

The Environmental Science and Policy Program at
Michigan State University presents

Toward Safe and Efficient Infrastructure: Lessons from Porter Ranch to Boston

A Distinguished Lecture by
Dr. Nathan Phillips
Department of Earth and Environment
Boston University



Abstract:

Engineers and ecologists have long recognized a tradeoff between efficiency and resilience in natural and engineered systems. Our city infrastructure has primarily been built around efficiency maximization, and this has led to vulnerabilities and failures, often borne by our most vulnerable communities. In this talk I will discuss experiences from leaking gas and water pipelines in Boston to the catastrophic failure of a natural gas well on which Los Angeles depends to critique our current way of building fossil-fuel-based resource infrastructure and what a more resilient and efficient infrastructure would look like in the age of climate change consequences.



3:30 p.m. Thursday April 28
Room 104 A&B,
Kellogg Center
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President for Research
and Graduate Studies