

Laura Schaefer Bio

Dr. Laura Schaefer received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1995) and a B.A. in English (1995) from Rice University, and M.S. (1997) and Ph.D. (2000) degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She was a faculty member in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh from 2000-2015, where she was also a Bicentennial Board of Visitors Faculty Fellow, Deputy Director of the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, and Associate Director of the Center for Energy. Dr. Schaefer was a Visiting Researcher in the Energy Futures Laboratory at Imperial College in London in 2011-2012. She joined the faculty at Rice in 2015, where she serves as Department Chair of Mechanical Engineering, holds the Burton J. and Ann M. McMurtry Chair in Engineering, and is Magister of Wiess College.

Dr. Schaefer received a Career Award from NSF and a New Investigator Award from ASHRAE. She is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a past Chair of the Advanced Energy Systems Division of ASME, the former and founding Editor-in-Chief of Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments, and a past Associate Editor of the ASME Journal of Heat Transfer and the ASME Journal of Energy Resources Technology.

Dr. Schaefer's research centers on the analysis, design and optimization of energy systems, with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency and diversification for increased sustainability, including at the energy-water nexus. Her research approach has been to examine energy systems both from a fundamentals viewpoint (through the application of rigorous thermofluid modeling techniques) and in a societal/environmental context. Dr. Schaefer's research has received over \$11 million in funding by organizations such as NSF, AFOSR, ASHRAE, PITA, and NCIIA.