



Dear all,

We would like to invite you to the next “Advanced SNA” meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, 8th September, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at Eawag in Dübendorf** (room FC-D77).

Speaker: Prof. **Adam Douglas Henry** (School of Government & Public Policy; Institute of the Environment, University of Arizona, AZ).

Presentation Title: “**Belief Change in an Evolving Environmental Policy Network.**”

*Abstract: Networks are an important part of the policy process, and in many realms of environmental policy networks exercise an important influence on the ability of actors to synthesize information and learn to manage complex risks. According to the Advocacy Coalition Framework, the dynamics of policy network formation lead to structures exhibiting belief-oriented segregation—that is, a high correspondence between shared policy beliefs and voluntary collaborative relationships. These structures may be produced through at least two pathways: belief homophily, where actors actively seek out connections with others sharing their belief system, and learning, where policy beliefs diffuse through collaborative ties. The cross-sectional design of many policy network studies precludes an explicit examination of these potentially complementary forces. This paper explicitly examines these dynamics using a reanalysis of data on policy beliefs and networking in U.S. environmental risk policy across two time periods, 1984 and 2000 (N = 223). Results indicate strong homophily effects, but relatively weak learning effects, in the evolution of this policy network. This research helps pave the way for additional research on the dynamics that shape policy networks and beliefs, and also helps to clarify the differences between individual versus organizational contributions to policy network evolution.*

*Bio: Adam Douglas Henry is an Assistant Professor in the School of Government and Public Policy, and is an affiliated member of the University of Arizona's Institute of the Environment. Dr. Henry's research focuses on questions of policy learning and sustainable development, particularly how networked groups of actors in the policy process collaborate to manage*

*complex and divisive issues of environmental policy and sustainability. Henry's recent research has focused on the integration of science and policy in issues of environmental risk (in a project funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation) and the development of computational models of social influence and the adoption of residential solar energy (in a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory). Henry uses a variety of approaches to study questions of policy learning and sustainability, including agent-based modeling, statistical models of network structure, and mathematical models of self-organizing networks.*

**Aim of the Seminar Series:** Fostering the exchange among SNA scholars in the region and discussing SNA methods and recent developments. The idea is that each of us has the opportunity to present her/his current work in an informal setting and to get feedback from the other participants. We aim at presenting early-stage research as well as papers ready to submit. In cases where a paper already exists, the manuscript should be circulated in advance in order to enable people to read it.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending the meeting so we can put you on the mailing list. Also don't hesitate to inform us if you would like to present your own work or have an idea of a person/research group to invite. Finally, please circulate the invitation to people who might be interested.

Karin, Manuel, Philip

## Directions

### Public transport

Check for your direction at: [www.zvv.ch](http://www.zvv.ch)

From Zurich Main Station (HB): S-train (S3, S9, S12) to Stettbach, change to tram 12 to "Giessen".

From Zurich Oerlikon: train S14 to Dübendorf, change to bus 760 to "Empa".

From Zurich-Airport: tram 12 to "Neugut" or "Giessen".

### Car

Motorway A1, exit Dübendorf, to the right towards Dübendorf, 300 meters after the major crossing turn left into the Eawag-Empa premises at Überlandstrasse 133, 8600 Dübendorf.

If you need a car ride from Konstanz, contact Philip ([philip.leifeld@eawag.ch](mailto:philip.leifeld@eawag.ch)).

