SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS: STEP Ahead is the official newsletter of the Science, Technology, and Environmental Politics section of the American Political Science Association. The newsletter contains valuable information on conferences and symposia, jobs and fellowships, publishing information, and items of special interest to members of the section.
HIGHLIGHTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Announcing the recipients of the Don K. Price Book Award, Lynton Keith Caldwell Book Award, Virginia M. Walsh Dissertation Award, Paul A. Sabatier Best Conference Paper Award, Evan Ringquist Best Paper Award, Ostrom Career Achievement Award, Emerging Young Scholar Award, and the Graduate Student Inclusion Travel Grant.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Climate Change and Social Inequality, a special issue of the Journal of Cleaner Production and the 25 Years Since TRIPS: Patent Policy and International Business, a special issue of Journal of International Business Policy are calling for papers.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Geopolitics and Energy Research Group (GERG) will be holding the Renewable Electrification in Geopolitical Contested Settings: Theoretical Insights and Practical Implications on December 18 to 20, 2019 in Jerusalem. Abstracts up to 500 words should be submitted by September 10.

FELLOWSHIPS

The MSC in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society at Dublin City University is now accepting applications.
HIGHLIGHTS

JOURNALS

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, CLIMATIC CHANGE, AND THE JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE SHOWCASING IMPORTANT WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY

STEP MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NIVES DOLSAK AND ASEEM PRAKASH DISCUSS THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT AND POPULISM, AND THE GREEN NEW DEAL; AND NEWIG ET AL. EXPLAIN HOW THE EU-BRAZIL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE IMPACTED DOMESTIC SUSTAINABILITY

RECENT ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

RECENT ARTICLES FROM STEP MEMBERS INCLUDE GELLERS AND JEFFORDS’ “ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF CHINESE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE IN AFRICA;” BEISER-MCGRATH AND BERNAUER’S “COMMITMENT FAILURES ARE UNLIKELY TO UNDERMINE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT;” AND HERRERA AND POST’S “THE CASE FOR PUBLIC POLICY EXPERTISE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE”

NEW BOOKS

CHECK OUT KESKITALO AND PRESTON, EDs., RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY (EDWARD ELGAR PUBLISHING) AND HAMISH VAN DER VEN, BEYOND GREENWASH: EXPLAINING CREDIBILITY IN TRANSNATIONAL ECO-LABELING (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS)

MEET THE APSA STEP AHEAD NEWSLETTER TEAM
We are pleased to announce the recipients of this year’s STEP Awards. They will be honored at our business meeting Friday, August 30th, 2019.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

DON K. PRICE BOOK AWARD
Scientific Cosmology and International Orders by Bentley B. Allan, Johns Hopkins University (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

LYNTON KEITH CALDWELL BOOK AWARD
California Greenin’: How the Golden State became an Environmental Leader by David Vogel, University of California, Berkeley (Princeton University Press, 2018)

VIRGINIA M. WALSH DISSERTATION AWARD
“The Effectiveness of Market-Driven Regulatory Sustainability Governance: Assessing the Design of Private Sustainability Standards and their Impacts on Latin American Coffee Farmers’ Production Practice,” by Janina Grabs, University of Münster

PAUL A. SABATIER BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARD
“Does it Matter if you ‘Believe’ in Climate Change? The Example of Coastal Home Vulnerability,” by Debra Javeline, Tracy Kijewski-Correa, and Angela Chesler, University of Notre Dame, presented at APSA 2018

EVAN RINGQUIST BEST PAPER AWARD

OSTROM CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Thomas Bernauer, ETH Zurich

EMERGING YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD
Jonas Meckling, University of California, Berkeley

GRADUATE STUDENT INCLUSION TRAVEL GRANT
Juhi Huda, University of Colorado Boulder and Jongeun You, University of Colorado Denver
CALLS FOR PAPERS

25 YEARS SINCE TRIPS: PATENT POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, A SPECIAL ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS POLICY. Deadline: July 31, 2019. Ken Shadlen, one of the co-editors of the issue, says “we are particularly interested in papers that analyse IP in technologies related to climate change and other aspects of the environment.” Visit here: http://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/16167440/data/v3 for more details.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY, A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF CLEANER PRODUCTION. Deadline is August 31. From the editors: “We see a significant gap across the natural and social sciences in the study of climate change, in that much of the existing scholarship does not incorporate inequality broadly conceived (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, class, etc.). The inattention to social inequality results in incomplete explanations and weaker predictions of the causes and consequences of climate change. It also hinders the design of inclusive policy responses. In order to help move the study of climate from narrow reductionist carbon-based models towards ones that are more socially-integrated, we need more diverse social science research agendas.” More information here: https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-cleaner-production/call-for-papers/climate-change-and-social-inequality

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

RENEWABLE ELECTRIFICATION IN GEOPOLITICAL CONTESTED SETTINGS: THEORETICAL INSIGHTS AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS. The Geopolitics and Energy Research Group (GERG) will be holding an international conference on renewable electrification in geopolitical conflict settings from December 18 to 20, 2019 in Jerusalem. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to theorize and examine the drivers, trajectories, and implications of renewable energy projects in places where territorial and interstate conflict already persists. A selection of papers presented in the conference will be revised and subjected to peer review with the aim of publishing a special issue on the theme of the conference.

Drawing on a variety of empirical cases and theoretical insights, the conference will explain the relationship between renewable electrification, conflicts, and territorial disputes and analyze the causal relations, the conditions both permitting and prohibiting renewable transformation, and the implications for conflict and cooperation. It will also seek to facilitate better understanding of this interaction with innovation literature on the diffusion of technology in time and space. The ensuing special issue will attempt to develop a new theory concerning peace studies, security, and renewable innovation.

We are looking for papers that showcase scholarship examining the two-way causality between renewables and territorial disputes and its interplay with three bodies of knowledge: energy security, energy geopolitics, and technological innovation. Papers should unpack the interplay between renewable energy and geopolitics while using new models, theories, and methodologies. They should also cover practices that overcome or enhance the causality between renewables, territorial disputes and cooperation. We are also seeking theoretical contributions that provide frameworks for understanding how different disciplines (e.g., political and critical geography, political ecology, international relations, and public policy) can explain if, how, and under what conditions security studies, geopolitics, peace studies, and technological innovation interact with each other on the topic of renewable energy.

There is no registration fee; some financial support may be available for accepted speakers. Abstracts up to 500 words should be submitted by September 10. Contact Itay Fischhendler (itay.fischhendler@mail.huji.ac.il) or Lior Herman (lior.herman@mail.huji.ac.il) for more details.

FELLOWSHIPS

THE MSC IN CLIMATE CHANGE: POLICY, MEDIA AND SOCIETY AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY is now accepting applications. This innovative programme examines how societies can respond to climate change across the spheres of politics, regulation, law, education and the media. The deadline for applications is 29 June but earlier applications are encouraged. Dublin City University is a dynamic, young university that prides itself on its commitment to addressing the major challenges facing the world today and to developing the talent and knowledge that society needs. Excellence in its education and research activities has led to its consistent position in the rankings of the world’s top young universities. Full details of the MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society, including how to apply, are available at https://www.dcu.ie/courses/Postgraduate/law_and_government/MSc-Climate-Change-Policy-Media-and-Society.shtml. Final year students and recent graduates are encouraged to apply. For questions about the programme, email Diarmuid Torney at diarmuid.torney@dcu.ie. Questions about the scholarship scheme should be directed to goi-ies@hea.ie.
JOURNALS

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, VOL. 27, NO. 6 (2018) is now online. Special Issue: Environmental NGOs at a crossroads. Guest editors: Nathalie Berny and Christopher Rootes

CLIMATIC CHANGE, VOL. 152, ISSUE 2 (January 2019) is now online. Special Issue: Adapting to water impacts of climate change. Guest Editors: Debra Javeline, Nives Dolšak, and Aseem Prakash


JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, VOL. 10, ISSUE 1 (March 2019) is now online. Special Issue: Coloniality, Neoliberalism and the Anthropocene.

STEP MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CAN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT SURVIVE POPULISM? LESSONS FROM ‘YELLOW VEST’ PROTESTS
By Nives Dolsak and Aseem Prakash

THREE WAYS TO TRANSLATE GREEN NEW DEAL INTO ACTUAL POLICY
By Nives Dolsak and Aseem Prakash

TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN EU-BRAZIL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
By Jens Newig, Benedetta Cotta, Johanna Coenen, Andrea Lenschow, Edward Challies and Almut Schilling-Vacaflor
**RECENT ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS**


**ABSTRACT:** To what extent are decisions regarding Chinese investment in Africa motivated by environmental factors? A considerable body of work has examined the determinants of foreign aid among traditional donors, producing useful debates about the relative significance of recipient need or merit and donor interest. But far less scholarly effort has focused on the motivations of emerging donors and the role of environmental factors in influencing aid allocation. In an attempt to fill these gaps, this article uses statistical techniques to test the hypothesis that China deliberately invests in African countries with poor environmental performance for reasons related to recipient need or donor interest. Drawing upon project-level data regarding investments made by China in Africa from 2002 to 2012, the analysis suggests that Chinese development assistance grows commensurate with a country’s environmental performance, but only to a point. After a state achieves a certain level of environmental quality, Chinese investments decline.

**Liam F. Beiser-McGrath and Thomas Bernauer, “Commitment failures are unlikely to undermine public support for the Paris Agreement.” Nature Climate Change 9 (March 2019) 248-252**

**ABSTRACT:** Success of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which is founded on nationally determined contributions (NDCs), hinges on whether domestic support for international environmental agreements would be undermined if countries that are crucial to the global effort fail to reduce their emissions. Here we find that citizens in China (n = 3,000) and the United States (n = 3,007) have strong preferences over the design of international climate agreements and contributions of other countries to the global effort. However, contrary to what standard accounts of international politics would predict, a survey-embedded experiment in which respondents were randomly exposed to different information on other countries’ behaviour showed that information on other countries failing to reduce their emissions does not undermine support for how international agreements are designed. While other factors still make large emission cuts challenging, these results suggest that the Paris approach per se is not posing a problem.

**Veronica Herrera and Alison E. Post, “The Case for Public Policy Expertise in Political Science.” PS. Online FirstView, Feb. 28, 2019**

**ABSTRACT:** The politics of public policy is a vibrant research area increasingly at the forefront of intellectual innovations in the discipline. We argue that political scientists are best positioned to undertake research on the politics of public policy when they possess expertise in particular policy areas. Policy expertise positions scholars to conduct theoretically innovative work and to ensure that empirical research reflects the reality they aim to analyze. It also confers important practical advantages, such as access to a significant number of academic positions and major sources of research funding not otherwise available to political scientists. Perhaps most importantly, scholars with policy expertise are equipped to defend the value of political science degrees and research in the public sphere.
NEW BOOKS

KESKITALO AND PRESTON, EDS., RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY, EDWARD ELGAR PUBLISHING

From the Publisher: This topical and engaging Research Handbook illustrates the variety of research approaches in the field of climate change adaptation policy in order to provide a guide to its social and institutional complexity.

A range of international expert contributors offer interdisciplinary explorations of climate change adaptation policy from policy sciences, legal, and practitioner perspectives. Using examples from a variety of sectors including water, health and land use, and multiple levels of governance and country contexts, from international to local, and developing to developed countries, the chapters examine a wealth of theoretical orientations towards climate change adaptation policy and their underpinnings. In doing so, this Research Handbook provides an understanding of the complexity of the institutions, decision-makers and assumptions that are involved in adaptation research as well as adaptation policy development and implementation.

This Research Handbook will be an indispensable resource for both researchers and practitioners in climate change adaptation with an interest in the research methods and policies that support and advance it. Undergraduate and postgraduate students of environmental studies, public policy and politics will also find this book provides a valuable foundation for building a deeper knowledge of adaptation science and policy.


HAMISH VAN DER VEN, BEYOND GREENWASH: EXPLAINING CREDIBILITY IN TRANSNATIONAL ECO-LABELING, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

From the Publisher: From green frogs and blue angels to white bunnies, modern consumers are confronted by a growing array of colorful eco-labels on everything from coffee to computers. When eco-labels are credible, they can lead to dramatic change in environmental practices broadly and quickly by leveraging the purchasing power of corporate clients (e.g., Walmart and McDonalds) to influence global supply chains. But the credibility of such labels is highly variable; and despite the existence of established practices for eco-labeling, many labels remain little more than superficial exercises in “greenwash.” How can consumers separate greenwash from genuine attempts to address environmental challenges?

Beyond Greenwash addresses this question by systematically investigating the credibility of transnational eco-labeling organizations across countries and commercial sectors. Using an innovative proxy measure for credibility that examines adherence to established best practices, Hamish van der Ven proposes a novel theory of rigor and credibility in transnational eco-labeling that upends conventional wisdom. He argues that the credibility of an eco-label does not depend on who creates or manages it-whether a government, industry association, professional standard setter, or environmental NGO. Rather, it depends on which types of businesses use the label. More specifically, eco-labeling organizations that target bigger, consumer-facing retailers tend to create credible eco-labels out of a desire to insulate their clients from critical scrutiny and gain acceptance in new markets. This theory challenges the conventional wisdom that only governments or environmental NGOs can create meaningful environmental governance and suggests that who is being governed matters as much, if not more, than who is doing the governing.

More at https://global.oup.com/academic/product/beyond-greenwash-9780190866006
MEET OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Andrew is an associate professor in the political science department and the director of the interdisciplinary environmental studies department at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. His research and teaching tastes tend toward the international side of STEP, particularly international environmental organizations and compliance with international environmental treaties.

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Courtney works closely with public and private partners to advance her research agenda of community resilience to climate change and natural hazards. She uses her background in policy, urban and social resilience, GIS, and international relations to explain how communities can build resilience by proactively making investments into their online and offline social ties to mitigate negative outcomes of unexpected shocks and disturbances.

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Juhi Huda is a doctoral candidate in the Environmental Studies program (policy core) at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research interests include environmental policy, governance, and communication in areas of food systems governance, agricultural biotechnology, disasters and hazards, and climate change.
Have conferences, jobs, fellowships, publishing information, or items of special interest for APSA STEP members? We want to hear about it! Email our Newsletter Editor Andrew Kirkpatrick at andrew.b.kirkpatrick@gmail.com.