

The Alliance Program, the Columbia Climate Center, the Earth Institute, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Affairs (IDDRI) at Sciences Po, and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) are pleased to present:

**SCIENCE AND SOCIETY:  
IPCC REFORM AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHALLENGE**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**  
**12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**  
Columbia University, 420 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street  
International Affairs Building, Room 1501

*Brown bag. Open to the public. Registration required: please [register here](#).*

Introduction by:

**Jeffrey Sachs** (Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University)

Featuring:

**Simon Buckle** (Director, Climate Policy, Grantham Institute, Imperial College)

**Peter Haas** (Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**Syukuro Manabe** (Senior Meteorologist, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Princeton)

**Gavin Schmidt** (NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Columbia University)

**Laurence Tubiana** (Director, IDDRI, Sciences Po and Alliance Visiting Professor, Columbia University)

Moderated by:

**David Krantz** (Director, Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED), Columbia University)

**ABSTRACT - Science and Society: IPCC Reform and the Global Climate Challenge**

While the key points of contention that undermined the Copenhagen negotiations remain unresolved (e.g. emission reduction targets, financing levels and the legal status of the Kyoto Protocol), there is more and more consensus on the strong need for increased coordination and information sharing between climate scientists and policy-makers, particularly in light of the failures of COP-15 and the lessons learned from it.

Nevertheless, the intersection of climate science and public policy remains controversial given the many competing interests that are at stake, including the interests of future generations and the diverse interests of all nations, regions, and sectors of society around the world.

The quality of IPCC reports has been thrown into question in light of several errors found in the 4th Assessment Report, and in the wake of the University of East Anglia email scandal. At the root of these criticisms lies a perennial dilemma: how should policy makers and scientists negotiate the delicate boundary between science

and society? In a field such as climate change, which is both highly technical and has large implications for public policy, the balancing process can pose many challenges.

The objective of this panel discussion is to highlight the controversy relating to our understanding of evolving climate science and the possible responses of policy-makers, and discuss some of the issues it raises leading to a reflection on the reform of the IPCC and the role of science in policy-making. Panelists will present the major controversies surrounding climate change today, with a special focus on the heightened scrutiny surrounding the IPCC assessment reports, and address the question of whether climate research efforts are resulting in the production of useful, policy-relevant scientific information for decision-makers and whether IPCC reform is necessary and if so, in what way?



*The Alliance Program is a unique partnership between Columbia University and three French universities, the Ecole Polytechnique, Sciences Po and the Université Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne. For further information please visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/alliance>*