

ESPM 150: NAVIGATING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT: KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES AND RISK

Spring 2006
M, W 4-5.30 pm
2301 Tolman
CCN 30348

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4

Course Outline

This course examines the complex interrelationships between humans, human activity, globalization and the environment at local and global levels, presenting key ideas, debates and approaches in this arena within broader humanities and social science frameworks. We will look at specific cases, and how they have become sites of conflict or concern, focusing on the drivers and impacts of, and resistance to, resource extraction around the world, and on the new global politics of risk (and local politics of global risks).

The first part of this course will examine some of the different theoretical themes and perspectives we will use to illuminate the cases. These include changing views of the “global environment”, the institutions and impacts of globalization, the emergence of the environmental movement and transnational movement networks, and ways of looking at connections between global processes and local communities.

I have selected 7 cases: oil, local knowledge and intellectual property rights, climate change, toxics, water, consumption, and transnational disease. Each demonstrates “global connections” in different ways, and has become a focal point for conflict in local, national and global political arenas. We will also examine how transnational networks of activists, scientists and others have emerged to help address problems shared by communities around the world.

Assignments and Grading**1. Attendance, Participation and E-mail Reading Responses: 60% of grade**

- a. You are expected to come to class having done the readings and be prepared to participate in class discussions. If you are going to be absent, please do your best to notify Professor O'Neill in advance.
- b. Over the course of the semester, you must submit **10 e-mail responses** to the class list-serve (see below). This means one per week, starting the week of January 30. These should be brief (one or two paragraph) responses to the readings and case material, and will help guide our in-class discussions. You may use this opportunity to raise questions, assess arguments, or request

further information on a perspective or case. In particular, if you have any "huh?" questions, get them out early, to give us time to think about answers. You may also bring in insights or information from outside the class.

In order to contribute to class discussion, please post by 1 pm on the day the readings or issue are to be discussed.

2. 10-15 pp. (double-spaced) paper on a topic related to the course: 40% of grade

You may write this paper on a topic of your choice, as long as it relates to the themes of the course. You might, for example, want to explore one of the course topics in more depth, or examine a case, group of actors (or even a country) not covered. If you are engaged in an outside research project (a senior thesis, for example), you may use this opportunity to write a piece of that. You may also write a book review (guidelines to be distributed). I will work with you to ensure you've chosen a good topic, and provide extra resources as needed.

Deadlines:

By March 15: talk to Professor O'Neill about your choice of topic

April 3: Brief abstract and short bibliography due in class

May 1 and/or May 3: be prepared to talk to the class for a couple of minutes on your topic choice

May 18 (Thursday): Final paper due

3. The List-Serve

To subscribe to the list serve (compulsory):

Either go to nature's email web site:

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/mailman/listinfo/espm150>

Or send a one-line message 'subscribe' to

espm150-admin@nature.berkeley.edu

The address for posting messages is: espm150@nature.Berkeley.EDU

Please make sure that list messages go to your inbox, not your junk folder!

The list-serve is to be used for: posting weekly responses, continuing class discussions, and notifying the group of events relevant to the course on campus or in the Bay Area. Normal conventions of netiquette apply: please don't over-post, remain civil at all times, and avoid emoticons. Make sure your subject lines are descriptive.

Readings and Class Structure

All readings listed on this syllabus (with the exception of the first session's NYT articles) are available as a Reader from Krishna Copies on University Avenue just above Shattuck Avenue. A copy of the readings will also be placed on reserve at the Bioscience Library. There is no textbook for the class.

Note: this syllabus is a work in progress! Readings will be added, and may also be subtracted, to suit the direction of the class and the aspects of cases we choose to focus on (in which you will have some input). Any additional readings will be distributed in class in a timely manner.

Each class session will be divided between lecture and discussion. The final 10-15 minutes of class will be devoted to discussing what's coming next. You are expected to come to class ready to talk about that day's topic, and you are encouraged to participate as much as possible. This is a new course, and you have great opportunity to shape its future development.

The readings are designed to cover a range of perspectives and viewpoints: NGO reports, newspaper and magazine articles, work by "activist-scholars"; Western and non-Western perspectives, and perspectives from different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Some are "classics", others provocative, and others informative (and some are all three). I will give you plenty of guidance as to what to look for and how to read each piece as they come up.

Class Schedule and Readings

January 18 – Introduction to the Course

No readings

January 23 – Defining Global Connections: Gold Mining and its Impacts

3 articles from The New York Times series on The Cost of Gold:

- "Behind Gold's Glitter: Torn Lands and Pointed Questions" (by Jane Perlez and Kirk Johnson), NYT, October 24, 2005
- "Tangled Strands in Fight over Peru Gold Mine" (by Jane Perlez and Lowell Bergman), NYT, October 25, 2005
- "Below a Mountain of Wealth, a River of Waste" (by Jane Perlez and Raymond Bonner), NYT, December 27, 2005

January 25 – Perspectives on the "Global Environment"

Ken Conca (2005), "Environmental Governance After Johannesburg: From Stalled Legalization to Environmental Human Rights?", *Journal of International Law & International Relations*, vol. 1, issue 1-2, 2005

Wolfgang Sachs (2003), "Environment and Human Rights, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), "Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-Being: Statement from the Board" (skim)

January 30 – Perspectives on Globalization

"A Critique of Corporate Globalization", from Cavanagh, J. and J. Mander, Eds. (2002). *Alternatives to*

Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible; A Report of the International Forum on Globalization. San Francisco, Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne (2005). *Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment*. Cambridge, MIT Press, chapter 2 (“The Ecological Consequences of Globalization”)

Kate O'Neill (2004). "Transnational Protest: States, Circuses, and Conflict at the Frontline of Global Politics." *International Studies Review* 6: 233-251.

February 1 – Perspectives on Environmental Movements

Ramachandra Guha, (2000). *Environmentalism: A Global History*. New York, Longman, part 2: “Environmentalism’s Second Wave”

Steve Breyman, “Knowledge as Power: Ecology Movements and Global Environmental Problems”, in Lipschutz, R. D. and K. Conca, Eds. (1993). *The State and Social Power in Global Environmental Politics*. New York, Columbia University Press.

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink (1998). *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, Introduction

February 6: Connecting Global and Local

Vandana Shiva (1993). The Greening of the Global Reach. *Global Ecology: A New Arena of Political Conflict*. W. Sachs. London, Zed Books.

Andrew Light, Globalization and the Need for an Urban Environmentalism, in Aronowitz, S. and H. Gautney, Eds. (2003). *Implicating Empire: Globalization and Resistance in the 21st Century World Order*. New York, Basic Books.

Martello, M. L. (2004). Negotiating Global Nature and Local Culture: The Case of Makah Whaling. *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. S. Jasanoff and M. L. Martello. Cambridge, MIT Press.

AND/OR

Susanne Freidberg (2001), “On the Trail of the Green Bean: Methodological Considerations in Multi-Site Ethnography”, *Global Networks* 1:4, pp. 353-368

Case 1: Oil and Community Politics/Resistance (Guest Instructor: Dr Leslie Wirpsa - wirpsa@hotmail.com)

February 8: The Paradox of Plenty

Terry Lynn Karl (1999), “The Perils of the Petro-State: Reflections on the Paradox of Plenty”, *Journal of International Affairs*, 53:1

Michael Ross (1999), “The Political Economy of the Resource Curse”, *World Politics* 51:2

February 13: Resistance to Oil Extraction

Video: Trinkets and Beads (to watch in class)

Ian Gary and Terry Karl (2003), *Bottom of the Barrel: Africa’s Oil Boom and the Poor*, Report produced for Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) - extracts

Case 2: Local Knowledge, Intellectual Property Rights, Biological Diversity and Biotechnology

February 15: Knowledge as a Resource

- “The Commons: What Should Be Off-Limits to Globalization?”, from Cavanagh, J. and J. Mander, Eds. (2002). *Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible; A Report of the International Forum on Globalization*. San Francisco, Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
- Stephen B. Brush (1993), “Indigenous Knowledge of Biological Resources and Intellectual Property Rights: The Role of Anthropology”, *American Anthropologist*, 95:3, pp. 653-686
- Arun Agrawal (2002), “Indigenous Knowledge and the Politics of Classification”, *International Social Science Journal*, 54:173, pp. 287-297

February 20: Global Conflicts over Access – Food and Medicine; ICBG and TRIPS

- Vandana Shiva and Radha Holla-Bhar (1996), “Piracy by Patent: The Case of the Neem Tree”, in Mander, J. and E. Goldsmith, Eds. (1996). *The Case Against the Global Economy and For a Turn Toward the Local*. San Francisco, Sierra Club Books.

Then EITHER:

a. Food Security and Food Sovereignty

- Geoff Tansey (2002), “Food Security, Biotechnology and Intellectual Property: Unpacking some issues around TRIPS”, Discussion Paper from the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva
- Vandana Shiva (2004), “The Future of Food: Countering Globalization and Recolonization of Indian Agriculture”, *Futures*, 36:6-7, pp. 715-732.

OR:

b. Medicine and Bioprospecting

- International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (National Institutes of Health), Overview, at <http://www.fic.nih.gov/programs/icbg.html>
- Corliss Karasov (2001), “Who Reaps the Benefits of Biodiversity?”, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 109:12
- Susan Ferries, “‘Bioprospecting’ for modern medicine; Mexicans fear plunder of secrets, resist UGA plant study”. *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, January 31, 2001
- Scholz, A. (2004). Merchants of Diversity: Scientists as Traffickers of Plants and Institutions. *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. S. Jasanoff and M. L. Martello. Cambridge, MIT Press.

If you have the opportunity, check out the website of two major NGOs working on these issues: GRAIN (www.grain.org; based in Spain), and the ETC Group (formerly RAFI – the Rural Advancement Foundation International, at <http://www.etcgroup.org>; based in Canada).

February 22: Oil, Part 3: Dr. Anna Zalik to talk on Politics of Oil Extraction in Nigeria and Mexico

Michael Watts, “Petro-Violence: Community, Extraction, and Political Ecology of a Mythical Commodity”, in N. L. Peluso, and M. Watts, Eds. (2001). *Violent Environments*. Ithaca, Cornell University Press.

Case 3: Climate Change: translating to the local: February 27 and March 1

1. Introducing Climate Change

Steven Bocking (2004), “Science and the Global Environment”, chapter 5 of *Nature’s Experts: Science, Politics and the Environment*, Rutgers University Press (**in the reader**)

- A really good introduction to the relationship between climate science and politics; brings discussion down to the local level
- For a quick and dirty intro to climate change and global politics, see pp. 2-3 of “A Citizen’s Guide to Climate Refugees” (see below)

2. Short but Relevant Newspaper Articles

Michael McCarthy, “Environment in Crisis: ‘We Are Past the Point of No Return’”, *The Independent (London)*, January 16, 2006 (**in the reader**)

Andrew Simms, “Unnatural Disasters”, *The Guardian (London)*, October 15, 2003

“Climate Change could be next legal battlefield”, *The Financial Times*, July 7, 2003.

3. The Arctic – and Local Knowledge

Erika M. Zimmerman (2005), “Valuing Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Incorporating the Experiences of Indigenous People into Global Climate Change Policies”, *New York University Environmental Law Journal*, vol. 13, pp. 803-847 (**in the reader**)

- A good, short introduction from the perspective of a legal scholar

Charles Wohlforth, “As the Arctic Melts, An Ancient Culture Faces Ruin”, *National Wildlife Magazine*, April/May 2005 and “The Iñupiaq Supercomputer: What the Whale Hunters Know & Some Scientists Want to Discover”, Anchorage Press, Nov 8-14, 2001 at

<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=74&articleID=1059> and

<http://www.wohlforth.net/whaling.html>

- Wohlforth, an Alaskan journalist, has written a terrific book, *The Whale and the Supercomputer* (2005), that examines the ways local indigenous and non-indigenous Alaskans experience and know about climate change cf. the NSF-type scientists who come into the area. Excerpts, alas, don’t work, as it’s very dependent on a set of characters and narratives referenced throughout the book (but, this is a good suggestion for a book review, if you’re doing that assignment). See also his website:

www.wohlforth.net

Marybeth Long Martello (2004), “Local Knowledge: Global Change Science and the Arctic Citizen”, *Science and Public Policy*, 31:2, pp. 107-115

- In this article, Dr, Martello examines all the global environmental threats – climate, toxics, etc – that are manifesting in the Arctic – and how “arctic citizens” are shaping global climate science

4. The Tropics – Adaptation and Environmental Refugees

Emma L. Tompkins (2005), “Planning for Climate Change in Small Island States: Insights from national

hurricane preparedness in the Cayman Islands”, *Global Environmental Change*, v. 15, pp. 139-149 (**in reader**)

- Note the relevance to Hurricane Katrina – the importance of local political and social institutions in preparing for hurricanes – a likely result of CC

Friends of the Earth (Australia) (2006), “A Citizen’s Guide to Climate Refugees”

- Good intro to why CC will lead to more refugees, and the so far not very impressive efforts of the international community to plan for them

Germanwatch (2004), “Climate Change Challenges Tuvalu”

- This NGO report goes into more depth as to the situation in Tuvalu, and international legal options

The FOE and Germanwatch reports are on-line at:

<http://www.germanwatch.org/klak/fb-tuv-e.htm>

<http://www.foe.org.au/download/CitizensGuide.pdf>

(nb: both are pretty large documents)

Myanna Lahsen, “Transnational Locals: Brazilian Experiences of the Climate Regime”, in Jasanoff, S. and M. Long Martello, Eds. (2004). *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. Cambridge, MIT Press (in reader)

- Especially if you’re interested in Brazil. This article also looks at how scientists from non-Western countries interact with, and deal with the global science community.

5. Cities for Climate Protection

Check out the website for info and data on the program: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>

Gard Lindseth, “The Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCPC) and the Framing of Local Climate Policy

- An article that introduces and assesses the program.

Case 4: Global Governance of Fresh Water Resources (Privatization, Dams)

March 6: Fresh Water and Global Governance

Readings TBA

March 8: The Politics of Large Dams

Ken Conca (2006), “The Ecology of Human Rights: Anti-Dam Activism and Watershed Democracy”, chapter 6 of *Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building*. Cambridge, MIT Press.

Sanjeev Khagram (2004), “Dams, Democracy and Development in Transnational Perspective”, chapter 6 of *Dams and Development: Transnational Struggles for Water and Power*. Ithaca, Cornell University Press.

UNEP, Global Environmental Outlook chapter on Fresh Water, at <http://www.unep.org/GEO/geo3/english/pdf.htm>

March 13: Privatizing Water?

Ken Conca (2006), "Invisible Hand, Visible Fist: The Transnational Politics of Water Marketization", chapter 7 of *Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building*. Cambridge, MIT Press.

March 15 – Assessment and Evaluation so far / Discussing Research and Assignments

March 20 and 22: Classes Cancelled

Both instructors are out of town at a conference. During this week, you are expected to undertake preparatory work on your research paper. A brief topic outline and bibliography are due to Professor O'Neill on April 3

March 27 and 29 – Spring Break

April 3: Overview so far and Writing Assignments

No reading

April 5: Environmental Impacts of War

Brown, Valerie J. (2004). "Battle Scars: Global Conflicts and Environmental Health." And Schmidt, Charles W. (2004). "The Price of Preparing for War." Both in *Environmental Health Perspectives* 112(17), on-line at <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2004/112-17/focus.html>

Norimitsu Onishi, "Does a Tiger Lurk in the Middle of a Fearful Symmetry?", *New York Times*, September 5, 2004

Weinstein, Tara (2005). "Prosecuting Attacks that Destroy the Environment: Environmental Crimes or Humanitarian Atrocities?" *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review* 17: 697-722

April 10: Food – Guest Lecture: Dr. Alastair Iles

Iles, A. (2005). "Learning in Sustainable Agriculture: Food Miles and Missing Objects." *Environmental Values* 14: 163-183. **(in reader)**

Richard Manning, "The Oil We Eat: Following the Food Chain Back to Iraq", *Harpers Magazine*, February 2004 **(in reader)**

April 12: Traveling Toxics: POPs and Wastes

Charles W. Schmidt, "e-Junk Explosion", *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110:4 (April 2002).

Charles W. Schmidt, "Unfair Trade: E-Waste in Africa", *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 114:4 (April 2006)

James Graff, "Troubled Waters", *Time (Europe)*, January 30, 2006

Adeola, F. O. (2004). "Boon or Bane? The Environmental and Health Impacts of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)." *Human Ecology Review* **11**(1): 27-35.

O'Neill, K. (2001). "The Changing Nature of Global Waste Management for the 21st Century: A Mixed Blessing?" *Global Environmental Politics* **1**(1): 77-98: focus especially on pp. 77-81 (the first 5 pp), and pp. 92-96.

April 17: Toxics – Community Responses; Guest Lecture: Dr. Karen Hoffman

Melissa Toffolon-Weiss and Timmons Roberts, "Who Wins, Who Loses? Understanding Outcomes of Environmental Justice Struggles, in Pellow and Brulle, eds., *Power, Justice and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, Cambridge: MIT Press (2005)

"Communities Concerned about Corporations", in Fortun, Kim. (2001). *Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

April 19: Making Global Connections I – The Individual Perspective (Leslie will lead discussion; Kate out of town)

Paul Wapner and John Willoughby (2005), "The Irony of Environmentalism: The Ecological Futility but Political Necessity of Lifestyle Change", *Journal of Ethics and International Affairs*, 19:3. (in reader)

April 24: Goldman Prize Ceremony (for those attending)/Looking at the World Bank (for those not attending)

David Hunter (2001), "The World Bank: A Lighter Shade of Green?", in Olav Schram Stokke and Øystein B. Thommessen (eds.), *Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development 2001/2002* (London: Earthscan Publications), 59–67.

Goldman, Michael (2004), *Imperial Science, Imperial Nature: Environmental Knowledge for the World (Bank)*, in Jasanoff and Martello, *Earthly Politics* (MIT Press)

April 26: Making Global Connections II – Pulling Together the Threads of the Course

For this class we will revisit some of the "greatest hits" of the reading so far (to be nominated)

May 1 - Presentations

May 3 - Presentations

May 8 – Conclusions