2nd Annual Duck Family Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance

May 25-27, 2016
University of Washington, Seattle
24 May 2016

Dear participants:

Welcome to the 2nd Annual 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 policy, politics, and governance issues. We received 89 high quality submissions from students pursuing graduate studies in top universities located in 10 different countries. These students come from disciplines such as anthropology, economics, engineering and environmental sciences, geography, law, political science, public policy, and sociology. After a careful scrutiny, we have identified 24 students for this workshop.

The Center’s vision is to play a leadership role in producing and disseminating state of the art empirical research on environmental politics, policy, and governance at local, regional, national, and global levels. The Center’s 25 Faculty Associates are leaders in their fields and the 19 Graduate Fellows are working on exciting doctoral projects. Within the University of Washington, we facilitate faculty and graduate students to build connections, establish networks, and initiate truly multi-disciplinary conversations about the governance, political, and institutional dimensions of environmental challenges. Externally, we are in the forefront of creating and nurturing a community of scholars committed to theoretically informed and empirically rigorous research on environmental politics, policy, and governance.

This workshop reflects the vision of Gary and Susan Duck to create a vibrant intellectual community of emerging scholars studying environmental issues. Susan Duck is not with us anymore. We dedicate this workshop to her memory.

Aseem Prakash
Professor, Department of Political Science
Walker Family Professor for the College of Arts and Sciences
Founding Director, Center for Environmental Politics
University of Washington, Seattle

This 2016 Graduate Workshop on Environmental Politics and Governance has been made possible by the support of Gary and Susan Duck.

We are very sorry to report that Susan Duck passed away in December 2015. She was a wonderful individual and, along with her husband Gary, a passionate supporter of the Center for Environmental Politics. Our prayers are with the Duck family and we dedicate this workshop to her memory.

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 settled in Los Angeles after both graduated. She very much appreciated the training she received at UW School of Social Work and had 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.

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, 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. 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.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

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24 May 2016
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Meet at Hotel Lobby</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>Welcome, HUB 145 Plenary Session: Challenges &amp; Opportunities in</td>
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<td>Environmental Governance Research</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
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<td>8:15 - 9:00</td>
<td>Breakfast, Petersen Room Allen Library</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:15</td>
<td>Panel 1: Regulatory Design &amp;</td>
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<td>Regulatory Agencies</td>
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<td>10:15 - 10:30</td>
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<td>Panel 2: Forestry &amp; Agriculture</td>
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<td>Lunch, UW Club</td>
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<td>Panel 3: Adaptation &amp; Resilience to Environmental Change</td>
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<td>Panel 4: Opinions &amp; Perceptions about Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
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<td>Panel 5: Global Environmental Politics</td>
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<td>Panel 6: Environmental Regulation: Assessing Impact</td>
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<td>Panel 7: Regional &amp; Local Environmental Politics</td>
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<td>Panel 8: Water Governance</td>
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<td>Dinner, Waterfront Activity Center</td>
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Challenges and Opportunities in Environmental Governance Research

LISA GRAUMLICH
Dean, College of the Environment
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Dr. Lisa J. 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.

ADAM SIEGEL
Managing Director
AMAZON CATALYST
Adam is a serial entrepreneur who has spent the past decade building companies at the interface of computing, electronics, and healthcare. He is currently the managing director of Amazon Catalyst, a new program funding early-stage projects at universities. Prior to Amazon, he was co-founder and CEO of Skye Health, a mobile health startup that participated in the Rock Health accelerator in San Francisco, and a researcher at Google[x] on the Glass and Smart Contact Lens projects. He has a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Engineering and Applied Sciences from Harvard University.

MAGGIE WALKER
Civic Volunteer
Maggie Walker is a Vice President of National Audubon board, Chair of Global Partnerships and Chair of UW College of the Environment Advisory Board. She is also past chairwoman for the Bullitt Foundation and The Seattle Foundation, past board president of Seattle Art Museum, and co-chair of the Central Waterfront Committee. She recently stepped down after nine years as board president of MOHAI. Maggie is also past chair of many other boards, including the Woodland Park Zoo Society, Henry Art Gallery, ARCS and UW Arts and Sciences. She is a founding member of the Washington Women’s Foundation, where she was the first Chair of the board. She and husband Doug helped found Social Venture Partners.

JEREMY J. HESS
Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
Dr. Hess is Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences. He has an MD and an MPH in global environmental health and is residency trained and board certified in emergency medicine. Dr. Hess is also a consultant for the Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he works as a medical advisor on the health effects of climate change and evidence-based interventions to enhance preparedness and promote climate change adaptation at the state and federal levels. He is a section editor at the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine and a recipient of the Presidential Innovation award.
CHAIR
Peter May
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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.

DISCUSSANT
Megan McCloskey
FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Megan McCloskey is a Ph.D. student in the School of Law studying the intersection of law, gender, and development. She is particularly interested in the relationship between international discourses on sustainable development, human rights laws, and practices of women’s empowerment. Megan is an attorney and founder/CEO of Lotus Circle, a Seattle-based non-profit resource center for international women’s rights advocates. Megan practiced law for more than ten years in Seattle, and has worked with a number of national and international organizations as a researcher and advocate.

Marisol Becerra
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Environmental Justice For Whom? A Spatial Analysis of Brownfield Redevelopment and Gentrification in the United States

Marisol Becerra is a PhD Candidate in Environmental Social Science at The Ohio State University. Her research investigates brownfield redevelopment and gentrification in the United States using a mixed methods approach that includes GIS analysis, oral histories, and ethnography. Marisol’s research is motivated by her experiences growing up in Chicago’s industrial neighborhoods and community organizing with a local environmental justice organization. She holds a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan.

Madison Swayne
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Bargaining for Development: Do Community Development Agreements Enable Developers to Avoid Environmental Litigation?

Madison Swayne is a first-year PhD student in the Sol Price School of Public Policy’s Urban Planning and Development program at the University of Southern California. She holds a B.Sc. and an MA in Environmental Studies. Madison’s areas of expertise are environmental policy and land use with a focus on environmental justice issues. Her dissertation examines patterns and effects of large-scale environmental remediation projects in historically disadvantaged communities.

JoAnna Hopper
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
The Regulation that Comes from Combination: Evaluating the Effects of State Environmental Agency Design

JoyAnna Hopper is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri and will be joining Sewanee: The University of the South as an Assistant Professor of Politics in Fall 2016. JoyAnna studies environmental politics and policy in the American states, focusing specifically on how environmental agency design choices affect the way agencies approach enforcement. In current work, she focuses heavily on how the combination of natural resource conservation and environmental protection leads to less punitive enforcement and more cooperative approaches to environmental protection. In her free time, JoyAnna binges on Netflix, cross trains, and spends a considerable amount of time cuddling (torturing) her kitten, Josie.
Forestry & Agriculture

CHAIR
Clare Ryan
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Prof. Ryan is a natural resource policy specialist who focuses on the ways that scientific information can be integrated into policy and management decisions. She studies the processes by which environmental policies are made and implemented, ways to foster collaboration in environmental management, and how to address conflicts that can arise when multiple stakeholders participate in decision-making. Her primary faculty position is at the School of Environment and Forest Sciences.

DISCUSSANT
Will Gochberg
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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.

PANELISTS

Kylie Clay
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Land Tenure Regimes and Deforestation in sub-Saharan Africa

Kylie Clay is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science and a Center for Environmental Politics Fellow. 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 land tenure regimes and tenure security 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).

Michael Levy
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
Mental Models of Sustainable Agriculture

Michael Levy is a computational social-environmental scientist and PhD Candidate at the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on relationships and interdependence — of concepts, people, and institutions — and how those relationships affect environmental behavior and the implications for environmental policy. His dissertation focuses on sustainable agriculture, examining network structure in local environmental partnerships in California viticulture and experts’ mental models of sustainable agriculture. He is a SRSYNC Graduate Fellow, having developed a coupled model of homeowner behavior and fire dynamics in the San Diego wildland-urban interface, and he was a Climate Change, Water, and Society NSF-IGERT Trainee. Michael earned his MS in Biology from West Virginia University for describing the ecological development of reclaimed strip mines in Appalachia and his BS in Chemistry from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Abigail Sullivan
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Exploring Institutional Change through Rational Choice and Cultural Diffusion Perspectives

Abigail studies social-ecological systems from an institutional perspective, with institutions being the shared rules, norms, and strategies that influence human decision making processes. Her dissertation research explores how institutions impact outcomes in a social-ecological system confronting changes brought on by a rapidly growing invasive plant, Mikania micrantha. Mikania is informally known as the “mile-a-minute” weed and has taken over locally governed community forests in Chitwan, Nepal. She is broadly interested in understanding factors influencing collective action in communities dealing with similar challenges and how these communities overcome associated barriers, collective action processes at multiple scales, and modeling techniques to explore difficult to observe aspects of institutions, like long-term changes in social norms.
Adaptation & Resilience to Environmental Change

CHAIR

Nives Dolšak
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT UNIVER SITY 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 European Union. Her research has been funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

DISCUSSANT

Kate Crosman
EVANS SCHOOL UNIVER SITY OF WASHINGTON

Kate Crosman is a PhD student in the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. Her research is problem-focused, motivated by issues of marine common pool resource management, with a particular focus on cooperative and community-based approaches. Kate is a Trainee with the IGERT Program in Ocean Change; she holds a MSc in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan, and a BA in Political Science from Davidson College. Prior to graduate school, Kate worked for many years, in many beautiful natural places, as a teacher and guide in the tourism services industry.

Nisha Krishnan
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Vulnerability or Resilience? Unpacking the Relationship for the Climate and Development Agendas

Nisha Krishnan is a Doctoral Candidate at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation focuses on deepening our understandings of household level vulnerability and resilience to climate change and its implications for international development policy and practice. Prior returning to graduate school, she worked on the Global Adaptation Atlas at Resources for the Future (RFF), conducted vulnerability assessments in Central and West Asia, and designed guidance on climate change adaptation strategies for USAID. She holds a M.A. in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Macalester College.

Ian Koetsier
UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT
The Fiscal Impact of Natural Disasters

Ian Koetsier is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. At my department, I am part of the chair Public Sector Economics. His dissertation focuses on the ‘undiscovered’ aspects of government debt. The study he is presenting at this workshop looks at the fiscal costs of large natural disasters and the development of these different costs over time. He argues that the quantification of these costs enables policymakers to do a cost-benefit analysis on possible preventive measures.

Fengxiu Zhang
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Assessing Organizational Adaptation to Extreme Weather Events: Evidence from the U.S. Public Transportation Sector

Fengxiu Zhang is a doctoral student in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University where she is also a member of the Center for Science, Technology & Environmental Policy Studies. Her research interests include organizational adaptation to environmental change, transportation policy and management, transportation equity, technology and innovation in government and public management. Her current work explores the perceptions, experiences and responses of public transportation agencies to extreme weather events. This work aims to examine how public agencies understand and adapt to climate change related risks either technologically or organizationally.
Opinions & Perceptions about Environmental Policy

CHAIR

Steve Gardiner
PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Stephen M. Gardiner is Professor of Philosophy and Ben Rabanowitz Endowed Professor of The Human Dimensions of the Environment at the University of Washington, Seattle. His research focuses on global environmental problems, future generations and virtue ethics. He is the author of *A Perfect Moral Storm* (Oxford, 2011), co-author of *Debating Climate Ethics* (Oxford, 2016), editor of *Virtue Ethics, Old and New* (Cornell, 2005), and co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Environmental Ethics* (Oxford, forthcoming) and *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings* (Oxford, 2010).

DISCUSSANT

Elizabeth Chrun
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Elizabeth Chrun is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science and the Richard Wesley Fellow in Environmental Politics and Governance. 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.

PANELISTS

Alexandra Bass
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Religion and Science as Cultural Authorities: How Do They Shape Public Opinion about Climate Change in the U.S.?

Alexandra Bass is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science. She holds a BA in political science and psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed her MA in Political Science at the University of Chicago. Alexandra’s major research interests include political psychology, public opinion, and environmental politics in the American context. She is currently working on her dissertation, which examines political polarization over the issue of climate change. Her research investigates how citizens prioritize and deploy their political values when interpreting political discourses and forming policy opinions about scientific issues. Alexandra’s research methodologies include quantitative analysis of public opinion data as well as content analysis of media discourses.

Seth Werfel
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Self-Licensing and Policy Preferences

Seth Werfel is a PhD candidate in Political Science at Stanford University. His research uses concepts from behavioral economics and moral psychology to better understand political attitudes and behavior. Specifically, he is interested in the trade-off between self-interest and the public good, with a particular focus on environmental politics.

Aaron Sparks
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Measuring Moral Environmentalism

My dissertation research seeks to understand the drivers of political participation, especially environmental activism. To answer this question, I use theories and methods that originated in psychology and have recently been applied to political science research. This is an importation contribution because the better we understand the motivations of behavior, the better groups will be able to organize supporters to address the severe problems facing society such as climate change. In the paper presented here, I present findings that validate a novel measure of environmental attitudes – the Moral Environmentalism Scale. The purpose of this research is to produce a measure of environmental attitudes that are not confounded by liberal environmentalism in the United States. An un-biased measure predicts pro-environmental behaviors across the ideological spectrum better than existing instruments.
Karen Litfin is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science. She specializes in global environmental politics, with core interests in green theory, the science/policy interface, and what she calls “person/planet politics.” Her most recent book is Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community (Polity, 2014) and she’s currently working on a book on contemplative pedagogical practices for environmental and global education.

Mathieu Dubeau is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science studying political theory, international relations, and environmental politics. His research examines how environmental politics, alienation, and critical theory influence our understanding of social and political theory, economics, and the relationship between the individual and nature. More specifically, he explores how the domination of capital has come to define our relationship with nature as one of exploitation.

Kent Henderson is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology at Stony Brook University. His interests are global environmentalism and the political economy of the world system with a broader agenda of examining how the global economy shapes or limits environmental policies and outcomes. His current research is on international development finance and global environmental norms. Specifically, he is addressing the questions of how climate finance has changed in recent decades and whether these changes have a measurable impact on carbon dioxide emissions.

Felicia Peck is a PhD candidate in the Department of Politics at the University of California Santa Cruz, and a UCSC Science and Justice training program fellow. She studies climate change discourse, with a focus on its ontological dimensions. Her dissertation proposes an explanation for the intractability of climate change politics that is rooted in the cooptation of “carbon” and its enrollment into the depoliticization of climate change. Her research interests include environmental political theory, global environmental politics (particularly in relation to climate change and the Anthropocene), science and technology studies, and methodology.

Colin Kuehl is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at UC Santa Barbara. His dissertation work focuses on the factors that shape countries’ decisions to participate in global environmental cooperation. In particular, the role regions, and regional identities, play in the ratification international environmental agreements. Other research focuses on individual environmental behavior. He is currently working on projects exploring how social norms can promote water conservation and the role knowledge of sustainability plays in shaping environmental attitudes and behavior.
Environmental Regulation: Assessing Impact

**DISCUSSANT**
Nora Williams
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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 (2008).

**CHAIR**
Victor Menaldo
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Victor Menaldo (Ph.D., Stanford University, 2009) is an associate professor of Political Science at UW and an affiliated faculty of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences (CSSS), Near and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Center for Environmental Politics. He specializes in political economy. He has published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Annual Review of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly, Economics & Politics*, among other places.

**PANELISTS**

**Jian Cui**
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Determinants of Voluntary and Mandatory Disclosures: Evidence of Chemical Disclosure in Shale Gas Development

Jian Cui is a doctoral candidate of Policy Research & Analysis from University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, also teaching the undergraduate course of Public Policy at Pitt. Her primary research interest focuses on issues of governance and risk communication relevant to environment, energy, innovation and risk management. She is writing her dissertation on organizational determinants of corporate chemical disclosure in the context of shale gas development.

**Yu Zhang**
INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON
Is Home Rule/ Dillon Rule the Answer? Studying the allocation of Shale Revenue between the State–Local Governments

Yu Zhang is a Ph.D. Candidate in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research includes public perceptions of new energy technology, especially shale gas development, in the U.S. and China, state and local shale gas finance in the U.S., and China air pollution and clean energy development. Her dissertation explores two topics: public perceptions of shale gas development in China, and state and local shale finance in the U.S. i.e. why some states allocate shale gas revenue to locals where there are fracking while others benefit all locals.

**Julia Colwell**
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Socio-economic Impacts of a Closed Fishing Season on Resource-Dependent Stakeholders: An Analysis of Differences in Income and Expenditure over three Seasons

Julia Novak Colwell is a PhD candidate in Fisheries & Wildlife at Michigan State University where she also earned her MSc in 2013. Her research has focused on the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu, India with an emphasis on the unintended impacts of fisheries regulations and adaptive strategies fisherfolk employ. Her current research aims to identify how underrepresented segments of the fisherfolk population, particularly women, are affected by management hierarchies and fisheries regulations.
Regional & Local Environmental Politics

CHAIR

Xun Cao
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Prof. Cao received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 2007. Before coming to Penn State, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at the Woodrow Wilson School of the Princeton University (2007-8) and Lecturer (US equivalent: assistant professor) at the Department of Government of the University of Essex, UK (2007-2011; on leave 2007-8 for the NCGG post-doc). His research interests include environmental and energy politics, network analysis, conflict studies, and political geography.

DISCUSSANT

Alicia Ahn
EVANS SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Alicia is a Ph.D. student in the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. Her main area of research is environmental policy, with a focus on the political economy of global environmental governance. Topics that excite her include measuring environmental stringency across countries, the varying effects of environmental policy instruments on business choices, and the spread of environmental policies to and among developing countries. A native of South Korea, Alicia has worked for the national trade and FDI promotion agency of Korea for several years prior to her doctoral studies.

PANELISTS

Esther Choi
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Northeast Asia’s Ascendence in the Nexus between Economic Development and Climate Change Regimes through Formal International Organizations

Esther Choi is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research examines how political and economic actors in Northeast Asia strategically create international institutions in the climate change and economic development regimes, and how those institutions contribute to the overall effectiveness of the regime complex. Using a qualitative process tracing approach, she investigates emerging international organizations whose establishments were spearheaded by China and Korea to promote infrastructure financing and green growth, respectively. Esther previously worked at the World Bank and the Global Green Growth Institute.

Yifei Li
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Towards Earthly Diplomacy: Disengaged Environmentalism in Transnational Development

Yifei Li is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation examines environmental governance, bureaucracy, and international development, with an area focus on China. He also collaborates with other scholars to better understand urban sustainability, eco-tourism, participatory planning, and related topics. In addition, he works on a side project, which documents the invention of Chinese food in America. He has received research support from the National Science Foundation and the University of Chicago Center in Beijing, among others. He teaches courses that address various manifestations of the relationship between nature and culture – from the ways we eat, travel, and consume, to the ways we think, believe, and protest. Yifei will join the faculty at New York University Shanghai in the Fall.

Luz Rodriguez
DUKE UNIVERSITY
Can Collective Incentives Help in Regulating Small-Scale Gold Mining? A Field-lab Experiment on Group Compliance when the State Capacity is Limited

Luz Rodriguez is a Ph.D. Candidate in Environmental Sciences and Policy at Duke University. She studies how institutions affect the behavior of the users of the resources and its implications on development. Her current research examines the potential of alternative institutions to improve governance of natural resources when monitoring and enforcement involves high transaction costs and when the capacity of the state to monitor and enforce many small actors is limited. She is currently exploring such institutional innovations in the context of small-scale gold mining in Colombia and local mechanisms of payments-for-ecosystem services (PES) in Mexico.
Minjung Kim
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
A Large, Bridging Network for More Collaboration: The Effects of Network Structures on Collaboration in Water Management Partnerships

Minjung Kim is a PhD candidate in the department of Political Science at Florida State University, studying public policy. Her research interests include environmental policy, environmental attitudes and behaviors, policy networks, and local politics. Her current research analyzes how network structures affect the level of collaboration in informal water policy networks. She is also currently working on her dissertation project that includes two other studies on environmental issues: experiments on time preferences and public goods provision, and inconsistencies between environmental attitudes and behaviors. She holds a Master’s degree in Political Science from Yonsei University in South Korea. She is also a Fulbright scholar.

Dan Zhao
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
To Municipalize or to Privatize? Water Company Governance Form and Service Quality

Dan Zhao is a 3rd year PhD student in Business Economics at Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Previously earning his bachelor’s degree in Quantitative Finance and Risk Management from Hong Kong, his interest now lies in environment, natural resources, and corporate social responsibility. In particular, recently he has been focusing on issues related to the quality of drinking water supply in the United States and compliance levels with regard to the water quality standards stipulated in the Safe Drinking Water Act of water systems belonging to different governance forms.

Pranay Ranjan
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Role of ‘Group Size’ and ‘Heterogeneity’ in Agricultural Drainage: Implications for Collective Action

Pranay Ranjan is a doctoral candidate in the School of Environment & Natural Resources at the Ohio State University. His area of specialization is environmental social sciences. For his doctoral dissertation, Mr. Ranjan is focusing on understanding collective action in the management of agricultural drainage systems in the Western Lake Erie Basin region of Ohio, USA. Specifically, his research explains collective action as a function of: (1) complex ‘bundles of property rights’, (2) specific variables, including ‘group size’ and ‘heterogeneity’, and (3) actor (farmer) networks. He is also interested in understanding factors affecting willingness of farmers to adopt agricultural practices that promote ecosystem services, including clean water.