

Governing Climate Change: Polycentricity in Action?

The Fully Funded Second International Spring School

When & Where: 5-8 March 2018, Heerlen, The Netherlands

Who: The Spring School is open for 25 early career researchers

Organized by: This is the second of two spring schools organized by the COST Action INOGOV (Innovations in Climate Governance, IS 1309, <http://www.inogov.eu/>)



In 2015, the new climate treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed in Paris. A key feature of the agreement is that the ambitious goal of keeping global warming 'well below 2° C' would be achieved through emission reduction pledges that countries or groups of countries such as the EU submit. However, there remains a significant 'gap' between the emissions reduction pledges made and what is required to ensure that warming does not exceed the global target of two degrees. But 'new' and more dynamic forms of governing are appearing around, below and to the side of the UNFCCC, producing a much more complex, multi-centred or polycentric pattern. What is less clear is how and why these newer forms are emerging, how they interact and/or link with one another, and whether or not they will be sufficient to decarbonise society fast enough, or adapt society to the impacts of change. These questions will be addressed from a plurality of theoretical and methodological perspectives in this spring school.

The Spring School will inform participants about the following topics:

The Spring School investigates the notion and practical expression of polycentric governance in the specific context of climate change. The concept of governance innovation is introduced and the contribution to transitions and transformations assessed. We will explore a number of conceptual frameworks surrounding the notion of governance inventions, their diffusion and evaluation from a diversity of theoretical traditions ranging from new institutionalism to poststructuralism. On governance inventions, we will look at concepts like policy entrepreneurs, experiments, proof of principle and instrument constituencies. In the field of the diffusion of governance inventions we will study amongst others internal and external drivers, barriers and post adoption adaptations. On evaluation, we will learn how to study outputs and outcomes amongst others. To move from theory to empirical research, a range of methods for studying innovations in climate governance is introduced. We will also highlight the role of political power and knowledge in climate governance throughout.

Learning

The Spring School will use a flipped classroom model. Participants will prepare for the spring school by completing an online course (MOOC) on Polycentric Climate Governance beforehand; the Spring School will subsequently allow a deepening of knowledge through interactive keynote lectures, Q&As with the authors of the MOOC, and various workshops. The MOOC will be made available to all participants no later than 4 weeks before the start of the Spring School and will require a time investment of about 100 hours. The MOOC will present texts and videos from leading international scholars and small assignments to get acquainted with key concept, approaches and findings. During the Spring School the participants will discuss what they have learned from the MOOC, and how this ties in to their own research with 10-12 leading international scholars from the field. These interactions offer the participants many opportunities to familiarize themselves with the latest and cutting edge theoretical and empirical work, and it will offer them an opportunity to network. Generic skills connected to presenting and publishing research findings will also be covered. In total the Spring School (including completion of the MOOC) will be credited with 6 ECTS.





How to apply

The Spring School is open for 25 early career researchers - this includes PhD students, excellent masters' students, or researchers who have obtained their PhD degree less than seven years ago.

Please send a letter of motivation (maximum 400 words) and an abstract of a paper (maximum 400 words) on a relevant topic to inogov@ou.nl before 15th October 2017. The letter of motivation should explain how attending the spring school could benefit the attendees own research and next career steps. The abstract should list the title, the name of the participant, and contain a clear summary of the paper's main or expected findings, clearly linked to the main themes of the Spring School. Furthermore it should include the following information: the institutional affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address, and the nationality of the participant.

We understand that applicants will be at a range of career stages and may not yet have fully formed ideas ready to write a full paper. In this case, we request that applicants prepare their abstract based on the ideas and agenda of their research with a view to further developing their ideas at the Spring School. Full papers should be 7000-9000 words long. They should be submitted to inogov@ou.nl before February 24th, 2018. Participants are expected to make a 10-minute presentation of their paper using only 3-4 PPT slides.

Fully Funded

There is no fee for the Spring School. Students' reasonable expenses will be re-reimbursed (please note that COST funding rules apply) based. Participants are encouraged to travel in a climate-friendly manner.

We particularly encourage PhD students from COST inclusiveness target countries to apply for the spring school (namely Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Turkey). We will strive for a gender balance and strongly encourage women to apply. By exception, participants from non-Cost countries can be admitted to the Spring School. In case you are considering this, please contact the organizers before submitting your application.

Applicants will be notified of their success by 3 November 2017.

Organizing Committee

Dr. Raoul Beunen (NL Open University), Prof. Dave Huitema (NL Open University/VU Amsterdam), Dr. Angela Oels (NL Open University), James Patterson (NL Open University), Prof. Andrew Jordan (University of East Anglia, UK), Dr. Clare Shelton (University of East Anglia)