

Laura Arpan
School of
Communication

larpan@fsu.edu

Research Agenda:

- Understanding risk perceptions, human motivation & responses to environmental and health-related interventions; related technologies.
 - Avoid information deficit assumption: lack of knowledge rarely the only problem.
 - Motivation and risk perception problems
 - Not all care or perceive health/environmental risk
 - Some perceive few benefits and unsubstantiated risk of new technologies
 - Not all who care act or inadvertently undermine interventions
- Testing theory-based messages to encourage health & pro-environmental behaviors, policy acceptance;
 - use of messages: user-generated videos, entertainment programs, promotional messages, or
 - information technologies (educational video games, apps, smart meters)

Potential Project Roles :

- Survey research to predict citizen and/or organizational risk perceptions, needs and motivation to participate in smart city initiatives and services;
- Theory-based message and incentive strategies to encourage citizen and organizational participation (outreach and awareness building);
- Analysis of smart city citizen/organizational participation and satisfaction.

Recent, related work:

Role of values,
norms, group
identity, & risk
perceptions in
predicting
behaviors,
message
response,
policy acceptance.

- **Moral motivations** for renewable energy for home use.
 - Responses to promotional messages emphasizing caring, justice, loyalty, or authority and **willingness to pay more for green energy**.
- Motivations and risk perceptions associated with **use and acceptance of smart meters** in the United States.
- Saving money vs. the environment? Short-term vs. long-term gains?
 - Responses to **messages promoting reduced residential energy use**.
- The role of values, moral norms, and descriptive norms in **building occupant responses to an energy-efficiency pilot program** and to framing (norms vs. personal responsibility) of related messages.
- Motivating the skeptical and unconcerned: Considering **values and norms** when planning messages encouraging energy conservation and efficiency behaviors.