



Navigating Climate Economics Project: Author Interview

Transcript

00:00:00:56 - 00:00:09:99

Narrator: Navigating Climate Economics Project, Author Interview. Introduction.

00:00:09:99 - 00:00:18:17

Peter: I'm, my name is Peter Tsigaris. I'm from the Department of Economics, from the Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics.

00:00:18:17 - 00:00:24:43

Peter: I've been at TRU for 31 years. I came here in 1993.

00:00:24:43 - 00:00:44:17

Peter: I teach economics and do research in the area of environmental economics and public finance and education of economics, and I enjoy working with students.

00:00:40:27 - 00:00:43:10

Narrator: Could you please tell me about the project?

00:00:45:39 - 00:01:06:65

Peter: Oh, yeah, this project was done in an undergraduate class, economics of climate change with my undergraduate students. It was about climate change issues, but with an economic lens, students were asked to write an opinion piece, a commentary, a perspective.

00:01:06:65 - 00:01:20:18

Peter: So, they were constrained to have only 600 words into that commentary. But it was research and they looked at different climate change issues, and they wrote about it.

00:01:20:18 - 00:01:28:03

Peter: In terms of their perspective, in terms of their opinion. In fact, actually, I also write a chapter in these books together.

00:01:28:03 - 00:01:34:06

Peter: So, I had a topic, and I wrote a chapter, too, not only my students, but I also contributed to the book.

00:01:36:04 - 00:01:38:24

Narrator: How did you learn about the TRU Open Press?

00:01:41:08 - 00:02:00:50

Peter: That was about four years ago. Marie gave a talk about the Open Press, and it occurred to me, and then I started looking into it, and that was about four years ago, and that's why I used it basically to create these books.

00:02:00:50 - 00:02:10:25

Peter: And the first book I wrote was a study of the value of Kamloops Parks, from then on, it's been producing books with my students.

00:02:13:00 - 00:02:16:16

Narrator: What advantages and benefits will students gain from this book?

00:02:18:03 - 00:02:53:25

Peter: What advantages and benefits, students will get a lot of benefits because they are writing a book with their instructor and they do research, they are analyzing a very serious issue that our world is facing, Climate change, they take an economic perspective on it. They also can add it to their credentials and CV and can find a job by telling the employers that, you know, I wrote a book with my instructor in my undergraduate courses, and it's available.

00:02:53:25 - 00:02:58:24

Peter: And it's available to the public and the open, in the World Wide Web.

00:03:01:12 - 00:03:04:10

Narrator: How were the students guided to conduct the research?

00:03:06:47 - 00:03:18:89

Peter: We were meeting during the class times, and I was going over what they've done. So, I asked them, you know what to do first a literature review in the area, I would review each student's.

00:03:18:89 - 00:03:22:67

Peter: It was a small class. We would review each student's literature review.

00:03:22:67 - 00:03:32:31

Peter: We had to get ethics approval, which we went through a course about ethical issues in research. We all finished that course.

00:03:32:31 - 00:03:44:69

Peter: We got a certificate for it, and some of them did a survey, so I had to look at the survey. Others gather data from public sources, and they analyze them.

00:03:44:69 - 00:03:50:09

Peter: Every time they produce something, I had to review it and give them feedback back, and we moved along that way.

00:03:52:13 - 00:03:54:17

Narrator: What gives credibility to the book?

00:03:55:64 - 00:04:17:08

Peter: Again, the credibility of the book comes from people that write the foreword of the book, and this time, actually this time the foreword is from a well-known environmental economist in

Canada, Andrew Leach and he wrote a really, really, really powerful forward and giving credit credibility to the book.

00:04:19:00 - 00:04:25:20

Narrator: Looking ahead, are there any new areas or topics you are considering exploring in future collaborative projects with students?

00:04:27:47 - 00:04:33:83

Peter: Yep. I'm not sure if I'm going to continue with books. I might.

00:04:33:83 - 00:04:43:69

Peter: I'm teaching, again, the capstone course, and I'm teaching actually three courses next term. All of them involve students doing projects, projects and research.

00:04:43:69 - 00:04:59:27

Peter: One is at the graduate level and two are at the undergraduate level. One could be that we continue in the capstone course, we could continue with part two, and I call this part one book and we continue with more issues.

00:04:59:27 - 00:05:14:41

Peter: And the other course is, we also now have an open access journal, student journal, and I could issue I'm the editor; I'm the chief editor. It's called Future Earth.

00:05:14:41 - 00:05:38:90

Peter: And again, I got lots of help from the Open Press, TRU Open Press, and it could be possible that I become a guest chief editor, but I might become a guest editor, kind of editor for a particular topic and then have students submit their work there. So, there's lots of good stuff that can be done.

00:05:38:90 - 00:05:42:72

Narrator: Thank you for the interview, Peter