



2025-2026 EOAS Colloquium Series

How Will Earth's Surface Evolve in the Anthropocene?

A decade and a half ago, the U.S. National Research Council (NRC 2010) identified a Grand Challenge in this question—"How will Earth's surface evolve in the "Anthropocene"?" At that time, the concept of "anthropocene" was just becoming known, as the pervasive environmental consequences of accelerating human interactions with Earth systems has prompted introduction of the term to signify a new era dominated by human activity. Although the subsequent proposal and consideration over 15 years for a new interval of geologic time did not yield a change in the official chronostratigraphic chart, continuing interest in "anthropocene" in the scientific communities and recognition of the urgency of the problem are apparent. To date, over 16,000 scholarly articles have appeared with a search term "anthropocene" in the article title, abstract, or keyword. This presentation assesses the changing of the times with respect to a geomorphology of the anthropocene. Using illustrative examples, it focuses on progress along several themes—understanding long-term legacies of human activities; complex interactions in anthropogenic landscapes; and feedbacks and coupled human-landscape dynamics—in envisioning possible anthropocene futures that are just and sustainable.



Dr. Anne Chin
Harrison V. Chase Distinguished Professor
Department of Geography
Florida State University

Time: 3:00 PM, Friday, March 27, 2026

Location: EOA 1044

Contact: Maya Stokes (mfstokes@fsu.edu)