

BALSILLIE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Course Outline, IP613, Winter Semester 2022

Special Topics in Environmental Policy: “Rethinking Environmental Security”

Professor Simon Dalby Email: sdalby@wlu.ca

Zoom “class” 13:00-15:50, Tuesdays.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first United Nations conference on environmental themes occurred in Stockholm in June 1972. The unofficial report to the Stockholm conference specified matters in terms of “Only One Earth” suggesting that maintaining it in habitable condition was a primary concern of global governance. The contradictions between growth and environment were palpable in this discussion, and have shaped global environmental thinking ever since. What is often forgotten in this discussion is that nuclear war was also a major concern in the conference declaration.

Fifteen years after the Stockholm meeting, the World Commission on Environment and Development, established in part to try to resolve the environment vs growth tensions, formulated environmental insecurity as the condition that threatened many things and required as a response policies of “sustainable development”. Fears that conflict related to environmental change, would prevent sustainable development linked security to environment directly, and spun off a policy and scholarly discourse on environmental security.

The fiftieth anniversary of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment looms in the middle distance this year, so it is timely to consider the legacy of that conference and the security policy discussions that have followed from it. The Stockholm International Peace Research institute has initiated a new project called “Environment of Peace” under the chairpersonship of Margot Wallström, and has published a report edited by Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk on *Anthropocene (In)Securities* reflecting on the 50 years since the Stockholm conference (<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2021/sipri-research-reports/anthropocene-insecurities-reflections-collective-survival-50-years-after-stockholm-conference>) which we will use a key text to guide the course discussions.

Much has changed since the 1970s, but the central concerns with conflict, injustice development and sustainability have been very persistent. In recent decades as the scale of industrial transformations become clear in the new age of the Anthropocene, they have become high profile matters of international politics, although until recently a relatively neglected topic of study at the core of the international relations discipline.

A diverse set of course readings will cover some of the key themes of this ongoing discussion, posing questions about the science and politics of global change and security, as well as how all this is communicated to wider publics. Students will write weekly commentaries on the assigned readings, participate in weekly seminar discussions, make a presentation on some aspect of environmental security of their choosing and prepare a final term paper on their selected theme.

COURSE SCHEDULE

4 January: Introductions, logistics etc.

11 January: An Endangered World

Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk and Rickard Soder "One earth, multiple worlds: Securing collective survival on a human-dominated planet" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 1-16.

Gerardo Ceballas et al (2015) "Accelerated modern human-induced species losses: Entering the sixth mass extinction" *Science Advances* 1(5). 1400253.

Will Steffen, et.al (2018) "Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115(33). 8252-8259.

Ann-Kathrin Benner et al (2019) *Violent Climate Imaginaries: Science-Fiction-Politics* Hamburg: University of Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy.

https://ifsh.de/file/publication/Research_Report/191218_IFSH_Research_Report_Web.pdf

18 January: Stockholm, 1972.

Iris Boroway (2019) "Before UNEP: who was in charge of the global environment? The struggle for institutional responsibility 1968-72" *Journal of Global History* 14(1). 87-106.

"Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment." 1972.

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/29567/ELGP1StockD.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Bjorn-Ola Linner and Henrik Selin "Geopolitics and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 18-33.

Ole Jacob Sending, Indra Overland, and Thomas Boe Hornburg (2020) "Climate Change and International Relations: A Five Pronged Research Agenda" *Journal of International Affairs* 73(1). 183-193.

25 January: Security?

Lucile Maertens and Judith Nora Hardt "Climate change and security within the United Nations: Insights from the UN Environmental Program and the UN Security Council" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 34-50.

Bentley Allan (2017) "Second Only to Nuclear War: Science and the Making of Existential Threat in Global Climate Governance" *International Studies Quarterly* 61. 809-820.

Daniel Deudney (1990) "The Case against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security." *Millennium* 19. 461-76.

1 February: Preparing and Preventing: Climate Security

Josh Busby (2018). "Taking stock: The field of climate and security" *Current Climate Change Reports*, 4. 338-346.

Ken Conca (2019) "Is There a Role for the UN Security Council on Climate Change?" *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 61(1). 4-15.

Carol Dumaine (2021) "The health of nations in an Age of Global Risks: COVID-19's Implications for New Paradigms of Human Rights and International Security and Cooperation" *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 22, pp. 153-161.

Marcus D. King, Caitlin Werrell and Francesco Femia "The responsibility to prepare and prevent: Closing the climate security governance gaps" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 51-66.

8 February: Security and/or Conflict

Dan Smith "The security space in the Anthropocene epoch" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 67-82.

Rob White (2014) "Environmental insecurity and fortress mentality" *International Affairs* 90(4). 835-851.

Jan Selby, Omar S. Dahi, Christiane J. Frohlich & Mike Hulme (2017) Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited. *Political Geography* 60. 232–244.

Ryan Katz-Rosene and Julia Szwarc (2021) "Preparing for Collapse: The Concerning Rise of "Eco-Survivalism", " *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, Latest Articles.

15 February: Future Dangers

Simon Dalby "To build a better world: Securing global life after fossil fuels" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute/ Oxford University Press. 2021. 96-110.

Michael Albert (2020) "Beyond continuationism: Climate change, economic growth and the future of world (dis)order" *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* Latest articles.

Benjamin Sovacool (2021) "Reckless or righteous? Reviewing the sociotechnical benefits and risks of climate change geoengineering" *Energy Strategy Reviews* 35. 100656.

22 February: NO CLASS MEETING ... READING BREAK

1 March: Nature/Culture and Political Ecology (Paper Proposals Due)

Anthony Burke and Stefanie Fishel "From human environment to post-human earth: Troubling the nature/culture divide in Stockholm Declaration" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities*, 99-116.

Kevin Bales and Benjamin Sovacool (2021) "From forests to factories: How modern slavery deepens the crisis of climate change" *Energy Research & Social Science* 102096.

Rosaleen Duffy and Francis Masse (2021) "The Integration of Conservation and Security: Political Ecologies of Violence and the Illegal Wildlife Trade" in Jeannie Sowers, Stacy D. VanDeveer, and Erika Weinthal (eds) *Comparative Environmental Politics* Oxford Handbooks Online. (PDF supplied by instructor)

8 March: Rethinking Security

Beatriz Rodrigues, Bessa Mattos and Sebastian Granda Henao "Whose security/security for whom? Rethinking the Anthropocene through ontological security" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities* 117-130.

Dan Welsby, James Price, Steve Pye & Paul Ekins (2021) "Unextractable fossil fuels in a 1.5°C world" *Nature* 597. (9 September). 230-234.

Tobias Ide (2020) "The dark side of environmental peace-building" *World Development* 127: 104777.

K.J. Mach, N. Adger, H. Buhaug, et al (2020). "Directions for Research on Climate and Conflict" *Earth's Future*, 8(7). e2020EF001532

"Afterword: What Next? Security in the Anthropocene" in Eva Lövbrand and Malin Mobjörk (Eds) *Anthropocene (In)Securities* 143-148.

15 March: Student Presentations

22 March: Student Presentations

29 March: Student Presentations

5 April: Final meeting, course wrap up, Policy Paper deadline.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Students will be required to prepare a one page commentary on the week's assigned readings, (due on MLS "dropbox" prior to the beginning of each class zoom session) (20%), actively participate in seminar discussions (10%), prepare a paper proposal for their term paper (**1 March deadline**) (10%) make a presentation of a draft of their paper in a "zoom class" in March (20%) and prepare a final research paper (**5 April deadline**) on some aspect of globalization related to the course themes (40%).

Weekly commentaries: The required weekly single sheet commentary on the readings is designed to focus attention on the key issues and to provide a vehicle for clarifying questions and comments to be raised in the seminar. It must engage each of the assigned readings each week. It will not be formally graded but students will be notified if their contributions are not adequately coming to terms with the literature. (There is no need to provide full bibliographic citations to the week's readings in the commentary, but other literature, if it is mentioned, should be properly cited.)

Participation: This is an important component of this course, the seminar will only work as a venue to explore the difficult issues raised by contemporary literature on globalization if there is sustained dialogue among all students.

Paper Proposals: (Due 1 March) should outline the key argument to be explored and be approximately two pages accompanied with a page long bibliography of key sources.

Seminar presentations: (15, 22, 29 March) A single page summary of the content of the presentation should be prepared prior to the presentation and uploaded to the MLS dropbox before the class on the day of the presentation. Presentations must be focused and to the

point; they ought to be **ten** minutes long. They will be strictly limited to **twelve** minutes to allow plenty of discussion time.

Papers: Papers may be an elaborated version of the seminar presentation. They will draw on the scholarly analyses of environmental security and be written as though they were a submission to the Environment of Peace project dealing with some aspect of either the historical or contemporary discussions, be fully footnoted or referenced to the appropriate academic and policy sources. Papers must be original, in that they will be written specifically for this course. They will be clearly organized, well written and coherently articulate a single argument. They will be approximately 4,000 words in length (excluding references, illustrations or notes), correctly and completely referenced, using any one of the standard academic reference or footnoting styles. Each of these factors will be taken into consideration in evaluating the paper. **Deadline: April 5 (Late paper submissions will be deducted 5% per day, weekends included.)**

FINAL NOTES

Academic and Research Misconduct *You are reminded that the University will levy sanctions on students who are found to have committed, or have attempted to commit, acts of academic or research misconduct. You are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing such offenses, and to take responsibility for your academic actions. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalty, please consult the relevant section of the Undergraduate Academic Calendar. If you need clarification of aspects of University policy on Academic and Research Misconduct, please consult your instructor. Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.* **Accessible Learning** *Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Graduate Calendar and University announcements for information regarding all available services.*

In thinking about security and the relationships between conquest, dispossession, and environmental change, please bear in mind that Laurier and the Balsillie School are located on traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe, and Haudenosaunee peoples.