

**Spring 2024
Colloquium Series**



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**Microplastics in the Environment:
Interdisciplinary Work**



Plastics are a major pollutant due to their abundance, ubiquity, and persistence. Studies indicate a pervasive presence of microplastics, which result from the degradation of plastics in the environment. The chemicals used to make plastic as well as its potential to adsorb contaminants poses risks not only the environment, but to individual organisms. Microplastics have been shown to impact fauna, such as zooplankton, coral, and fish, which can could lead to implications for food webs. Many studies have focused on microplastic presence in the ocean, but it is estimated that 80% of microplastic in the ocean comes from land-based sources.

I will discuss the microplastic problem, my research on microplastics across multiple ecosystems from beaches, salt marshes, stormwater ponds, tropical streams and alligators, and next steps for understanding the factors that contribute to the issue and what it means for the environment.



Bagels, donuts, and coffee
available in **SRCC 219**
before the talk!

**February 29, 2024
Thaw 104 @ 4:00PM**