



Environmental Institutions Seminar Series

Presents

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Bren School of Environmental Science and Management,
University of California, Santa Barbara

Systematic Uncertainty in International Environmental Agreements

Friday, December 3, 2004
10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Room A158 Levine Science Research Center, Research Drive, Duke University

Abstract

This talk addresses the subject of self-enforcing international agreements. The emphasis is on international environmental agreements (IEA's), though the results are more general. The standard model of IEA's is adapted to include uncertainty in environmental costs and benefits, as well as learning about these costs and benefits. The talk addresses the extent to which the size of the coalition changes as a result of learning and systematic uncertainty (also known as model uncertainty). Research indicates that systematic uncertainty by itself decreases the size of an IEA coalition. Learning has the further effect of either increasing or decreasing the size of an IEA, depending on parameters of the problem.

Biography

Charles D. Kolstad is the Donald Bren Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is jointly appointed in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and the

Department of Economics. At UCSB he leads the NSF-funded PhD program in Economics and Environmental Science.

Prof. Kolstad has contributed broadly to environmental economics, though most of his research has been in the area of environmental regulation. He is particularly interested in the role of information in environmental decision-making and regulation. His past work in energy markets has focused on coal and electricity markets, including the effect of air pollution regulation on these markets. Prof. Kolstad's prior, non-academic, experience includes working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and in the Peace Corps in West Africa.



Coffee and snacks will be served.

Please RSVP by November 30, 2004 to Duke Center for Environmental Solutions: leithc@duke.edu , or 613-8131
For directions to seminar locations, visit our website: <http://www.env.duke.edu/solutions/>