



International Environmental Agreements – Bridging the Gap

September 21st, 2018

CIRANO

1130, Sherbrooke West, 14th Floor, Montréal (Québec) H3A 2M8

Organizers

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Mission

Transboundary environmental pollution constitutes a major challenge in international collaboration. A number of International Environmental Agreements (IEAs) are drafted and ratified to this date, in an effort to address this problem. While the process is ongoing it is widely accepted that IEAs are either of small size (in terms of signatories) or non-enforceable. A critical characteristic of IEAs is the lack of a supra-national authority that could implement and enforce environmental policies on sovereign states. Thus, IEAs have to be self-enforcing in the sense that they have to account for the countries' incentives to cheat on or withdraw from the agreement. Alternatively, cooperation in environmental issues can be linked to other issues affecting the negotiating countries such as trade and R&D, among others.

Over the last two decades academic research on IEAs was primarily normative, yielding very few policy recommendations. Recently, a number of projects have emerged that attempt to identify instruments with which IEAs can become more effective. However, the disconnect between theory and practice still remains as the two worlds rarely communicate. The scope of this series of workshops is to bridge the gap across disciplines and the policy world by engaging researchers in a continuous dialogue. The panel discussion in particular, will engage theory and policy sides into a conversation where a common language will emerge. The scope of the discussion is to better align the goals of the researchers with the needs of the policy developers and practitioners.

Friday, 21st September, 2018

- 9:00-9:30** **Coffee and Welcoming Remarks**
- 9:30-10:30** **Keynote speech: Larry Karp** (University of California at Berkeley)
“Sober Optimism and the Formation of International Environmental Agreements”
Co-author: Hiroaki Sakamoto (Chiba University)
- 10:30-11:00** **Coffee break**
- 11:00-11:40** **Timothy Hodges** (McGill University)
“From Theory to Practice: Process and Personality in IEAs”
- 11:40-12:20** **Damon Matthews** (Concordia University)
“Sharing the Global Carbon Pie: Scientific and Ethical Challenges in International Climate Negotiations”
- 12:20-14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00-15:00** **Panel Discussion**
Moderator: **Charles Séguin** (UQAM)
Discussants: **Josée Duplessis** (Center for Sustainable Development), **Timothy Hodges** (McGill University), **Larry Karp** (University of California at Berkeley), **Damon Matthews** (Concordia University)
- 15:00-15:40** **Nahid Massoudi** (Memorial University)
“Is it Possible to Attain Large Stable IEAs? Insights from Other Sources of Interdependencies”
- 15:40-16:20** **Eftichios Sartzetakis** (University of Macedonia)
“International Environmental Agreements – Heterogeneity, Transfers and Issue Linkage”
Co-authors: Effrosyni Diamantoudi and Stefania Strantza (Concordia University)
- 16:20-16:40** **Coffee break**
- 16:40-17:20** **Emilson Silva** (University of Alberta)
“Overlapping Joint R&D Agreements to Combat Climate Change in the Presence of Transaction Costs”
Co-author: Chikara Yamaguchi (Hiroshima University)
- 17:20-18:00** **Ngo Van Long** (McGill University)
“International Environmental Agreements and Optimal Constraint on Flexibility”
- 19:00-22:00** **Conference dinner (by invitation)**