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Dr. Pierce, is a Research Assistant Professor with the Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy and the Digital Media Collaboratory at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Pierce adopts a scholar-practitioner approach to integrate science-based information with human organizational systems for application to groundwater management and energy-water problems. Resultant decision support systems link participatory modeling with simulation, optimization, and multi-stakeholder concerns.

Her research has garnered recognition from local to international levels, including selection as a Fulbright Nexus Scholar, ICE WaRM Liaison to the Australian Centre for National Groundwater Research and Training, and as a Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellow of the Environmental Protection Agency. Current projects include hydroinformatics for sustainable aquifer yield in Central Texas and South Australia, along with evaluating perceptions of science at a geothermal basin in the Atacama Desert of Chile.