Global Change and Sustainability Center
Fall Seminar Series

"Making Environmental Markets Work: The Case of Capitalism in the Emerging Economies"

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4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
295 FASB (Sutton Bldg.)

environment.utah.edu
Abstract
Perhaps the most defining characteristic of the global economy today is the rise of emerging market economies (EMEs). As the EMEs have gained importance in the global economy, their influence and significance have grown across a wide range of policy domains. One particularly relevant example is their increasingly critical role in addressing climate change. Indeed, it is widely believed that developing countries' participation is required for a truly effective solution to global warming. However, because most EMEs have more immediate priorities than climate change, a variety of outcomes have emerged to address this problem. This talk will explore the argument that the variation in outcomes we find among the EMEs is due to the type of economic institutions prevalent in their economies. In short, it is the variety of capitalism that produces this variation.

To better understand how variations in capitalism may influence important outcomes, this research focuses on a sample of 31 EMEs to show that national variations in economic institutions are central to explaining why environmental markets have been more successful in some countries than in others. My analysis draws on variables from the Varieties of Capitalism literature, along with four control variables: macroeconomic stability, infrastructure, public institutions, and population. To analyze the data, I employ both regression and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as rival tools for explaining these outcomes. Together, these variables are used to explain what type of capitalism produced successful or unsuccessful market formation under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Biography
Tabitha Benney is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Affiliated Faculty at the Center on Global Change and Sustainability at the University of Utah. Prior to joining the department, Dr. Benney was a researcher at the Earth Research Institute and a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In addition, from 2002-2007, she worked in the Policy and Global Affairs Division of the US National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Benney’s areas of research include International and Comparative Political Economy, Energy and Environmental Politics, Global Governance, and Comparative Research Methods. Her work has been published in The Review of International Political Economy, Energy Policy and Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change. Her new book entitled, Making Environmental Markets Work: The Varieties of Capitalism in Emerging Economies is currently forthcoming. In addition, Dr. Benney he has received numerous grants, scholarships, and fellowships including, the University of California Affiliates Fellowship and, most recently, the University of Utah Teaching Grant.