Duck Family Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance

March 2015
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

5 March 2015

Dear participants:

Welcome to the 2015 Duck Family Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance organized by the Center for Environmental Politics at University of Washington. We are delighted to host an impressive multi-disciplinary gathering of doctoral students working on environmental issues.

The Duck Family Graduate Workshop seeks to provide a venue for emerging scholars to present their work, receive feedback, and network with others working on similar issues. This year we are limiting this workshop to universities in the Pacific Northwest. In response to the Call for Papers, we received an impressive number of proposals from students located in 7 PNW universities and working in a range of disciplines. We have shortlisted 21 papers for presentation at the workshop.

This workshop has been made possible by the generous support of Gary and Susan Duck. Both Gary and Susan are UW alumni and have generously supported the political science department’s activities over several years. We are deeply indebted to them.

I wish you a productive and exciting workshop.

Sincerely,

Aseem Prakash
Professor, Department of Political Science
Walker Family Professor for the College of Arts and Sciences
Director, Center for Environmental Politics
University of Washington, Seattle
Gary A. Duck, who received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington in 1973, engaged in a diverse set of professional pursuits after completing his graduate studies. Under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, he served as an associate research analyst to assess the effectiveness of K-12 public education programs throughout the U.S. Gary then served as an executive responsible for information technology services for a satellite company and subsequently for an energy company. Fourteen years ago he, along with his son Stephen, established an investment management company, with offices in Los Angeles and Santa Fe. He is still actively involved in this business. With his wife, Susan, he loves to travel, collect various forms of art, garden, and spend time with his grandchildren. After leaving UW, Gary and Susan became enthusiastic supporters of Political Science and the School of Social Work by making regular donations in support of students who followed after them.

Susan Duck came to University of Washington from the Los Angeles area to attend graduate school in the School of Social Work. While there she was introduced to Gary through mutual friends. They have been married 42 years and settled in Los Angeles after both graduated. She is very grateful to the UW School of Social Work for giving her the tools to have a varied and rewarding career as a clinical social worker. She was a psychotherapist for several years, and later worked several years in a hospital setting within the home health and hospice fields. Now retired, Susan shares with Gary his love of travel. They have travelled extensively in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. At home, Susan enjoys spending time with their two sons and spouses and four grandchildren. She also enjoys the company of friends, literature, theater and other cultural experiences.

This 2015 Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance has been made possible by the support of Gary and Susan Duck.

Peter J. May is the Donald R. Matthews Distinguished Emeritus Professor of American Politics. His research funded by the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey addresses policy processes, environmental regulation, and policymaking for natural hazards and disasters. His research about policy processes places him among the leading scholars in the field for which he has pioneered research addressing policy design and implementation, the coherence of policies, policy learning, and policy regimes.

LLisa Graumlich, Virginia and Prentice Bloedel Professor, is the inaugural Dean of the College of the Environment at the University of Washington. As Dean, she leads a College with unparalleled depth and breadth in environmental systems: from the forests to the seas and from the depths of the earth to the edges of the solar system. As a scholar, Graumlich pioneered the use of tree-ring data to understand long-term trends in climate, focusing on the mountains of western North America. She is actively engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to understand the impacts of climate change on wilderness and natural areas.

Christine Biermann is Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Washington. As a nature-society geographer, her major areas of research concern: (1) the political ecology of environmental restoration, (2) the relationships between race, science, and the environment, and (3) social and ecological drivers of forest change.

Ron Mitchell is a Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. His current research interests include the effectiveness of international environmental agreements (focusing at present on climate change, fisheries, and transboundary air pollution) and he has developed a database of all multilateral environmental treaties and corresponding performance indicators. From 2003-2014, he was co-director (with C. Susan Weiler of Whitman College) of the Dissertation Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) program.
SESSION ONE

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

CHAIR & DISCUSSANT
VICTOR MENALDO
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Victor Menaldo is an assistant professor of Political Science at UW and an affiliated faculty of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences (CSSS). He specializes in comparative politics and political economy. Menaldo’s research focuses on the political economy of taxation and redistribution, the political economy of regulation, the political economy of regime change, and the political economy of natural resources. He has published in the American Political Science Review, the Journal of Politics, the British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics and Economics & Politics, among other places.

JESSICA NEAFIE
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

The detrimental effects of a globalized economy: Does foreign direct investment hinder access to potable water?

Jessica Neafie is an international relations and public policy doctoral student at the University of Oregon. Her interest areas are in water issues caused by security and economic stresses and the effects of the international economic environment on resources (such as water). Her current research is on the effects of FDI on host countries; she focuses on the effects on natural resources, and on how democratic developing countries may not be significantly better at overcoming environmental problems and resource management problems caused by FDI.

TING-CHUN KUO
ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Assessing the changing pattern of international trade in CITES-listed marine fishes

Ting-Chun Kuo is a PhD candidate of Project Seahorse, Fisheries Centre in the University of British Columbia. She received her BSc in Life Science and MSc in Oceanography from National Taiwan University. Her work is focusing on the trade of seahorses and other marine species, and the impact of international trade agreements on wildlife trade.

STEFAN PAUER
FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Border tax adjustments in support of domestic climate policies: Explaining the gap between theory and practice

Stefan Pauer is a doctoral candidate in law at the University of British Columbia. In his research, he seeks to understand the conditions under which governments choose to adopt or not to adopt border tax adjustments (also known as carbon tariffs) to support domestic climate policies. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, he integrates the disciplines of political science, law, and economics. Before coming to UBC for his doctoral studies, he has worked for several years at the European Commission as a Policy Officer on the European Union’s cap-and-trade system.

TOBIAS BELSCHNER
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Same but different? Domestic actor constellations and institutional effectiveness in fisheries governance and the management of transboundary pollution problems

Tobias Belschner is a PhD candidate at the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies. He is interested in transboundary collective goods and the conditions under which they can be supplied. He focuses on problem structure and institutions as explanatory variables. Regarding the empirics, he works on transboundary pollution problems and fisheries management in the North Sea analyzing how they are managed under the Oslo Commission and the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy respectively.
Elizabeth Chrun is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellow and a Comparative Law and Society Studies (CLASS) Fellow. Her research explores the issues of institutional failure and how new institutions can be established to mitigate them. Her dissertation looks at governance failure in the context of corruption in democracies. Her other projects look at institutional failure in the context of environmental problems and examine how new institutions such as information-based policies help to alleviate them, both domestically and internationally.

Thibaud Henin is a Ph.D. Candidate in the department of political science at the University of Oregon, and an associate with the Ecologic Institute, Berlin. His areas of expertise are public policy and international relations with a substantive focus on environmental politics and policy. Papers he has authored include “The Diffusion of Feed-In Tariff Policies” and “From Climate Change to Conflict? Human vs. State Security Concerns in the Arctic”. In his research he uses a diverse set of quantitative and qualitative methods including network analysis, agent-based models, QCA and econometrics.

Nora Webb Williams is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science studying comparative politics, methods, and political economy. Her research interests include: the political economy of oil and gas sectors, levels of involvement in protests, and judicial branch politics. She holds a dual master’s degree in Central Eurasian Studies (MA) and Public Affairs (MPA) from Indiana University, Bloomington. Notable experiences outside of the university setting include serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kazakhstan (2006-2008) and Liberia (2009).

Meian Chen’s research addresses two related questions: Why are strong climate policies emerging in some developing countries like China? Second, what factors shape the transformation of China’s response to climate change? Drawing on recent fieldwork, her study explores to what extent a diverse set of actors (governmental officials, the epistemic community, environmental NGOs, and business groups) are able to transform both attitudes and behaviors of the Chinese state based on their own interests and objectives.
CHAIR & DISCUSSANT
NIVES DOLŠAK
MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Prof. Dolšak’s research examines institutional challenges in governing common pool resources at multiple levels of aggregation. Her recent projects include: (1) impacts of civil society on environmental institutions and outcomes in Central and Eastern Europe; (2) collaborative management for salmon recovery in Washington and Oregon; (3) social indicators for integrated ecosystem assessment of Puget Sound and California Current; and (4) city-level climate change policies in the European Union. Her research has been funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

LINDSAY AYLESWORTH
ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Do fishers know best? The value of local knowledge in support of international conservation efforts for a marine fish genus

Lindsay is a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and the lead field investigator for Project Seahorse’s work supporting the Thailand Department of Fisheries to implement international trade recommendations. Lindsay’s research interests include detection rates, occupancy modeling, and the use of local knowledge to make management and policy decisions. As a Fulbright Scholar, she brings over 7 years of marine biology research and international experience to Project Seahorse. Prior to joining the team, she worked in Brazil to identify microhabitat preferences of the longnose seahorse, and with the IUCN as a marine fellow.

DAN CALVERT
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
Exploring social learning and adaptive capacity in a collaborative watershed partnership

Dan Calvert is a doctoral student at Oregon State University. He has been working in natural resource management, education, and wildlife biology in various capacities for the last 15 years. His research explores collaborative natural resource management efforts that integrate private landowners in salmon recovery and watershed management efforts. He is currently juggling completing his dissertation while also being a full-time stay at home dad with a nine-month old daughter.

CHARLOTTE WHITNEY
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Adaptive capacity and social-ecological resilience of coastal communities to climate change in the marine environment

Charlotte Whitney is currently studying how marine spatial planning affects the adaptive capacity of coastal communities in British Columbia, Canada. She is looking at ways of integrating natural science with traditional ecological knowledge and social science methods in order to contribute to improved community conservation and ecological integrity. By identifying how multiple stressors affect temperate social and ecological systems, she aims to identify tools for better conservation planning and management in a rapidly changing world.

KIM OGREN
GEOGRAPHY, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
Linking process to outcomes: Lessons in water governance and decision making from the Columbia River Treaty reviews

Kim Ogren’s research investigates which characteristics of water governance processes contribute to good water governance outcomes and provides water managers with a practical tool for evaluating and improving water governance processes. Or more simply, she is trying to determine how we can improve our decisions in water governance by improving the process for making those decisions. Drawing from 22 existing frameworks, she developed a synthesis framework for evaluating processes in terms of context, information, inclusivity, accountability, and outcomes.
SESSION FOUR

TRANSACTION COSTS, COLLECTIVE ACTION AND POLICY DIFFUSION

CHAIR & DISCUSSANT
RON MICHELL
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Ronald Mitchell is a Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. His current research interests include the effectiveness of international environmental agreements (focusing at present on climate change, fisheries, and transboundary air pollution) and he has developed a database of all multilateral environmental treaties and corresponding performance indicators. From 2003-2014, he was co-director (with C. Susan Weiler of Whitman College) of the Dissertation Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) program.

ALLISON KELLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Tracing the diffusion of national level REDD+ programs

Allison Kelly is a PhD student in the Public Policy and Management program at the Evans School of Public Affairs. Her research interests include environmental policy and international development, as well as ecological economics and the valuation of ecosystem services. She is particularly interested in studying how to incorporate and balance social, economic, and ecological goals in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) programs. Allison is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Panama 2009-11; Community Environmental Conservation) and previously worked for the California Coastal Commission.

WILLIAM GOCHBERG
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Collective action and intergroup inequality: The effects of wealth heterogeneity and commercial resource value on forest governance outcomes

Will’s primary interest is in the environmental politics of low-income countries. His work has focused on local and state-level management of renewable resources. This has included research on illegal logging, REDD+ implementation, resource management in weak states, and the relationship between inequality and collective action. Future research interests include examining how international market forces shape the institutions that govern environmental management, as well as how social cleavages play a role in this management.

MOLLIE CHAPMAN
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Rethinking transaction: Transaction ‘costs’ as benefits in Payment for Ecosystem Services programs

Mollie Chapman is doctoral student at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. Her research spans the natural and social sciences seeking to better understand the ways that the values of individuals and communities as well as understandings from the scientific world can better be integrated into environmental management, programs and decision making. Her current work focuses on innovative ways to shift food systems towards sustainability.

KYLIE CLAY
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
De facto land tenure and its implications for forest use

Kylie Clay is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science and the current Richard B. Wesley Fellow in Environmental Politics and Governance. She studies comparative and international political economy, focusing on natural resource management and land use in developing countries. Her current research looks at the effects of agricultural productivity and land tenure on land use decision-making and deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa. She holds a Master’s degree in Political Science and Political Economy from the London School of Economics and, prior to her studies at UW, worked as an economic consultant for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
CHAIR & DISCUSSANT

PETER MAY
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Peter J. May is the Donald R. Matthews Distinguished Professor of American Politics. His research funded by the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey addresses policy processes, environmental regulation, and policymaking for natural hazards and disasters. His research about policy processes places him among the leading scholars in the field for which he has pioneered research addressing policy design and implementation, the coherence of policies, policy learning, and policy regimes.

JENNY HO
ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Machine learning in a hedonic model: Estimating the impact of fracking on house prices

Jenny is a doctoral student in the Economics Department at the University of Washington. Her interests are in environmental economics and incorporating "big data" techniques in empirical microeconomics. In particular, she focuses on estimating people's willingness to pay for environmental amenities. Her current research looks at the effects of fracking on house prices in the Marcellus Shale Formation. She uses machine learning methods to process high dimensional datasets with descriptive words and image features in a hedonic analysis.

MUXIN ZHAI
ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The largest low emission zone of Europe: Traffic and air quality in London

Muxin Zhai is a doctoral student in the Economics Department at the University of Washington. Her current research focuses on the environmental effects of the world’s largest low emission zone. For this project she collected the most comprehensive dataset available on airborne particulate matter pollution, traffic flow and fuel consumption in England to analyze the treatment and spillover effects of low emission zone of London on air quality.

ASHLIE DENTON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Transitioning lands: Understanding landowner choice in rapidly urbanizing regions

Ashlie Denton, MSW, is a PhD student at Portland State University in Public Affairs and Policy and a National Science Foundation IGERT Fellow in the Ecosystem Services supporting Urbanizing Regions program. Her primary research interest is in transnational environmental governance networks in the Pacific Islands, but she also looks to other boundaries for her work—geographical, political, human/nonhuman, public/private—to see how knowledge is valued and how perception translates into behavior.

MICHAEL ORAM
POLITICAL SCIENCE, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Transportation and the environment: Measuring municipal policy capacity

Michael Oram is a PhD student in Political Science at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He has also previously worked for The City of Calgary in a variety of roles. Michael’s research interests include the policy capacity of municipal governments, public policy, municipal governance transportation policy and environmental policy. Currently he is examining the environmental impacts of transportation policy in Canadian municipalities as a measure of policy capacity. This works aims to bring an outcomes based approach to measuring policy capacity.

ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ
POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Bureaucratic autonomy at the municipal level: Explaining variation in Canadian cities’ green building policies

Her research is in the area of environmental policy with an emphasis on urban sustainability. Her dissertation develops and tests a new theory of policy adoption in the field of municipal climate change policy. She studies how city officials respond to electoral pressure within the context of the institutional structures of local governments. Using a qualitative process tracing approach, she investigates climate change mitigation policy in the areas of green buildings, fleet management, cycling infrastructure and landfill management in Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg and Brampton.