



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH WEEK

The Environment Symposium

Speakers Bios

Sonya H. Stone Center

Hitchcock Multipurpose Rm

November 8, 2018

3:00-5:30pm

[Theo J Dingemans](#) received his BSc degree in Chemical Engineering at the Technische Hogeschool in Eindhoven (Netherlands) and his PhD degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998 with Professor Edward T. Samulski (non-linear geometries in liquid crystals and high-performance liquid crystal polymers). He was a National Research Council (NRC) research fellow at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton (VA) from 1998 to 2003. He joined the faculty of Aerospace Engineering and Chemical Engineering at the Delft University of Technology in 2003 as an associate professor and was appointed Anthoni van Leeuwenhoek professor at the same University in 2009. In the same year, he was appointed as the first Dutch Polymer Institute (DPI) research fellow. In 2016 he moved back to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to set-up a polymer group within the new Department of Applied Physical Sciences. His research has a strong focus on the design of structural and functional all-aromatic high-performance polymers. His research has a strong focus on the design of polymers that can be used in energy related applications such as light-weight composites, shape-memory materials, electrolytes for Li-ion batteries, gas separation membranes, fuel-cell membranes, and membranes that can be used for water desalination and heavy metal capture.

[Barbara Turpin](#) is department chair and professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. She combines laboratory experiments, chemical modeling and field research to improve the understanding of linkages between air pollution emissions and human exposures. Research interests include secondary organic aerosol formation through aqueous chemistry (e.g., cloud processing) and indoor chemistry. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union and the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR). She is a recipient of AAAR's Sinclair Award. Professor Turpin is a Past President of the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR) and an editor of *Environmental Science and Technology* (ES&T). She just won the American Chemical Society's award for Creative Advances in Environmental Sciences and Technology.

[Stephen J. Walsh](#) is the Lyle V. Jones Distinguished Professor of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. He is the founder of the UNC Galapagos Initiative and the Director of the UNC Center for Galapagos Studies and the joint UNC-USFQ (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) Galapagos Science Center on San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Archipelago of Ecuador. His research and teaching emphasize island ecosystems, coupled human-natural systems, geospatial technologies, and spatial simulation models for examining human-environment interactions, and the adaptive behavior of people, systems, and organizations to external social-ecological forces of change.

[Rachel Willis](#) is a professor of American Studies and Economics at UNC-Chapel Hill and a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar working on port planning for climate change. A labor economist who has focused on access to work in the global economy, her current research on is a result of recent fellowships at the Institute for Emerging Issues, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities and the Global Research Institute. Her previous engaged scholarship projects on work access with respect to childcare, education, transportation and disability have resulted in long-term university/community collaborations across North Carolina. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, a M.A. from University of Notre Dame and a B.S. from University of California at Riverside, all in economics, as well as a B.A. in political science from University of California at Riverside. Her recent work, *Water Over the Bridge*, is profiled in *Endeavors*. Experiential learning via both service-learning and field study are at the core of nearly every course developed by Rachel Willis, an award-winning teacher.

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