# The Journey to Green Economies: Essays at the Intersection of Public Policy, the Market, and Environmental Sustainability

## James Gordon - Abstract

Economic productivity, environmental protection and social welfare are all interests of public policy managers, and all complexly intertwined. Economic prosperity is one longstanding proxy for social wellbeing (Hirsch, 1976), and the literature already suggests that environmental externalities undermine key drivers of economic prosperity such as labor performance and capital investment. My dissertation will thus examine three topics at the intersection of public policy, markets and environmental sustainability: the impact of environmental conditions on firm level inputs, the impact of environmental conditions on investor capital, and, finally, an investigation into the potential effects of sustainability on public administration and policy as fields of practice and teaching. Chapter One explores whether degrading environmental conditions, and specifically abnormally high temperatures and increased fine particulate matter, affect certain inputs to production: labor, capital, and total factor productivity. Chapter Two looks at corporate environmental social responsibility by investigating the effect of pro-environmental behaviors on a firm’s market-based performance. Chapter Three investigates the role that global trends in sustainability may have on transforming public administration and policy. This chapter specifically looks at how policy design, implementation, and evaluation may need to change to better fit sustainability ideals, and investigates the extent to which public affairs schools are preparing their MPA and MPP students for solving the sustainability dilemmas of tomorrow.