BSRS 2014
CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE:
Governance structures addressing mitigation, adaptation and restitution in the face of a changing climate

Course Leader:
   Øyvind Gjerstad (Department of Foreign Languages, UiB)

UiB/BSRS collaborators:
   Dag Elgesem (Department of Information Science and Media Studies, UiB)
   Kjersti Fløttum (Department of Foreign Languages, UiB)
   Siri Gloppen (Department of Comparative Politics, UiB/CMI)
   Kikki Kleiven (Department of Earth Science, UiB/Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research)
   Johannes Mauritzen (Department of Business and Management Science, Norwegian School of Economics)
   Lise Rakner (Department of Comparative Politics, UiB/CMI)
   Stefan Sobolowski (Regional Climate Lab & Climate Services, Uni Research – Climate/Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research)
   Endre Tvinnereim (Uni Rokkan Centre)
   Aled Williams (CMI/SOAS, University of London)

Guest Lecturers
   Nnimmo Bassey (Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nigeria)
   Elisabeth Eide (Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences)
   Asun St Clair (DNV-GL Strategic Research and Innovation, Low Carbon Future Programme)
   Zaid Hassan (Reos Partners, Oxford)
   Christina Voigt (Department of International Law, University of Oslo)

Course description:
This interdisciplinary course provides an introduction into the theory, politics and practice of climate change governance. When it comes to effectively addressing climate change, governance problems are pervasive at all levels – globally, nationally and sub-nationally. The failures are most evident with regard to mitigation measures, but there are also gaping shortcomings when it comes to addressing needs for adaptation and restitution for loss and damages. The impotency of political decision-makers to effectively deal with challenges posed by climate change is not only about political will. The very structure of the problems present great challenges for our political decision-making structures – with the interlinked ecological, regulatory and social complexity causing uncertainty regarding the effects of interventions – and the attribution of responsibility for harms. Co-benefits of emission cuts, such as health improvements from less air pollution, are well known in the academic literature but have so far failed to mobilize sufficiently for change.

The way the climate problem is deeply interwoven with the need for energy, so crucial modern economies and the predominant development models of contemporary societies, makes it particularly challenging politically, placing it at odds with dominant social and

political interests and powers – in advanced democracies as well as in the developing world. This is particularly acute, given that poor people, who are already most vulnerable, are likely to be hardest hit by a changing climate. Politically, it is also challenging to prioritise costly actions to be taken here and now for the benefit of people far away and not yet born. Problems of global and intergenerational justice have not been given sufficient weight in the international community's attempts to meet the challenges of climate change. And fundamental questions related to how to represent the interests of the world's most vulnerable, the poor, future generations and nonhuman life are unresolved. The lectures will discuss some of the issues the demand for climate justice raises, including the question of fairness in the allocation of burdens that climate change imposes, how to take uncertainty into account, and how to compare costs and benefits across time.

To better understand how states approach the challenge of climate change as a global phenomenon, often experienced locally, we will draw on the UiB LINGCLIM project's linguistic and discursive approach, analyzing central policy documents (White Papers on Climate Policy) from South Africa and Norway. The two countries are profoundly different in terms of sources of energy, GHG emissions, socio-economic structure, geopolitical position and vulnerability, and an in-depth comparative analysis highlight questions related to responsibility as well as to the issue of polluter-pays principle. Examples are also drawn from reports published within the UN (UNDP and World Bank). At a micro-linguistic level, the analysis focuses on vocabulary and other linguistic constructions, such as implicit versus explicit manifestation of voices and positions. At the macro-linguistic or textual and discursive level, it takes into account both text structure (narrative/deliberative) and situational parameters (context), which are important for the framing of the message. The contextual analysis will be complemented by input from by other disciplines, including insights from media studies concerning how climate science and other climate policy relevant knowledge is interpreted and communicated in different contexts.

Goals and objectives
The course aims to provide students with a better understanding of the governance challenges posed by climate change and efforts made to overcome them – both with regard to mitigation, adaptation and restitution of loss and damages. It aim to do so by providing a thorough introduction to central theoretical works in the field as well as through in-depth empirical analysis exposing potential, limits and barriers of various forms of regimes, institutions, governance structures and decision-making processes in dealing with challenges posed by climate change. The course will bring together lecturers from different disciplines (political science, law, linguistics, media studies, natural sciences, philosophy, sociology); and with different geographical focus to provide insights into not only the limits and shortcomings of climate change governance, but also into "what works"-- the positive practice examples that can be gleaned from climate change governance efforts in various parts of the world. Group discussions and presentations of doctoral projects are a central component of the course. Such interactions will permit all the participants to better understand their own work in the larger framework of climate change governance, through the input offered by the attending scholars, who represent a wide range of disciplines.

Student participation and paper instructions
Students are required to attend all sessions of the course, and participation is also mandatory in the plenary events of the overall programme of BSRS 2014. Student presentations will be held near the end of the course, on Thursday 3 July.

After the course, students who have opted for 10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) are required to submit a written assignment of 15–20 pages (6000–8000 words) in English, utilizing the course curriculum. The papers should be based on the student presentations. *Deadline for paper submission is 15 September 2014.*

The papers will be awarded as A (approved) and F (not approved) by the course instructors. In order to be approved, the paper is expected to meet the standards of publishable articles in peer reviewed journals. Students whose papers are not approved will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit. The deadline for resubmission will be specified by the course leader and announced on My Space and by email.

3 ECTS will be awarded for participation without paper submission.

Lectures

1. **Introduction: Climate change and governance challenges**
   Kikki Kleiven
   23 June, 1pm

   Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present. People in all corners of the world are observing climate-related changes that are outside of recent experience. The IPCC concludes that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen and that impacts are increasing across the world. Our past skills and practices may not be entirely adequate to tackle the challenges posed by a warmer future. The need to make decisions today in order to avoid inevitable consequences years or decades away, poses unique governance challenges. It is also important to recognize that adjusting the challenges caused by climate change overlaps with a diverse array of global challenges (food shortage, disease, water shortage, energy resources). As the impacts of climate change become ever more visceral, the shift in public awareness of the immediacy of the climate challenge may be possible. The question is whether it will happen in time, before the direst impacts of climate change become unavoidable.

2. **Reframing climate change as a social issue: implications for multilevel governance**
   Asun St. Clair
   23 June, 1pm & 4pm

   If climate change is not simply an environmental challenge, but rather an eminently social issue, this framing of the problem, its causes and consequences has substantive implications for governance. If climate is seen as the result of social action (individual and collective), so are the solutions. But the processes of change and transformation required by climate can be of many diverse types. These can be forced by impending environmental limits to human action; they can be the result of participatory, democratic

and inclusive decision making; or they can be forced or authoritarian. The lecture outlines the different ways in which climate viewed as a social issue forces us to rethink questions of governance and decision making. The lecture draws from the World Social Science Report 2013.

3. Climate Services
Stefan Sobolowski
24. June, 10.30 am

Climate Services is currently a buzz phrase in the research community. However, a clear, concise and widely accepted definition of Climate Services is lacking and depends greatly upon whom you ask and what their agenda is. One aspect of Climate Services that can be agreed upon is that it involve the translation, interpretation and tailoring of climate information for specific applications, often in support of impacts assessments or adaptation measures. In a practical sense the provision of climate services depends crucially on co-development, collaboration and cooperation between providers and users. The rationale for Climate Services is clear: such services can provide an important re-contextualization of large-scale climate change into the regional and local scales that matter most to human and natural systems. Many parts of the world are currently highly vulnerable to *existing* climate variability, to say nothing of their vulnerability to projected changes. Climate services can provide critical information for assessing present and future vulnerabilities, provide input to impacts assessments and help in determining the costs of adaptation versus doing nothing. This talk and the attendant exercise will introduce the concept of Climate Services, the underpinning science, the challenges to building operational Climate Services and their potential.

4. The political economy of REDD+ and corruption
Aled Williams
24. June, 1pm

Programmes designed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) intend to reward individuals, communities and countries that cut carbon emissions from forests. They envisage improving incentives towards either retaining standing forests or instigating more sustainable and controlled forestry activity. REDD+ programmes present a possible entry point for improving forest governance practices in forested developing countries while simultaneously addressing forest-related carbon emissions as part of a global climate regime. The central role of issues of governance, public integrity and corruption in the success of REDD+ programmes is widely acknowledged both in relevant academic and policy literature and in ongoing discussions within the development practitioner and research communities. Good governance, anti-corruption and public integrity approaches suitable for REDD+ are explored both in the literature and in international and national policy workshops, stakeholder meetings, and conferences. The seminar will share insights from a three year research project (entitled *REDD Integrity*) at the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, supported financially by Norad, into the political economy of corruption, REDD+ and anti-corruption. The country cases of the Philippines, Kenya and Indonesia will be discussed in particular. Group work will provide an opportunity for participants to think creatively about the corruption challenges REDD+ presents and some of the safest ways of possibly dealing with these problems.

5. **Democracy and climate governance**
   Lise Rakner
   25. juni, 10.30am

Concern over the failure of democracies to develop adequate climate governance systems and policies and advances made in authoritarian regimes, such as China has lead some to argue that we might have to sacrifice democracy in order to effectively address climate change. This lecture explores the relationship between the type of political regime and climate governance performance conceived in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and restitution or rehabilitation of loss and damage. Findings diverge, both in theoretical and empirical research, and show considerable variation in performance both among democracies and authoritarian regimes. The reasons why different democracies perform differently are not well understood, but in this lecture, we look at the state of the literature with regard to what explains differences in climate change policy and performance.

6. **What we talk about when we talk about climate change: the media as arena and actors in climate change politics – theoretical & comparative perspectives**
   Elisabeth Eide
   25 June, 1pm

Eide's lecture will present some results from a global research project on media representation of climate change, and reflect on the field of journalism and how it operates in a variety of ways facing increased scientific certainty as well as a highly politicized global debate on how to plan for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

7. **The UN Climate Change Regime: What Do We Have and What Do We Need?**
   Christina Voigt
   26. June, 10.30am

The UN climate regime currently consists of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) an its Kyoto Protocol. These two legally-binding instruments are neither effective nor equitable in their design to tackle dangerous anthropogenic climate change. This lecture will look into the UN climate regime and explains how it looks today. How are the issues of equity and burden sharing between different states being dealt with? From this, the discussion will focus on needed changes in legal design and content. The lecture will give an overview over the status quo of the negotiations of a new agreement to be adopted in 2015 and give students the opportunity to share their opinions.

8. **Climate change vulnerability and resilience**
   Kikki Kleiven
   2 July, 1pm

Many societies are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, threatening their livelihoods and economic wellbeing. Thus, research on vulnerability and resilience are increasing with the growing awareness that societal response, especially our capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, determines 1) how severe the impacts will be and 2) the costs of adaption. The research fields within physical impacts of climate change, within natural hazards and disasters (preparation, response and recovery) and sustainability (the use of natural resources) have often defined and set the focus of these studies and

emphasized the concept of vulnerability. Now more and more view resilience as a positive concept that aim to increase the capacity of individuals, communities, and systems to adapt, grow and/or transform as different stresses and shocks arise—depending not only on physical assets, but also policies, social capital, and institutions.

9. **Climate change governance at multiple levels: Constraining and enabling policies from the local to the global**
   Endre Tvinnereim
   27. June, 1pm

Climate change mitigation is the effort to control the human sources of climate change and their impacts, notably by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removing GHGs from the atmosphere. While climate change is a global issue and the benefits of mitigation cannot be fenced off, mitigation efforts have been introduced by government at all levels, from the local to the supra-national, as well as by non-governmental entities. This lecture analyzes ongoing mitigation efforts with an emphasis on carbon prices and emission caps in developed countries and regions. I will discuss whether carbon pricing is working, whether it is more effective to introduce single or multiple mitigation instruments, and the relative merits of centralized and decentralized approaches.

10. **The role of rights and legal institutions in climate change governance**
    Siri Gloppen
    30 June, 10.30 am

This lecture discusses human rights based approaches to climate change governance, which a particular focus on legal mobilization and the use of courts and rights in climate related struggles. We will examine examples of RBA to climate change governance (at local level, nationally and internationally) and discuss how human rights based approaches differ from other approaches. Particular focus is on the use, challenges and potential of legal mobilization before courts and treaty bodies as a tool in climate change governance.

11. **Getting started with climate and energy data analysis with R**
    Johannes Mauritzen
    30. June, 1pm

An ever increasing amount of data on energy and climate is becoming available and being able to handle and analyse data is becoming an essential tool for researchers in almost all fields. This lecture/lab will give an introduction to both some of the data sources available as well as the basics of importing, cleaning and visualising the data in the powerful open-source data-analysis program R.

12. **Climate Change Policies: how do governments linguistically construct their agendas? The case of South-African and Norwegian White Papers**
    Kjersti Fløttum & Øyvind Gjerstad
    1 July, 10.30am

The lecture will focus on how a few nation states approach the challenge of climate change as a global phenomenon, which is often experienced locally. Our approach is linguistic and discursive, with analysis and discussion of White Papers (political

documents typically outlining legislative intentions) adopted in South Africa and Norway. By focusing on narratives, vocabulary and linguistic constructions such as implicit versus explicit manifestations of voices and positions, the comparison will highlight questions related to responsibility and the polluter-pays principle.

13. An Introduction to the Gigatonne Lab
Zaid Hassan
1. July, 1pm

In the two decades since the launch of the UNFCCC global emissions have steadily increased. By most accounts we are on track for a world where temperatures increase 2 degrees+ or more if we are unable to curb emissions. The Gigatonne Lab is an attempt to reduce global emissions measurably by 1 GT CO_2e within a 2 year time-frame. The Lab aims to bring together the worlds of policy, technology and finance to demonstrate in practice how emissions can be reduced in a short time-frame. Zaid Hassan will introduce the thinking behind GT Lab, which has its origins in the collapse of the Copenhagen talks. He will outline the operational aspects of the Lab and explain how a prototyping as opposed to planning approach is the most likely way of achieving actual reductions in emissions. The GT Lab represents an alternative strategy for the reduction of global emissions and opens up new avenues of thought and research.

14. Extractive industries and the climate crisis
Nnimmo Bassey
2 July, 10.30am

Fossil fuel is at the core of our economies – and at the core of the climate crisis. The lecture explores the contributions of extractive industries to global warming, focusing in particular on the role of oil companies and the challenges and failures in regulating the sector - and the consequences, particularly in the developing world of failing to do so. It also discusses on the strategies and challenges of international climate activism in seeking to address problems of failing climate change governance.