Stanford



Sara Constantino

Assistant Professor of Environmental Social Sciences, Center Fellow, by courtesy, at the Woods Institute for the Environment and Assistant Professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business

Bio

BIO

Sara Constantino is an assistant professor at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability in the Department of Environmental Social Sciences and a visiting research scholar at Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs. She is also a faculty affiliate at SPARQ and the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute. She has an interdisciplinary background at the intersection of economics, psychology, and environmental policy and politics. Her research focuses on understanding the interplay between individual, collective, institutional and ecological factors, including how they shape preferences, decisions, experiences and resilience to extreme events or shocks. In recent and ongoing studies, she is looking at the role of polarization, social norms and governance in stimulating or stifling climate action, including both adaptation and mitigation, and what conditions lead groups mobilize to shape policy and other outcomes. She also works on the impacts and politics of guaranteed income and other cash transfer programs. Prior to starting at Stanford, she was an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Department of Psychology at Northeastern University and an associate research scholar at Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs. Before this, she was a senior research fellow in guaranteed income with the Jain Family Institute, a founding editor at Nature Human Behavior, and a research coordinator with the Institute for Fiscal Studies. She received her bachelor’s degree in economics from McGill University, a master’s degree in economics from University College London, a Ph.D. in cognitive and decision sciences from New York University, and did a postdoc focused on environmental policy, politics and decision-making at Princeton University.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Environmental Social Sciences
- Center Fellow (By courtesy), Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment
- Assistant Professor (By courtesy), Organizational Behavior

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- President Elect, Division 34 (Society for Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology), APA (2026 - present)
- Faculty Fellow, Center for Affective Science (2026 - present)
- Advisory Board, Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (2025 - present)
- Member, Economics of Decarbonization, J-PAL Working Group (2025 - present)
- Faculty Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) (2025 - present)
- Elected Member, Society of Experimental Social Psychology (2025 - present)
- Editorial Board, Environmental Psychology Research Journal (2025 - present)
- Member, SPSP United Nations Committee (2025 - present)

LINKS

- Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=3ShGgmcAAAAJ&hl=en
- Lab Website: https://socialchangelab.stanford.edu/

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Human Behavior and the Environment: Individual, Collective and Structural Factors: EARTHSYS 202, EBS 302, PSYCH 280 (Win)
- Policy Practicum: Policy Drivers To Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition: EBS 292 (Aut)
- Policy Practicum: Policy Drivers To Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition: LAW 810M (Aut)
- Workshop in Environmental Behavioral Sciences: Theory and Praxis: EBS 300 (Win)

2025-26

- Human Behavior and the Environment: Individual, Collective and Structural Factors: EBS 302 (Win)
- Workshop in Environmental Behavioral Sciences: Theory and Praxis: EBS 300 (Aut, Win, Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Leona Neftaliem

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Ireri Hernandez Carballo, Dhruv Mittal

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Inseparability in Disaster Risk Science: Accounting for Coupled, Co-Evolving Systems.** *Risk analysis : an official publication of the Society for Risk Analysis*
  Dunant, A., Hochrainer-Stigler, S., Calderon, L. J., McGranaghan, R. M., Mechler, R., Pittore, M., Constantino, S. M., Angeli, S. D., de Ruiter, M. C., Falmagne, G., Gomez-Zapata, J. C., Kienberger, S., Koks, et al
  2026; 46 (11): e70386
- **Belief Traps Hinder Small Business Climate Action** *ENTREPRENEURSHIP THEORY AND PRACTICE*
  Lees, J., Constantino, S. M., Cushen, J., Dahlmann, F., de Bakker, F. G. A., Della Torre, E., Frigotto, M., Hackenbuchner, M., Heuvinck, N., Kypraios, E., Ri, A., Roper, S., Schuessler, et al
  2026
- **Tipping points do not make 1.5 °C a physical climate limit** *ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS*
  Armstrong McKay, D., Constantino, S. M.
  2026; 21 (17)
- **A method to identify positive tipping points to accelerate low-carbon transitions and actions to trigger them.** *Sustainability science*
  Lenton, T. M., Powell, T. W., Smith, S. R., Geels, F. W., Alkemade, F., Ayoub, M., Barbrook-Johnson, P., Benson, S., Blomsma, F., Boulton, C. A., Buxton, J. E., Constantino, S. M., Eker, et al
  2026; 21 (1): 201-220
- **Quantifying patterns of news media framing and social acceptance of renewable energy** *ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS*
  Lore, M., Caggiano, H., Constantino, S.
  2026; 21 (14)
- **Guaranteed Income Programs: Single Parents, Spending, and Debt** *RSF-THE RUSSELL SAGE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES*

Constantino, S. M., Chaudry, A., Morduch, J.
2026; 12 (1): 220-246

- **Features of successful behavioral interventions: A data driven analysis of megastudy effects** *CURRENT RESEARCH IN BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES*
  Patel, Y., Goldwert, D., Constantino, S. M., Vlasceanu, M.
  2026; 10
- **Do risk, time, and social preferences predict sustainable behavior? Evidence from a qualitative synthesis and meta-analysis** *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS*
  Nichols, K. L., Matt-Navarro, J. M., Doiron, M. K., d'Adda, G., Weber, E. U., Constantino, S. M.
  2026; 242
- **Conformity to social norm interventions is not amplified in tighter nations.** *Communications psychology*
  Acierno, J., Tedaldi, E., Ginn, J., Goldwert, D., Vlasceanu, M., Geiger, S. J., Sparkman, G., Constantino, S. M.
  2026
- **A megastudy of behavioral interventions to catalyze public, political, and financial climate advocacy.** *PNAS nexus*
  Goldwert, D., Constantino, S. M., Patel, Y., Sabherwal, A., Semken, C., Brick, C., Castiglione, A., Debnath, R., Doell, K. C., Dubey, R., Fang, K., Goldberg, M. H., Ma, et al
  2026; 5 (1): pgaf400
- **Assessing Nudge Impact: A Comprehensive Second-Order Meta-Analysis** *JOURNAL OF BEHAVIORAL DECISION MAKING*
  Hu, B., Xia, Z., Guo, Q., Lu, C., Constantino, S., Ju, X.
  2025; 38 (5)
- **Culture Mediates Climate Opinion Change: A System Dynamics Model of Risk Perception, Polarization, and Policy Effectiveness** *CLIMATE*
  Shin, Y., Constantino, S. M., Gross, L. J., Kinzig, A., Lacasse, K., Beckage, B.
  2025; 13 (9)
- **Paying attention and paying the costs: wildfires in the American West** *CLIMATIC CHANGE*
  Andrews, T. M., Constantino, S. M., Cooperman, A. D., Gard-Murray, A.
  2025; 178 (9)
- **Social norms and groups structure safe operating spaces in renewable resource use in a social-ecological multi-layer network model** *EARTH SYSTEM DYNAMICS*
  Bechthold, M., Barfuss, W., Butz, A., Breier, J., Constantino, S. M., Heitzig, J., Schwarz, L., Vardag, S. N., Donges, J. F.
  2025; 16 (4): 1365-1390
- **Growing climate change risk concerns with rising regional disparities in China.** *npj climate action*
  Xia, Z., Ye, J., Debnath, R., Dong, X., Xie, J., Xu, M., Tian, X., Marlon, J., Zhang, C., Yang, J., Constantino, S., Liu, M.
  2025; 4 (1): 78
- **A method to identify positive tipping points to accelerate low-carbon transitions and actions to trigger them** *SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE*
  Lenton, T. M., Powell, T. W. R., Smith, S. R., Geels, F. W., Alkemade, F., Ayoub, M., Barbrook-Johnson, P., Benson, S., Blomsma, F., Boulton, C. A., Buxton, J. E., Constantino, S. M., Eker, et al
  2025
- **Beyond tipping points: risks, equity, and the ethics of intervention** *EARTH SYSTEM DYNAMICS*
  Pereira, L. M., Smith, S. R., Gifford, L., Newell, P., Villasante, S., Achieng, T., Castro, A., Constantino, S. M., Powell, T., Ghadiali, A., Smith, B., Vogel, C., Zimm, et al
  2025; 16 (4): 1267-1285
- **Climate change and opinion dynamics models: Linking individual, social, and institutional level changes** *CURRENT OPINION IN BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES*
  Shin, Y., Constantino, S. M., Beckage, B., Lacasse, K.
  2025; 64
- **How publics in small-island states view climate change and international responses to it.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
  Mildenberger, M., Constantino, S. M., Mahdavi, P., Bergquist, P., De Roche, G., Franzblau, E., Martinez-Alvarez, C., Sturm, I.

2025; 122 (30): e2415324122

- **Seizing the policy opportunities for health- and equity-improving energy decisions.** *One earth (Cambridge, Mass.)*
  Peng, W., Anenberg, S., Bistline, J., Budolfson, M., Constantino, S. M., Crawford, K., Davis, K., DeCarlo, P., Fawcett, A., Hashimoto, H., Helgeson, C., Huang, X., Iyer, et al
  2025; 8 (2)
- **Seizing the policy opportunities for health- and equity-improving energy decisions** *ONE EARTH*
  Peng, W., Anenberg, S., Bistline, J., Budolfson, M., Constantino, S. M., Crawford, K., Davis, K., Decarlo, P., Fawcett, A., Hashimoto, H., Helgeson, C., Huang, X., Iyer, et al
  2025; 8 (2)
- **The International Climate Psychology Collaboration: Climate change-related data collected from 63 countries.** *Scientific data*
  Doell, K. C., Todorova, B., Vlasceanu, M., Bak Coleman, J. B., Pronizius, E., Schumann, P., Azevedo, F., Patel, Y., Berkebile-Wineberg, M. M., Brick, C., Lange, F., Grayson, S. J., Pei, et al
  2024; 11 (1): 1066
- **Negative social tipping dynamics resulting from and reinforcing Earth system destabilization** *EARTH SYSTEM DYNAMICS*
  Spaiser, V., Juhola, S., Constantino, S. M., Guo, W., Watson, T., Sillmann, J., Craparo, A., Basel, A., Bruun, J. T., Krishnamurthy, K., Scheffran, J., Pinho, P., Okpara, et al
  2024; 15 (5): 1179-1206
- **Anticonformists catalyze societal transitions and facilitate the expression of evolving preferences.** *PNAS nexus*
  Mittal, D., Constantino, S. M., Vasconcelos, V. V.
  2024; 3 (8): pgae302
- **Addressing climate change with behavioral science: A global intervention tournament in 63 countries.** *Science advances*
  Vlasceanu, M., Doell, K. C., Bak-Coleman, J. B., Todorova, B., Berkebile-Weinberg, M. M., Grayson, S. J., Patel, Y., Goldwert, D., Pei, Y., Chakroff, A., Pronizius, E., van den Broek, K. L., Vlasceanu, et al
  2024; 10 (6): eadj5778