P06 / Climate Change Governance of Tipping Points ¿Path Dependence or New Imaginaries?

Topic : GLOBAL WARMING, SDG, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND POLICY

Chair : Cristina Zurbriggen (Universidad de la Republica)

Second Chair : Margot Hurlbert (University of Regina)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Since their publication in 2009, planetary boundary concepts and related' tipping points' (Rockström et al., 2009; McKay et al., 2022) have significantly influenced academic debates and policy recommendations in international organizations and governments worldwide to move towards more sustainable governance. However, this framework has been the subject of multiple academic criticisms from the natural sciences, social sciences, and the political community. What is controversial is that the limits and tipping points are synonymous with climate risks and are proposed by experts (in natural sciences) without the participation of social scientists, governments, and the deliberation of the general public. In particular, the dimension of global inequality (particularly in the global south) and social justice is not included (Biermann and Kim 2020). Today an interesting global debate is taking place on how we can identify positive social tipping points to meet climate goals. Diverse authors have identified a lack of studies on tipping points in the socio-economic domain, and they might be highly policy-relevant in climate change (Filatova et al. 2016; Kopp et al. 2016; Biggs et al. 2018; Kabir et al. 2018; Milkoreitet al 2018).

This discussion reveals the need to discuss the model of governance we need in the 21st century to address planetary emergencies, live within planetary boundaries in a fair and just manner, and incite positive tipping points. One challenge is generating a more significant interaction between environmental dynamics (climate change, loss of biodiversity) and sociopolitical dynamics, allowing different types of knowledge to interact effectively. In this process, achieving greater participation of the actors is necessary, democratizing the decision-making processes in defining environmental objectives. Nevertheless, governance commencing at a local, regional, national, and international scale is a necessary enabling condition.

Reimagined governance will help address complex issues, currently epistemologically "gray areas" in environmental governance studies, such as understanding the role of the State, the political dimension determined by social values ????and priorities, as well as the relationships between knowledge/power and those involved in the processes of change in environmental governance (Chaffin et al., 2016) (Huntjens & Kemp, 2022).

Questions

· What are the implications of planetary boundaries and predominant tipping points framing the governance of the Earth system?

· How do the dominant scientific paradigms impact public policy? What consequences does it have for governance models? Isn't it necessary for a more robust political debate on environmental objectives?

· Are we returning to the old debate of evidence-based public policies or imagining a new future and supporting policies?

· Is it possible to make boundary-setting processes more democratic considering scientific knowledge science-based and people's future imaginaries?

· What challenges do academics/policymakers have? Is it necessary to create transdisciplinary spaces to generate knowledge, define objectives, and design strategies for change? What academic challenge is presented to studies on governance models? Is it helpful to combine elements of competing and coexisting governance paradigms (Karpouzoglou, Dewulf, and Clark, 2016) (Partelow et al., 2020)?.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This panel aims to collect contributions that analyze how to improve climate change governance, focusing on how public policy designs can shape the inclusion of diverse knowledge and perspectives on the governance of transitions, enabling more inclusive and sustainable policies. We invite submissions that

present novel ideas and policy recommendations to improve global environmental governance. Contributions are primarily sought on the following themes:

• Theoretical and critical reflections on the discussion of the limitation of tipping point framing based on ecological rather than the socio-political-cultural economic domain.

• Case studies of development with the participation of social scientists, governments, and the deliberation of the general public concerning particular sectors and mechanisms of climate governance (mitigation, adaptation.);

• Case studies highlighting best practices and challenges in operationalizing od public participation in policymaking processes and governance mechanisms addressing climate change in particular countries or regions of the world;

. Case studies that include inter and transdisciplinary research on relevant topics combine different theoretical and methodological approaches.

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Session 1Multi level and purpose tipping points

Tuesday, June 27th 13:30 to 15:30 (KHE321C)

Title: Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP): Exploring Challenges and Prospects in India

SUPARNA SONI (SUNY Buffalo State)

A growing population, rapid urbanization, and expanding industrial production have led to the over-exploitation of available limited natural resources and the growth of environmental pollution. Reflecting the global consensus on promoting environmental sustainability, the United Nations sustainable development goal (SDG), 12.7, characterized sustainable procurement as an effort to 'achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e., economic, social and environmental' (Wiesbrock, 2015, p. 75). In India, public procurement expenditure accounts for about 20 to 25% of the country's GDP (Prasad, 2018). Given the government's outsized role in shaping India's economic and social life, green public procurement has the potential to make a considerable contribution toward cementing sustainable development as one of the public values. However, the existing research tends to examine primarily developed countries, such as the UK, Sweden, the USA, and Germany (Brammer & Walker, 2011; Palm & Backman, 2017; Roman, 2017), with a paucity of studies in an Indian context with few from a public administration/ policy perspective (Kumar, 2022; Mansi, 2015; Sen, 2019).

SPP is a complex concept, and there is no public procurement law at the national level, and the practice of SPP has not evolved systematically. India has witnessed a developing conversation on sustainable procurement. India issued the new General Financial Rule (GFR) 2017, the Manual for Procurement of Goods 20172, and updated various other rules (MoEFCC, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c) to facilitate the process of sustainable public procurement. Nevertheless, procurement of sustainable products, works, and services by public contracting authorities on the ground has been slow, demonstrating that the path from integrating documents to effective implementation on the ground is usually long and winding (Kumar, 2022).

In that context, this research aims to examine the concept, and the drivers and barriers in adopting SPP as experienced, perceived, and narrated by the government agencies, think tanks, and UN and private agencies involved in policy making and undertaking of sustainable procurement. This research takes as its starting premise that the effective SPP adoption is fundamentally constitutive of the stakeholders' perception and participation from the public, private, and civil society agencies. This project asks two main questions: How do the stakeholders conceptualize SPP? Second, what are the drivers and barriers to adopting sustainable public procurement identified by key players involved in policymaking and undertaking sustainable procurement? The research utilizes a mixed method—in-depth interviews and quantitative surveys through in-person as well as email, zoom-based interviews where necessary. I choose expert interviews to collect data directly from those subjects involved in sustainable transformation processes with a broad overview of governments' decisions and in-depth insights about implementation actions. This study contributes to the public administration knowledge base regarding the concept and challenge of incorporating sustainable procurement by bringing valuable insights for academics and practitioners from a developing country's context.

(Virtual) Understanding the ‘territories’ of integrated climate governance: a territorialized approach for the meta-governance of the Valparaíso Region, Chile

Marco Billi (Universidad de Chile)

Climate change is an urgent and highly complex problem demanding new forms of governance, thinking out of the accustomed schemes. Recent research has gathered evidence of tipping elements in the climate

system and abrupt and self-perpetuating changes in local ecosystems in response to human impacts or cascading natural risks. In response, special attention has been paid to fostering integrated governance approaches that overcome the current fragmentation and answer the complex socio-ecological interlinkages making up the climate system.

Several proposals exist: however, most of them focus only on some domains, such as water or landscape management, and most retain a Global North and anthropocentric background. Especially in Latin America, there is a lack of analytical proposals to understand the complex and heterogeneous challenges, priorities, and determinants of integrated territorial governance of climate change at a meso- (sub-national 'regions') level.

Meanwhile, it is increasingly recognized that no mode of governance is universally better: rather, different models may have different strengths and limits that can accrue distinctively in each specific contexts and often imply 'hard choices' with respect to conflicting priorities, values and worldviews. A more 'situational' perspective is needed to assess the most desirable configuration in different 'territories' of governance. This proposal advocates for a more complex and territorialized understanding of meta-governance, one especially sensitive to recognizing and comparing the different 'territories' associated with concrete governance proposals, their disputes, and the tensions, overlaps, and spaces of inclusion and exclusion that these mobilize, seeking an articulation that builds on and at the same time transcends these differences.

To this aim, the paper combines the concept of meta-governance with the novel framework of integrated climate governance proposed by the Center on Climate and Resilience Research (CR)2, providing an analytical workflow and meta-principles to guide the assessment of existing governance arrangements at different scales and the effort to build new and contextually more suitable ones to promote climate change adaptation.

Based on this framework, we will provide preliminary insights on the challenge to promote just climate action in an integrated manner in the Valparaíso Region, Chile. This is a relevant case study both for the climate-change-related hardships it will have to face, and for the specific opportunities it presents in terms of territorial governance in the context of a severe socio-political crisis combined with interlocking normative and institutional reforms which shake and reshape the 'territory' of regional climate governance.

Combining a document (normative) analysis, interviews, and network analysis, we identify overlaps, synergies, and potential clashes between the different governance regimes set afoot by distinct institutional backgrounds to answer the challenges of the current climate and water crisis in the Region. From this, we suggest a framework for how to co-construct with the actors of the territory more suitable arrangements to advance towards more sustainable trajectories of governance that incorporate decisional tipping points.

Analyzing Public Sector Capacity for Adaptive Governance in northern Patagonia, Chile

Jeanne Simon (Universidad de Concepcion)

In the last decade, the Chilean government has made important legislative advances to address the challenges of climate change at the national level and began to decentralize decision-making. Still, decision-making processes remain technocratic and economically oriented, presenting important challenges for collaborative governance and sustainable development strategies at the sub-national level.

Faced with multiple social goals and management entities, effective adaptation requires greater flexibility and a shift towards decentralized, interactive governance. The present study develops and applies a framework to analyze public sector capacity for adaptive governance in the Region of Aysen, one of the most isolated territories in Chile. This case is interesting because it involves several common challenges for climate change adaption in a centralized state, such as multiple jurisdictions and limited institutional capacity at the subnational level. Further, the multiple conflicts over natural resource use and protection are important at the national level because Aysen is home to numerous national parks/reserves as well as to the nationally important salmon industry on its coast.

The combines an analysis of the institutional context with a survey of sub-national authorities and civil servants with respect to knowledge on the principal socio-ecological challenges and the principal stakeholders as well as openness to intersectoral coordination, public-private collaboration and local knowledge.

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Session 2Tipping points, energy, and change

Tuesday, June 27th 15:50 to 17:50 (KHE321C)

(Virtual) Governing future imaginaries of net zero power production emissions: tipping point of fossil fuel divestment

Margot Hurlbert (University of Regina)

Transitioning to net zero emissions in oil, gas and agricultural communities has never been more important, but complex policy problems. Governing multi sector, multi level decision making requires deep engagement with governance to reflect local context, place based characteristics, and achieve successful implementation and outcomes. Engaging with local placed based values and an inter-sectoral socio-ecological system analysis involving citizens is required to address barriers, risks and concerns. But can these processes advance learning and expedite policy implementation?

This paper presentation reports on citizen juries occurring in Saskatchewan, Canada through the years of 2017, 2021, and 2022. Citizen engaged deliberative juries in communities in Saskatchewan, Canada over two days introduced energy production, climate change, renewable and decentralized energy and tasked participants with making recommendations for an energy policy for the province. The study demonstrated that these methods do engender reflexivity in procedures of public energy engagement and normative outcomes surrounding support for renewable community energy. These conclusions were arrived at in all communities: a provincial capital, northern pro-environmental community, and coal, oil and gas supported communities. Although qualitative analysis supported conclusions of social learning, they also illustrate domination of jury discussions by participants with views divergent from the majority. Quantitative analysis of pre and post jury surveys support conclusions of confirmation bias.

This work documents a tipping point occurring in the fossil fuel industry advancing and embracing net zero emissions and possible pathways for the future developed in these communities. However, adaptive governance into the future will increasingly be important to address community concerns, transition a socio-technological regime, and navigate technological, regulatory, and social value uncertainty.

The East-West development ‘war’and climate change denials: Implications on energy transition for development plans in Africa

Taiwo Olaiya (Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife)

Temitope Oyediran (Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife)

“...history is not only relevant but urgent” Carli Coetzee (2022).

Abstract

Despite critical forces from the East, led by China (and Russia), plotting to whittle down the West’s dominance of global economy and the certainty about anthropogenic origin of climate change crisis blurring for economic and political reasons particularly in Western propaganda and the development agenda of the East, scholarly efforts aimed at examining the implications of the dire phenomena on the development plans of African states is, surprisingly, a road less travelled. Everywhere, energy source continues to shape development plans: no one should expect a difference in Africa where economic development follows the advanced American and European typologies, and perhaps that of China’s last two decades of economic wonder that has continued to take the world by storm. While the political rhetoric of American conservatives championed by former US President Donald Trump and China’s economic advancement respectively carpet and remain insensitive to carbon emissions from fossil fuels on the one hand, the seemingly coordinated

attacks on science in providing unrivalled explanation for climate change disasters looms large on the other hand. The article outlines the situation, particularly as they shape the trajectories of Africa development continuity and contradictions. It provides a subjective overview of these threats for fledging economies like that of most African states and the perplexity they represent in blotching the development plans. The research showcases the catastrophic consequences on the development agenda in Africa when the crux hits at energy sources, and the confusion drums are coming from certain sources whose development trajectories Africa emulates or wishes to attain, wittingly or unwittingly.

This article ignites a veritable second thought and creates a sense of disorientation in the annals of African economic backwardness by exploring the internal and internalised factors that contribute, in no small measure, to the development statuses of the states. The author explored the instruments of history and social anthropology with a storytelling appeal that speaks to the actual facts on the ground in Nigeria, nay Africa.

Instrumental support for democratic innovations among citizens, politicians and businesses

Dennis Abel (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany)

Citizen involvement in decision-making on the energy transition is broadly demanded from policy-makers, activists, supranational institutions and academics. However, it remains unclear whether the support for these kinds of participatory processes is rooted in a procedural commitment to giving citizens voice or is rather driven by instrumental expectations of particular outcomes (for instance, more progressive climate and energy policy). Many actors might see participatory processes as a shortcut to achieving certain policy goals and might retract their support when these processes do not deliver on favoured outcome expectations. While research on citizens provides some insights into the instrumental nature of their democratic process preferences, it remains unclear to what extent such considerations also structure the attitudes of politicians and businesses.

The goal of the study is to investigate reactions to participatory decision-making on the energy transition among citizens, politicians and businesses simultaneously. Specifically, we aim to test the importance of instrumental considerations for respondents perception of fairness and their willingness to accept the decision.

To this end, we design a split sample survey experiment to test respondents willingness to accept the decision & perception of fairness of a participatory process on energy policy, depending on whether the favourability of the decision. Specifically, we aim to conduct the experiment amongst all three groups of respondents to uncover differences in the extent to which participatory processes can build legitimacy for the energy transition among citizens, policy makers and business representatives.

The analysis is based on an original and georeferenced dataset of more than 10,000 respondents from 16 EU countries. Participants are set in a hypothetical decision-making situation on increasing parking ticket prices as a measure to reduce CO2 emissions and local pollution. Variation in the vignette concerning deliberative structures of citizen assemblies and the amount of the price increase between control and treatment groups provide information on approval ratings for the measure depending on its severity. The group comparison between citizens, policymakers and business representatives furthermore allows conclusions to be drawn about instrumental preferences and procedural commitments.