Lucia Harrison Colloquium 2023-2024 Series

Understanding Albedo: What is it? How can it affect climate change?

Cheyenne Lei, Ph.D.

The School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability

Western Michigan University

Date: October 27, 2023

Day: Friday

Time: 3 P.M.

Location: Wood Hall 2119

There are a variety of climatic drivers which contribute to climate change, and observation-based measurements of albedo have shown to be an invaluable tool in improving climate models on how land use can affect climate warming.

However, though surface albedo one of the most important biogeophysical mec hanisms acting on radiation budgets at both the surface and top-of-atmosphere, knowledge and understanding of how radiative forcing and modeled global warming potential on urban and terrestrial ecosystems are very limited.

As the global climate changes, it becomes all the more important to understand how the landscapes surrounding us drive albedo, radiative forcing and responses to climate warming or cooling

Dr. Lei graduated from WMU in 2016 with a Masters in Geography, Environmental & Resource Analysis, and completed her doctorate in Geography at Michigan State University in 2022. She is now a Research Fellow of the Institute for Global Change Biology in the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan. She is the recipient of 2023 Alumni Achievement Award for the School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability at WMU.

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