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JUAN MORENO CRUZ

Assistant Professor, School of Economics,
Georgia Institute of Technology

Spatial distribution and health impacts of pollution from electricity generation

We examine how changes in the electricity system redistributes environmental and health impacts across space. We exploit electricity system congestion episodes to explore the changes on ambient concentrations of criteria pollutants in most of the eastern United States. Electricity system congestion increases ozone and PM2.5 concentrations in New England and New York and other densely populated areas while decreasing in the less densely populated areas west of the Appalachian Mountains. We quantify the impacts of these changes in environmental pollution on health outcomes. We find overall health gains in New England, New York, and Atlantic states and health losses in Illinois, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania, with the health gains out-weighting the losses.

Bio

Juan Moreno-Cruz is an Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at Georgia Institute of Technology. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Calgary in Canada, and his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia. Moreno-Cruz arrived to Georgia Tech in August 2011, where he has worked on energy and environmental economics, in particular on questions related to climate change and energy transitions. He was recently awarded a grant from the National Academy of Sciences to work on spatial energy consumption and regional air quality. His work has influenced the direction of geoengineering research and policy and has been published in high impact journals such as Nature Geosciences, PNAS, Science, Climatic Change, Energy and Environmental Economics, and Resource and Energy Economics. Moreno-Cruz is also a Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems Fellow and a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow.

Carnegie Mellon University

Center for Climate
and Energy
Decision Making
Seminars



28 Nov. 2016
12:00-1:30pm ET

Baker Hall 129
Carnegie Mellon University

Lunch will be served at 11:50am.
Seminar is presented under the
auspices of CEDM and the department
of Engineering and Public Policy.

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