Participants in the course Environmental Valuation

7th November – 9th December, 2011, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Dessalegn Fufa Goboto – Ethiopia

I am from Adama university Department of Economics Ethiopia. Currently I am studying PhD in economics at Addis Ababa university school of Economics, Ethiopia. At the same time I am working as research assistant of Tekie Alemu on a project: '' Enhancing Women's Assets to Manage Risk under Climate Change: Potential for Group-Based Approaches'' sponsored by IFPRI. In connection with the project I have a plan (interest) to do my PhD dissertation on gender and climate change risk management (Gender aspects of willingness to pay for weather-based insurance in Ethiopia). Therefore the course on environmental valuation and the course on climate recently announced on your web will help me a lot in writing my dissertation as well as pursue my future career in undertaking research on issues related to climate change and teaching Environmental economics

Johane Dikgang – Botswana

I am currently registered as a PhD student at University of Cape Town under the supervision of Associate Prof. Edwin Muchapondwa. My PhD research focuses on environmental and resource economics aspects of a land claim by the Khomani San and Mier Communities in and around the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Since September 2008, I have been linked with the Environmental Policy Research Unit (EPRU) first as a Junior Research Fellow, and as a PhD student since early 2010. During these two years at EPRU, I have been involved in a number of research projects which has generated both working papers and peer-reviewed papers. I have also contributed towards a report to the Water Research Commission (WRC Report No: 1413/1/10) and also have a book publication (Values of Water Inflows into Selected South African Estuaries; ISBN: 978-3-8433-7037-0). In addition, as an active researcher, in 2010 I attended the Belpasso International Summer School on Environmental and Resource Economics s at the University of Catania, Italy. Prior to September 2008, I lectured Economics at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University from 2006 to August 2008, where I was a Junior Lecturer until April 2008, then lecturer till I left the university end of August in 2008.

Desheng Huang – China

Ph.D. student in Institute of Environment and Economics (IoEE), Peking University, China, and recently visiting study in Toulouse School of Economics, France for one year from September 2011. My major is Environmental Economics and Policy, and I am studying specially on valuation of air quality, including the health effects and visibility impairment caused by air pollution. I participated in a CV study on air quality valuation in 2009, as well as a CE study on health valuation related to air pollution in 2010, both in Beijing. Now I am studying visibility valuation in Beijing, which is not only one of the serious environmental problems in China but also an important study for air quality improvement policy in China. I hope that further study on valuation methodology through this valuable and impractical course would help me both with the ideas and design for my Ph.D. dissertation. And what's more, study and work with all the professors and students will certainly be a happy and memorable experience in my life.

Maria Noring – Sweden

I am a PhD student at the Department of Environmental Strategic Research (fms) at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm and am now half ways into my studies. I have a master in resource economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). In the beginning of my PhD studies, I started developing environmental life cycle costing (LCC) where external costs were added to a conventional LCC. In this case LCA data has been weighted, or monetised, by results from earlier valuation studies. There are several categories lacking a monetary value and at the moment I am performing a CV study on ecotoxicity which will add to the weighting set. So far the survey form has been constructed and is just about to be programmed and tested. An ambition is to upgrade the whole weighting set, directly or by benefit transfer. The study is also interesting from a policy point of view as one of the scenarios is based on the EU goal of achieving a "good environmental status" regarding toxic compounds by 2020. This is not practically achievable though. Therefore an additional, more realistic, scenario has been created, which is based on the half time of the chemical compound looked at. In another project, aiming at constructing a framework for managing resources in the Arctic, I will later perform a CV study. This will probably focus on the value of ecosystem services in relation to an oil spill in the Arctic region. Both these studies will be part of my PhD thesis, which hopefully will contribute to the field of policy related valuation studies.

Emil Persson – Sweden

My name is Emil Persson, I'm a second year PhD student at the Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg. I'm interested in the behavioral economics of individual choice, and this is the main reason why I'm taking the course; to learn about the premises and application of stated preference methods. I'm still undecided on thesis orientation, which is why this course may end up as pretty much anything between "just a course" and "my major specialization".

Daniel Slunge – Sweden

Phd candidate dep of economics University of Gothenburg I am working on a valuation paper about ticks.

Esther Mumbi Kimani – Kenya.

I am pursuing a PhD student at the University of Cape Town, School of Economics. I just completed 2 years of course work; this course is therefore an additional course. My first exposure to environmental valuation was at master's level which motivated me to write a master's thesis "*A cost-benefit analysis of farming in forestland: A case study of Shamba System in Dundori, Nakuru District Kenya.*" It is in my plan to have this work published in the near future. My PhD thesis will be in the general area of labor (especially unemployment) and environmental regulation issues in South Africa. This course will be fundamental in my research especially in looking at the environmental valuations taken into consideration when formulating environmental regulations in South Africa.

Hailu Elias – Ethiopia

I am a PhD student of Economics at the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. In the undergraduate program, I have studied basic economics courses such as Micro & Macro

Economics, Statistics, Econometrics, Mathematics, Development Economics, Agricultural Economics and natural resource and environmental economics. That gave me an idea on Agriculture and environmental Economics and motivated me to work on issues related to Agriculture and resource allocation. In my post graduate studies, I wanted to understand how farmers respond to climatic shocks and hence, my thesis was on "Analysis of Risk and supply response of Agriculture". By now, I am planning to study about the impact of climate change on Agricultural production, resource allocation and Household Livelihood in Ethiopia. Therefore, studying the theory and practice of environmental valuation and other relevant courses in the area will be a great help in my research work and in my career development as an economics teacher and researcher. I believe that the insights I will get from the professors of Gothenburg University will help me to bring out the best in me and will inspire me to do my best to the development of my Country.

Onesmo Selejio – Tanzania

From the Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Currently, I am a PhD candidate at a stage of thesis writing on Adoption of Land Conservation technologies and its Impact on Smallholder Agriculture in Tanzania. During my coursework, one of my elective courses was Environmental Economics. I was exposed to some Environmental valuation issues during the course. At the moment I am not using the environmental valuation but the course is very potential for the future use in my research and other works at my University and country at large.

Baltazar Safari Awe – Tanzania

PhD candidate from the Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. I have little experience of environmental valuation. I once participated in a related study to environmental valuation. I assisted in data collection on payment for environmental services in one of the studies in Tanzania. Currently, I am writing a PhD proposal and the main theme will be forest valuation. The proposed methods to be applied in this study are Contingent valuation and choice experiments. My ultimate goal is to specialize in environmental valuation

Marco Otárola Guerrero – Costa Rica

I'm a PhD student in the Sustainable Forest Management Research Institute, University of Valladolid-INIA, Spain (http://www.research4forestry.eu/), and I'm studying biophysics and socioeconomic climate change adaptation strategies for the management of Mediterranean forests. My doctoral thesis is oriented to assess the climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity of the forest sector in the Urbion Model Forest region (Spain) in order to help to move forward to the building of a climate change adaptation strategy – based on biophysical and social perspectives - that could be integrated in the current forest management system in the Urbion region (landscape-level approach). One chapter of my thesis will be oriented to evaluate the "social adaptive capacity" to climate change through the study of the risk perception in Urbion forest-based community and their preferences (using environmental valuation techniques) for climate change impacts mitigation in order to ensure the provision of ecosystem G&S. I have previous research experience both in climate change adaptation and environmental valuation during my stay in CATIE, where I studied and worked some years ago.

Phung Thanh Binh – Vietnam

I come from the Faculty of Development Economics, University of Economics, HCMC, Vietnam. I'm now studying PhD in Environmental Economics at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. In 2004, I had a chance to study one short course in environmental valuation of the EEPSEA program taught by Professor Wiktor Adamowicz and Professor Dale Whittington. I have had no experience in conducting valuation researches. However, one of my PhD papers will apply choice experiments, so I think this course is very useful. For me, this is not just a course, but a new chapter of life because I will definitely learn a lot from experienced professors and colleagues when doing my PhD thesis and future researches as well.

Changyi Liu – China

I am a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). I began to study economics since I was an undergraduate, but I only started studying the environmental economics until my doctoral courses. Specifically, I study the climate change economics, which focuses on climate change related issues from the perspective of

economics, such as mitigation, adaptation, and low carbon development etc. My doctoral dissertation probably will focus on the discount rate for the cost-benefit analysis of climate change policies. As we all know, even most mainstream economists agree that we should do something to avoid the dangerous catastrophes, there still exists a huge gape and fierce debate between the economists on what's the best policy for the climate change mitigation. Among them, Sir Nicholas Stern and William Nordhaus are two representatives, representing two different opinions—mitigate right now ambitiously or go-with-it-slowly. Despite its simpleness (determined by three factors), it is the core of the debate. Behind the parsimonious equations of the utility and cost functions in those models, there are many ethical and philosophical and economical issues! The traditional environmental valuation methods are controversial enough and difficult to evaluate, the climate change valuation—which is an environment problem *per se* but with much unique characteristics—is much more controversial and difficult! The valuation period is much longer (as long as centuries or more); it is a global public good with worldwide externalities; there are much more uncertainties while we have known so little information with regard to climate change in the future. Perhaps the traditional methods are not appropriate for the valuation of climate change? Although I didn't learn much about the valuation methods in environmental economics, I can perceive that the traditional valuation methods still play a very important role in the cost-benefit analysis of climate change. On the one hand, traditional valuation methods is the basis for the cost-benefit analysis; on the other hand, when we study the mitigation or adaptation policies or projects for a region or a city, we still have to employ the traditional methods to valuate the related issues in order to find out the best and pragmatic policies. That's the reason why I would like to take part in this course and hope to find some answers for my doctoral dissertation and in the future exploration for this subject. So, this course would be the major specialization for me.

Xiao-Bing Zhang – China

I am currently at the 2-nd year of my PhD study in Environmental Economics at the Department of Economics, University of Gothenburg. I did my Bachelor and Master study in University of Science and Technology of China and Chinese Academy of Sciences, respectively. Environmental Evaluation is one of my specialization course and I think it will be helpful in my thesis writing and the concepts as well as methods from this course will benefit my research on environmental economic and policy in the future.

Irene Mussio – Uruguay

I work as a research assistant at the Macroeconomics area at the department of economics (dECON), Faculty of Social Sciences, Universidad de la República, Uruguay. My prior experience with environmental valuation comes from teaching, although I currently teach mathematics and have taught econometrics and mathematical economics previously at the

bachelor's level. I also work at the University of Montevideo the environmental economics area, currently assisting for the subject Intermediate Environmental Economics and on research related to policy instruments, in particular, regarding DBO5 emission standards for industries in Montevideo. My objective after taking the environmental valuation course is to come up with research ideas not only for Uruguay but related to problems taking place in Latin America and to relate to other students/professors who might be interested in working in new projects as well. I would also like to take up a PhD in environmental and resource economics next year and this course will serve as a tool to be able to think about potential thesis ideas.

Sied Hassen Mohamed – Ethiopia

Second year PhD student at the Department of Economics, University
of Gothenburg specializing in Environmental and Resource Economics. I am also institutionally affiliated to Mekelle University Wherein I was teaching courses like Introduction to Econometrics, Mathematical Economics and Environmental Economics to undergraduate students at the Department of Economics. When I did my master's degree in Development and Environmental Economics at the University of Oslo, Norway, environmental valuation was the chapter of the topics in the course environmental economics. For me, the environmental valuation course is part of my PhD specialized courses and will use the concepts from this course when writing at least a chapter of my PhD thesis.

Wanxin Li – China

Assistant Professor at Department of Public and Social Administration at the City University of Hong Kong and Tsinghua Graduate School at Shenzhen. She has worked with the World Bank and OECD in the past. She is the author of the 2009 OECD report, "Eco-Innovation Policies in China." Her publications appear in Nature, The China Quarterly, Children and Youth Services Review and other top journals.

Josephine Gakii Gatua – Kenya

My name is Josephine Gakii Gatua. I come from Kenya. I am currently attached to the University of Nairobi Institute of tropical and Infectious Diseases fellowship programme as a Health Economist. I studied Environmental Valuation at the masters' level in 2008. I intend to
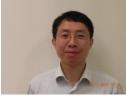
apply the knowledge of environmental valuation in the field of health especially in relation to the burden of disease.

Remidius Ruhinduka – Tanzania

My name is Remidius Ruhinduka , a currently second year PhD student at the department of Economics University of Gothenburg. I am originally from Tanzania where I work for the University of Dar es Salaam as an Assistant Lecturer. I learnt a bit about the Environmental valuations techniques during my MA.Economics program as part of the *Natural and Environmental Economics* course. I therefore believe that this current course will sharpen and strengthen my skills and expose me to more real world examples were such tools are applicable. With such strengths from the program, I look forward to developing a relevant research idea that will eventually be part of my thesis chapters

Hai Jiang – China

My name is **Hai Jian**g. I come from Nanjing Agricultural University. **Nanjing** is a metropolis in the East of China. But my hometown is a village in the South-west of China and located at the foot of **Emei Mountain**, which is on the list of ***World Natural and Cultural Heritage***. It's so beautiful and attractive! However, Emei is faced with the same challenges as other cities in China to make a choice between economic development and resource preservation. I want to learn some useful and frontier knowledge about natural resource and environmental economics here. When I go back China, I hope it will be applied to resolve some of the environmental problems.

Hang Yin – China

I am Hang Yin, come from China. This is my second year as a PhD candidate in Gothenburg University, department of Economics, major in Environmental Economics. I have not take any similar course about environmental valuation during master, however, I involved in some agricultural and forestry program valuations, such as carbon sink and tenure reform. I need to learn more systematical and theoretical methodology to fulfill my thesis. Also this course is helpful for me to get idea about my thesis. I appreciate this opportunity to study with you all.