



In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

## **Master of Science**

### **Eric LoPrete**

Will present his scientific paper

### **Perceived Barriers and Benefits to Using Recycling Drop-Off Points in Asunción, Paraguay**

Thursday, April 9, 2020  
9:00 am

[Zoom Meeting ID: 374 970 8134](#)

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:  
Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Co-Chair  
Dr. Arnim Wiek, Co-Chair  
Dr. Daniel Fischer, Member

#### **Abstract**

For waste management in Asunción, Paraguay to improve, so too must the rate of recycling participation. However, due to minimal public waste management infrastructure, it is up to individual citizens and the private sector to develop recycling solutions in the city. One social enterprise called Soluciones Ecológicas (SE) has deployed a system of drop-off recycling stations called ecopuntos for residents to deposit their paper and cardboard, plastic, and aluminum. For SE to maximize the use of its ecopuntos, it must understand the perceived barriers to, and benefits of, their use. To identify these barriers and benefits, a doer/non-doer survey based on the behavioral determinants outlined in the Designing for Behavior Change Framework was distributed among Asunción residents. Results showed that perceived self-efficacy, perceived social norms, and perceived positive consequence – as well as age – were influential in shaping ecopunto use. Other determinants such as perceived negative consequences, access, and universal motivators were significant predictors of gender and age. SE and other institutions looking to improve recycling can use these results to design effective behavior change interventions.