

ESS Newsletter—Summer 2018

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The next edition will be in December 2018. We follow a fall, winter, spring and summer schedule.

The ESS newsletter is based at the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs (CUSA) and the Blum Center at the University of California, Irvine ([www.cusa.uci.edu](http://www.cusa.uci.edu)) and is co-edited by Richard Matthew *et al.*

To be included in the upcoming edition, please send relevant publication information, career resources, announcements such as calls for papers and resources, and events for inclusion in the next issue to [envtlss.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:envtlss.newsletter@gmail.com).

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## Contents

1. New Publications
  - 1.1 Books (Abstracts Included)
  - 1.2 Journal Articles, Special Edited Journal Issues, Reports, and Book Chapters
2. Career Resources – Faculty Positions, Workshops, and Professional Development Resources
  - 2.1 Vacancies
  - 2.2 Professional Development Programs
3. Call for Papers
  - 3.1 Journal Submissions
  - 3.2 Conference Submissions
4. Upcoming Events – Conference and Courses
  - 4.1 Conferences
  - 4.2 Courses and Workshops
5. Awards

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### 1. New Publications

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#### 1.1 Books (Abstracts Included)

Bartley, T. (2018). [\*Rules without rights: Land, labor, and private authority in the global economy\*](#). Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Activists have exposed startling forms of labor exploitation and environmental degradation in global industries, leading many large retailers and brands to adopt standards for fairness and sustainability. This book is about the idea that transnational corporations can push these standards through their global supply chains, and in effect, pull factories, forests, and farms out of their local contexts and up to global best practices. For many scholars and practitioners, this kind of private regulation and global standard-setting can provide an alternative to regulation by territorially-bound, gridlocked, or incapacitated nation states, potentially improving

environments and working conditions around the world and protecting the rights of exploited workers, impoverished farmers, and marginalized communities. But can private, voluntary standards actually create meaningful forms of regulation? Are forests and factories around the world actually being made into sustainable ecosystems and decent workplaces? Can global norms remake local orders?

This book provides striking new answers by comparing the private regulation of land and labor in democratic and authoritarian settings. Case studies of sustainable forestry and fair labor standards in Indonesia and China show not only how transnational standards are implemented 'on the ground' but also how they are constrained and reconfigured by domestic governance. Combining rich multi-method analyses, a powerful comparative approach, and a new theory of private regulation, *Rules without Rights* reveals the contours and contradictions of transnational governance.

Gore, C. (2018). [\*Electricity in Africa: The politics of transformation in Uganda\*](#). Suffolk. UK/Rochester, NY: James Currey/Boydell & Brewer.

No country has managed to develop beyond a subsistence economy without ensuring at least minimum access to electricity for the majority of its population. Yet many sub-Saharan African countries struggle to meet demand. Why is this, and what can be done to reduce energy poverty and further Africa's development? Examining the politics and processes surrounding electricity infrastructure, provision and reform, the author provides an overview of historical and contemporary debates about access in the sub-continent, and explores the shifting role and influence of national governments and of multilateral agencies in energy reform decisions. He describes a challenging political environment for electricity supply, with African governments becoming increasingly frustrated with the rules and the processes of multilateral donors. Civil society also began to question reform choices, and governments in turn looked to new development partners, such as China, to chart a fresh path of energy transformation. Drawing on over fifteen years of research on Uganda, which has one of the lowest levels of access to electricity in Africa and has struggled to construct several, large hydroelectric dams on the Nile, Gore argues that there is a critical need to recognize how the changing political and social context in African countries, and globally, has affected the capacity to fulfil national energy goals, minimize energy poverty and transform economies.

Hickmann, T., Partzsch, L., Pattberg, P., & Weiland, S., (Eds.). (2018). [\*The Anthropocene debate and political science\*](#). New York, NY: Routledge.

Anthropocene has become an environmental buzzword. It denotes a new geological epoch that is human-dominated. As mounting scientific evidence reveals, humankind has fundamentally altered atmospheric, geological, hydrological, biospheric, and other Earth system processes to an extent that the risk of an irreversible system change emerges. Human societies must therefore change direction and navigate away from critical tipping points in the various ecosystems of our planet. This hypothesis has kicked off a debate not only on the geoscientific definition of the Anthropocene era, but increasingly also in the social sciences. However, the specific contribution of the social sciences disciplines and in particular that of political science still needs to be fully established.

This edited volume analyzes, from a political science perspective, the wider social dynamics underlying the ecological and geological changes, as well as their implications for governance and politics in the Anthropocene. The focus is on two questions: (1) What is the contribution of political science to the Anthropocene debate, e.g. in terms of identified problems, answers, and solutions? (2) What are the conceptual and practical implications of the Anthropocene debate for the discipline of political science?

Overall, this book contributes to the Anthropocene debate by providing novel theoretical and conceptual accounts of the Anthropocene, engaging with contemporary politics and policy-making in the Anthropocene, and offering a critical reflection on the Anthropocene debate as such. The volume will be of great interest to students and scholars of political science, global environmental politics and governance, and sustainable development.

Kopra, S. (2018). [\*China and great power responsibility for climate change\*](#). London, UK/New York, NY: Routledge.

Based on the premise that great powers have unique responsibilities, this book explores how China's rise to great power status transforms notions of great power responsibility in general and international climate politics in particular. The author looks empirically at the Chinese party-state's conceptions of state responsibility, discusses the influence of those notions on China's role in international climate politics, and considers both how China will act out its climate responsibility in the future and the broader implications of these actions. Alongside the argument that the international norm of climate responsibility is an emerging attribute of great power responsibility, Kopra develops a normative framework of great power responsibility to shed new light on the transformations China's rise will yield and the kind of great power China will prove to be. The book will be of interest to students and scholars of international relations, China studies, foreign policy studies, international organizations, international ethics and environmental politics.

Luterbacher, U., & Sprinz, D. F. (Eds.). (2018). [\*Global climate policy: Actors, concepts, and enduring challenges\*](#). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

The current international climate change regime has a long history, and it is likely that its evolution will continue, despite such recent setbacks as the decision by President Donald Trump to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement of 2015. Indeed, the U.S. withdrawal may spur efforts by other members of the international community to strengthen the Paris accord on their own. This volume offers an original contribution to the study of the international political context of climate change over the last three decades, with fresh analyses of the current international climate change regime that consider both the challenges of maintaining current structures and the possibilities for creating new forms of international cooperation.

The contributors are leading experts with both academic and policy experience; some are advisors to governments and the Climate Secretariat itself. Their contributions combine substantive evidence with methodological rigor. They discuss such topics as the evolution of the architecture of the climate change regime; different theoretical perspectives; game-theoretical and computer simulation approaches to modeling outcomes and assessing agreements; coordination with other legal regimes; non-state actors; developing and emerging countries; implementation, compliance,

and effectiveness of agreements; and the challenges of climate change mitigation after the Paris Agreement.

Moore, S. (2018). [\*Subnational hydropolitics: Conflict, cooperation, and institution-building in shared river basins\*](#). New York, NY: United States of America Oxford University Press.

The prospect of international conflict over water has long been the subject of academic and popular concern, but subnational political conflict is considerably more common, and almost certainly imposes greater economic and environmental costs. Indeed, subnational hydropolitics are an important feature of several large countries, including the United States, India, and China. Moreover, disputes between water users in shared river basins have often persisted despite repeated attempts by central governments to resolve them through both persuasion and coercion. Yet despite the growing threat of water scarcity around the world, little research exists on sub-national politics of shared water resources. This book attempts to fill the gap by explaining how and why hydropolitics play out within countries, as well as between them.

*Subnational Hydropolitics* re-examines the issue of water conflict by examining conflicts at the subnational rather than international level. By examining several in-depth case studies of both conflict and cooperation, author Scott Moore argues that increasing sub-national water conflict is driven by two inter-linked forces, identity politics, which gives subnational politicians a reason to compete over shared water resources; and political decentralization, which provides them with the tools to do so. To understand politics at the subnational level, the book blends insights from both the environmental governance and comparative politics literatures. By examining the challenges many countries face in achieving cooperation over shared water resources, the book helps to shed light on different mechanisms and processes for solving cooperation problems at the regional scale lessons relevant to tackling a wide range of transboundary environmental problems, including air pollution, urbanization, and ecosystem protection. But at its core, this book promises a definitive contribution to the growing sub-field of environmental politics, centered on understanding how different countries attempt to solve the problems inherent in governing water resources in shared river basins.

Skovgaard, J. & van Asselt, H. (Eds.). (2018). [\*The politics of fossil fuel subsidies and their reform\*](#). Cambridge, UK/New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Fossil fuel subsidies strain public budgets and contribute to climate change and local air pollution. Despite widespread agreement among experts about the benefits of reforming fossil fuel subsidies, repeated international commitments to eliminate them, and valiant efforts by some countries to reform them, they continue to persist. This book helps explain this conundrum, by exploring the politics of fossil fuel subsidies and their reform. Bringing together scholars and practitioners, the book offers new case studies both from countries that have undertaken subsidy reform, and those that have yet to do so. It explores the roles of various intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions in promoting fossil fuel subsidy reform at the international level, as well as conceptual aspects of fossil fuel subsidies. This is essential reading for researchers and practitioners, and students of political science, international relations, law, public policy, and environmental studies.

## 1.2 Journal Articles, Special Edited Journal Issues, Reports, and Book Chapters

- Avrami, L., & Sprinz, D. F. (2018). [Measuring and explaining the EU's effect on national climate performance](#). *Environmental Politics*, Advance online publication.
- Barkin, J. S., DeSombre, E. R., Ishii, A., & Sakaguchi, I. (2018). [Domestic sources of international fisheries diplomacy: A framework for analysis](#). *Marine Policy*, *94*, 256-263.
- Clapp, J. & Scott, C. (2018). [The global environmental politics of food](#). *Global Environmental Politics*, *18*(2), 1-11.
- Daggett, C. (2018). [Petro-masculinity: Fossil fuels and authoritarian desire](#). *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Advance online publication.
- De Santo, E.M. (accepted). [Implementation challenges of area-based management tools \(AMBTs\) for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#). *Marine Policy*, *97*, 34-43.
- Elsässer, J., Hickmann, T., & Stehle, F. (2018). The role of cities in South Africa's energy gridlock. *Case Studies in the Environment*.
- Gerlak, A. K., House-Peters, L., Varady, R.G., Albrecht, T., Zúñiga-Terán, T., de Grenade, R. R., Cook, C., & Scott, C. A. (2018). [Water security: A review of place-based research](#). *Environmental Science and Policy*, *82*, 79–89.
- Gore, C. (2018). [How African cities lead: Urban policy innovation and agriculture in Kampala and Nairobi](#). *World Development*, *108*, 169-180.
- Gore, C., Brass, J., Baldwin, E., & MacLean, L. (2018). [Political autonomy and resistance in electricity sector liberalization in Africa](#). *World Development*, Advance Online Publication.
- Heikkilä, T., & Gerlak, A. K. 2018. [Working on learning: How the institutional rules of environmental governance matter](#). *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, *1*, 1-8.
- Hildingsson, R., Kronsell, A., & Khan, J. (2018). [The green state and industrial decarbonisation](#). *Environmental Politics*, Advance online publication.
- Horton, J. B., Reynolds, J. L., Buck, H. J., Callies, D., Schäfer, S., Keith, D. W., & Rayner, S. (2018). [Solar geoengineering and democracy](#). *Global Environmental Politics*. Advance online publication.
- Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen, S., Dahl, A. L., & Persson, Å. 2018. [Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space](#). Advance online publication.
- Kim, S.C. (2018). [Dynamics of nuclear power policy in the post-Fukushima era: Interest structure and politicisation in Japan, Taiwan, and Korea](#). *Asian Studies Review*, *42*(1), 107-124.
- van der Hel, S. (2018). [Science for change: A survey on the normative and political dimensions of global sustainability research](#). *Global Environmental Change*, *52*, 248-258.
- van der Ven, H., Rothacker, C., & Cashore, B. (2018). [Do eco-labels prevent deforestation? Lessons from non-state market driven governance in the soy, palm oil, and cocoa sectors](#). *Global Environmental Change*, *52*, 141-151.
- van der Ven, H., & Cashore, B. 2018. [Forest certification: The challenge of measuring impacts](#). *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, *32*, 104-111.
- Weikmans, R. (2018). [Foreign aid evaluation and international financial mobilization for climate change adaptation](#). *Revue internationale des études du développement*, *234*(2), 151-175.

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## **2. Career Resources – Faculty Positions, Workshops, Professional Development Resources**

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### **2.1 Vacancies**

#### **[Four PhD positions in the field of Global Sustainability Governance / Earth System Governance](#)**

**Submission Deadline:** 1 September 2018 | Utrecht University

Utrecht University has opened four new positions for PhD candidates in the field of Global Sustainability Governance/Earth System Governance.

The four PhD candidates will become part of the new, cutting-edge international research programme “Global Governance through Goals? Assessing and Explaining the Steering Effects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals” (GlobalGoals). This research programme is directed by Professor Frank Biermann and funded through an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council. The four PhD candidates will work on their doctoral dissertations over a period of four years within the broader framework and research design of the GlobalGoals programme

### **2.2 Workshops and Courses**

#### **[PhD Course on Global Environmental Governance Today](#)**

22-26 October 2018 | Lund, Sweden

The course, “Global Environmental Governance Today – Actors, Institutions, Complexity,” is organised by the Department of Political Science at Lund University, and financed by ClimBEco of Lund University and University of Gothenburg.

**Application Submission deadline:** 12 October 2018

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## **3. Call for Submissions – Journals, Conferences**

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### **3.1 Journal Submissions**

**[Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional – RBPI](#)**: Special Issue on Brazil in Global Environmental Governance

The goal of this special issue of [Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional – RBPI](#) is to analyze the role of Brazil in Global Environmental Governance, focusing (but not restricted) to the 2008-2018 period. In the last decade, the Brazilian academic community of international relations has published a significant number of studies, but most of them were not published in English and consequently not submitted to the quality assessment of the international scientific community. The central assumption of this special issue is that the role of Brazil in global environmental governance has been very heterogeneous depending upon the specific issue. Brazilian and international scholars are welcome to submit on any particular issue of environmental policy, not

restricted to the ones referred above. Articles submitted could use diverse theoretical frameworks, including eclectic ones.

All articles should answer all or most of the following questions:

- What has been the evolution of the Brazilian domestic policy in the issue? Has been the policy robust, intermediate or weak?
- What has been the evolution of the Brazilian environmental foreign policy on the issue? Has Brazil been a leader, a follower, a reluctant or a blocker?
- What has been the impact of Brazilian NGOs, corporations and scientific community in the Brazilian environmental foreign policies?
- Is there correspondence or dissonance between the discourse of the Brazilian government on the issue and the effectively implemented policies?
- What has been the relationship between the evolution of the environmental policy and the broader Brazilian foreign policy?

The volume will be edited by Eduardo Viola (Full Professor of International Relations at University of Brasília, Brasília, Brazil) and Veronica Korber Gonçalves (Adjunct Professor of International Relations at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil).

All submissions should be original and unpublished, must be written in English, including an abstract of 70-80 words (and three keywords in English), and follow the Chicago System. They must be in the range of 8.000 words. RBPI general authors guidelines can be seen [here](#). Submissions must be done online through <http://www.scielo.br/rbpi>.

Articles can be submitted **between September 1st, 2018 and April 30th, 2019**.

RBPI is published exclusively online at [Scielo](#), following the continuous publication model. This model gives faster publication for authors and also faster access for readers because the articles are published online at the very moment their editorial production is finished. The first segment will be likely released in January 2019.

### **[Nature Sustainability](#)**

Launched in January 2018, *Nature Sustainability* will publish research contributing to a deep understanding of the ways in which we organize our lives in a finite world and the multiple impacts our actions have. Beyond fundamental research, the journal will attract studies of policies and solutions to ensure human well-being now and in the future. Its aim is to facilitate important cross-disciplinary dialogues to respond to the greatest challenges of our time.

The journal is now welcoming submissions. Please visit their website for [further information](#).

### **[Asian Journal of Peacebuilding](#)**

*Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* (AJP) welcomes submissions of papers written on conflict and peacebuilding issues around the world. Exemplary topics that AJP focuses on include but are not limited to: impact of climate change; environmental politics; reconciliation in divided societies or nations; migrants and refugees; anti-nuclear movements; historical and territorial disputes; ethnic

and religious conflicts; violence and transitional justice; gender issues at conflict zones; democratic transition and human rights; and humanitarian assistance and intervention.

AJP is a peer-reviewed journal published by the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies (IPUS) at Seoul National University. The contents of the Journal are available or abstracted at EBSCOhost™ Political Science, EBSCOhost™ Academic Search, ProQuest Political Science, ProQuest Social Science, Sociological Abstracts, Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, and International Political Science Abstracts.

Deadlines is December 31 for the May issue, and June 30 for the November issue. The length of a research article should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words, including abstract, notes, and references. A research note should be no longer than 6,000 words. For the submission guidelines in detail, see the website.

Email: [peacejournal@snu.ac.kr](mailto:peacejournal@snu.ac.kr) | Website: <http://tongil.snu.ac.kr/xe/ajp>

### 3.2 Conference Submissions

#### **[Crafting the Long Tomorrow: New Conversations & Productive Catalysts Across Science and Humanities Boundaries as the Global Emergency Worsens](#)**

21-24 February, 2019 | Tucson, AZ

Crafting the Long Tomorrow is a three-day, small-scale conference at the University of Arizona's Biosphere 2, a leading site for arts, sciences and humanities dialogues.

#### ***Conference Focus:***

The physical sciences tell us civilization and the biosphere face extreme consequences from global trends humans have set in motion, especially climate change. Multiple disciplines can illuminate both the global emergency and the long tomorrow—crafting approaches, some likely deeply unsettling, that could extend the lifespan of our species and others. Some still deliberate about the messiness of what used to be called the two cultures of arts and sciences, even as scholars have usefully blurred those boundaries. However, disciplinary divides both continue to be breached in welcome fashion by collaborations in such emerging fields as “art/sci,” “environmental humanities,” “geohumanities” and more. (If you haven't heard those terms, however, you are not alone, and we're speaking to you too.)

This meeting will encourage innovative and inventive presentations and conversation, with an eye toward public-facing engagement outcomes. How do we breach jargon and present perspectives and solutions for the wider publics of policy-makers and others? How do we involve diverse publics?

**This conference is designed to be more conversational than presentational.** We are discouraging traditional paper readings and/or PowerPoint slide-shows in favor of shorter, more energetic talks and more innovative visual formats. It will be a single-track conference so that everyone attends all sessions.

There are two options available. Presenters can choose one or apply for both.



### **OPTION 1: Panel Discussions**

Those interested in attending to offer a 500-word “idea pitch” for a talk that would be no more than 5-7 minutes long. We want to discourage formal reading of traditional papers in favor of grouping individuals (and pairs/teams of attendees) into panel discussions.

The idea pitch could include a brief precis of one’s research (a research briefing) but mostly should focus on questions and concerns regarding the two broad themes of the conference:

- 1) Arts/sciences or, simply, multi-disciplinary developments and opportunities in research, creative activity, teaching and community engagement across multiple, sometimes previously unlinked fields as we face tremendous social, political and environmental changes.
- 2) Specific technologies and approaches (such as climate engineering, ecomodernism, dark ecology, science fictional thinking, etc.) to the present-day and the looming future.

### **OPTION 2: Short-slide Pecha Kucha Presentation on Key Words and Concepts in the arts, humanities, engineering, and sciences.**

We encourage participants to submit brief Pecha Kucha presentations on terms as risk, theory (as used by scientists), critical theory in the humanities, entropy, transgression, intervention, ecosystem services, the new materialism, hybridity, social construction, biodiversity, epigenetics, wildness, the land ethic and so on. Please bear in mind the broad diversity of the audience and to avoid jargon or, at least, explain clearly what particular terms and methods mean.

These presentations are critical to establishing the relevance and understanding key concepts across disciplines. We hope the Pecha Kucha talks will give us a common ground, a bit of playful informality despite the importance of the topics and spark discussions.

In order to foster a respectful and challenging community the conference will be on the smaller side—between 60 and 100 participants. We are working hard to make the conference free of registration, lodging and meal costs. We especially encourage interest from graduate students and junior faculty and those from non-Western backgrounds and institutions.

**Proposals due:** Oct. 22, 2018

- Please send no more than 500 words for each talk option, with additional 100-word biographies of presenter(s).
- E-mail proposals or questions with Crafting the Long Tomorrow in the subject heading to Christopher Cokinos, University of Arizona: [cokinos@email.arizona.edu](mailto:cokinos@email.arizona.edu)

Organizers will select a series of presentation materials from the conference to publish as a mini-proceedings in a relevant venue. Videos of talks and conversations will be posted on the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society webpage and YouTube channel, as well as relevant University of Arizona channels.

***Post-Conference Fellowships***

To cultivate networking and synthesis among conference participants, we will ask presenters (individuals or teams) to craft and present a plan by February 2020 for doing at least two of the following:

- an innovative non-expert engagement project;
- an article in a well-read public venue;
- curriculum developed for a team-taught course;
- a book proposal;
- a scholarly journal article;
- grants;
- other informal community dialogue;
- a library or museum display

To encourage these ambitious activities, we will be seeking additional funding to serve as post-conference fellowships. The award is contingent on completion of the outcomes. The stipend level will depend on additional funding.

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**4. Upcoming Events – Conferences and Courses**

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**4.1 Conferences**

[2018 ISA West Annual Conference](#)

21-22 September 2018 | Pasadena, California

[2018 ISA South Annual Conference](#)

12-13 October 2018 | Ashland, Virginia

[2018 ISA Northeast Annual Conference](#)

2-3 November 2018 | Baltimore, Maryland

[2018 Utrecht Conference on Earth System Governance: Governing Global Sustainability in a Complex World: Key Research Insights & New Research Directions](#)

5-8 November 2018 | Utrecht, The Netherlands

## 4.2 Workshops and Courses

### [PhD Course on Global Environmental Governance Today](#)

22-26 October 2018 | Lund, Sweden

### [Utrecht Winter School on Earth System Governance 2018](#)

31 Oct-4 November 2018 | Utrecht, The Netherlands

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## 5. Awards

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### **Evan J. Ringquist Best Paper Award, American Political Science Association**

Congratulations to ESS Member Dr. Jonas Meckling (University of California, Berkeley) and Dr. Jonas Nahm (Johns Hopkins University) for winning the **Evan J. Ringquist Best Paper Award** for their 2018 paper, "[The power of process: State capacity and climate policy](#)" in *Governance*.

The award recognizes the best paper published in a relevant journal in the last two years and is awarded by The Science, Technology, & Environmental Politics section of the American Political Science Association.

**Paper Abstract:** State capacity is central to the provision of public goods, including environmental protection. Drawing on climate policy making, this article argues that the division of labor between the bureaucracy and legislature in policy formulation is a critical source of state capacity. In cases of bureaucratic policy design, the legislature sets policy goals and delegates policy design to bureaucracies. This division of labor shifts distributional conflict to autonomous bureaucracies, allowing for effective policy design. California followed this path in climate policy making, setting it on track to meet climate goals. In cases of legislative policy design, bureaucracies set goals and legislatures design policy measures. Since legislators have incentives to respond to vested interests, legislative policy design is vulnerable to regulatory capture. In Germany, legislative policy design in climate policy making is preventing attainment of emissions reduction goals, as industry interests succeeded in blocking key policy measures. Our findings highlight procedural sources of state capacity.

### **Most Outstanding Paper in the 2017 [Sustainability Science Best Paper Awards](#)**

The winner of the *Sustainability Science* 2017 Best Paper Award is "[Transdisciplinary co-design of scientific research agendas: 40 research questions for socially relevant climate engineering research](#)" by Dr. Masahiro Sugiyama et al. (2017). The paper was selected out of 62 eligible paper submissions. Congratulations to ESS co-author, Dr. Atsushi Ishii (Tokyo University).

**Paper Abstract:** If we, humans, had a capacity to develop a technology to change the earth's climate, should we refrain from it? Or should we do it? Under what condition and how? Scientists and policymakers have begun discussing such technologies called climate engineering or geoengineering because these technologies could be used to cool the earth to counteract global warming. Among them, stratospheric aerosol injection has

received significant attention. Although it has not been developed, it is not a science fiction either. This is a high-stake technology with large uncertainties, and it is desirable to reflect the interests and concerns of stakeholders and the publics from the early stage of research and development. And yet, almost all previous research projects have been developed by experts and policymakers.

We researchers of diverse disciplines, stakeholders, and policymakers in Japan—brainstormed possible research questions. Starting from about 350 questions, we narrowed them into 40 in a 1-day workshop, following the methodology that has been extensively used in various issues that involve science and policy. In the selection process, we used a tailored voting method, in which any question receiving at least one vote remained, to protect minority opinions. This methodological innovation was crucial for such a controversial topic as climate engineering. The resulting 40 questions reflect a diverse set of concerns and interests and can serve as a starting point for future research projects. The study also demonstrated that with a careful planning, transdisciplinary research on a contentious issue is indeed feasible.