

ENVS 3521
Climate Politics & Policy

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Component I - January 31



COP17 country position paper



- (1) What your country position has been on **mitigation commitments** as well as **actual emissions reductions**
- (2) What your country position has been on **adaptation commitments and needs**
- (3) What are particular issues in climate change that your country has **prioritized** (e.g. sea level rise, drought, poverty, the economy) in negotiations

[due Thursday, copies for LMC members and me]

COP18 & 'The Doha Decision'



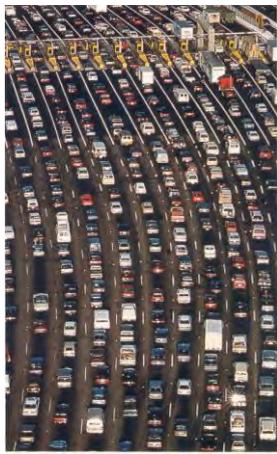
Two tracks of negotiations:

Mitigation – emissions reductions commitments along a negotiated timeline to begin at the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol at end of 2012

Adaptation – agreements on how to disperse US\$30 billion - who gets what, when and how?



carbon-based industry & society



Revkin (1992)

The Anthropocene Era
~ Crutzen & Stoermer

The 'Hydrocarbon Man'
~ Apenzeller

The 'Greenhouse Century'
~ Schneider



Revkin (1992)

top themes in today's readings

Hulme – Chapter 5 *The Things We Believe*

- tension between 'individual responsibility' and 'systemic responsibility' (pp. 157-160)
 - luxury vs. survival emissions (Agarwal & Narain, 1991)
 - global North-South issues of justice & responsibility
- 5.4 'Just Solutions' – a spectrum from market corrections to market destruction?
- how to measure 'well being' (p. 170)

intergenerational inequity?



GENERATION HOT

If you're under 25, you should be pissed about climate change

by Lisa Hymas 23 Jan 2011 4:54 PM

"The absence of an effective global climate treaty 20 years after the problem was identified – in the face of increasingly dire scientific evidence that we are spoiling our nest – raises broader questions about the factors that shape international environmental cooperation".
~ Parks & Roberts p. 111

"Generation Hot" is the 2 billion or so young people who will be stuck dealing with global warming and weirding for their entire lives -- and who have to figure out how to do it sanely and humanely. In his new book *Hot: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth*, journalist (and Grist contributor) Mark Hertsgaard puts the official start of Generation Hot at June 23, 1988, when climate scientist James Hansen first testified to Congress about climate change and *The New York Times* put the story on its front page.

"My daughter and the rest of Generation Hot have been given a life sentence for a crime they didn't commit," Hertsgaard writes in a piece in *The Nation* adapted from his book. Even if we manage to ditch fossil fuels over the next 25 years, "the reality is that we're locked in to at least 50 more years of rising temperatures and the harsher climate impacts they bring. Thus the young people of Generation Hot are condemned to spend the rest of their lives coping with a climate that will be hotter and more volatile than ever before in our civilization's history."

Hertsgaard has been reporting about climate change for 20 years, but it wasn't until 2005, when his daughter was born and he began to realize what kind of world she would be growing up in, that he became, as he puts it, "deeply angry."



So you effed up our planet, huh?



He plans to channel some of that anger into guerilla-style protests against the "climate cranks" in Congress, corporations, and the media who have denied the

frames, perspectives & responsibilities:
why protect the climate from us & us from the climate



“One of the reasons we disagree about climate change is because we believe different things about our duty to others, to Nature and to our deities”.
~ Mike Hulme, 2009, p. 144

There is “an inescapable ethical character of climate change debates”.
~ Mike Hulme, 2009, p. 174

Ethics

- a system of conduct
- rules and principles that relate to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions

Ethical Codes

1. Ecocentrism/Biocentrism
2. Might Makes Right!/ Authoritarian
3. Religion
4. Economic and Environmental Justice
5. Utilitarianism

Ecocentrism/Biocentrism



ATTRIBUTES

- the human race: one species among many
- health of planet is #1
- intrinsic value in natural world

IMPLICATIONS

- manage human societal need within limits of environment
- science and technology seen as potentially problematic
- respect ecological complexity and environmental quality
- goal of preservation – zero environmental impact

Might Makes Right/Authoritarian



ATTRIBUTES

- despotism
- order above liberty to quell conflict
- nature is brutal

IMPLICATIONS

- environmental protection overlooked
- short time horizons
- personal security/safety
- little attention paid to environment

Religion



guardian.co.uk

Judge rules activist's beliefs on climate change akin to religion

Tim Nicholson entitled to protection for his beliefs, and his claim over dismissal will now be heard by a tribunal

Karen McVeigh
guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 3 November 2009 20:42 GMT

[A](#) [james](#) | [amalar](#)



Tim Nicholson leaves an employment tribunal at Audit House, London. Photograph: Anthony

“Most established religions in their teachings overtly hold in tension the individual (or personal) and systemic (or structural) causes of moral failure. This failure may be couched using the language of sin, injustice, disharmony or evil, but all share the diagnosis that the world we experience, including our experience of ourselves, does not conform to what intuitively we would like it to be”.

~ Mike Hulme, 2009, p. 157

Economic and Environmental Justice  

ATTRIBUTES

- process matters – *how* it is done
- some actions and policies judged irrespective of consequences
- concerns of access, visibility, inequality and participation
- belief in transparency and accountability with those affected
- based on human rights

“...it is claimed, all individuals should not be held equally morally culpable for the emissions for which they are responsible”.
~ Mike Hulme, 2009, p. 159

“Invoking the precautionary principle takes climate change well beyond the realm of conventional economics and places it firmly in the court of ethics and risk assessment”.
~ Mike Hulme, 2009, p. 124

IMPLICATIONS

- fundamental right to personal safety and justice
- sustainability
- **cannot** quantify everything: human well-being, safety
- basis for safety-standards in environmental protection
- related to *Precautionary Principle* decision rule

CONTRACTION & CONVERGENCE
...equal allocation of emissions rights...
~ Hulme, 2009, p. 166

Economic and Environmental Justice  

Parks & Roberts (2009)

THREE MAIN SOURCES OF INEQUALITY IN THE GREENHOUSE:

- (1) responsibility for the problem
- (2) vulnerability to climate-related shocks and stresses
- (3) uneven participation in global efforts to solve the problem

“We argue that global inequality makes it more difficult for rich and poor nations to identify socially-shared understandings of ‘fair’ solutions”.
~ Parks & Roberts (2009) p. 119

The importance of trust and ‘costly signals’ in negotiations (pp. 122-123)

“high levels of inequality make it very unlikely that a North-South consensus will spontaneously emerge on the basis of a single fairness principle. Consequently, we believe a truly global consensus on climate change will almost certainly require a ‘hybrid justice’ solution that accommodates the different circumstances and principled beliefs of many parties”.
~ Parks & Roberts (2009) p. 123

Utilitarianism



ATTRIBUTES

- anthropocentric
- management of natural world in the name of progress
- technocentric
- can be a conservationist approach
- outcomes over process
- view of market system: efficient allocation of goods and services

IMPLICATIONS

- use of cost-benefit analyses (CBA)
- well-being is quantifiable: social welfare function
- distribution blind
- favors market systems
- basis for **efficiency standard** and efficiency approaches

carbon-based industry & society



Revkin (1992)

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Energy, Population,
Consumption and
Inequality



Revkin (1992)

The Corporation (2004)



much more updated information is also available at www.thecorporation.com