



IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International
Science Conference on the
Human Dimensions of
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009
World Conference Center Bonn
UN Campus
Bonn, Germany

The Social
Challenges of
Global Change

IHDP Secretariat | Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 | D-53113 Bonn | P +49 (0)228 815 0600 | F +49 (0)228 815 0620
www.openmeeting2009.org | openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

Time: Monday 27 April, 14:00 - 15:30. Session: A220

Comparing Climate change Policy Networks (I)

Location: Bundesrat, 314

Convenor: Jeffery Broadbent, University of Minnesota, United States

Recent Developments in Brazilian Climate Change Politics and Policy

Presenter: Myanna Lahsen, INPE, Brazil

Authors: Myanna Lahsen (1)

INPE, Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil (1)

This paper will discuss the Brazilian case study partaking of the broader Compon project (Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks). Relating relevant results from past ethnographic research to new, preliminary interviews and other data collection in this national context, the paper discusses recent changes in Brazilian politics and government which are affecting the production, circulation and uptake of climate science, and the tensions and between different civil and governmental actors marked by different political cultures. It traces the consequences of the recently gained authority of the Ministry of the Environment over important aspects of national climate science and policy, in particular through its authority over the development of a National Plan on Climate Change. The paper will identify key structural, cultural and political factors shaping Brazilian climate politics and policy, and reflect on the methods that can illuminate the particularities of this national context as well as those of other national contexts shaped by different political structures and cultures.



Understanding the Relationship Between Multiple Scales of Climate Change Politics in the United States

Presenter: Dana Fisher, Columbia University, United States

Authors: Dana R. Fisher (1)

Columbia University, New York, NY, United States (1)

In the face of political stagnation of national climate change policies in the United States, how are climate change policies coming about at the sub-national level? Is there any chance that the action at the local level will scale-up? This paper looks at how sub-national policies in the United States are interacting with policymaking at the national level to address the issue of global climate change by focusing on a coordinated effort to get the national government to fund U.S. cities' efforts to address this issue. The paper is separated into three sections. First, I review how research has looked at climate change policymaking in the United States, paying particular attention to the ways scholars have looked at climate change policymaking at different scales of governance. Next, I outline the ways that data were collected to explore the interaction between these scales of climate change policymaking in the United States. Third and finally, I present findings from research on national legislation to support local efforts to address the issue of climate change: the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants that were enacted through the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This paper concludes by discussing the potential implications of these findings on the American position in international climate change negotiations, as well as an understanding of the relationship between national and sub-national politics in the United States more broadly. THIS PAPER IS PART OF THE COMPON PROJECT.

The Politics of Climate Change in the Cities of Taiwan: A Multilevel Governance Perspective

Presenter: Tze-Luen Lin, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Authors: Tze-Luen Lin (1)

National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, (1)

The issue of climate change has received growing attention since the 1990s in the world as well as in Taiwan. Taiwan's per capita CO₂ emissions are relatively high compared to the majority of its neighbors in Asia. In 1990, Taiwan's per capita CO₂ emissions registered 5.54 metric tons, second only to Japan in Asia. In 2003, the per capita CO₂ emissions reach 11.15 tons. Although Taiwan is not the signatories of the UNFCCC, its response was more aggressive than most of the developing world. Taiwan is among few developing countries that announced specific targets to reduce its greenhouse gases emissions. It specifically commits to stabilizing its emissions at 2000 levels by 2025.

While climate change is generally framed as a global issue, this paper points out that climate change is essentially a local issue as well. This paper uses a multilevel governance perspective to examine the climate change policy in Taipei and Kaohsiung cities. It intends to explore the changing relationships between central and local governments in addressing climate change. How has the spatial form of urban development been shaped by the government system? To what policy agendas has climate change been addressed through the structures of central and local government?



What are the major obstacles for two cities to achieve more effective climate governance? What institutional transitions might be needed? The paper discusses why the role of cities is critical when it comes to climate actions and how cities adapt to these challenges.

Climate Change Politics in Japan: domestic interests and international pressures

Presenter: Jeffrey Broadbent, University of Minnesota, United States

Authors: Jeffrey Broadbent (1), Koichi Hasegawa (1)

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States (1), Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan (2)

The Compon project, *Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks*, analyzes and compares the reactions of over 15 national societies and governments, within the international regime, to the growing risks posed by global climate change. The current phase of the Compon project consists of national reports based on qualitative research. This report is based on the authors' direct research on this topic over the last two years in Japan. The dominant frame about climate change held by Japanese leaders concerns the protection of national energy security, counterbalanced by fears of losing credibility in the eyes of Japan's trading partners. Japan's political system has been largely dominated by a close alliance between the Federation of Economic Organizations, the economic ministries (focusing on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, METI), and the conservative ruling political party (the Liberal Democratic Party). Since the inception of the climate change problem in the early 1990s, this triad of powerful actors has successfully hindered the formation of any compulsory government policies designed to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Instead, the business sector has followed a Voluntary Action Plan. This plan has succeeded in keeping industrial GHG emissions at a steady state, but commercial and residential sectors grew rapidly. As a result, Japan is now 12 percentage points away from meeting its Kyoto commitment levels. Due to international pressures, Japanese leaders are currently considering massive investment in the clean development mechanism, as well as the importation of cap and trade policies.

Comparing political systems in the perception of slow-moving policy problems: Theoretical and methodological considerations and their application to the climate change problem

Presenter: Volker Schneider, University of Konstanz, Germany

Authors: Volker Schneider (1), Philip Leifeld (2), Thomas Malang (1)

University of Konstanz, Germany (1), Max-Planck-Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Germany (2)

The general process and the various steps in which political systems cope with policy problems are usually conceptualized with reference to the policy cycle. In such a perspective a situation first is perceived, then the course of action is selected, and finally the chosen program is executed and implemented. Most analyses in comparative public policy concentrate on the last two phases (policy formulation and implementation), for which sophisticated models have been developed. This paper, in contrast, concentrates on the first phase of the policy cycle, emphasizing that problem perception is a complex framing process that is shaping the rest of the policy cycle. The paper provides an



overview of various theoretical and conceptual approaches that conceptualize problem perception, communication and agenda building. Based on such a review and systematization, the paper will consider how some of the major approaches may be applied to climate policy, and which specific methods could be used in empirical studies to measure these perceptual structures and their implications. The paper develops hypotheses how and why differently structured political systems show varying performance in the early perception, communication, and coping with long-term and slow moving policy problems such as the global warming syndrome. It emphasizes the varying participation and functional roles of actor categories such as governments, parties, ecological movements, science, and business stakeholders; their specific institutional integration into the policy process, particular network structures of political communication and the differential impact of these structures of policy discourse.

International climate change networks: Post-Kyoto negotiations and politics

Presenter: Anna-Liisa Aunio, Centre de Recherche en Éthique à l'Université de Montréal, Canada

Authors: Anna-Liisa Aunio (1)

University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (1)

The COMPON (Comparing Policy Networks) project includes analysis of networks across several countries; it links these analyses, however, through an assessment of their positions within the international negotiations and politics. This paper presents the preliminary qualitative research on the major actors and their positions with reference to the post-Kyoto negotiations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Interviews were conducted at the Conference of Parties (COP) meeting in Poznan, Poland in December 2008. Actors included governments, the UNFCCC Secretariat, IPCC representatives, NGO constituency groups, and other relevant inter-governmental organizations. Preliminary results emphasize the interpretation and negotiation over the meaning of “common but differentiated responsibilities” that serves as the primary discursive frame through which countries engage in politicking on current commitments as well as future negotiations. Analysis of policy networks at the international level reveal the continuing significance of this frame across a host of issues, such as REDD, the CDM, and financial mechanisms. Consequences of differing commitments and use of this discursive frame by policy actors within the international regime will be discussed. In addition, future directions of this research, including especially the role of this qualitative research in defining the COMPON quantitative survey will be discussed.

Climate Change Politics in Russia: Modern Trends and Contradictions

Presenter: Irina Shmeleva, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

Authors: Irina Shmeleva

Saint Petersburg State University

In Belarus environmental researchers have strong influence on formulation and implementation of environmental policies, mostly because other institutions beyond the government are not trusted by decision-makers and broader public; even environmental NGOs are active only if their focus is on research. Just like many other things associated with top-down modes of governance, this one is likely to remain unchanged for long, and therefore should be con-



sidered in strategies targeting institutional/political reform in Belarus. An important implication is that the development of national expertise in environmental studies and integration of Belarusian academia into the international research community are crucial for the improving the country's environmental performance. Building on lessons learned from an IHDP-endorsed EC TEMPUS project, we seek to analyse structural problems of professional environmental education in Belarusian universities.

Notwithstanding a number of internationally-funded capacity-building initiatives supporting the development of Bologna standards, the major problem of the environmental education remains an undeveloped mechanism for interaction between science, education and employees: employers are unqualified to identify necessary objectives and competences, while educators do not have skills to do this on their own. Present patterns of interaction are supported by the lack of competitive environments, where universities fight for applicants and researchers/educators have to develop networks to share knowledge. In Belarus, where universities do not have to compete, segregation works better for raising governmental subsidies. Before this is realised and addressed by the national government and international donors, any attempts to improve the situation will fail to sustain themselves over any longer term.