**Rescuing Climate Policy**

Workshop at Arizona State University

February 3-4, 2014

**Venue**: Global Institute for Sustainability (GIOS), Room 323



**Rationale**

Global climate policy has reached an impasse. A key reason is that it has been framed as a zero-sum game between national negotiators. In this game, the dominant strategy for all players is doing close to nothing to implement a significant carbon price while subscribing to cheap talk about the necessity to do so globally. The fact that there is much to be gained by avoiding damages looming in a politically distant future does not change this situation.

Without some serious reframing, global climate policy is in danger of becoming an epic failure. Fortunately, elements of such a reframing are emerging. E.g., there is an increasing awareness that a more complex governance structure than a global agreement by national goverments is needed and possible. Moreover, a view of global climate policy as a framework for opportunity, rather than burden sharing is gaining ground. According to this view, if cognitive and institutional barriers to change are overcome, emissions reductions can be achieved while increasing prosperity in the short as well as the long run. As Sheikh Yamani famously said during the first global oil crisis, the stone age didn’t end because we ran out of stones, and it is equally clear that computers were’nt developed because of rising prices for typewriters.

The workshop shall review and expand the arguments for such a reframing. It shall not only lead to fruitful discussions, but also to an academic paper with fresh ideas on how to rescue global climate policy from the present impasse. Of course, nobody is committed in advance to co-signing the paper, but everybody will be invited to do so.

The reading materials indicated in the program will be available on a dedicated web-page, where participants can place additional material in view of the discussions and the planned paper. The material and web-discussions will be public, so as to allow for feedback from scholars interested in the topic but not present at the workshop. The introductory statements can be anything from a short comment on reading material by its author to a half-hour lecture on the session topics. The comments by the respondents can be handled with equal flexibility, just ensuring that introductory statement and response together don’t go beyond half the session time.

The participants will be a group small enough to allow working on written output, namely:

Kenneth Abbott

John Ashton

Dan Bodansky

Gary Dirks

Carlo Jaeger

Sonja Klinsky

Sander van der Leeuw

Yongsheng Zhang

**Agenda**

**Day one** (Monday, February 3)

9:30-10:30 **Welcome**

Morning coffee

Introduction by Gary Dirks

Short statement by each participant

10:30-12:00 **Session 1: From Burden Sharing to Opportunity Sharing?**

Readings: Zhang (2013), Jaeger et al. (2012a)

Introductory statement: Yongsheng Zhang

Respondent: Carlo Jaeger

*12:00-13:30 Lunch*

13:30-15:00 **Session 2: What Role for Science?**

Readings: Gauchat (2012), van der Leeuw (2012)

Introductory statement: Sander van der Leeuw

Respondent: John Ashton

*15:00-15:30 Coffee break*

15:30-17:00 **Session 3: Climate Policy as a Complex Global System**

Reading: Abbott (2013), Jaeger et al. (2012b)

Introductory statement: Kenneth Abbott

Respondent: Sander van der Leeuw

17.00-18.00 Looking back at day one

*19:00-21:00 Joint Dinner*

**Day two** (Tuesday, February 4)

09:00-10:30 **Session 4: From Top Down to Bottom Up?**

Readings: Bodansky (2011), Klinsky (2013)

Introductory statement: Dan Bodansky

Respondent: Sonja Klinsky

*10:30-11:00 Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 **Session 5: Opportunities for a Fresh Start**

Readings: Pindyck (2013), Stiglitz, Greenwald (2010)

Introductory statement: Carlo Jaeger

Respondent: Yongsheng Zhang

*12:30-14:00 Lunch*

14:00-15:30 **Session 6: Who Can Take the Initiative?**

Readings: Ashton (2012), van der Leeuw (2013)

Introductory statement: John Ashton

Respondent: Kenneth Abbott

15:30-16:00 Conclusion.

**References**

Abbott, K.W. (2013) Strengthening the Transnational Regime Complex for Climate Change. Forthcoming, Transnational Environmental Law. http://ssrn.com/abstract=2219554

Ashton, J. (2012) Green Growth: Gangnam Style!

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Bodansky, D. (2011) A Tale of Two Architectures: The Once and Future U.N. Climate Change Regime. http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1773865.

Gauchat, G. (2012) Politicization of Science in the Public Sphere: A Study of Public Trust in the United States, 1974 to 2010. American Sociological Review, 77, 167–187.

Jaeger, C., Hasselmann, K., Leipold, G., Mangalagiu, D. Tabara, J.D. (2012a) Reframing the Problem of Climate Change: From Zero Sum Game to Win-Win Solutions. Earthscan, London.

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Klinsky, S. (2013) Bottom-up policy lessons emerging from the Western. Climate Initiative’s development challenges. Climate Policy, 13, 143–169.

Pindyck, R.S. (2013) Climate Change Policy: What Do the Models Tell Us? Journal of Economic Literature, 51, 860–872.

Stiglitz, J.E., Greenwald, B. (2010) Towards A New Global Reserve System, Journal of Globalization and Development. 1(2) Article 10.

van der Leeuw, S. (2012) Global Systems Dynamics and Policy: Lessons from the distant past. Complexity Economics, 1, 33-60.

Zhang, Y.S. (2013) Can China Achieve Green Growth? In: Garnaut et al. (eds) China: A New Model for Growth and Development. ANU E Press, Canberra.