P03 / Decolonizing Climate Policy in the Global South: Structural Changes in Policy Making

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

Chair : Aritra Chakrabarty (University of Exeter)

Second Chair : Amal Ennabih (Sciences Po Lyon / UMR Triangle / CNRS)

Third Chair : Lorena Torres Bernardino (UMR Triangle / CNRS / Sciences Po Lyon)

Fourth Chair : Mireille Manga (IRIC, University of Yaounde II)

5th Chair : Kiran Kumar Gowd (Center for Politics and Policy Studies (CPPS))

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Climate change adaptation and mitigation policies are governed globally by frameworks of exceptional proportions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Aykut & Maertens, 2021; Aykut et al. 2017). Scholars have pointed out the limited results that such global environmental governance has on achievements while at the same time have highlighted the emergence of new pathways of more efficient and equitable policy making focused on local governance using local knowledge specifically in the Global South (Dahan, 2014 ; Leah S. Horowitz et al. 2017 ; Avila, 2018 ; Temper, 2019 ; Garcia del-Amo et al. 2020).

This process is called the decolonization of Climate Change following the work of Manuel Shvartzberg Carrió and Danika Cooper (2022). The panel would wants to demonstrate the role of local practices in shaping regional climate actions specific to communities of the Global South, where historically environmental policies have been implemented that are disconnected from the territorial, cultural and heritage contexts (Lunt I., et.al, 2012, Simpson N., et.al, 2022; IPCC, 2021).

CALL FOR PAPERS

GSPPN’s objective through this panel session is to analyze the process in which Climate Change public policies in the Global South are generated through regional knowledge narratives that reside within communities and their practices, and how such generational knowledge can be acknowledged by policy makers to form alternative policy frameworks.

This panel thus calls for research work by public policy scholars with an interest in climate policy making in the Global South. We expect papers related to policy process, policy design or formulation and policy implementation with an emphasis on a renewal of perspectives, taking into account local knowledge and new governance frameworks. This panel will be a stepping stone to strengthen the knowledge, practices, and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples.

The proposed panel aims to participate in the international debate that is taking place on which the decolonization of climate change policies is at the heart of solving the climate crisis. (OECD, 2019; IPCC 2021).

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Session 1

Wednesday, June 28th 08:00 to 10:00 (KHW061)

(Virtual) Decolonizing climate policy through inclusive governance approaches and participatory climate action: Case of climate adaptive solutions in Kuttanad region, Kerala

NAMRATHA RADHAKRISHNAN (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

N C NARAYANAN (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

Climate change induced disasters are expected to severely impact the Global South which is highly vulnerable with diverse climate sensitive ecological systems, high levels of socio-economic inequalities and marginalized communities dependent on these sensitive ecological regions. These disasters also vary widely due to differential spatial and socio-economic contexts across the affected regions. However, the global debates and policy processes around climate change are significantly shaped by the Global North which focuses on reducing GHG emissions through climate mitigation as a way to tackle climate change impacts. In this process, climate adaptation to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities has been largely ignored in the global and national climate action frameworks. Additionally, the scholarship on climate change governance and climate change impacts also presents expert knowledge as the dominant understanding of climate action formulation.

The governance framework to address climate change induced disasters in India follows a centralized top–down approach with very little representation and participation from local governance and non-state actors. This, along with the expert knowledge dominant in existing scholarship is criticized for not taking these local contexts and socio-economic vulnerabilities into account. Addressing climate change and disasters in such contexts then requires localized adaptation methods that include the local level actors and their capacities. These aspects cumulatively point towards the need for more research from the Global South that relooks at these top–down climate institutional frameworks and climate action formulation from the ‘bottom–up’ and ‘inclusivity’ lens.

This paper, with its focus on climate adaptation solutions by mobilizing localized and contextual knowledge systems then holds relevance here. It revisits the domestic climate actions in India and seeks to answer how an inclusive institutional framework with the participation of sub-state and non-state actors can aid climate adaptation, particularly in the most ecologically sensitive flood-prone regions in the Global South. It also argues to consider local sub-state and non-state actors not just as key networks in disaster relief and rehabilitation activities but also as alternate knowledge regimes that can influence the climate policy process.

This paper uses the case of Kuttanad, an ecologically fragile deltaic region frequented by floods in the coastal state of Kerala in India. Colonial policies of flood protection by embankments were taken forward by the post-colonial governments with the dominant technocratic knowledge that suited the political economy of the larger development approaches. The paper demonstrates the role of sub-state and non-state actors in the co-production of knowledge for climate adaptation solutions through participatory action research to develop Nature Based Technology Solutions, historically practiced by local communities for flood disaster protection. Besides constructing stable embankments using sustainable materials and local construction technologies, it also contributed to local-level capacity building and employment generation through the involvement of workers as part of the national rural employment scheme, MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005).

In addition to resulting in scalable and replicable climate adaptation solutions for the region, the larger outcome of the paper enumerates the potential role of these findings in contributing to a nuanced understanding of the relationship between embankment and floods and the crucial difference between 'flood as a hazard and flood as a disaster', particularly in a climate changing scenario.

(Virtual) Low Carbon Public Policies in the Amazon: A Case Study for the State of Amapá

Carlos Eduardo Frickmann Young (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)

Biancca Castro (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro)

Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest is the most important cause of carbon emissions in Brazil. International institutions are increasingly worried about this problem, and the newly appointed government of President Lula da Silva is also showing concern about controlling the problem. However, the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies are set in contexts far removed from the local reality. For climate policies to be effective in the Amazon, the involvement of regional governments and organizations is fundamental.

This paper seeks to discuss climate policies within the State of Amapá. Located in the northeastern part of the Brazilian Amazon, Amapá presents unique characteristics, including the lowest rate of deforestation and carbon emissions per capita among Brazilian Amazonian states and, at the same time, the second-highest HDI in the region.

This indicates that local solutions have worked better than in other parts of the Amazon, and it is important to understand the role of public policy in this process. Among others, we can cite the highest proportion of protected areas to the territory of all Brazilian states, the low incentive to activities associated with deforestation if compared to the rest of the Amazon, and a sequence of state administrations that identified the forest vocation of Amapá, including through tax incentives to activities related to the bio-economy.

However, there are still important challenges to improving socio-economic conditions without compromising environmental conservation. The research focuses on the role that public policies in Amapá can play in encouraging low-carbon activities with a high capacity for social inclusion, such as investments in renewable energy, digital access for traditional and indigenous communities, and the sustainable use of forest products.

This also includes the provision of services that improve the management capacity of government institutions. Public administrations are the greatest demanders of goods and services in Amapá. Therefore, there is room for entrepreneurs who can improve governance and the provision of these services by optimizing service to the population, energy consumption, water, and other resources. The intensification of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) provides greater convenience in accessing and using government services through electronic government (e-Gov). The expansion of e-Gov enables greater reach of public services to communities in remote areas, and the target audience assimilates easy-to-understand software.

Another field of potential advancement is the promotion of Payments for Environmental Services programs and carbon credits in forest conservation and restoration projects. The bundling of environmental services for their joint commercialization, combining the benefits of carbon capture, and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services, increases the potential of raising resources for the protection of ecosystem services, making private investment more attractive in keeping the forest standing. However, for this to work, an articulated action by federal entities (Union, State, and Municipalities) is necessary so that these instruments are effective and credible, including attracting international resources, given the growing interest of developed countries in collaborating to foster sustainable development in the Amazon.

(Virtual) Decolonizing urban transformative governance capacities by 'repair' in secondary cities of India. Case - Bhuj

Neha Mungekar (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT))

Cities of India find it challenging to address the complex water crises in the form of scarcity, pollution, floods and unequal access. The current technology-heavy approach needs a multi-disciplinary perspective to read wicked problems. The prevalence of these problems has obstructed cross-agency cooperation, transparent implementation and maintenance of water projects, accountable usage of water, inclusive planning, and management of resources. Additionally, India is employing western paradigms as a quick fix to its governance problems. Such development strategies must be revised to acknowledge systemic inequities, particularly in post-colonial geographies.

While Global North transition literature advocates radical transformation to address these wicked problems,

our studies have highlighted how concerned Indian actors *repair* governance processes and practices by performing *informality*. We recognise repair as an incremental and iterative mode of transition that aims toward restorative justice for current and historical breakdowns and shortcomings, along with making amends for the future, therefore making reparations. Through informal processes and practices, private service providers, users, and the authorities seek to enable water services by navigating and negotiating with local institutions. Informal governance is characterised by urgency, spontaneity, temporality, lucrativeness and even vulnerability. Although this grey approach is far from perfect, it aids the actors in enabling water service.

We operationalise repair through a reparative capacities framework performed through informality. The repair framework helps assess and strengthen consolidative and *jugaadu* capacities. We validate our capacities framework through ethnographic fieldwork in a secondary Indian city - Bhuj. Consolidative capacity enables actors to organise themselves to direct their goals to sensitive water service provision formally and informally. This capacity manifests in actors' abilities to intentionally veer and be veered towards the long-term goal. It also manifests in abilities and conditions to meditate and proactively rebuild trust between transgressors (government authorities, service providers) and victims (users). In addition to consolidation, the repair is manifested through the capacity to improvise within available resources, also understood as '*Jugaadu'* in Hindi (Indian language). *Jugaadu* is an adjective for *Jugaad*. *Jugaadu* capacity seeks to make its way through the institutional structures without rupturing the social fabric yet making a dent by tinkering and repurposing with available resources to create something new and valuable. *Jugaadu* capacity is demonstrated through collective ways of knowing, including memories which mobilise the ability to tinker through in(ex)novations and anchor them in the existing fabric. Both these capacities, when mobilised synergistically, aim to enable repair to achieve water sensitivity.

Scholars from the global north have conceptualised similar capacities that lead to integration (Emerson et al., 2012), cooperation (Dang et al., 2016), flexibility (Termeer et al., 2015), collaboration (Ansell & Gash, 2008), orchestration (Holscher, 2019) along with transforming (González & Healey, 2005; Holscher, 2019), unlocking (Holscher, 2019) and connective (Bettini et al., 2016) capacity. However, it misses out on the accepted maladies, greyness and plural interpretations within the operationalisation of capacities in post-colonial geographies. Our framework decolonises the forms of urban transformation by keeping social justice at its heart, thereby enabling repair in the secondary city of Bhuj.

(Virtual) Indigenous Knowledge, Climate Change and Transformations of Gwadar Fishing Community

SHAKIR ULLAH (Henan Normal University)

Purpose: This article explores the Indigenous climate knowledge (ICK)of the Gwadar fishing community in Pakistan. The main objective is to explore the accuracy of ICK and how the climatic change brings changes to it and the social lives of local fishers.

Methods: Qualitative research methods including participant observation, in-depth interviews and oral histories were used to collect the data.

Finding: Finding from this long fieldwork shows that this fishing community has a harmonious relationship with nature and local ecology. Their knowledge of local ecology enables them to have equal access to natural resources, sustainable resource management, disaster risk reduction and strong social organization on the coast of Gwadar. Recently their deep relationship with local ecology and socio-cultural organization has been disturbed due to huge climate changes caused by human manipulation of the environment. Their ability to foresee climatic events has been reduced. They are finding it impossible to estimate fish availability due to massive climate changes. Local communities are losing their traditional livelihoods and socioeconomic autonomy as a result of growing climate change. Climatic change adds to the existing poverty situation and increases political instability in the region.

Suggestions: The study suggests utilizing the fishermen's valuable indigenous knowledge of local ecology, climate, and its ties to local traditions, culture, and resource management for scientific understanding of climate change and marine resource management in Gwadar, Pakistan.

Thinking public climate action from below in Cameroon: a socioanalysis of the "local lower proletarian" in the decolonization of international climate knowledge

Michel Romain Awono Mballa (University of Douala)

This contribution intends to decipher the new local knowledge of the fight against climate change in Cameroon developed by a category of actors that we call "the local low proletarian" - understood as local

non-governmental organizations which are characterized by a lack of funding.Neglected for the most part because of their geographical location during a sequence of public climate action in Cameroon, in a context where "matrix corruption" practices circulate - understood as illicit, illegal and illegitimate and reprehensible practices, these actors develop mechanisms, techniques, new local knowledge in order to fight as best they can against climate change in their localities. This is the case of the Association Pole of Green Initiatives for Youth, the Environment and Transparency (PIVJET) located in Mbalmayo, a town in Cameroon in the department of Nyong-et-So'o.The latter, through its coordinator Djibrila Youssoufa, has set up reforestation activities that take into account the right of use of communities, awareness-raising activities on global warming, or activities on the wash (water-hygiene- sanitation) in connection with the climate and many others. Basically, this new knowledge participates in mitigating for some and adapting for others to the consequences of climate change in specific areas such as agriculture, energy, water management, forest and much more. However, this new local knowledge developed by this low proletarian is both innovative for some, adapted to the context and contributes to decolonizing international public climate action, which depends for the most part on funding from historical emitting countries with regard to the principle of responsibility. common but differentiated advocated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Specifically, these new forms of local action make it possible to understand public climate action on a scale other than that of the top.This contribution therefore questions the question of how to decolonize international climatic knowledge from the "local lower proletarian" in Cameroon? By drawing on empirical data based on semi-directive interviews and the use of documents, we will attempt to describe the local knowledge neglected from above but which participates in the fight against this "global risk" which is climate change in the sense of Pierre Lascoumes.

Keywords: Public climate action, local lower proletarians, decolonization of international climate knowledge.

(Virtual) Environmental vulnerability and disaster prevention: A case study from Mexico

Manlio Castillo (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas)

Heidi Smith (Universidad Iberoamericana)

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) often suffer the devastating effects of different natural phenomena (earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, landslides, etc.). Many studies show that catastrophes of this type are associated more with governments' actions, omissions, or errors than with natural phenomena. Despite the evidence and the recurrence of these natural events, many countries have made limited and differentiated progress in strengthening their emergency management capacities, policies, and mechanisms related to environmental vulnerability. Especially in preventing disasters, local governments in LAC are severely limited and scarce. The purpose of the paper is to explore the case of Mexico quantitatively and analyze what characteristics of municipal governments have planning tools to meet the challenges proposed by the environmental vulnerability. Guesstimates suggest that municipalities with higher GDP, local tax income, and a consolidated social infrastructure will be more likely also to have emergency management plans.

Presentation

Aritra Chakrabarty (University of Exeter)

Panel Presentation