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Geoengineering: Science, Policy and Ethics

Humans are expected to more than double the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by the end of this century, even under scenarios that assume the world will aggressively move away from fossil fuels. These emission scenarios make it virtually certain that the global average temperature will exceed the threshold that numerous experts say will greatly harm ecosystems, human health, and security. When global climate change triggers climate emergencies, what will our options be?

One proposed solution to the predicted climate crisis is geoengineering.

During winter quarter 2011, the scientific feasibility of geoengineering schemes, their associated ethical arguments and values, and the legal and political scenarios that geoengineering brings up were all explored in a seminar series titled, "Geoengineering: Science, Policy and Ethics." The interdisciplinary series was organized by Program on Values in Society Professor Steven Gardiner, Post-doc Lauren Hartzell, and Professor Robert Wood of Atmospheric Sciences. The seminar series was supported and hosted by the University of Washington College of the Environment, the Program on Values in Society, the Program on Climate Change, and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

National and International experts from the fields of science, policy, and ethics explored the interfaces between the scientific concepts, engineering viability, policy and governance issues, and ethical questions surrounding the deliberate modification of the Earth's climate system in their talks, which included:

"Geoengineering as a Response to Climate Change: An Urgent Problem Meets a Bad Concept" by Professor Dale Jamieson, NYU, Environmental Studies

Recent News

- From the Chair
- Philosophy Club Event: Moral Imagination
- Telling Stories, Revealing Narratives
- Fair Trade and Exploitation
- Geoengineering: Science, Policy and Ethics
- Bill Talbott receives Distinguished Teaching Award
- Karl Potter's Padma Shri Award
- Advisory Board Update
- Philosophy for Children
- Faculty Books

Visit UW Philosophy: Calendar of Events

- **May 13, 2011**
Fair Trade and Exploitation Conference
- **May 20, 2011**
Virtue Ethics colloquium
- **June 11, 2011**
Philosophy Graduation

Philosophy Links

- Program on Values
- HPS B.A. Program
- Philosophy & Classics Ph.D.
- Hypatia - Journal of Feminist Philosophy
- Human Rights
- Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children
- Past Philosophy e-Newsletters
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“Benefits, Costs, and Risks of Stratospheric Geoengineering”
by Professor Alan Robock, Rutgers University, Environmental
Sciences

“Fixing the Wrong Wrong: Geoengineering and the End of the
World” by Professor Ben Hale, University of Colorado,
Philosophy and Environmental Studies

“Climate Engineering: What Law Has to Say About It” by
Professor Michael Robinson-Dorn, University of California at
Irvine, Law School



University Links

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