

# Climate Justice

Zaelke & Piccolotti (Jan/Feb 2017)

This course examines goals and processes of climate justice, including the unequal burden climate impacts impose on vulnerable peoples and places such as the citizens of low-lying islands and coastal states. Lectures, discussion, and final group exercise in lieu of exam.

1. Introduction:
  - a. Need for speed to mitigate climate: Overview of the accelerating climate challenge:
    - [406.93 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> Keeling Curve Scripps](#) (6 Dec 2017); [1.020237°C](#) barrier (8 Dec 2017);
    - 1.5°C v 2°C: Hansen, et al., [Young people's burden: requirement of negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions](#), Earth Systems Dynamics (18 July 2017)
    - Accelerating feedbacks: V. Ramanathan, M. J. Molina & D. Zaelke (2017), co-chairs, [Well Under 2 Degrees Celsius: Fast Action Policies to Protect People and the Planet from Extreme Climate Change](#). (Read High Level Summary only: pp. v-xi. Full report is supplemental reading)
    - Gulf too hot to live ([Future Temperature in Southwest Asia Projected to exceed a Threshold for Human Adaptability - Link to full article from Nature Climate Change](#) )
    - Many poor countries losing up to 75% of income by end of century in warmer world: Burke, et al. [Global nonlinear effect of temperature on economic production](#), NATURE (12 Nov 15) and accompanying news story in *Nature* and elsewhere
    - McKibben, [Winning Slowly Is the Same as Losing](#) (ROLLING STONE 1 Dec 2017)
  - b. Fast mitigation strategies: Overview of strategies for fastest mitigation to reduce near-term impacts and slow accelerating feedback mechanisms:
    - [New Reports Detail Essential Climate Policies Needed to Limit Warming Below 2°Celsius](#): Ramanathan, Molina, & Zaelke, above; & Y. Xu & V. Ramanathan, [Well below 2 °C: Mitigation strategies for avoiding dangerous to catastrophic climate changes](#), PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Sept 2017); Mario Molina, et al. (2009) [Reducing abrupt climate change risk using the Montreal Protocol and other regulatory actions to complement cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions](#), PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (2009)
    - How does the speed of mitigation action relate to climate justice goals?
  - c. Pursuing justice/reducing injustice: Overview of approaches to justice/injustice, focusing on the disparate burdens on poor from impacts/adaptation, and required mitigation, including impacts on development. Rawls' ideal justice vs. Amartya Sen's pragmatic approach to reducing injustice (Stefan Bird-Pollan, [Book Review](#), Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice*, Belknap Press, 2009, in *Public Reason*, 2(2):102-108); common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities: Montreal Protocol example; contraction and convergence of per capita emissions; loss and damage/reparations; financing for mitigation and adaptation. (Romina Piccolotti, [An equitable arrangement](#), UNEP OUR PLANET: POWERING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, (Dec 2011).
2. Review of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol ([text](#)), [NY Times report](#), Molina & Zaelke, "[The Montreal Protocol: triumph by treaty](#)" (20 Nov 2017); [IGSD press release](#); and Paris Agreement ([final text](#) and selected commentary), to analyze how they measure up on fast mitigation and climate justice.
3. Group Exercise: You will be split up into teams and each team will be given \$1 trillion to use on climate justice policies. First identify three principles of climate justice to guide your project. Next, using the building blocks in the *Well Under 2°C* report as a guide, choose policy measures worthy of your investment. Specify policies that you will not pursue either because they are too expensive or do not accord with your principles of justice.

Supplemental reading: IGSD's [HFC Primer](#) & IGSD's [SLCP Primer](#).