS**

34

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DIRECTORS' NOTE

Dear Friends,

We are proud to share updates from across CIERP's initiatives in this report. These include the **Climate Policy Lab (CPL)**, which continued to expand its work on climate policy implementation and the energy transition across countries and sectors; the **Shared Waters Lab (SWL)**, which advanced research and data tools supporting transboundary water cooperation; and a wide range of faculty-led projects examining environmental governance, human capital, and sustainable development. Collectively, these efforts reflect the breadth of CIERP's intellectual community and its commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration.

The past year also underscored CIERP's role as a convener of global dialogue and training. In September 2025, the Climate Policy Lab hosted the international symposium *Mind the Gaps: Climate Policy Integration and Implementation*, bringing together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to examine why ambitious climate policies so often fall short in practice and how climate action can be better integrated with economic growth, energy security, and other national priorities. CPL also continued its training efforts with the annual Climate Policy Lab Academy, strengthening a global network of practitioners equipped to design and implement effective climate policy.

Student engagement remains central to everything we do. Throughout the academic year, CIERP students engaged in research assistantships, presented their work at international conferences, participated in policy convenings, and completed capstones and doctoral research. We take pride in mentoring and supporting students at all stages of their academic and professional journeys, and we are eager to see our graduates apply what they have learned as they move into leadership roles around the world.

CIERP's work is sustained by the dedication of its faculty, staff, and fellows and enabled by the generosity of our funders and donors. As you read this Year in Review, we hope you will see not only the diversity of activities undertaken during the past year, but also the coherence of a shared mission: advancing evidence-based policy and training leaders capable of navigating complex environmental and resource challenges. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose support ensures our continuous pursuit of this mission.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sims Gallagher
Co-Director, CIERP
Co-Director, Climate Policy Lab
Dean and Professor of Energy and Environmental Policy,
The Fletcher School

Melissa McCracken
Co-Director, CIERP
Director, Shared Waters Lab
William R. Moomaw Assistant Professor of International Environment and Resource Policy, The Fletcher School



NEWS & PEOPLE NOTES

Recognition



Easwaran Narassimhan

Easwaran Narassimhan [returned to Fletcher](#) as Assistant Professor of Climate and Energy Policy, and accepted an appointment to co-direct the Climate Policy Lab.



Jennifer Morgan

Jennifer Morgan was [appointed Senior Fellow](#) of the Climate Policy Lab and CIERP, bringing senior diplomatic experience from her role as German State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action.

Travis Franck was a member of the En-ROADS modeling team that [received the System Dynamics Best Application Award](#) at the 2025 International System Dynamics Conference.

Jillian DeStone completed a Graduate Certificate in Research Administration from Emmanuel College, supporting the continued development of CIERP's research portfolio.

Barbara Kates-Garnick joined the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Scientific Advisory Group. She continues to collaborate with Tisch College and the School of Engineering to advance Tufts' work with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on energy affordability, community, and infrastructure development.

Maulik Jagnani received the excellence in refereeing award from the *American Economic Review*, one of the top peer-reviewed journals in economics.

Melissa McCracken was appointed an Advisory Board member for the NSF-funded project Climate Laws, Institutions, Policies and Practices in Nation-States (CLIPPS), and was appointed as a member of the International Water Law Academy Advisory Committee and the Scientific Committee of the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation.



Barbara Kates-Garnick

Bethany Tietjen received her PhD from The Fletcher School with a dissertation on "Adaptation Across Scales: Climate Governance Gaps in the United States and Australia." She accepted a Postdoctoral Scholar position with Climate Policy Lab, where she will continue her work on climate adaptation, disaster governance, and related policy challenges.

Hassaan F. Khan served as Senior Adviser to the World Bank on urban water reform in Karachi, Pakistan, working closely with the Mayor of Karachi and the CEO of the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) on utility reform, infrastructure planning, GIS/data systems, and strategies to improve water service delivery. He was also elected Deputy Chair of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Water & Society Technical Committee.



Bethany Tietjen (second from right) at her dissertation defense with faculty committee (from left): Erin Coughlan de Perez, Kelly Sims Gallagher & Melissa McCracken

Saidou Abdoulaye Sy, former Climate Policy Lab Postdoctoral Scholar, accepted positions as Research Fellow at the Center for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University and Economist at International Development Economics Associates. He began leading a joint project with the Office of the Senegalese Prime Minister on financial architecture for oil and gas exploitation in Senegal while continuing collaboration with CPL on modeling work.

Renato de Gaspi, an expert in green industrial policy in Latin America, was welcomed by the Climate Policy Lab as a new Postdoctoral Scholar in July 2026.

Media and Commentary

Hassaan F. Khan wrote an op-ed on [Karachi's infrastructure planning](#) and predictable water crisis (July 7, 2025).

Melissa McCracken co-authored a commentary for *Think Global Health* unpacking the [health consequences](#) of water conflict between India and Pakistan (July 22, 2025).

Maulik Jagnani co-authored an op-ed about his research on [financial relief in Indonesia](#), which shows that reducing economic stress can significantly improve well-being among household breadwinners (July 30, 2025).

Hassaan F. Khan wrote an op-ed about the [implications of the Indus Waters Treaty for regional water governance and security](#) (August 4, 2025).



Hengrui Liu and Kate Chi at the APSA Annual Meeting

Nigel Purvis wrote for *Foreign Policy* magazine on [U.S. disengagement from global climate action](#) and how it enables increased Chinese geopolitical influence (August 6, 2025).

Barbara Kates-Garnick was quoted in *The New York Times* on [offshore wind policy](#) (August 7, 2025).

Barbara Kates-Garnick authored an article in *The Conversation* on the deep impact of [slashing environmental regulations](#) (August 26, 2025).

Easwaran Narassimhan co-authored a mapping of [India's public solar RD&D landscape](#), examining whether India will ultimately continue to borrow innovation or create its own (September 29, 2025).

Kate Chi authored an article in *The Conversation* on [why countries struggle to quit fossil fuels](#), despite higher costs and 30 years of climate talks and treaties (October 16, 2025).

Nigel Purvis wrote an article for *Foreign Policy* on how [COP30 will reshape the legacy](#) of the Paris Agreement (October 30, 2025).

Barbara Kates-Garnick wrote about the challenges of rising electricity prices and an aging grid [as data centers demand more power](#) in *The Conversation* (December 17, 2025).

Easwaran Narassimhan co-authored a policy analysis blog on [India's green hydrogen push](#) (December 17, 2025).

Kelly Sims Gallagher authored an analysis in *Foreign Policy* on [U.S.-China climate leadership dynamics](#) (January 5, 2026).

Jennifer Morgan wrote an article in *The Conversation* on the emerging [geopolitical divide](#) between fossil fuel-dependent “petro-states” and clean energy-driven “electro-states” (January 6, 2026).

Melissa McCracken co-authored a commentary on the [latest threats to water cooperation](#) for *New Security Beat* (January 26, 2026).

Jennifer Morgan was quoted by *The New York Times* on the [U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement](#) (January 27, 2026).

Hengrui Liu co-authored an article in *The Conversation* with Kelly Sims Gallagher on the [slowdown of the U.S. EV transition](#) (January 29, 2026).

Barbara Kates-Garnick was featured in *RTO Insider's* piece on [high electricity prices](#) pinned on global gas markets (February 11, 2026).

Jennifer Morgan was interviewed for the *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* Podcast on the [future of multilateral climate governance](#) (February 18, 2026).

Easwaran Narassimhan co-authored a policy analysis blog on policy instruments and the [diffusion of clean technology](#) (February 23, 2026).

Kwame Ababio joined a radio interview with *Channel Africa* on [climate financing for Africa's development](#) (March 16, 2026).

Barbara Kates-Garnick gave an interview on the *Climate Reveal* podcast discussing [energy affordability](#) (March 30, 2026).

Amy Myers Jaffe co-authored an op-ed on evolving [global energy systems and education and workforce implications](#) in *Nature Energy* (May 25, 2026).

Erin Coughlan de Perez contributed to a *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* podcast episode on [climate adaptation and resilience](#) (June 9, 2026).

Carlos Alvarado Quesada co-authored a [commentary on climate mobility](#) with Mokgweetsi Masisi, former president of Botswana, calling for governments to endorse and implement global principles to address climate-driven displacement (June 16, 2026).

Talks

Barbara Kates-Garnick participated in an [event on supporting affordable low-carbon energy solutions](#) for large institutions alongside Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper, Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn, and Tufts leadership (July 2025).

Marcia Moreno-Báez delivered a talk titled “Building Global Leadership and Spatial Literacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy” at the [ESRI Education Summit](#) (July 2025).

Kate Chi presented at the [Climate Multilateralism Workshop](#) at the University of Leeds (July 2025).

Melissa McCracken presented research on climate-driven water conflict and cooperation at [Stockholm World Water Week](#), where she also served as a session convenor and session moderator. She also presented research on shared water resources at the Aalto University Water Seminar in Espoo, Finland (August 2025).

Sally Zhang delivered a presentation titled “Empowered by Adversity: Economic Shocks and Noncognitive Skill Development in Ethiopian Youth” at the [Econometric Society World Congress](#) in Seoul, Korea (August 2025).

Saidou Abdoulaye Sy shared his findings on EV adoption in Mexico at the [International System Dynamics Conference](#) (August 2025).



Travis Franck

Travis Franck attended the [second African Climate Summit](#) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to present on AI and Climate Change, attend workshops, and meet with partners from UNECA, UNICEF, and the Ethiopian Government (September 2025).

Kate Chi delivered her paper “Fracking and Framing: How Does Politics Shape the Narratives of Shale Gas Development? A Comparative Study of the United States and China” at the [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#) (September 2025).

Hengrui Liu presented a paper on technological leapfrogging in China’s EV sector at the [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#) (September 2025).

Sally Zhang shared “Hidden in Plain Sight: Asymmetric Information and Hidden Income within the Household” at [WeRise 2025](#) at Boston University (October 2025).

Kate Chi presented at the [National Sustainability Society Annual Meeting](#) at the University of Notre Dame (October 2025).



Seth Owusu-Mante

Kelly Sims Gallagher participated in the [Industrial Policy and Economic Security Conference](#) at Harvard Kennedy School (October 2025).

Seth Owusu-Mante trained Ghanaian journalists on the energy transition, delivering a workshop titled “Understanding Ghana’s Energy Transition: Concepts, Context, and Media Relevance” (November 2025).

Dan Driscoll joined CIERP for a talk on his book *Why Carbon Taxes Failed* and a discussion on why carbon taxation, one of the most widely proposed climate policies, has struggled to deliver on its promise (November 2025).

Seth Owusu-Mante spoke at the Youth Energy Summit in Accra on a panel titled “Deep Dive into Jobs Created by the Energy Sector” (December 2025).

Maulik Jagnani presented his work at several major conferences and invited workshops, including the NBER Summer Institute, the American Economic Association Annual Meeting, and the Econometric Society Winter Meeting, as well as other national and international venues.

Kelly Sims Gallagher participated in the [World Economic Forum in Davos](#) and the [Munich Security Conference](#), contributing to discussions on AI infrastructure, [financing decarbonization](#), [global plastics treaty prospects](#), and coal-to-clean transitions (January–February 2026).

Bill Moomaw, Professor Emeritus and Founder of CIERP, returned to Fletcher for a lecture on addressing climate change by distinguishing false promises from proven solutions (February 2026).

Mieke van der Wansem was [featured in Tufts Now](#) for her longstanding work teaching the mutual gains approach to negotiation (February 2026).

Melissa McCracken contributed to two convenings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, focused on strengthening cooperation and integrated source-to-sea management in the Ruvuma River Basin, hosted by IUCN, Wetlands International, and the Global Water Partnership (March 2026).



Mieke van der Wansem

Kwame Ababio participated in a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center convening on biodiversity and contributed to developing an Africa-led Digital Sequence Information Financial Readiness Roadmap (March 2026).

Soyoung Oh and **Hengrui Liu** presented research at a workshop on green industrial policy and development jointly hosted by the Boston University Global Development Policy Center, Johns Hopkins Net Zero Industrial Policy Lab, Harvard Growth Lab, and the Climate Policy Lab (March 2026).

Kelly Sims Gallagher participated in a [Paris Agreement discussion](#) with Laurence Tubiana in Paris (March 2026).

Randall Spalding-Fecher, Fletcher alumnus, spoke about international carbon markets for a Tufts Global Month event organized by CIERP (March 2026).

Thea Riofrancos gave a talk co-sponsored by CIERP about her new book, *Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism*. She unpacked lithium’s role in the energy transition and explored the political economy of that transition (March 2026).

Alyssa Scheiner presented a research poster on the implications of water scarcity perception on climate migration at the Boston University Center on Forced Displacement Annual Conference (April 2026).

Soyoung Oh shared her research on green steel transitions at the International Studies Association Annual Conference (March 2026) and Columbia University's Climate Pipeline Conference (May 2026).



Bethany Tietjen presented research on U.S. federal adaptation policy at the National Adaptation Forum

in Pittsburgh and shared findings with policymakers working on prospective federal climate legislation (May 2026).

Kelly Sims Gallagher delivered the [Battcock Lecture](#) at the University of Oxford (May 2026).

Hengrui Liu presented research on the relationship between trade exposure, policy stringency, and EV technological change at the Industry Studies Association Annual Meeting (June 2026).

Kelly Sims Gallagher participated in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions (Summer Davos) in Dalian, China, providing commentary on the [launch of the Energy Transition Index 2026](#) and [China's energy system](#). She also visited the School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University, where she signed an MOU on behalf of The Fletcher School and participated in a fireside chat on building resilient prosperity with Associate Dean Wei Zhong and Associate Professor Fang Zhang, F19, PhD (June 2026).



Seth Owusu-Mante presented on Ghana's energy transition, its key drivers, and its media relevance as part of a capacity-building workshop for journalists in November 2025.

Accumulation GHG emissions driving climate change

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns (United Nations).

Climate change is the significant variation of average weather conditions becoming, for example, warmer, wetter, or drier over several decades or longer. It is the longer-term trend that differentiates climate change from natural weather variability.

Global climatic disruption is already causing serious harm to human well-being in many places around the world. This includes:

- Increased floods
- Droughts
- Heat waves
- Wildfires
- Thermal expansion and sea level rise
- More severe tropical storms and hurricanes.

IPPG



The "Daisy" storm, which struck Germany's capital Berlin (June 2004)



A herd of livestock runs in a dry field in the Kenyan sub-Saharan in 2004 (Kenya, August 2004)



IPPG INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
FOR POLICY & GOVERNANCE
EMPIRICAL RESEARCH | INFLUENCING POLICY | BUILDING KNOWLEDGE | BUILDING CAPACITY

About IPPG

IPPG is an independent foreign affairs and international development think tank focused on enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation, diplomatic relations, good governance, and sustainable development across the African continent.

Mission

To drive impactful change in Africa by providing policymakers with data-driven insights and actionable policy recommendations that foster good governance and effective policy implementation.

Vision



CLIMATE POLICY LAB

The Climate Policy Lab (CPL), co-directed by Dean Kelly Sims Gallagher and Professor Easwaran Narassimhan, supports countries in designing and implementing effective climate policies by combining rigorous research with collaborative engagement with governments, researchers, and practitioners. Its work focuses on identifying policy gaps, advancing decarbonization strategies, and translating analysis into actionable insights to inform real-world decision-making.



Climate policy implementation gaps

[“Assessing the Policy Gaps for Achieving China’s Carbon Neutrality Target,”](#) co-authored by Fang Zhang, Kelly Sims Gallagher, Minshu Deng, Hengrui Liu, Robbie Orvis, and Xiaowei Xuan, provides a comprehensive analysis of China’s climate policy framework. Using policy inventories, expert surveys, and system dynamics modeling, the study finds that while China’s current policy package supports near-term carbon peaking, significant gaps remain in policy stringency, sectoral coverage, and implementation.

CPL released a suite of [six policy briefs](#) ahead of COP30 examining climate policy implementation gaps in major emerging economies – Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa. These briefs focus on the gap between stated policy ambition and real-world outcomes. Following the uptake of these analyses across the six countries, CPL has a new set of country-specific briefs forthcoming, which provide deeper, tailored assessments of each country’s



implementation challenges and priorities. As part of this work, CPL has updated its [open-access database of policy inventories](#) for all six countries.

CPL also published a [country-focused policy brief on Türkiye](#), analyzing climate policy implementation challenges and opportunities and offering recommendations to strengthen progress toward national climate targets. The brief contributes to CPL’s broader cross-country work on policy gaps in emerging economies.

Green industrial policy

Building on its analysis of implementation gaps, CPL is analyzing trends in clean energy R&D investment and innovation to better understand how these factors influence the development of green industrial systems across countries.

Easwaran Narassimhan and Kelly Sims Gallagher co-authored the working paper [“From Free Markets to Industrial Nationalism: What the West’s Green Industrial Policies Mean for Emerging Economies”](#) (WIDER Working Paper, 2026), which examines the resurgence of green industrial policy in the United States and European Union and its implications for emerging

economies. The paper finds that while these policies may accelerate decarbonization, they could also widen global inequalities in green manufacturing. It highlights opportunities for emerging economies to capitalize on shifting dynamics through strategic investments in RD&D, industrial policy, and South–South cooperation.

Policy strategies for deep decarbonization in India

Research on green industrial policy examines how India can build domestic manufacturing capacity in key clean energy technologies – including solar PV, batteries, and green hydrogen – through targeted policy support such as production-linked incentives, while avoiding inefficient subsidy competition. This work also explores India’s potential role in a global “green division of labor” and opportunities for cooperation with other emerging economies.

An additional area of work analyzes synergies between mitigation and resilience, leveraging modeling and field-based research to assess how emissions reductions, adaptation strategies, and environmental health interventions can generate co-benefits for economic development, productivity, and public health.

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Climate adaptation and mobility policy

Dr. Bethany Tietjen co-authored [“The State of Planning, Policy, and Justice for Human Mobility in National Adaptation Plans”](#) (*Earth System Governance*, 2025), examining how adaptation policies address mobility and equity challenges in the context of climate change. She also completed a multi-year study on policy gaps in U.S. federal climate adaptation governance, which is currently under review.

Carbon dioxide removal

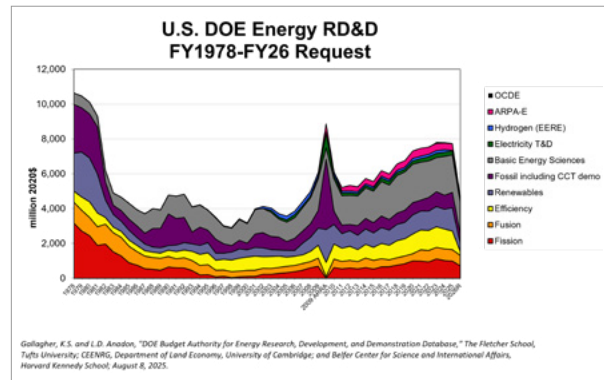
Soyoung Oh co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications that link industrial decarbonization, policy design, and emerging carbon removal technologies, including [Effective and Fair Policy to Mobilize Industrial Carbon Dioxide Removal](#)” (*Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 2025), [“Exploring Key Dimensions of Policy Instruments for Carbon Dioxide Removal”](#) (*Climate Policy*, 2025), and [Can Digital MRV Unlock Industrial CO₂ Capture?”](#) (*Environmental Research Letters*, 2025).



Climate finance

Seth Owusu-Mante, Kate Chi, and Tarun Gopalakrishnan co-authored [“Sovereign Green Bonds in Practice: Effectiveness as a Climate Finance Instrument in Emerging Economies”](#) (*Climate Policy*, 2025), contributing to understanding the role of innovative finance mechanisms in supporting low-carbon transitions.

Tracking U.S. Department of Energy budget requests

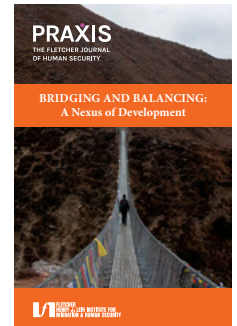


Kelly Sims Gallagher and Laura Diaz Anadon continue to update their [longitudinal database on U.S. government investments](#) in energy innovation, an ongoing effort to ascertain trends, reveal discrepancies, and assess whether budget expenditures are consistent with national priorities. The August 2025 update found that the budget request would significantly reduce public funding for

energy innovation at the U.S. Department of Energy, reversing the upward investment trend established after the 2009 financial crisis.

Electric vehicle transition and supply chains

Dr. Hengrui Liu continued to advance research on clean energy transitions, with two papers – on technological leapfrogging in China’s EV sector and comparative state-level EV transitions in the United States – currently under review. He also contributed “The Battery Trap: Supply Chain Power and the Unequal Promise of the Green Transition” to the 45th anniversary edition of [Praxis: The Fletcher Journal of Human Security](#).



Nathaniel Dolton-Thornton, Kelly Sims Gallagher, Agus Sari, and Abay Yimere recently completed a study investigating global supply chains of critical minerals used in the EV industry. Two case studies investigate how the United States and China have secured their supply chains and what impact this has on environmental and economic development in source countries.



Seth Owusu-Mante with Hon. Richard Gyan-Mensah, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Energy and Green Transition, and Emmanuella Biney, Programs and Research Manager, International Perspective for Policy and Governance (IPPG), following their meeting in November 2025.

Policy uptake in South Africa

Seth Owusu-Mante's 2024 [policy brief on South Africa](#) contributed recommendations that were reflected in the country's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2025, demonstrating tangible policy uptake of CPL research.

In March 2026, Professor Travis Franck traveled to South Africa to meet with key partners, including the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC)'s Modeling Community of Practice and collaborators at the University of Cape Town.

Government engagement in Ghana

In Ghana, Seth Owusu-Mante was invited to engage with the Deputy Minister of Energy and Green Transition to discuss findings from his research on the power sector. The findings were published in a [policy report on securing Ghana's energy future](#) stemming from a roundtable he participated in, hosted by the International Perspective for Policy and Governance (IPPG) in Accra, Ghana.

Multilateral frameworks for sustainable prosperity

This research rethinks how institutions can support sustainable prosperity and resilient growth in a fragmented global landscape, examining how geopolitical fragmentation is reshaping the global climate system. The research, led by Kelly Sims Gallagher, Jennifer Morgan, and Easwaran Narassimhan, identifies which past arrangements (such as U.S.–China cooperation and REDD+) have been most effective, evaluates options for UNFCCC reform, and analyzes how climate and trade institutions – including the WTO – can be better aligned to support resilient, low-carbon growth. It also examines how countries can collaborate to build more robust supply chains in green industries and how shifting trade dynamics are shaping global decarbonization pathways and energy innovation systems. A convening in London in June 2026 helped further this area of inquiry (see page 20).

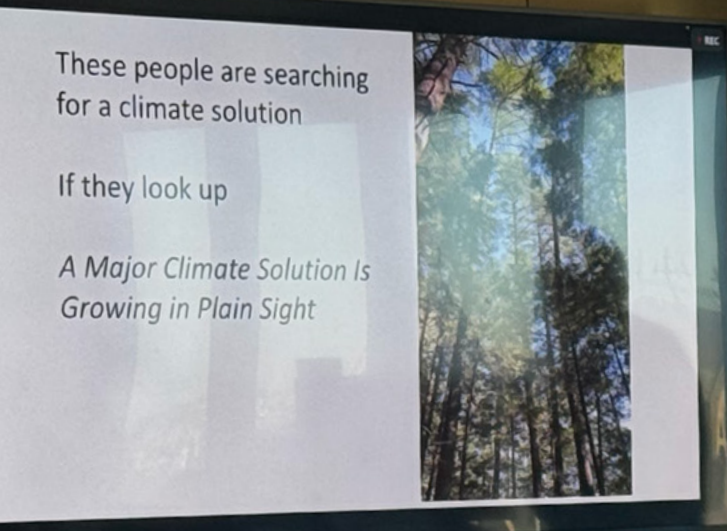


Travis Franck visited Indonesia in April 2026, where he attended the I-CLIMB Climate Modeling & Policy Triennial Workshop and met with Indonesian research partners. He is pictured here with Agus Sari of the Landscape Group and Fabby Tumiwa and Raditya Wiranegara from the Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR).

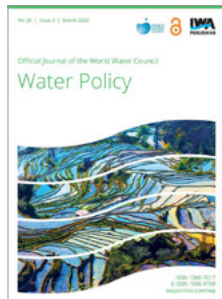
Bridging policy and humanitarian action

Erin Coughlan de Perez created a [video series](#) for an [Anticipation Hub webinar program](#) and co-authored the report [Future Fit: Early Warning Early Action in a World of Changing Risk](#). Together, these efforts support evidence-based approaches to managing climate risk and improving resilience in vulnerable communities.

Bill Moomaw, Professor Emeritus and Founder of CIERP, gave a lecture in February 2026 explaining proven options and debunking false promises for addressing climate change.



The [Shared Waters Lab](#) (SWL), directed by Professor Melissa McCracken, works collaboratively with partners at Oregon State University and IHE Delft to monitor international hydropolitical tensions. Combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, the Lab aims to identify drivers of both conflict and cooperation and provide actionable insights to support more effective transboundary water governance.



Transboundary water institutions and conflict management

Recent scholarship by Melissa McCracken and collaborators advances understanding of how institutional design shapes cooperation over shared water resources. In [“The effectiveness](#)

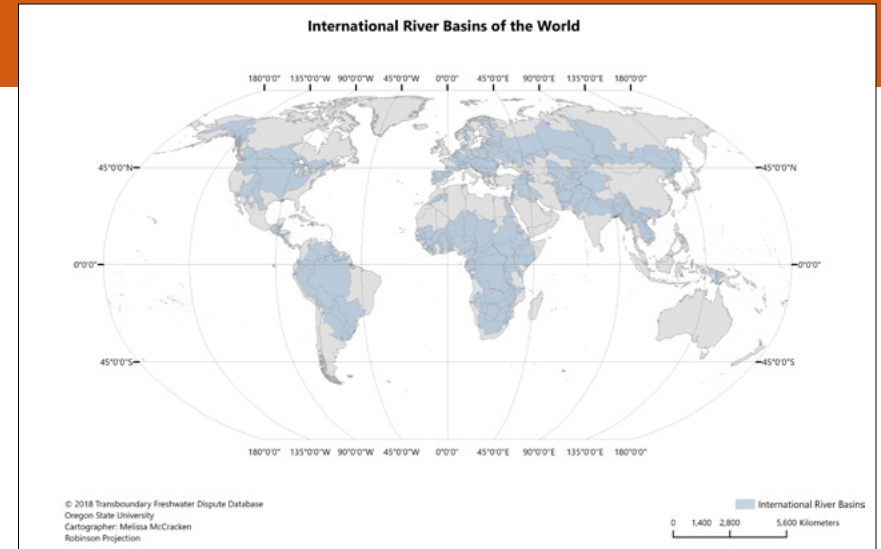
[of joint basin institutions in managing international water disputes](#)” (*Environment and Security*, 2025), the authors show that data exchange, notification systems, and formal dispute resolution mechanisms play distinct roles at different stages of conflict, underscoring how institutional design can directly influence outcomes in transboundary water governance. Complementary work on [“Transboundary Water Allocation in Practice: Global Trends in International Freshwater Agreements”](#) (*Water Policy*, 2026) highlights evolving patterns in how states allocate their shared water resources.

Water, climate variability, and pathways to instability

In [“Pathways to instability: A synthetic framework to parse connections between water and conflict”](#) (*Environment and Security*, 2025), Melissa McCracken and co-authors develop a new analytical framework linking climate-driven water disturbances to political instability. The framework offers policymakers a structured way to identify intervention points across the complex, indirect pathways from environmental stress to conflict. A book chapter in [Coevolution and](#)



Melissa McCracken and Davison “Tariro” Saruchera of IUCN during the March 2026 inception meeting for the GEF-IUCN Ruvuma River Basin source-to-sea management project in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



[Prediction of Coupled Human-Water Systems](#) (2025) situates water stress within coupled human–natural systems and broader governance challenges.

Expanding the Transboundary Freshwater Diplomacy Database

The Shared Waters Lab continues to expand and maintain the [Transboundary Freshwater Diplomacy Database \(TFDD\)](#), an award-winning global dataset of river basins, institutions, and water-related conflict and cooperation events. The database remains a critical resource for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working on international water governance.

Ongoing work is also strengthening the empirical foundation for analyzing water-related conflict and cooperation by developing new datasets and coding thousands of events from global news sources. This effort supports improved prediction and analysis of hydropolitical dynamics, helping to advance both academic research and policy-relevant applications.

Professor Marcia Moreno-Báez welcomed guest speaker Dr. Shane Bratt, University of New Hampshire, to her Fall 2025 GIS for International Applications course. Marcia Moreno-Báez wrote about the importance of geospatial thinking to international relations for [ArcNews](#).



ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE POLICY



Jenny Aker is a Research Professor studying economic development in Africa, with a primary focus on the impact of information and information technology on development outcomes, particularly in the areas of agriculture, agricultural marketing and education.

Adoption of agricultural technology

Professor Jenny Aker continues to contribute to research in development economics, focusing on technology adoption and measurement in low-income settings. She co-authored [“How Many \(Half\) Moons? Measuring Technology Adoption from the Sky and on the Ground”](#) (*AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2026), which evaluates different methods for measuring agricultural technology adoption using survey and satellite data.



Maulik Jagnani is an Assistant Professor of Economics focusing on microeconomic topics in environmental health and human capital in lower-income countries.

Environmental health and resilience

Professor Maulik Jagnani’s research examines how environmental risks affect well-being and economic outcomes, with a focus on climate adaptation and human capital. His publication, [“Women Leaders Improve Environmental Outcomes: Evidence from Crop Fires in India”](#) (*Journal of Public Economics*, 2026), provides causal evidence that female political leadership improves environmental outcomes, including reduced crop burning and associated air pollution.



Additional work published by Maulik Jagnani this year includes [“Breadwinner’s Burden: The Effect of Financial Concerns on Sleeplessness”](#) (*American Economic Review: Insights*, 2026) and [“Heat and Team Production: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh”](#) (*Review of Economics and*



Jenny Aker also published [“Harvesting the Rain: The Adoption of Environmental Technologies in the Sahel”](#) (*Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2025), providing new evidence on the role of training in driving adoption of agricultural technologies. Currently funded projects study the adoption of rainwater harvesting techniques in Niger, digital connectivity in rural Africa, and the drivers of farmer-herder conflict in the Sahel.

One innovation Jenny Aker’s team is studying in Niger seeks to help low-literate adults learn to read and write in Hausa using a mobile phone-based adult literacy program. The team is collecting data on participant engagement, learning outcomes, and household welfare impacts, generating evidence on the effectiveness and scalability of technology-enabled adult education.

Jenny Aker presented on a decade of agricultural research in Niger at a SPIA impact assessment workshop hosted by the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) in June 2026.

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Statistics, 2025). These two publications demonstrate how financial stress and extreme heat affect sleep, cognition, and productivity. Ongoing field research further explores climate adaptation and environmental decision-making, including studies on cooling demand, agricultural technologies, and financial tools for heat resilience.

Maulik Jagnani continues to collaborate on research on flood early-warning systems. His project evaluates how to get high-tech flood forecasts successfully



A community agent in Bihar, India hoisting a red flag indicating severe flood forecasted for the community. Photo: Jagnani and Pande, 2026

to vulnerable, remote households. As part of the intervention currently under study, grassroots volunteers receive training in community outreach and the use of Google's flood forecasting and alert system on Android phones.



Sally Zhang is an Assistant Professor of Economics researching intrahousehold allocation, child development, and gender inequality in developing countries.

Microenterprise and life skills development

Professor Sally Zhang is advancing a research agenda on microenterprise development, labor markets, and gender in low-income contexts. Her project "What Works Best for Small Retailers? Experimental Evidence from Kenya," supported by Tufts Springboard funding, uses field experiments to examine how small vendors allocate capital between expanding existing stock and diversifying into new products. This project builds on her established research program in western Kenya to address a fundamental question in development economics: how can microenterprises transition from subsistence to productive, job-creating businesses?



Above: Sally Zhang at the Nigeria campus of the African School of Economics. Left: Vendor produce display at a Kenyan market





Marcia Moreno-Báez is a Research Professor studying the spatial distribution of economic activities, resource extraction, and policies – primarily in coastal and ocean environments – and supporting applied research that integrates social, economic, and environmental goals to promote equity and justice through inclusive, cross-sectoral collaboration in the Blue Economy.

Ocean governance

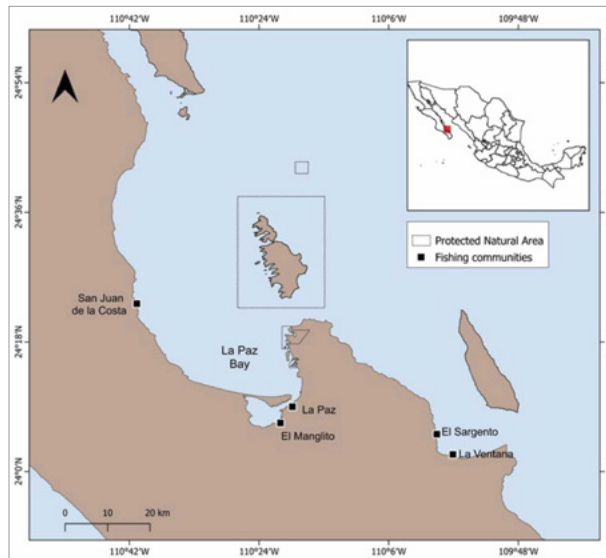
Professor Marcia Moreno-Báez contributed to leading global policy discussions on ocean sustainability through her co-authored report [The Regenerative Blue Economy: Pathways to Prosperity](#) (World Economic Forum, 2026). The report outlines how integrated governance, equitable finance, human capacity building, and technological innovation can support a transition toward a regenerative blue economy that balances ecological restoration with inclusive economic growth.



In [“Ocean Renewable Energy for Equitable Energy Access in a Blue Economy,”](#) she and her co-authors examine how community-led “last-mile” electrification projects could bring electricity access to remote coastal populations. They argue this will require national and international financial institutions to

redirect investment from profit-driven projects toward equity-focused renewable energy development.

Another published study, [“Challenges of Financial and Digital Inclusion for Small-Scale Fishers in Mexico,”](#) examines barriers to financial and digital inclusion, identifying structural constraints that limit productivity and resilience. This work highlights the importance of financial literacy, inclusive policy design, and technological access in supporting sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities.



In November 2025, Marcia Moreno-Báez was invited by Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Economic Forum’s Ocean Program, and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to participate in a national event in Mexico City aimed at advancing



Marcia Moreno-Báez and oceanographer Sylvia Earle collaborated on the Global Future Council on Regenerative Blue Economy at the World Economic Forum’s 2025 Annual Meetings.

the implementation of Mexico’s Sustainable Ocean Plan. The event focused on financing, strategic partnerships, and multisectoral technical dialogue, featuring expert panels and thematic working groups. Marcia Moreno-Báez was invited to contribute insights on marine spatial planning.

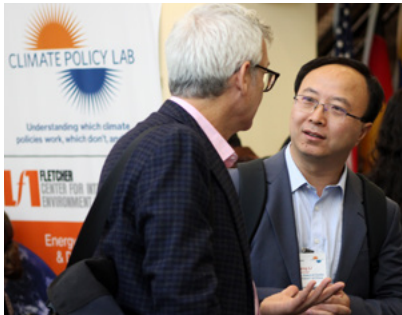
TRAININGS & CONVENINGS

Climate Policy Lab Academy and Symposium

In September 2025, the Climate Policy Lab convened its annual Academy as well as its inaugural international Symposium, **“Mind the Gaps: Climate Policy Integration and Implementation,”** at The Fletcher School.



The Symposium keynote was delivered by Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).



Jifeng Li (right), Research Fellow and Division Director at the Development Research Center of the State Council of China speaks with Jacob Werksman, Head of Delegation for the European Union to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. Both contributed to the Symposium's fireside chat on COP30 in Belem.

Since its launch in 2022, the Academy has become a flagship program bringing together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from approximately a dozen emerging market economies each year to engage in executive training and knowledge sharing on climate policy design and implementation. The 2025 Academy focused on core CPL methodologies and priority topics, including implementation gap analysis, green industrial policy, adaptation, energy transition, and policy sequencing, while also providing a platform for participants to share country experiences and identify policy opportunities.



Divya Midha, a Public Policy Specialist at NITI Aayog in New Delhi, contributes to a discussion at the Academy.



The CPL Symposium panel on bridging the climate policy implementation gap was moderated by Postdoctoral Fellow Nora Hampl and featured (left to right): Gustavo Ferreira, Brazilian Ministry of Finance; Samantha Gross, The Brookings Institution; Lebogang Mulaisi, Presidential Climate Commission of South Africa; Lukas Sokol, Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation; and Benjamin Sovacool (not pictured), Boston University.

The two-day Symposium extended the discussion to a global audience, bringing together policymakers, academics, and practitioners to examine why ambitious climate policies often fail to deliver intended outcomes. [Discussions focused on structural barriers](#) – including finance, institutional capacity, and policy incoherence – and explored strategies for integrating climate action with economic growth, energy security, and job creation priorities. Outcomes from the symposium informed CPL research agendas and contributed to preparatory engagement ahead of COP30.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 CLIMATE POLICY LAB SYMPOSIUM



September 28 | The Fletcher School

Raising Climate and Growth Ambitions in a Fragmenting World

Register [here](#) or scan the QR code:



COP30 in Belém

At [COP30 in Belém](#), Brazil, CIERP's Climate Policy Lab played an active convening and knowledge-broker role, engaging research partners, CPL Academy alumni, policymakers, and funders to advance practical climate solutions. CIERP-affiliated experts organized and participated in [high-level briefings and side events](#) on climate policy implementation gaps, just



Members of COP30 delegations from Tufts University and University of Hawai'i. Back row, left to right: Kate Chi, Maya Spalding-Fecher, Alison Linnea Wetzelaer, Anna Maidment, Jennifer Morgan, Daniel Alegre. Front row, left to right: Mieke van der Wansem, Kawena Elkington.



CPL and research partner Iniciativa Climática de México (ICM) organized a COP30 panel on climate policy implementation featuring (from left to right): Kate Chi, CPL Predoctoral Fellow; Daniel Alegre, CPL Research Assistant; Jorge Villarreal, ICM; and Rosana Santos, E+ Energy Transition Institute.

energy transitions, resilience financing, and green industrial strategies, including the launch of CPL's new [multi-country policy briefs on implementation challenges](#). CIERP partners also contributed to the development and dissemination of the Belém Declaration on Global Green Industrialization, reinforcing the Center's leadership at the intersection of environmental policy, equitable development, and applied research that directly informs international climate action.

Students affiliated with CIERP and the Climate Policy Lab had the opportunity to translate their academic training into hands-on policy analysis and public engagement. Kate Chi, CPL Research Fellow, presented at COP30 on the panel "Trade and Green Industrialization: Interlinkages and Impact" at the Türkiye Pavilion. She also presented on the panel "Advances in the Implementation of Climate Policy"



at the Regional Climate Foundations Pavilion along with Daniel Alegre (MGA '25) sharing CPL's work on Implementation Gap Analyses for Mexico and Brazil. Other students attended formal UNFCCC sessions and critically assessed gaps between negotiated outcomes and action-oriented initiatives unfolding outside the negotiation rooms. All of this was made possible under the experienced mentorship of Mieke van der Wansem,

who furthered CPL research and [connected with partners](#) at COP30. [Reflections written by students](#) provide a close look at the experience of attending the conference.



Jennifer Morgan at the CPL information booth at COP30.

London Convening on Climate Coherence

Climate Policy Lab co-hosted an expert convening at the London School of Economics during London Climate Action Week titled “Holding the System Together: Parallel Climate Tracks, the Paris Agreement, and the Coherence Challenge.” Bringing together leading researchers and practitioners, the discussion focused on how to align a growing landscape of bilateral, plurilateral, and sectoral climate initiatives with the Paris Agreement framework. Participants examined how shifts in geopolitics – including weakened multilateral cohesion and the rise of parallel governance mechanisms – are reshaping the global climate system. The convening aimed to develop a shared analytical baseline and diagnostic to inform ongoing debates and future policy briefs, with particular attention to maintaining ambition, equity, and coherence across increasingly fragmented approaches to climate action.



Above: Expert convening during London Climate Action Week. Below, left to right: Fabby Tumiwa (Institute for Essential Services Reform), Rosana Santos (E+ Energy Transition), and CPL's Zheng Cui, Bethany Tietjen, and Kwame Ababio.



Fletcher alumni and current students gather at The Fletcher School's COP30 reunion. From left: Tori Okner (F14), Joshua Cohen (F26), Krishna Priya Vangala (F26), Seika Sanno (F17), Malvika Pradhan (F26), and Mark Conway (F16).

CIERP Jobs Week

[CIERP Jobs Week](#) from April 13–17 brought together Fletcher alumni and practitioners for a series of conversations on navigating the evolving environmental job market. Students who attended received practical insights on career pathways across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The event highlighted the diversity of environmental careers and reinforced the value of sustained engagement with the Fletcher alumni community as students prepare to enter a competitive and rapidly changing job landscape.

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STUDENT SUCCESS

2026 Graduates

Maya Spalding-Fecher recently completed her MALD and was recognized with the Edmund A. Gullion Prize for high academic achievement and



**Maya Spalding-Fecher and
Mieke van der Wansem**

contributions to the school community. She completed an honors capstone under Dean Kelly Sims Gallagher examining how blended finance mobilizes private investment in solar energy across Southern Africa. During her time at Fletcher, she was deeply engaged in the academic community, serving as a Senior

Editor for *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, co-leading the Fletcher Energy and Environment Club, and working as a teaching and research assistant. She also participated in international climate engagement, attending COP30 with the Tufts delegation.

"The CIERP community felt like home to me within the larger Fletcher community. I made lifelong friends through classes and conferences, had the opportunity to work with and learn from incredible professors and advisors, and continuously expanded my knowledge and network. I'm very grateful to have been part of CIERP while on campus and look forward to staying connected as an alum!" – Maya Spalding-Fecher

Joshua Cohen (MALD '26) completed a summer internship with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where he supported global efforts to implement the Kunming–Montreal Global



Biodiversity Framework. Working with the Planning, Monitoring, Reporting, and Review unit of the Secretariat, he analyzed national biodiversity strategies and targets to assess their alignment and ambition, contributed to briefing materials for international meetings.

and helped evaluate synergies across multilateral environmental agreements. He gained direct insight into how global biodiversity commitments are translated into national policy and implementation.

2012 Alumnus

Satoshi Yoshida has built a career at the intersection of international environmental policy and multilateral diplomacy since graduating from Fletcher with his MALD in 2012. He took on roles advancing global cooperation on climate change mitigation, resource efficiency, and circular economy, including roles with Japan's Ministry of the Environment and the World Bank. Since 2022, he has served as Director for International Resource Circulation and Circular Economy at Japan's Ministry of the Environment, helping advance international collaboration through G7, G20, and OECD discussions on resource efficiency. In 2025, he stepped into his current role as

Japan's lead negotiator for the global plastics treaty, representing the country in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and shaping multilateral efforts to address plastic pollution.



Satoshi Yoshida, F12, MALD, Dean Kelly Sims Gallagher, and Hilary Price, Fletcher's Associate Dean for Strategic Partnerships, met in Japan in June 2026.

Climate and Cultural Identity

The 2025–2026 [Climate and Cultural Heritage Blog Series](#), supported by CIERP and the Fletcher Office for Inclusive Excellence, invited students to reflect on the connections between climate change and cultural identity. By grounding environmental issues in personal and collective traditions, the series highlights how topics such as environmental justice and water policy intersect with students' lived experience.

Invest in Student Impact

Help us support CIERP students in their academic growth, professional development, and career advancement.

[Make a gift.](#)

CIERP INTERNSHIP SUPPORT:

Generous gifts enable students to pursue unpaid internships that provide critical hands-on experience in the field. You can also contribute by connecting us with internship opportunities and becoming part of our network of partner organizations. In 2026, CIERP students embarked on internships at the UNFCCC, CDP, the Central Bank of Armenia, the Center for Sustainable Development at the Institute for Advanced International Studies in Uzbekistan, Women's World Banking, and other institutions.



2026 graduates Maya Spalding-Fecher, Daniel Alegre, Genevieve Cickavage, and Joshua Cohen received travel and/or internship support from CIERP.



Paul-Émile Pissier, MALD graduate, represented Fletcher at the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in October 2025.

CIERP TRAVEL SUPPORT:

Since its launch in 2014, the CIERP Travel Fund has supported more than 100 students in presenting research, participating in key global events, and building professional networks. This year, generous gifts to CIERP supported student participation at COP30, the Arctic Circle Assembly, New York Climate Week, the Renewable Energy Finance Forum, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists, and other major forums.



Summer 2026 intern Jennifer Ecklund is gaining hands-on experience in climate finance and environmental policy at the Central Bank of Armenia.



Fletcher students and staff, along with partners from E+ Energy Institute, commemorate the release of a new atlas of possible low-carbon pathways for Brazil at COP30.

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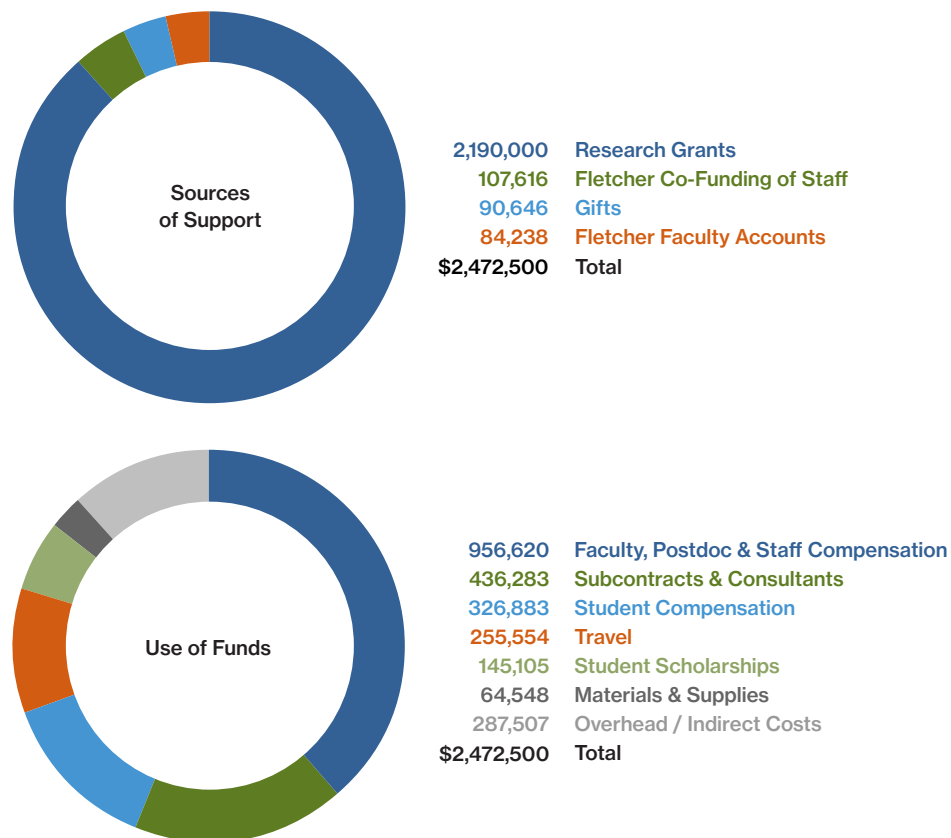
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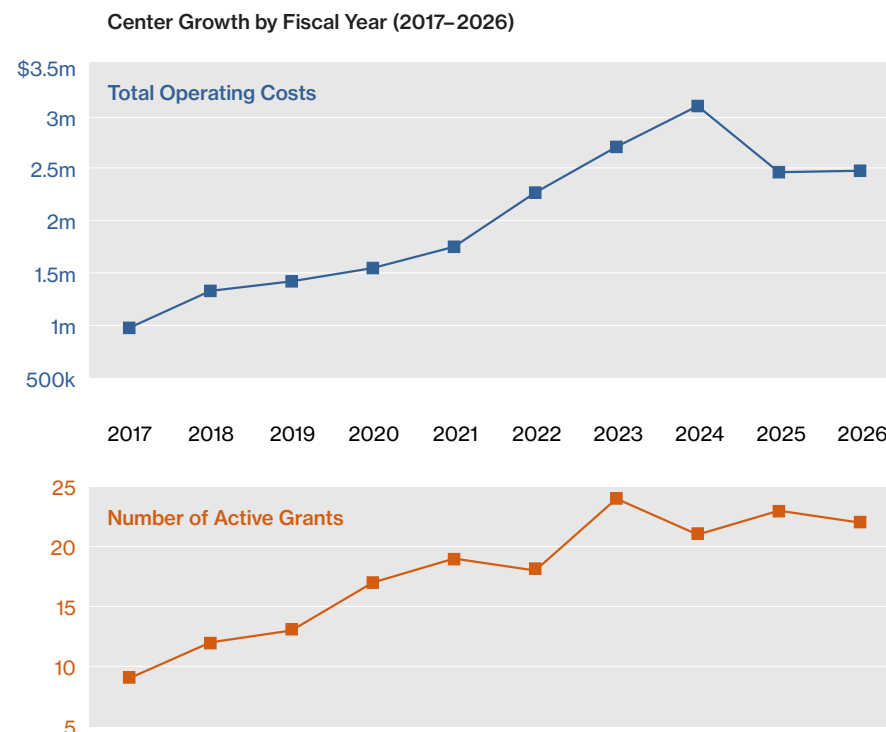
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW JULY 2025-JUNE 2026



In the fiscal year ending in June 2026, CIERP maintained a strong and stable research portfolio, with expenditures totaling approximately \$2.5 million and 22 active grants supporting a diverse range of projects. This consistency reflects the Center's ability to sustain high-impact research and programming while adapting to an evolving funding landscape.

This year, more CIERP faculty engaged in fundraising efforts, resulting in \$4.5 million raised for research projects and \$60,000 in gifts for student support. This has allowed us to broaden the Center's funding base and strengthen opportunities for future collaboration and growth. We are especially grateful for the continued support of our funders, whose partnership remains essential to advancing our mission.

Thanks to our diverse funding portfolio, CIERP continues to provide financial aid for student tuition, travel, and internships; bring leading voices to campus; and host convenings and training programs. These efforts position the Center to continue generating impactful research, convening leaders and practitioners, and training the next generation of environmental policy professionals.



Thea Riofrancos, Associate Professor of Political Science at Providence College, spoke about her latest book, *Extraction: The Frontiers of Green Capitalism*, in March 2026.





STAYING CONNECTED

We extend our sincere thanks to the supporters, partners, alumni, and friends whose engagement advances CIERP's mission. Stay connected by following us on social media and subscribing to our mailing list for the latest news, research, and events. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your updates!



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