

UO CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH GROUP

WINTER AND SPRING 2015 EVENTS

Thursday, Jan 29, 12:00 – 1:00 -- CCRG Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Title: Comparative Analysis on the Non-parametric Directional Distance Function in Energy and Environmental Studies

Presenter: Yongrok Choi, Inha University

Location: PLC-905

Abstract: Recently, a relatively new methodology named directional distance function (DDF) has been attracting positive attention in the field of energy and environmental (E&E) modeling. However, there is still no literature review on the application of DDF in E&E studies. This paper is intended to fill this gap. First, the most widely used DDF techniques and its extensions are briefly introduced. Second, this article attempts a classification of typical publications in this field. The main issues raised by the previous studies are discussed. Some guidelines for model selection and future directions are proposed for DDF related research in E&E studies.

Tuesday, Feb 17, 12:00 - 1:30 -- CCRG Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Title: “Seven Philosophical Questions About Climate Change”

Presenter: David Wood, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy and Professor of European Studies, Vanderbilt University

Location: Oak Room, EMU

Abstract: Are we (not) ‘living in denial’ (about Climate Change)? Can we know, should we care, what possible future generations might want? Can we rely on markets to self-correct in the face of scarcity of resources? Are democratic institutions, already deeply compromised, adequate to the threat of global climate change? In the face of the enormity of the challenge, what possibilities for personal and collective agency remain? Should not the narrative of ‘global climate change’ be understood in sociological terms as yet another expression of collective anxiety with more immediate causes? Or are living we through a crisis in historical time, in the idea of at least a certain continuity in human history sustained by a faith in narrative? Do these questions call for a new philosophical synthesis, or are they an unconnected list?

Sponsored by the Climate Change Research Group and the Department of Philosophy

Tuesday, Feb 17, 4:00 - 5:30 -- Public Lecture

Title: “On the Uses and Disadvantages of Geology for Life”

Presenter: David Wood, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy and Professor of European Studies, Vanderbilt University

Location: Jaqua Auditorium

Abstract: Recently, a relatively new methodology named directional distance function (DDF) has been attracting positive attention in the field of energy and environmental (E&E) modeling. However, there is still no literature review on the application of DDF in E&E studies. This paper is intended to fill this gap. First, the most widely used DDF techniques and its extensions are briefly introduced. Second, this article attempts a classification of typical publications in this field. The main issues raised by the previous studies are discussed. Some guidelines for model selection and future directions are proposed for DDF related research in E&E studies.

Bio: Nietzsche worried about the terrible burden of human history. By analogy, what would constitute an adequate response to our increasingly cosmic grasp of our terrestrial situation? We have come to see ourselves as a product of extraordinary natural forces, operating at many levels, over countless millennia, continuous and yet not quite continuous with the rest of life. We have constructed stories about these events, even as the timescales involved boggle the imagination. And we have invented new paradigms to understand the times we live in, ones that launch us into the geological, and its particular passions. Humans have long felt a sense of infinite connectedness and awe on looking up at the stars. Such passions animate any geologically alive being. I discuss the significance of four such

responses: wonder, curiosity, delight and angst. David Wood's current research is centered on the ways in which climate change gives new significance and urgency to traditional ethical, political, and metaphysical issues. If "we cannot go on like this," revolution is no longer a matter of social justice, but of ecological necessity. Truth is no longer a postmodern plaything but a matter of life and death. If we have entered a new geological age – the Anthropocene – with the future of the planet on our backs, what is it now to be human? Wood is completing books on *Reinhabiting the Earth*, and *Deep Time* (both with Fordham University Press), the latter an expansion of the *Thinking Out Loud* lectures he is giving in Sydney in April/May 2015. He is also working on a longer term writing project, *Things at the Edge of the World*, elaborating the ways in which various Things are not merely part of the furniture of the world, but open up worlds of their own, a fractal ontology. After *Giving Voice to Other Beings* (2009), he is organizing a conference on *EcoDeconstruction: Derrida and Environmental Ethics* (Spring 2015) which will result in an edited volume, also with Fordham. On the teaching front, his persistent effort is to 'rewrite Heidegger's *Being and Time*' in the light of the shifts in Heidegger's own thinking, the new materialism, and other contemporary concerns such as sexual difference, non-human animals, and the earth. He is also trying to address a number of these same issues as an earth/conceptual artist in his *Heliotrope*, *Chronopod*, and *Wordscape* projects, the *IntraTerrestrials: Landing Sites* series and the development of Yellow Bird Art Farm. Reflection on how Art is more than a thing of the past, but still helps us think, and rethink, is an ongoing focus. He runs *Thinking Out of the (lunch) Box*, a series of public talks/conversations at the Nashville Downtown Public Library.

Sponsored by the Climate Change Research Group and the Department of Philosophy
Wednesday, March 4, 12:00 – 1:00 -- CCRG Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium – NOTE:

Original date was Thurs, March 5 but will occur on Wed, March 4.

Title: "The Politics of Climate Change in Washington DC: 'Debates' about the science, confusion about the impacts, and ideological battles."

Presenter: Dr. Johannes Loschnigg, Former White House Staff

Location: Leona Tyler Room

Abstract: As a staff member in both the U.S. Congress and the White House during the last decade, Dr. Loschnigg has been closely involved in the debates about the science of climate change, as well as the need to reduce carbon emissions and shift to cleaner sources of energy. But Congressional action has been slower than many would prefer, often because of misinformation regarding the science of climate change and confusion about the projected impacts. Dr. Loschnigg will provide of overview of this debate, discuss how the issue has deeper ideological underpinnings, and give an assessment of current and future action for reducing emissions.

Bio: Dr. Johannes Loschnigg was a Senior Policy Analyst at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in Washington DC from 2009 to 2013. As a member of OSTP's Environment and Energy Division, Dr. Loschnigg was responsible for the development of federal policy for renewable energy, climate change, aerospace and earth satellite observations. Prior to that, Dr. Loschnigg was the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics of the Committee on Science in the U.S. House of Representatives, overseeing NASA and U.S. civil space programs. Dr. Loschnigg first came to the U.S. Congress in 2002 as a congressional science and technology policy fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), working for U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. While in the Senate he directed the development of legislation relating to innovation, broadband wireless communication, nanotechnology, defense research and climate change policy. Between 1998 and 2002, Dr. Loschnigg was affiliated with the University of Hawaii, initially as post-doctoral fellow and later as a faculty research scientist in atmospheric and oceanic sciences. While in Hawaii he concentrated on coupled ocean-atmosphere modeling of the Indian and Pacific oceans as well as the impacts of climate variability on disease and human health. Dr. Loschnigg has been a Senior Advisor for the Administrator at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC and has also consulted for the National Academy of Sciences. He has previously been a scientific assistant at the the NASA Ames Research Center in California, at the Department of Physics at the University of Freiburg in Germany, and at the Department of Physics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Dr. Loschnigg holds BA

degrees in both physics and international relations from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and MS and Ph.D. degrees in astrophysical, planetary and atmospheric sciences from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He currently is a consultant providing strategic advice for organizations and companies for projects related to energy, aerospace and climate change. He resides near Portland, Oregon.

Thursday, March 12, 12:00 – 1:00 -- CCRG Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Title: Forest Governance and Climate Change in Driving Native Insect Outbreaks

Presenter: Chris Bone, University of Oregon, Dept of Geography

Location: Leona Tyler Room

Abstract: Human decision-making and climate change are jointly causing unprecedented outbreaks of native forest insects around the world. Native insects are typically restricted to small, segregated populations by environmental constraints and available resources. However, increasing temperatures around the globe have increased the survival rates of some native insects and expanded the range over which they can thrive. In addition, a history of forest policies in some countries has altered natural forest dynamics in way that has left them more susceptible to outbreaks. As a result, climate and policies are now pushing some native insect populations across thresholds and locking-in forests to a future where large-scale outbreaks will be the norm. How human behavior can, or should, adapt to these novel system states in an uncertain climate future remains unknown. This talk will present the story of the current mountain pine beetle outbreak across western North America as an exemplary model of how the coupled dynamics of climate change and policies have altered forest disturbance regimes.

Thursday, May 7, 12:00 – 1:00 -- CCRG Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Title: Climate change and international water negotiations

Presenter: Itay Fischendler, Hebrew University

Location: Leona Tyler Room

Abstract: Water resources are subject to uncertainties, many of which are being exacerbated by climate change. Some of these uncertainties originate from deficits of knowledge regarding physical conditions, while others relate to behavioral and social variability related to resource supply and use. Available climate change scenarios indicate that these uncertainties will be increasing over time as extreme weather events and natural hazards, such as flooding, heat waves and cyclones, become more frequent, and the geographic and temporal clustering of precipitation patterns shifts. It already has become clear that unless these uncertainties are addressed by water treaties, the effectiveness of these arrangements to govern the commons is likely to be impaired, and thus likely to raise more conflicts. Hence, this presentation will examine: 1) The available strategies and mechanisms that can be incorporated in water treaties to address these uncertainties, and which of them are adopted in practice in actual treaties 2) How these uncertainties impact the likelihood for cooperation over shared water and 3) How do policymakers communicate these uncertainties while advancing contested transboundary mega-projects. While the first research question is addressed via examining a large N study of water treaties, the two other questions are examined through focusing on the Israeli negotiations with its Palestinian and Jordanian neighbors. This study found that in the design of water treaties negotiators seem to adopt a portfolio approach that spreads the dangers of uncertainty by concurrently including several strategies simultaneously. Second, there is a trend towards more open-ended strategies in recent decades, rather than hard codification of rules as had earlier been more common. During the implementation of agreements, social and political uncertainties, raised primarily by politicians, play a much stronger role in water negotiations than do technical or physical uncertainties. More contemporary media discourses have been dominated by ecological uncertainties voiced by environmental non-governmental organizations. The uncertainties are often situated outside the realm of traditional water management and tend to detrimentally affect the chances to resolve water issues. The study also reveals that 'uncertainty reduction' and to a lesser degree, 'project cancellation', are still the strategies most often used to address risks that may impact mega-projects.

Bio: Itay Fischendler is an Associate Professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Itay Fischendler research interests focus on environmental conflict resolution; natural resources management and governance and decision making under conditions of political and environmental uncertainties. He is

a leading scholar on transboundary water institutions and Middle East water issues. He has published numerous articles in public policy, conflict resolution, peace studies, geography, ecological economics, and environmental journals. Over the past two year, as part of his move from water to energy policies, he has been studying the nexus between energy and conflicts. In particular, he is now investigating the use of energy as a foreign policy instrument and the use of energy policies as petro-carrots or petro-sticks.

4th Annual CCRG Symposium, Friday, May 29, ALL DAY

Keynote Speaker: Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University

How Climate Change Became Controversial: An Analysis of the Climate Change Denial Movement

Location: TBD

Abstract: Global warming had become widely recognized as a problem by the early 1990s, but a long-term and ever-evolving campaign to deny its reality and significance has turned contemporary climate change into a major controversy. The basic findings of climate science are constantly challenged by a growing set of interconnected actors who portray climate change as uncertain, even a hoax, leading significant segments of the public and numerous policy-makers to dismiss its importance—and thus the need to take action. Key actors in what has been termed the “denial movement,” the economic and ideological interests motivating them, and the primary strategies and tactics they employ will be outlined, with emphasis on how they have all evolved over the past quarter century.

Bio: Riley E. Dunlap is Regents Professor and Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in the Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University, and previously served as Boeing Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sociology at Washington State University. A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Association, Dunlap is also Past-President of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Environment and Society. One of the founders of environmental sociology, Dunlap’s recent work has focused on the socio-political controversies surrounding climate change. He chaired the American Sociological Association’s Task Force on Sociology and Global Climate Change, and is senior editor of the forthcoming volume produced by the task force: *Society and Climate Change: Sociological Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2015). His prior books include the *Handbook of Environmental Sociology* (Greenwood Press, 2002) and *Sociological Theory and the Environment* (Rowman-Littlefield 2002), both of which he co-edited. Dunlap has received a number of awards for his scholarly work, most recently the William R. Freudenburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences in 2012.

OTHER EVENTS TO NOTE

February 12 at 5:30 pm - Climate Change and Oregon Salmon

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History - Darwin Conversations: 175 Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate Street

Panelists: Ryan Branstetter, Fisheries Biologist and David Graves, GIS Specialist - Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Moderator: Kathy Lynn, Tribal Climate Change Project Coordinator, UO Environmental Studies Program

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4th Annual CCRG Symposium, Friday, May 29, ALL DAY

Keynote Speaker: Riley E. Dunlap, Oklahoma State University

How Climate Change Became Controversial: An Analysis of the Climate Change Denial Movement

Location: TBD

Call for papers and paper submission form at: <http://climatechange.uoregon.edu/>

Open to all UO faculty, grad students, and advanced undergraduates