



Seminar Presentation by:  
**Dr. Matthew Dietrich**  
PhD, Senior Research Data Analyst  
The Polis Center  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
(IUPUI)  
on  
Friday, September 8, 2023  
4:00 P.M

## **Legacy contaminants, isotopes, and community science—what do they all have in common?**

### **Biography**

Dr. Matthew Dietrich is a Senior Research Data Analyst at The Polis Center, part of The Luddy School of Informatics, Computing & Engineering at IUPUI. He focuses on comprehensive data analyses for projects within SAVI and Polis for various community partners and clients. Matthew has expertise in multiple fields of environmental science and environmental health, particularly environmental pollution. Prior to working at The Polis Center, Matthew was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, focusing on urban pollution geochemistry research. Matthew earned a PhD. from Vanderbilt University in Earth and Environmental Science: Focus – Environmental Geochemistry; a M.A degree from Miami University in Geology; and a B.A. degree from Miami in Environmental Earth Science and Sustainability. For more information, visit [ResearchGate](#) and [Google Scholar](#)

Link to access meeting via Zoom  
<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/94528226514?pwd=Y2VSd3MweGdhQTJySkFvOUhaVDhQZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 2822 6514  
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### **Abstract**

Research efforts in environmental geochemistry and health are inherently intertwined with the well-being and interest of communities, but oftentimes, research is conducted in a silo where little information is passed to the public. However, for environmental health and geochemistry research to have the greatest possible impact, discourse and participation from the broader community is often essential. Here, I outline how important environmental science topics, such as better understanding of legacy contaminants and exposure, can be conducted with communities instead of on them and still lead to innovative and groundbreaking science. Importantly, advanced geochemistry and statistical techniques can be applied to seemingly simplistic sample sets to yield important and novel information that can help inform individuals and communities to help instill positive change.