



New Fellow Spotlight: Dean Siân Mooney

Dean and Professor

**Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Indiana University, Bloomington and IUPUI, Indianapolis**

Siân Mooney is dean and professor at the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (Indiana University, Bloomington and IUPUI, Indianapolis). Her research interests lie in questions related to the use of natural resources and the environment and the design of policies to incentivize particular actions or choices. She is an economist that has worked for many years on topics related to water use in the western United States, endangered species, the impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation technologies. Recently, she has focused on the incentives that scientists face to address complex problems as part of multidisciplinary teams and the role of science information in decision-making. In addition to her academic role, she has served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation and as a member of the Carbon Cycle Science Interagency Working group of the US Global Change Research Program.

What are you most looking forward to as a NAPA Fellow?

I'm looking forward to interacting with individuals, and an organization, focused on improving elements of the society that we live in; and for renewed opportunities to serve government organizations to the best of my ability.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

There are so many sources of inspiration nationally and globally, but on a daily basis I have been impressed and inspired by the students, faculty and staff that I work with at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. This team has supported each other with grace and empathy; managing a very complicated educational and work/life transition as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each day I am thankful that I work with such a talented group!

What is your favorite class you have ever taught and why?

"Environmental Markets and Finance" is my favorite. I designed it for students from a mix of backgrounds such as economics and the environmental sciences. I enjoyed discussing with them how economic tools and policy design can incentivize actions such as, environmental protection and wildlife conservation. It was rewarding to listen to the different perspectives that students brought to the class that seeded many interesting discussions.

Which of the Academy's Grand Challenges resonate most with you?

All of the Grand Challenges are important! #9 Stewarding Natural Resources and Address Climate Change resonates with me because for many years, I have worked with research teams addressing climate topics such as greenhouse gas emissions, as well as other agricultural and natural resource issues. I am also very drawn to #5 Foster Social Equity and #6 Connect Individuals to Meaningful Work. These are areas where educational institutions can make a positive difference.

What is the first concert you attended?

UB40 around the time they released their album "Labour of Love", in the early 1980s. Interestingly, the band's name is derived from a UK government form!