

Dr. PAMELA D. McELWEE

Professor, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ USA

PROFILE

Environmental social scientist with 25+ years of experience at the intersections of biodiversity, climate change, and sustainability. Strategic leader of large-scale international science-policy assessments. Author of 100+ peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book chapters, and policy reports. Extensive international fieldwork and collaboration, particularly in Southeast Asia.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor , Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University	2021–present
Affiliated Graduate Faculty: Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy; Depts. of Anthropology, Geography, and Women's & Gender Studies	
Associate Professor , Rutgers University	2014–2021
Assistant Professor , Rutgers University	2011–2014
Assistant Professor , School of Global Studies, Arizona State University	2006–2011

EDUCATION

Ph.D. , Yale University — Anthropology & Forestry/Environmental Studies	2003
M.Phil. , Yale University — Anthropology; Forestry/Environmental Studies	1998
M.Sc. , Oxford University — Forestry & Land Use (<i>Rhodes Scholar</i>)	1994
B.A. , University of Kansas — Political Science (<i>Truman & Goldwater Scholar</i>)	1992

SCIENCE-POLICY LEADERSHIP

Steering Committee Chair , US Academic Alliance for the IPCC (USAA-IPCC)	2025–present
Helped found coalition of 10 US universities with AGU to support IPCC engagement after US federal withdrawal; processed US scientist nominations and provided author travel support	
Co-Chair , IPBES Thematic Nexus Assessment (biodiversity–water–food–health–climate)	2021–2024
Led 165+ scientists from 60+ countries; report approved by 140+ member governments	
Chapter Lead , Chapter 8 (Ecosystems & Biodiversity), Fifth US National Climate Assessment	2021–2023
Lead Author , Chapter 5, IPCC AR7 Working Group 3	2025–present
Lead Author , Chapter 6, IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (AR6 SRCCL)	2017–2019
Lead Author , Chapter 6, IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	2016–2019
Board of Scientific Counselors , US Environmental Protection Agency	2022–2025
Committee Member , National Academies of Sciences — Biodiversity & Climate Change Review	2024–2025
Expert Witness , US House Committee on Science, Space and Technology	2020

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS (100+ total)

- **McElwee, P.D.** (2025) *Sustainable Development and the Environment in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **McElwee, P.D.**, Allen, K., Gould, R., He, J., and Hsu, M., eds. (2025) *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Ecosystem Services*. London: Routledge.
- **McElwee, P.D.** et al. (2025) "The trade-offs between renewable energy transitions and biodiversity can be overcome." *Nature Reviews Biodiversity* 1:561
- Smith, P., Singh, P.... **McElwee, P.D.** (2025) "Impacts of climate change interventions on biodiversity, water, the food system and human health and well-being." *Global Change Biology*, 025; 31:e70444
- Chu, E., Bowser, G., Frazier, A., Quintyne, A., Shi, L., and **McElwee, P.D.** (2025) "Broadening diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in the process and development of climate assessments." *Climatic Change* 178 (63)
- **McElwee, P.D.** (2025) "IPCC and IPBES: Two sides of the same coin or two different approaches to knowledge?" *Climatic Change* 178 (45).

- **McElwee, P.D.** et al (2023) "Climate precarity in rural livelihoods: Agrarian transitions and smallholder vulnerability in Vietnam." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 23: 661-686.
- Pörtner, H.O, Scholes, B., Arneth, A., Barnes, D., Burrows, M., Diamond, S., Duarte, C., Kiessling, W., Leadley, P., Managi, S., **McElwee, P.D.**, et al. (2023) "Overcoming the coupled climate and biodiversity crises and their societal impacts." *Science* 380, eabl4881.
- Pascual, U., **McElwee, P.D.** et al. (2022) "Governing for transformative change across the biodiversity-climate-society nexus." *BioScience* 72:7.
- Visseren-Hamakers, I., Razzaque, J., **McElwee, P.D.**, et al. (2021). "Transformative governance for biodiversity conservation." *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 53: 20-28.
- **McElwee, P.D.** et al. (2020) "Integrating Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) into large-scale ecological assessments: The experience of the IPBES Global Assessment." *J. Applied Ecology* 57
- O'Reilly, J., Isenhour, C., **McElwee, P.D.**, and Orlove, B. (2020) "Climate change: expanding anthropological possibilities." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 49: 13-29
- **McElwee, P.D.** (2016) *Forests are Gold: Trees, People and Environmental Rule in Vietnam*. University of Washington Press. Winner, Best Social Science Book on Southeast Asia, EuroSEAS 2017

SELECTED GRANTS

- **National Endowment for the Humanities**, 2025. Faculty fellowship for writing a book, \$60,000.
- **National Science Foundation**, Centers for Research and Innovation in Science, the Environment and Society (CRISES), 2023. "Planning CRISES: Planning for a Future Center on Sustainability and Governance in the Anthropocene," with co-PI Rachael Shwom, \$100,000 for 18 months.
- **National Science Foundation**, 2019. "Assessing the use of ecosystem services concepts in environmental policymaking." \$390,000, July 2019-2024. Jointly awarded from Geography & Regional Science and Science, Technology & Society Divisions. Collaborative institutions: Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University; Universitas Samawa, Indonesia; and Myanmar Environment Institute.
- **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program, US Agency for International Development, National Academy of Sciences, and National Science Foundation**, 2022-23: "Understanding the Importance of Ecosystem Services and Wildlife During and After the Covid-19 Crisis in Vietnam", grant awarded to Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University, with McElwee serving as US partner and advisor. Total budget: \$69,950.
- **Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program**, 2019. \$200,000 for high-caliber scholarship in the social sciences and humanities leading to a book.

SELECTED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Luc Hoffman Award for Excellence in Ecosystem Management, IUCN	2025
Earth Leadership Program Fellow (formerly Leopold Fellows)	2021
Chancellor's Scholar , Rutgers University	2015–2020

TEACHING & ADVISING

- **Undergraduate teaching, Rutgers:** Climate Change Policy, Globalization, Environment, and Development, International Environmental Policy, Senior Capstone.
- **Graduate teaching:** Human Dimensions of Environmental Change: Nature/Society Theory, Political Ecology of Climate
- **Advising:** main advisor for 7 Ph.D.s in Geography and Anthropology; committee member for additional 15 graduate student committees; undergraduate advisor for 18 honors theses/Aresty research projects

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Geophysical Union; Association of American Geographers; Ecosystem Services Partnership; Society for Social-Ecological Systems