

Climate Governance in the Global South: Policies and Politics in Mitigation and Adaptation

This working group invites papers that discuss the politics and policies of climate governance in the Global South. There is a struggle underway over how climate change is framed as a problem and consequently what types of responses are required to address it and who should pay. Policies that respond to climate change increasingly emphasize the need to link development, adaptation and mitigation. The integration of climate and development objectives in the South is creating a nexus that needs a careful analysis of the scope of complementarity and alignment on the one hand and of the possible conflicts, tensions and trade-offs on the other hand. Not only climate change itself, but also the implementation of mitigation and adaptation initiatives can have significant consequences for development pathways, for the wellbeing and rights of marginalized social groups and for the topical ecological distribution conflicts (on land, water, forest). A majority of climate mitigation initiatives in the South, such as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) have been justified by the provision of so-called co-benefits of climate mitigation with poverty reduction. However, results in this respect have thus far been contested. For adaptation projects a challenge has been to ensure that vulnerable groups benefit and interventions do not simply shift risks or create mal-adaptations. It has been noted that adaptation as currently conceived is often embedded within the dominant development paradigm and treats climate change as an externality.

The working group invites presentations and papers that address some of the following questions:

- What are the forces, actors and institutions that shape the different climate initiatives?
- How are mitigation and adaptation projects and policies governed in the South and with what kind of effects?
- What kinds of politics are involved in the making of climate policies and initiatives in the South?
- What are the possible synergies and trade-offs between pro-poor development and public and private climate finance and mitigation initiatives (e.g. CDM, REDD+, VCM)?
- How are decisions made about the choice, design and implementation of adaptation projects and what are the effects of particular adaptation interventions now being pursued?
- What kind of research (framework) is needed for analyzing adaptation and mitigation initiatives and policies in the South simultaneously?
- What are the future scenarios for climate politics and policies in the Global South?