



AHMED RACHID EL-KHATTABI **University of North Carolina**

Ahmed Rachid El-Khattabi is an applied environmental economist and urban planner with expertise in policy-oriented quantitative research and data management. He researches issues at the intersection of economic development and environmental planning with a particular focus on urban water demand management. This includes research on topics such as innovation, pricing, affordability, financial stability, and governance. Currently, he is interim executive director and also associate director for research and data at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Environmental Finance Center (UNC EFC), a non-profit organization within UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government which assists government and other organizations in their efforts to provide environmental programs in financially sustainable ways. In the associate director role, he supports UNC EFC's services through the advancement of the organization's research, the design and maintenance of the organization's data infrastructure, and the creation of interactive web tools. Prior to joining UNC EFC, he worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water, first as an ORISE postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Science and Technology's engineering and analysis division then as an economist in the Water Economics Center. At EPA, his research largely involved the use of non-market valuation techniques to estimate benefits. He also worked on topics related to environmental justice, notably co-developing an environmental justice batch screening tool (EJSCREENbatch), while contributing to the development of support tools for regulatory benefits analyses and conducting research to support national rulemaking related to waters of the United States. He received a Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill's department of city and regional planning. During his time studying at UNC-Chapel Hill, he received the UNC Impact Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in 2016 for his work through the Center for Community Capital related to affordable housing for low- and middle-income households and again in 2019 for his work on water management in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.