The Role of Equity and Justice in Increasing National GHG Emissions Reduction Commitments Under the UNFCCC

a presentation by Donald A. Brown
 Scholar in Residence, Sustainability Ethics and Law
 Widener University School of Law

Details

Tuesday, March 5
12-1:30 pm

Johns Hopkins Washington, DC Center
1717 Massachusetts Ave NW
Room 204

Please bring your own brown bag lunch.

About Donald A. Brown

Donald A. Brown is Scholar in Residence for Sustainability Ethics and Law, at the Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg. He is also a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 5th Assessment Report. Previously he was Associate Professor of Environmental Ethics, Science, and Law at the Pennsylvania State University where he taught interdisciplinary courses on climate change and sustainable development. Mr. Brown has written extensively on climate change and sustainability issues and lectured on these matters in 33 countries. His newest book has was published in November 2012 by Rutledge, Earthscan, Navigating the Perfect Moral Storm, Climate Ethics.

About the Presentation

The international community has agreed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that future warming should be limited to 2°C because greater warming is believed to create a risk of passing tipping points in the climate system that will trigger rapid increased warming with devastating consequences. Yet the commitments made thus far by nations in regard to emissions levels in 2020 fall far short of putting the world on an emissions reductions pathway that gives any hope of limiting the warming to the 2°C target. This presentation examines why equity, justice, and ethics are crucial missing elements in climate change policy formation around the world, as well as proffering recommendations on how to get traction for equity and justice in climate change policy formation. The presentation will argue that one important element in a campaign to move the equity and justice agenda forward is to spend less time on what perfect justice requires (a preoccupation of much of the scholarly climate change ethics literature thus far) while spotting the injustice of actual positions taken by governments in climate negotiations.

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