



UCF

# FACULTY RESEARCH TALKS

LISTEN. LEARN. COLLABORATE.

Zoom talk | Friday, April 12, 2023 | Noon to 1 p.m.



PRESENTER 1:

**KELLY  
STEVENS**

Assistant Professor  
School of Public  
Administration

## **Reimagining Urban Resilience and Education Hubs Using a Community-Engaged, Equity-Centered Approach**

Dr. Stevens will discuss her NSF CIVIC project to co-design a resilience hub in partnership with the City of Orlando to provide disaster-related services to socially vulnerable communities in Orlando. She will share the community feedback that informed the design of a portable pilot hub that can be used in various conditions for hazard preparation and education. She will conclude by briefly discussing future research plans that connect new technologies to energy policies through community-engaged scholarship.

Dr. Stevens holds joint appointments in the Resilient, Intelligent and Sustainable Energy Systems, or RISES, research center and Florida Solar Energy Center, or FSEC, at UCF. She conducts interdisciplinary research connecting energy policies with developments in clean energy technology to address community-identified problems related to our energy system. Her work focuses on the U.S. electricity sector, climate change policies, air pollution and community resilience, with funding from the NSF and the U.S. Department of Energy, among others.



PRESENTER 2:

**ESHWAR  
VENUGOPAL**

Assistant Professor  
College of Business

## **Environmental Pollution, Business Activity and Textual Data in Finance**

In this presentation, Dr. Venugopal will discuss his recent working paper on the impact of pollution on the local economy. He and his co-authors find that major toxic chemical spills have persistent adverse effects on local business activity and contribute to an increase in business concentration by hurting smaller establishments while benefiting the largest establishments. He will show that the worsening of credit frictions and the migration of population and income away from counties exposed to major toxic chemical spills leads to persistent adverse effects on local business activity.

Dr. Venugopal teaches in UCF's FinTech program and serves on the faculty of the Department of Finance and Dr. P. Phillips School of Real Estate. He holds a Ph.D. in finance, master's degrees in banking and finance and applied econometrics, and an undergraduate degree in computer engineering. His empirical finance research agenda focuses on high-tech entrepreneurship and the impact of environmental issues on the economy.



PRESENTER 3:

**DAVID EDDINS**

Professor  
School of  
Communication  
Sciences and  
Disorders

## **UCF Communication Technologies Research Center: Opportunities Amplified**

Dr. Eddins will introduce the newly established UCF Communication Technologies Research Center located in UCF Research Park. This multi-disciplinary center houses 11 unique facilities designed for current and future collaborations between scientists, engineers and clinicians jointly focused on discovering solutions to complex problems associated with communication and communication disorders. The presentation will include brief glimpses into three representative problems currently under focus: a novel treatment for sound sensitivity disorders; accessible assessment of airway function and vital capacity; and emerging technology to enhance hearing and cognitive function.

Dr. Eddins is the director of the Communication Technologies Research Center and fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. His research focuses on understanding the perceptual and biological bases of communication disorders, development of communication technologies that address those disorders, and translation of technologies to clinical practice. This includes the intersection between aging, cognition and hearing, harnessing therapeutic neural plasticity, developing novel methods for quantifying voice disorders, and technologies to support affordable and accessible treatment methods.