

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

3rd November 2015

Maison de la Chimie | 75007 Paris

Environmental inequalities: From research to policy



#EnvInequalities



IDDRI



ÉCOLE D'ÉCONOMIE DE PARIS
PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Environmental inequalities: From research to policy

The reduction of historically high inequalities and the protection of the environment will be among the most important policy challenges in the decades to come. Policymakers are faced with a key question: **how can we halt**

environmental degradation while improving social cohesion, and vice versa? A growing amount of research has analysed the various interactions between environmental and social inequalities. However, it is questionable whether such knowledge is being effectively translated into policy.

The international conference “Environmental inequalities: from research to policy-making”, organised by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the Paris School of Economics (PSE), will bring together researchers, policy makers and members of civil society from different regions of the world to collect analyses, testimonies and new research inputs. The main aim will be to **identify how public policy could be changed to better address inequalities at the frontier of environmental and social challenges.**

The conference is divided as follows: ★ A keynote speech will examine the ways that national and local level policymaking have so far dealt with environmental inequalities, and what changes could be made to assist the endeavours of public actors. ★ The first roundtable will take a more detailed look at issues raised by exposure inequalities, i.e. the unequal risks and sensitivities of individuals faced with environmental degradation. ★ A research focus will then tackle the question of the measurement of pollution inequalities at the global level and examine policy implications. ★ The second roundtable will analyse the impact of energy and climate policies on households and how various countries have tried to offset inequalities which may be triggered by such policies. ★ This conference will conclude with a discussion on the ways forward for policy at the European Union level, as well as for research and civil society.

8:15

Registration of participants

8:30

Welcome speech

Teresa Ribera, Director, IDDRI (France)

8:40

Keynote: Reducing environmental inequalities: a policy perspective

How do policymakers at the national and local levels take environmental inequalities into account? What progress has been made over the past twenty years in France?

Dominique Voynet, Former Minister for the Environment (France)

9:00

Roundtable: Environmental inequalities in terms of exposure to pollution

Which are the most important forms of exposure inequalities? How are they taken into account by public policies, in developed and developing countries? What changes in research and policymaking would be required to better address them?

*Moderator: **Damien Demailly**, Coordinator New Prosperity Programme, IDDRI (France)*

Sunita Narain, Director, Centre for Science and Environment (India)

Denis Zmirou-Navier, Professor of Public Health, Lorraine University Medical School (France)

Dominique Voynet, Former Minister for the Environment (France)

10:30

Coffee break

Speakers

11:00

Focus: Global carbon emissions inequalities from 1998 to today

What is the level of inequality in individual CO₂ emissions worldwide? How does a focus on high individual carbon emitters (rather than high emitting countries) change the geography of contributors to climate change? What implications for policy?

Thomas Piketty, Professor, Paris School of Economics (France)

Lucas Chancel, Researcher, IDDRI, and coordinator, *World Inequality Report*, PSE (France)

11:30

Roundtable: The impacts of energy and climate policies on inequalities

What are the social impacts of energy and climate policies? How can the regressive effects of energy policies be reduced? Are there inequality-reduction policies that are also positive from an environmental perspective?

Moderator: Lucas Chancel, Researcher, IDDRI, and coordinator, World Inequality Report, PSE (France)

Thomas Sterner, Professor, Gothenburg University (Sweden)

Paul Ekins, Professor, University College of London (United Kingdom)

José-Luis Samaniego, Chief of the Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlements, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (Chile)

13:00-13:15

Concluding remarks: A European Union perspective and ways forward

What can the European Union do to reduce environmental inequalities? What are the respective roles of policy actors, think tanks, civil society and research in terms of facilitating a shift from research on environmental inequalities to the development of policy solutions?

Karl Friedrich Falkenberg, Senior Advisor, European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), European Commission and **Teresa Ribera**, Director, IDDRI



Lucas Chancel

Lucas Chancel is a Researcher at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and Coordinator of the *World Inequality Report* at the Paris School of Economics. He teaches at Sciences Po. His work focuses particularly on the links between economic and environmental inequalities, the determinants of household carbon footprints and the inegalitarian effects of energy policies in industrialised and developing countries.



Damien Demailly

Damien Demailly is Coordinator of the New Prosperity programme at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). His research interests include growth theories and their link with the environment, the sharing economy and the Beyond GDP indicators. A graduate of the École Polytechnique (France) and a doctorate in environmental economics, he has also worked in the area of ecological associations and at the European Parliament.



Paul Ekins

Paul Ekins is Professor of Resources and Environment Policy at the University College of London (UCL, United Kingdom), where he directs the Institute for Sustainable Resources. He is also Co-Director of the UK Energy Research Centre and member of the UN Environment Programme's International Resource Panel. He is the author of many reference books on environmental policy, focusing his research on ways to combine environmental effectiveness and social justice.



Karl Friedrich Falkenberg

Karl Friedrich Falkenberg is Senior Adviser for Sustainable Development at the European Commission and the European Political Strategy Centre. He was Director General of the European Commission's DG Environment and held numerous other functions in European institutions, including the monitoring of issues related to agricultural trade and fisheries.



Sunita Narain

Sunita Narain is Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment and of the Society for Environmental Communications (New Delhi, India). Author of numerous articles and books, her research focuses on understanding the links between natural resources, poverty and inequality (of income, gender, caste, etc.) and identifying policy solutions. She received the World Water Prize for her work on inequalities in access to drinking water.



Thomas Piketty

Thomas Piketty is Professor of Economics at EHESS (France), at the Paris School of Economics. He is the author of historical and theoretical literature on the relationship between economic development and wealth distribution, particularly relating to high income as a proportion of national income. He is one of the founders of the World Top Income Database, a reference database on inequality of income and wealth in the world. Author of the bestseller *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (Éditions du Seuil, 2013), he has also written many other books on the subject.



Teresa Ribera

Teresa Ribera is Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). Former Secretary of State for Climate Change in the Spanish government, her responsibilities included environmental and climate policies. She was also Director General for Climate and held various technical positions in the ministries of Public Works, Transportation and Environment. Teresa Ribera also chairs the Advisory Board of the Momentum For Change and is a member of the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).



Thomas Sterner

Thomas Sterner is Professor in Environmental Economics at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), where he leads the Unit for Environmental Economics. He is also Visiting Professor at the Chair in Sustainable Development, Environment, Energy and Society of the Collège de France. His main field of research concerns instrument design for environmental policy and their application to climate, energy, industry and transport in developing countries. He has written and edited numerous books, including *Fuel taxes and the Poor* (RFF Press, 2011), which analyses the impact of energy policies on low-income households in developing countries.



Jose-Luis Samaniego

Jose-Luis Samaniego is Director of the Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). He was also Director of the Center for Sustainable Transport in Mexico City and Coordinator of International Affairs at the Mexican Ministry of the Environment. His research and analysis topics include the links between economic inequality and mobility policies in Latin America.



Dominique Voynet

Dominique Voynet is the Social Affairs General Inspector. A medical doctor by training, she has also been an MP, Senator, Minister of Environment and was the Mayor of Montreuil in Ile-de-France. As a Mayor, she developed programmes for tackling fuel poverty. As a Minister, she was integral to the voting through of the 25 June 1999 Law on regional planning and sustainable development, which enabled a diagnosis of territorial inequalities in terms of all types of pollution (noise, waste, health, etc.) and set out how to take action against them.



Denis Zmirou-Navier

Denis Zmirou-Navier is Professor of Public Health at the Lorraine University Medical School (Nancy, France). He is the Director of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health of the EHESP School of Public Health and chairs the special "Environmental risk" Committee of the High Council for Public Health. He has authored and co-authored over 150 articles and made contributions to many books in environmental epidemiology and environmental risk assessment.

PARTNERS



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