

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

#### Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Paul Mohai, Ph.D.**, professor of natural resources and environment, School for Environment and Sustainability, professor of environment, Program in the Environment, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and faculty associate, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Paul Mohai attended the University of California, Berkeley where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971. He completed a Master of Science in 1976 at the State University of New York at Syracuse. He attended The Pennsylvania State University where he completed his doctorate in 1983. Professor Mohai joined the School of Natural Resources and Environment (now SEAS) as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1993, and professor in 2004.

Professor Mohai's teaching and research interests are focused on environmental justice, public opinion and the environment, and influences on environmental policy making. He is a founder of the Environmental Justice Program at the University of Michigan and a major contributor to the growing body of quantitative research examining disproportionate environmental burdens and their impacts on low income and people of color communities. Professor Mohai served on the U.S. EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, the Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice (MAC-EJ) and as a member of the Governor's Environmental Justice Work Group, and the Advisory Board of the Global Environmental Justice Movement Project (ENVJUSTICE). Within the University of Michigan, he served on the Provost's Anti-Racism Hiring Initiative Committee, and the SEAS Promotion and Tenure Committee, and served as the associate dean for research and engagement 2021-2023.

Professor Mohai was awarded the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award for leadership in the environmental justice field in 2013, the Damu Smith Power of One Leadership Award in 2014, and the NAACP Environmental and Social Justice Award for Outstanding Service in the Struggle for Environmental and Social Justice in 1997. Professor Mohai is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar, an outstanding mentor, a gifted teacher, and a committed colleague.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Paul Mohai, professor emeritus of natural resources and environment.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Jon Kinsey**

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2026