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

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE TO APSA

GET CONNECTED!

A LOW-CARBON CONFERENCE PILOT FOR 2020 APSA’S STEP SECTION

STEP SECTION AWARDS

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS
Dear STEP Section Members,

We hope you’ll join us on Friday evening for this year’s APSA’s section meeting and reception. In this issue, you’ll find information on the business meeting, including details on the awards to be presented and the proposed new board members.

As always, you can e-mail me directly at andrew.b.kirkpatrick@gmail.com if you have anything to submit. What would we like from you for this newsletter?

• recent book, article, or book chapter publications by STEP members
• career resources such as career development programs/workshops, fellowships, grants, job placement opportunities, and teaching resources
• calls for paper submissions to journals and conferences
• upcoming events (conferences and workshops)
• awards received by STEP members

Thanks for reading, and we'll see you at the section business meeting and reception later this week!

The STEP Editorial Team

[Images of team members]
STEP SECTION
BUSINESS MEETING

FRI, AUGUST 30
6:30 TO 7:30PM
MARRIOTT, COOLIDGE

STEP RECEPTION

FRI, AUGUST 30
8:00 TO 9:30PM
OFFSITE
LEBANESE TAVERNA
2641 CONNECTICUT AVE NW,
WASHINGTON, DC 20008
## STEP-CO-SPONSORED PANELS & EVENTS AT 2019 APSA ANNUAL MEETING

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<td>8:00-9:30am</td>
<td>Policy Networks</td>
<td>Policy Narratives and Discourse</td>
<td>Regulatory Issues in Environmental Policy</td>
<td>Governance Issues in Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Advances in Theories of the Policy Process</td>
<td>Policy Feedback, Conflict and Process Tracing</td>
<td>The Dynamics of Climate Policy Support in the US</td>
<td>The Next Frontier: Climate Change and Women in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>11:30am-12:00pm</td>
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<td>STEP Poster Session: Constitutional law and Jurisprudence; Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations &amp; Science, Technology and Environmental Politics</td>
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<td>12:00-1:30pm</td>
<td>Global Commitment to Addressing Climate Change</td>
<td>Populism and Climate Change</td>
<td>In the Hands of Gods or Men: Religion &amp; Responses to Environmental Degradation</td>
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<td>Urban Issues in Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>Federalism and Environmental Policy and Outcomes</td>
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<td>4:00-5:30pm</td>
<td>Policy Narratives and Discourse</td>
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<td>Representation, Inequality and Geography in Environmental and Climate Governance</td>
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STEP CO-SPONSORED PANELS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

POLICY NETWORKS
Marriott, Harding
Individual Presentations: Climate Change Litigation Networks in the US, Protected Lands and Dependence Networks, Social Network Analysis of Transnational Sustainability Standard Communities, and Latin American Elites Favour Polycentric Governance in Climate Change Agreements

ADVANCES IN THEORIES OF THE POLICY PROCESS
Marriott, Maryland C

GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE
Marriott, Washington 2

POLICY NARRATIVES AND DISCOURSE
Marriott, Harding
STEP CO-SPONSORED PANELS

FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30

POLICY COMPLEXITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
Marriott, Coolidge
Individual Presentations: Sino-EU Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology (S&T), Technology — a Boost or a Bane? Inclusive Innovation and Social Choices, AI and National Security: Is the Future of War in the Hands of Silicon Valley?, and A Study of Cybersecurity Policy Actors: Norms and Actor Clustering

POLICY FEEDBACK, CONFLICT AND PROCESS TRACING
Marriott, Coolidge
Individual Presentations: Conflict and Concord Over Unconventional Oil and Gas Production in the US, Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Revenue-Recycling upon Carbon Taxation, Sea Level Rise, Property Value, and Growth Machines, and Evaluating Policy Feedback in Canadian Tax and Dividend Policy using Panel Data

THE DYNAMICS OF CLIMATE POLICY SUPPORT IN THE US
Marriott, Virginia C
Individual Presentations: The Politicization of Policies to Address Climate Change, Elite Opinion and Decision-making on Climate Change in the US, Climate Change, Carbon Policies, and Political Trigger Words, and Opinion Dynamics & Policy Consequences of Concern about Climate Change Effects

STEP POSTER SESSION: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE; FEDERALISM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
Marriott, Exhibit Hall B South
Individual Presentations: An Odd Couple or a Perfect Match?: LA and Ho Chi Minh City’s Energy Partnership, Modeling the Diffusion of Private Standards among Kenyan Cut-Flower Producers, Dirty Air, Better Climate? Effects of Air Quality on Climate Change Perception, Sectoral Characteristics, National Institutions, and Climate Change Attitudes, and Will I Pay, Do I Even Care? Inequality and Citizen Environmental Support
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AUGUST 30

12:00-1:30PM
POPULISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Marriott, Coolidge

2:00-3:30PM
URBAN ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Marriott, Taylor
Individual Presentations: Celebrating the Mundane: Using Public Procurement to Build Sustainable Cities, City Global Governance Networks and International Level Climate Actions, From Policy Failure to Urban Crisis: Making the Links in Flint, Michigan, and The Politics of Urban Transition to Sustainable and Resilient Low Carbon Cities

4:00-5:30PM
PARTISAN POLITICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Marriott, Wilson C

6:00-7:30PM
STEP BUSINESS MEETING
Marriott, Coolidge

8:00-9:30PM
STEP RECEPTION
Offsite
Lebanese Taverna
2641 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008
REGULATORY ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Marriott, Hoover  

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Marriott, Hoover  
Individual Presentations: Community Forest Management, Electoral Incentives, and Local Forest Loss, Developing Local Government’s Autonomy under Strong Central Government, Political, Institutional, and Economic Drivers of Community Microgrid Adoption, and Citizen Science and Democracy

IN THE HANDS OF GODS OR MEN: RELIGION & RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION  
Hilton, Gunston East  

INFLUENCE OF PUBLIC TRUST ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Marriott, Hoover  
Individual Presentations: Corruption, Trust in and Environmental Attitudes, Trust in Government and Bottled Water Usage: Consumption as Political Behavior, Trust Issues: U.S. Public Preferences for Entities to Protect the Environment, and Participation, Legitimacy, and Effective Conservation: Evidence from Brazil
SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AUGUST 31

**2:00-3:30PM**

FEDERALISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND OUTCOMES  
Marriott, Balcony A  

INFLUENCE OF DISASTERS ON PUBLIC POLICY  
Marriott, Hoover  
Individual Presentations: Do Disasters Change People’s Perceptions and Preferences about Climate Change?, How Linking to Climate-related Disasters Shapes Environmental Policy Support, Hurricanes, Climate Change and Electoral Accountability, Who do you Trust? Inefficiency Incentives in Climate Change Mitigation, and Paying for Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

**4:00-5:30PM**

REPRESENTATION, INEQUALITY AND GEOGRAPHY IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE  
Marriott, Hoover  
Individual Presentations: Policy Devolution and Cooperation Dilemmas, Inequality and Government Responsiveness: Evidence from Salient Wildfire Events, Reshaping Communities: The Local Politics of Managed Buyouts, and Filling the Governance Gaps: Coordination for Adaptation to Sea Level Rise

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

**8:00-9:30AM**

GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Marriott, Johnson  

**10:00-11:30AM**

THE NEXT FRONTIER: CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
Marriott, Johnson  

CONFERENCE CLOSES AT 11.30AM
GET CONNECTED!

We moved away from stand-alone site to APSA Connect system in 2018

Check out our new site here: https://connect.apsanet.org/s15/

TAG STEP IN YOUR NEXT JOB POSTING AND ANOUNCEMENT:

APSA CONNECT – STEP LISTSERV

Members can send notices themselves if they login to the APSA system using their regular APSA login.
A LOW-CARBON CONFERENCE PILOT FOR APSA’S STEP SECTION

Nives Dolsak, University of Washington
Kathryn Harrison, University of British Columbia
George Hoberg, University of British Columbia
Aseem Prakash, University of Washington

THE CHALLENGE

The IPCC’S 1.5C report confirms that immediate and dramatic reductions in carbon emissions are needed to prevent severe damage to human and ecosystem welfare. Airline travel is one of the most rapidly growing categories of carbon emissions and one of the least regulated. Airline travel for conferences is probably the largest component of most academics’ carbon footprint. Even as our research is a public good, as relatively wealthy individuals living carbon-intensive lives, we nonetheless have a special responsibility to explore opportunities to produce the same knowledge with a smaller carbon footprint. That’s also something that many academics are either already committed to doing or keen to try.

Done well, low-carbon forms of conference participation can enhance the rich intellectual exchange that draws academics to conferences. Indeed, participants in some low-carbon (online) conferences report receiving more questions and feedback online than is often the case in time-limited, face-to-face conference sessions. Low-carbon conferencing also has the potential to increase the quality and diversity of intellectual exchanges by facilitating greater participation by academics who would not otherwise be able to attend a traditional-format conference, whether by virtue of funding, distance, or a commitment to a low-carbon lifestyle. The last is likely to be a growing constraint for the STEP section in particular.

The technology already exists for low-carbon conferencing and is rapidly improving. The cost of digital data has fallen dramatically. Many of us already have experience with meetings, webinars, and workshops with online presentations and/or audiences.
A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR NEXT STEPS

We call on the STEP section, in collaboration and with support from the APSA secretariat, to pilot both low-carbon online presentations and panels at the 2020 meeting in addition to traditional, onsite panels. The proposal includes the following elements:

• That STEP members call on APSA to include carbon offsets, with opt-out, in registration fees starting in 2020. APSA already differentiates registration fees reflecting a participant’s membership status. Carbon offsets would be an additional option for registration and would require an embedded carbon calculator.
• One or two STEP panels in which all presentations and attendance would be low-carbon/ online. During the pilot year, these panels should be over and above the allocated traditional (face-to-face) panel quota.
• A limited number (3 to 5) of online presentations as part of otherwise traditional panels
• APSA tech support to cover at least the following elements:
  o In the case of panels with one or more online presenters, provision of a hot spot with sufficient bandwidth. This will likely require arrangements external to host hotels (which, after all, have financial disincentives to promote online conferencing).
  o Choice of conferencing software (e.g. zoom) by APSA, potentially on a pilot basis to be negotiated with the provider. Online resources for online presenters and audience members (which would be adapted and reused in future years)
  o In-person tech support at panels with a low-carbon/online option. This would likely require earlier room access than is standard for traditional APSA panels.
  o Careful choice and support of Chairs for hybrid and low-carbon panels
• APSA support to include online attendees in the audience count
• APSA pilot pricing for registration (ideally a nominal fee) for low-carbon participants, who will not have the same opportunities to benefit from other panels at this limited pilot stage.
• Post-conference evaluation, including survey of panelists, audience, and section organizers.

THE LONGER TERM VISION

Low-carbon conferencing is unlikely to fully replace traditional conferencing. Rather, the objective is to create an appropriate mix of the two modes of conferencing.

In the long-term we envision APSA (and other) annual meetings with the following characteristics:

• Traditional (onsite, face-to-face) and low-carbon (online) meetings in alternating years. This might begin with some sections before moving APSA-wide.
• Traditional meetings will include options for fully low-carbon panels and for hybrid panels (panels with onsite and online presenters and audience). These could be complemented with recording of presentations and/or ongoing questions and discussion online.
• More diverse forms of presentation will require:
  o New ways to count audience participation
  o Differentiated registration categories
  o Tech-support for hybrid and low-carbon panels at traditional conferences and for completely low-carbon meetings in alternating years.
We are pleased to announce the recipients of this year’s STEP Awards! Join us in honoring them at our business meeting Friday, August 30th, 2019.
DON K. PRICE BOOK AWARD
Committee: Mark Buntaine (Chair), Anne Clunan, Eric Patashnik
The award committee selected Scientific Cosmology and International Orders by Bentley B. Allan for the Don K. Price book award. Scientific Cosmology and International Orders is an incredibly ambitious book that shows how science has realigned world politics by changing the way people understand the purpose of the state. It reviews over 600 years of world history and demonstrates how key scientific moments have changed the way that power is understood and exercised. This ultimately helps to explain key features of world orders over centuries.

LYNTON KEITH CALDWELL BOOK AWARD
Committee: Leigh Raymond (Chair), Saba Siddiki, Roger Karapin
The STEP award committee selected David Vogel's California Greenin' as the winner of the 2018 Caldwell Award. The decision was a difficult one based on the diverse and high quality nominations for the award this year. Vogel's book offers a timely and original account of a fundamental question in environmental politics: Why are California's environmental policies so much stronger than other states. Drawing on a diverse range of primary and secondary sources over multiple decades of the state's complex political history, Vogel points to citizen mobilization, progressive business support, the creation of administrative capacity and autonomy, as well as the state's environmental beauty and resources, and its wealth, size, and geographic isolation as key factors in making it such an exceptional environmental leader. The committee found the book to be a remarkably thoughtful and comprehensive study of a surprisingly neglected topic: the origins of the environmental politics of this complex and crucial state. In short, Vogel's book rose to the top based on its timeliness, its originality and ambition, its careful theoretical analysis, and its skillful writing and presentation.

VIRGINIA M. WALSH DISSERTATION AWARD
Committee: Rob DeLeo (Chair), Megan Ruxton, Gregory Thaler
Dr. Janina Grabs’ dissertation, The Effectiveness of Market-Driven Regulatory Sustainability Governance: Assessing the Design of Private Sustainability Standards and Their Impacts on Latin American Coffee Farmers’ Production Practices, was chosen as this year’s Virginia M. Walsh Dissertation Award for the best dissertation in the field of science, technology and environmental politics. The members of the award committee unanimously agreed that Dr. Grabs makes an important theoretical contribution by examining the political dynamics transnational market-driven governance, focusing specifically on sustainability standards in the coffee industry. One committee member added that “While her focus is on market-driven standards in the coffee industry, I believe her use of extant theory provides a foundation
for other commodities where the lines of consumer and global citizen overlap.” Dr. Grabs seamlessly blends quantitative and qualitative methodologies, which makes for a very engaging read. Not only does this dissertation make an important contribution to the subfield of environmental policy and politics, but it will likely be of great interest to policymakers, issue advocates, and even some members of the general public.

**PAUL A. SABATIER BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARD**

Committee: David Shafie (Chair), Gwen Arnold, Matt Nowlin

The committee chose Does It Matter if You “Believe” in Climate Change? The Example of Coastal Home Vulnerability, by Debra Javeline, Tracy Kijewski-Correa, and Angela Chesler - All authors at the University of Notre Dame. The paper elegantly describes compelling and well-executed research. The goal of the paper is ambitious: To understand the connection between attitudes towards climate change held by coastal residents (likely to be adversely impacted by climate change) and actions those residents take to mitigate or adapt to climate change impacts on their homes. The authors query coastal residents about a range of specific structural features that could be built or added to their homes to enhance resilience; this specificity is a clear advantage of the authors’ multi-disciplinary collaboration that brings to bear engineering expertise. The authors’ approach is innovative in that few studies of climate change response have investigated actual structural vulnerability of homes or actions homeowners actually take to reduce vulnerability.

**EVAN RINGQUIST BEST PAPER AWARD**

Committee: Kirsten Rodine-Hardy (Chair), Jonas Meckling, Endre Tvinereim

Can technological change contribute to political turnover? Influential theories suggest that technological change represents a form of creative destruction that can weaken incumbents and strengthen outsiders, leading to political turnover. Aditya Das Gupta’s paper published in the American Political Science Review titled “Technological Change and Political Turnover: The Democratizing Effects of the Green Revolution in India” investigates a large-scale historical natural experiment: the impact of the green revolution on single-party dominance in India. Drawing on a theoretical framework based on models of contests, this paper argues that high-yielding variety (HYV) crops strengthened the incentives and capacity of a politically excluded group, in this case agricultural producers, to seek greater political representation. Exploiting the timing of the introduction of HYV crops, together with district-level variation in suitability for the new crop technology, instrumental variables analyses show that the green revolution played a pivotal role in the rise of agrarian opposition parties and decline of single-party dominance. The findings support theories linking technological change to political turnover, with important implications for the political economy of democratization.
OSTROM CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Committee: Chris Koski (chair), Tom Birkland, Sarah Anderson

The committee evaluated the candidates for the Elinor Ostrom Career Achievement Award on the basis of the quantity and quality of publications, their impact, their service to the profession, and graduate training and mentorship. This award is given to an individual in recognition of their lifetime contribution to the study of science, technology, and environmental politics. This year’s recipient, Thomas Bernauer, has authored or co-authored 104 articles in referred journals, 11 books, and many book chapters. His publications have advanced our understanding of the effectiveness of international environmental institutions – one of these papers, which places careful emphasis on how to measure effectiveness, has been cited over 350 times. And they have added nuance to how we think about the content of international agreements, showing that even stringent monitoring and enforcement can attract signers if these same treaties include sufficient incentives and good dispute settlement provisions.

Moreover, he has done this theoretical and empirical work in areas ranging from air quality to food biotechnology to climate governance to water management. Dr. Bernauer has served the public as lead author of both the United Nations Environmental Program’s Global Environmental Outlook and a chapter for the IPCC. He has served academics by helping to found the Environmental Politics and Governance Conference and Network. Finally, he is a generous mentor, having chaired the committees of 29 PhD students, several of whom provided glowing testimonials. His nominators (11 of them) summed up their nomination by saying “Professor Thomas Bernauer embodies all the qualities we so admired in Lin Ostrom. He has an impressive record of accomplishments throughout his career. His scholarly contributions are exceptional, and he has played an important role in promoting the field of international and comparative environmental policy. He is an institution builder and a committed mentor who always prioritizes the interests of his mentees and emerging scholars.”

EMERGING YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

Committee: Aseem Prakash (Chair), Tanya Heikkila, Rachel Krause

We are pleased to recommend Professor Jonas Meckling (University of California, Berkeley) for STEP’s Emerging Young Scholar Award. The committee would also like to note the outstanding accomplishments of other scholars nominated for this award. Consequently, the selection process was challenging but eventually the committee unanimously recommends Jonas Meckling for this award.

Professor Meckling is an Assistant Professor of Energy and Environmental Policy at Berkeley’s Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. He completed his Ph.D. in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics in 2010. Subsequently, he has served as a Research Fellow at Harvard University, worked for the European Commission as well as a Senior Advisor
for Germany’s Minister for Environment. He has published a book with MIT Press, has 22 articles in political science and interdisciplinary journals, and secured $1.5 million in grant funding. His work has been cited 603 times with H Index of 12. He has also contributed to public scholarship through his publications in Foreign Affairs and the Washington Post. In 2018, he won the APSA/STEP’s Evan J. Ringquist Award for the best paper on science, technology and environmental politics published in the past two years.

Professor Meckling’s work focuses on the role of business in climate politics, specifically, carbon pricing and green industrial policy. His work employs multiple methods, including comparative case designs, process tracing, statistical analysis, and discourse analysis.

His book, **Carbon Coalitions: Business, Climate Politics, and the Rise of Emissions Trading** (MIT Press), demonstrates how polluting industries themselves were key in promoting the policy instrument globally. This book offers an endogenous theory of regulation that explores the desire of businesses to seek policy accommodation, rather than capture of the policy process. This is an important argument because it underscores how businesses recognize the need to secure political and social legitimacy for their work, in addition to the traditional concerns of profit maximization. He has published related work on carbon tax politics in several journals, including *Governance, Global Environmental Politics, Environmental Politics, Nature Climate Change, Nature Energy,* and *Science.*

Second, he has examined how policy institutions and international trade shape both the emergence and contours of green industrial policy, specifically in the solar energy and electric vehicles sectors. This work again reveals the interaction between business and politics in shaping the emergence of new industries. This research has been published in journals such as *International Studies Quarterly, Energy Policy, Business and Politics,* the *European Journal of International Relations,* and the *Review of International Political Economy.*

In their nomination letter, Professors Kate O’Neill and David Vogel, note: “we are nominating Jonas for the Emerging Young Scholar Award because of his high pace in producing excellent work on climate and green industrial policy that offers theoretical innovation across relevant fields of the STEP community and policy relevance. His work increasingly bridges the two bodies of literature that make up the STEP community: science and technology policy and environmental policy. He has an active future research agenda laid out, and shows every sign of continuing along this same, excellent research trajectory.”

Given these remarkable achievements, we enthusiastically recommend Professor Jonas Meckling for the STEP Emerging Young Scholar Award.

**GRADUATE STUDENT INCLUSION TRAVEL GRANT**

**Committee:** Dorothy Daly (Chair), Erica Simmons, Iza Ding

**Recipients:** Juhi Huda, University of Colorado Boulder; Jongeun You, University of Colorado Denver
CALL FOR PAPERS

“GLOBAL RESOURCE INDUSTRIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS: DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES, METHODS, LITERATURES AND COMPARATIVE INSIGHTS,” A SPECIAL ISSUE OF SUSTAINABILITY.


Michael Dougherty, the editor, says: “For this issue I am interested in papers that focus on the nuts and bolts of thinking about and doing research on “extractivism,” broadly construed. For example, I would be keen to receive 1) reflections on the methodological and conceptual contributions of particular disciplines to the study of extractivism, 2) case studies/reflections on the fieldwork challenges unique to these topics, 3) literature reviews on specific dimensions of this interdisciplinary field, and 4) empirical papers that highlight contrasts across cases at any and all scalar levels... Given that Sustainability is open-access, accepted papers will be assessed a not-insignificant ‘author processing charge.’”

NEW BOOK SERIES

Bristol University Press has introduced a new book series on Transnational Administration and Global Policy.

Proposals should focus on one or more of the following: global (public) policy, transnational administration, international public administration, regional/international organizations, global administrative law, international administrative law, and/or the transnationalisation of other global governance actors including NGOs, corporations, think-tanks, foundations, transnational public-private partnerships, cities, and so on. This Series is open to various topics, sectors, countries/regions, disciplines, and methodological perspectives.

For more information, visit https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/transnational-administration-and-global-policy

PRIZE COMPETITION

For the third year in a row, Case Studies in the Environment will be offering a $2000 prize for the best environmental case study published by the journal between September 15, 2018 and October 15, 2019, as well as two $500 honorable mentions.

Deadline for submission is October 15.

Guidelines for the competition can be found at https://cse.ucpress.edu/content/prize-competition.
JOBS

The University of Bergen seeks an Associate professor in their Department of Administration and Organization Theory within climate and energy transformation, in collaboration with CET.


RECENT ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

A symposium on “The Green New Deal: Pathways to a Low Carbon Economy,” in Public Administration Review: 26 commentaries on various dimensions of the transition to a low carbon economy.

NEW BOOKS

DANIEL P. ALDRICH, BLACK WAVE: HOW NETWORKS AND GOVERNANCE SHAPED JAPAN’S 3/11 DISASTERS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Despite the devastation caused by the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and 60-foot tsunami that struck Japan in 2011, some 96% of those living and working in the most disaster-stricken region of Tōhoku made it through. Smaller earthquakes and tsunamis have killed far more people in nearby China and India. What accounts for the exceptionally high survival rate? And why is it that some towns and cities in the Tōhoku region have built back more quickly than others?

Black Wave illuminates two critical factors that had a direct influence on why survival rates varied so much across the Tōhoku region following the 3/11 disasters and why the rebuilding process has also not moved in lockstep across the region. Individuals and communities with stronger networks and better governance, Daniel P. Aldrich shows, had higher survival rates and accelerated recoveries. Less-connected communities with fewer such ties faced harder recovery processes and lower survival rates. Beyond the individual and neighborhood levels of survival and recovery, the rebuilding process has varied greatly, as some towns and cities have sought to work independently on rebuilding plans, ignoring recommendations from the national government and moving quickly to institute their own visions, while others have followed the guidelines offered by Tokyo-based bureaucrats for economic development and rebuilding.

NOAH J. TOLY, THE GARDENERS’ DIRTY HANDS: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

The past three centuries have witnessed the accumulation of unprecedented levels of wealth and the production of unprecedented risks. These risks include the declining integrity and stability of many of the world’s environments, which face dramatic and possibly irreversible change as the environmental burdens of late modern lifestyles increasingly shift to fragile ecosystems, vulnerable communities, and future generations. Globalization has increased the scope and scale of these risks, as well as the pace of their emergence. It has also made possible global environmental governance, attempts to manage risk by unprecedented numbers and types of authoritative agents, including state and non-state actors at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

In The Gardeners’ Dirty Hands: Environmental Politics and Christian Ethics, Noah Toly offers an interpretation of environmental governance that draws upon insights into the tragic - the need to forego, give up, undermine, or destroy one or more goods in order to possess or secure one or more other goods. Toly engages Christian and classical Greek ideas of the tragic to illuminate the enduring challenges of environmental politics. He suggests that Christians have unique resources for responsible engagement with global environmental politics while acknowledging the need for mutually agreed, and ultimately normative, restraints.
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.