

Seminar on Environmental Politics

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Our thoughts and areas of interest

It is important for our society to understand the issues regarding sustainability, and to take the necessary steps to solve environmental problems. The tragedy of the commons suggests that all members of a small community must work together or risk depletion of a shared resource, so too must countries and regions work together to tackle global environmental problems such as climate change. International agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol, international goals (e.g., 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to emission levels in 1990), and individual-level efforts (e.g., saving electricity in one's daily life) are all considered necessary if large-scale environmental problems are to be solved. However, many more difficulties with respect to policy exist at the international-level than at the domestic- and individual-levels. State sovereignty not only hinders the prompt implementation of international agreements, but also the reaching of consensuses with other states. International environmental agreements have frequently demonstrated how difficult governance without government can be.

In this seminar, we will study the policies and politics that are necessary in order to achieve a sustainable society, with a particular focus on the decision-making process, institutions, norms, policy measures, and implementation at various levels, from small communities to international agreements.

Graduate students have published theses on ...

- Japanese external policy and domestic factors examined during the Kyoto Conference on climate change
- What is a sustainable society? - a study on environmental policy in Sweden
- The significance of, and problems affecting, public participation in environmental decision-making - a case study involving the Nagasaki Civil Council on “Global Warming”
- From whaling to tourism - considering how to use whale resources in Japanese society
- The spread of renewable energy in Nagasaki Prefecture
- NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) - why and how to support it