**Position description:** This project is part of a larger initiative I have to study the social and economic roots of climate change. One question I am interested in uncovering is how economic transformations over the last several decades are or are not contributing towards more greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, if economies are transitioning away from manufacturing towards services is this reducing emissions or is it increasing it by continued consumption and trade? A second interest I have is exploring how resource extraction and business organization work together to generate profits. Here I will focus on the American oil and gas industry to study why some companies make “windfall” profits – particularly those connected to the financial sector – while others struggle to maintain competitiveness. I hope that both of these projects help us understand the social and economic foundations of environmental change, climate change, and 21st century capitalism.

**Student Participation:** Students will be engaged with data gathering from several sources. I need RAs to download cross-national data on environmental indicators, emissions data, economic and political information for countries. Students will also be tasked with analyzing some of this data as well. I will also have RAs find publicly available information on US oil and gas sector firms, organize this information, and begin going through it to find specific information. Finally, I will also have students hunt for new data sources relevant to the project. This will include at least looking at old newspaper stories, finding online data, and looking to see what is available through the library.

**Time Commitment:** 3-9 hrs/week (1-3 academic credits) for 1-3 semesters (including summer)

**Minimum GPA & Major:** A minimum of 2.5 overall GPA. Social science (especially political science, geography, economics, sociology, international studies), environmental studies, business, and more.

**Year/ Skill Requirements:** Some experience with Excel.

**Compensation:** Academic credit or voluntary experience

**To apply:** Contact Matt Soener: soener.1@osu.edu and provide GPA, major, how many credit hours they would like, and any relevant experience within the first two weeks of spring semester.