

Manlio Rossi-Doria Centre for Economic and Social Research

May 21st 2015 – h. 3:30 pm

***2015 Rossi-Doria Lecture***

*Jobs versus environment?  
Assessing the jobs-environment relationship  
in the US*

**Michael Ash**

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Introduction and Chair

**Pasquale De Muro**

(Roma Tre University and Rossi-Doria Centre)

*Venue: Sala delle Lauree*

Scuola di Economia e Studi Aziendali  
Università Roma Tre  
Via Silvio D'Amico 77, Rome

*Further information:*

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<http://europa.uniroma3.it/centrorossidoria/evento.aspx?id=22&lang=it>

**Michael Ash** (Ph.D., Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 1999) is Professor of Economics and Public Policy and Chair of the Economics Department at University of Massachusetts Amherst. His areas of research are: labor, health and environmental economics, examined through quantitative models. Ash's main interests in environmental policy include disclosure and right-to-know laws, greenhouse-gas policy, and environmental justice.

In 2013, Herndon, Ash and Pollin critiqued the argument of Harvard University Professors Reinhart and Rogoff that high public debt strangles economic growth. Herndon, Ash, and Pollin were named among Foreign Policy Magazine 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013.

**Abstract.** What is the trade-off, if any, between jobs and the environment? Population exposure to industrial pollution is often characterized as a social cost that comes with the benefit of output and employment in industrial production. The 2015 Rossi-Doria Lecture will assess the benefit of industrial activity in terms of employment and the provision of “good jobs” in relation to the environmental and health risk. To what extent does the distribution of the benefits of employment in industrial production mirror the distribution of the costs of exposure to the toxic byproducts of industrial activity, in particular in the dimension of race and ethnicity? The social impact of industrial activity on vulnerable populations is particularly contested, with many claims that employment opportunities warrant excess population exposure.