

SIMON JAMES NICHOLSON
Curriculum Vitae
(Last updated August 2015)

School of International Service
American University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

American University, Washington, DC

Director, Global Environmental Politics Program (2014-Present)
Co-founder of the Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment (formerly the Washington
Geoengineering Consortium), a scholarly initiative of the School of International Service (2014-
Present)
Co-Director, Global Scholars Program (2011-2014)
Assistant Professor (2009-Present)

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Visiting Lecturer, Semester at Sea program (Spring 2007)

University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

Visiting Lecturer, Economics Department (2006)
Lecturer and Director of Clinical Legal Education, School of Law (1999-2001)
Lecturer, Economics Department (1998-2001)

EDUCATION

American University, Washington, DC

Ph.D. in International Relations (May 2009)
Dissertation Title: *Governing the Gene: The Politics of Transgenic Agriculture and the Future of Food*
Dissertation Committee: Paul Wapner (Chair); Ken Conca; Patrick Jackson; and Judith Shapiro

University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

LLM (Master of Laws), with Distinction (2001)
LLB (Bachelor of Laws), 1st Class Honors (1998)
BMS (Bachelor of Management Studies), 1st Class Honors (1998)

RESEARCH

Books

(with Sikina Jinnah) (eds.), *New Earth Politics: Essays from the Anthropocene* (MIT Press, forthcoming Spring 2016).

(with Paul Wapner) (eds.), *Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet* (Paradigm Publishers, 2015).

Journal Special Issues and Forums

(with Wil Burns and Michael Thompson) (eds.), invited forum for *Global Environmental Politics* on human rights and climate engineering (in preparation for submission Summer 2015).

(with Wil Burns) (eds.), special issue of the journal *Climate Law* on climate engineering law and governance (forthcoming 2016).

Academic Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"A World Beyond Ecological Limits: Lessons from Iain M. Banks' *Culture Series*," (in preparation for special issue) Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene.

(with Eve Bratman, Kate Brunette, and Deidre Shelley), "Justice is the Goal: Divestment as Climate Change Resistance," (under review) Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences.

(with Sikina Jinnah), "Introduction: Living on a New Earth," in Simon Nicholson and Sikina Jinnah (eds.), *New Earth Politics* (MIT Press, forthcoming 2016).

(with Wil Burns), "Climate Engineering: Governing Emergency Responses on a New Earth," in Simon Nicholson and Sikina Jinnah (eds.), *New Earth Politics* (MIT Press, forthcoming 2016).

(with Michael Thompson), "Strange Bedfellows: Climate Engineering Politics in the United States," in Jason Blackstock et al. (eds.), *Geoengineering Our Climate*, (Routledge, forthcoming 2016). Published as working paper at www.geoengineeringourclimate.com/2015/04/21/strange-bedfellows-climate-engineering-politics-in-the-united-states-opinion-article/.

"Reimagining Climate Engineering: The Politics of Tinkering with the Sky," in Hilal Elver and Paul Wapner (eds.), *Reimagining Climate Change*, (Routledge, forthcoming 2016).

"The Birth of Free-Market Environmentalism," (article length review essay) (forthcoming 2015) The Journal of Interdisciplinary History XLVI: 3.

"Biotechnology and the Global Food Riots: Why Genetically Modified Foods Will Not End World Hunger," in Guy Robinson and Doris Carson (eds.) *The Globalisation of Agriculture*, (Edward Elgar, 2015) pp. 255-273.

“Governance and Global Environmental Issues: Cooperation in the Twenty-first Century (2000s-present),” in Sally Fairfax and Ed Russell (eds.) *The Guide to US Environmental Policy* (CQ Press, 2014) pp. 421-435.

“Environmentalism: Cars, Farming, and Resource Insecurity,” in Jennifer Sterling-Folker (ed.), *Making Sense of IR Theory* (2nd ed.) (Lynne Rienner, 2013) pp. 335-349.

“The Promises and Perils of Geoengineering,” in Erik Assadourian et al., *Worldwatch Institute: State of the World 2013* (Island Press, 2013) pp. 317-331.

(with Daniel Chong) “Jumping on the Human Rights Bandwagon: How Rights-based Linkages can Refocus Climate Politics,” (2011) *Global Environmental Politics* vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 121-136.

“Understanding and Governing the Global Food System,” (article-length review essay) (2011) *Global Environmental Politics* vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 120-125.

“Intelligent Design? Unpacking Geoengineering’s Hidden Sacrifices,” in Michael Maniates and John Meyer (eds.) *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice* (MIT Press, 2010) pp. 271-292.

“Genetically Modified Organisms and Global Hunger: A Real Solution?” (2008) *Sustainable Development Law and Policy* vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 57-61, 77.

“Toward a Pluralist Conception of Human Rights,” (2002) *Swords and Ploughshares* vol. 11, pp. 79-89.

“Water Scarcity, Conflict, and International Water Law: An Examination of the Regime established by the UN Convention on International Watercourses,” (2001) *New Zealand Journal of Environmental Law* vol. 5, pp. 91-125.

Book Reviews, Reports, etc. (Selected)

(with Michael Thompson, Wil Burns, and Kate Goodwin-Reese), “A Civil Society Meeting on Geoengineering: Summary and Synthesis,” (December 2013) report for the Washington Geoengineering Consortium. 24 pp. Available at <http://dcgeoconsortium.org/civil-society-meeting-report/>.

Review of Robert H. Nelson, *The New Holy Wars: Economic Religion vs. Environmental Religion in Contemporary America*, (2011) *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 9(1), pp. 122-124.

“Feeding Ten Billion: A Dialogue Between Feed the Future and the International Research Community,” (December 2011) report published by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). 94 pp. Available at www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=3664.

“Feed the Future E-Consultation Summary: Synthesis of E-consultation Discussion Conducted May 9-27, 2011,” June 2011, based on work completed for USAID and APLU. 39 pp. Available at www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=3251.

“A Sea Change in Food Aid?” (2009) *Foreign Policy* July 23, 2009. Available at: www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/23/a_sea_change_in_food_aid.

(with Borut Grgic and Pablo Reyes) “Energy Risk Index: Central and Eastern Europe” (2005) report for Onamics LLC (Washington DC) / Institute for Strategic Studies-Ljubljana. Available at: www.onamics.com/downloads/OnamicsESI05.pdf. 21 pp.

(with Stephen Hooper) “Living up to the Pacific Promise—New Zealand’s Role in Peace-Building in our Neighbourhood,” published in proceedings of the Just Peace Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 24-28 April 2000.

Media (Selected contributions, 2014 and 2015)

“The climate geoengineering genie — Why we all need to be paying attention,” Op Ed in The Hill, October 8, 2014.

(with Michael MacCracken), “Technology to the Planet's Rescue?” –Op Ed in US News and World Report, June 6, 2014.

“Climate Geoengineering: Coming Soon to a Planet Near You,” talk for TEDx American University, May 24, 2014.

(with David Keith and Jane Long), interview about climate geoengineering for Huffington Post Live, April 22, 2014.

Interviews for: LA Times, Vice, Boston Globe, Huffington Post, Grist, and others

Academic Conference Papers

(with Rachael Somerville), “Why the Silence? Environmental NGOs, Climate Engineering, and Implications for Climate Politics,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, San Diego, California, June 24-27, 2015.

“Reimagining Climate Engineering,” for the DC Area Climate & Energy Research Workshop, College Park, Maryland, February 6, 2015.

“Introduction: New Earth Politics,” for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, March 26-29, 2014.

“Co-opting Counter-Narratives: Genetically Modified Foods and the Creation of Radical Continuities,” for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, March 26-29, 2014.

“Are Drought Resistant Seeds the Answer? If So, What's the Question?” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, April 3-6, 2013.

“A Dialogue between Feed the Future and the International Research Community,” prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) *Agricultural Outlook Forum 2012: Moving Agriculture Forward*, Arlington, Virginia, February 24, 2012.

(with Daniel Chong) “Jumping on the Human Rights Bandwagon: How Rights based Linkages Are Reshaping Climate Politics,” at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, March 16-19, 2011.

(with Daniel Chong) “Framing Climate Change: How a Human Rights Approach Affects Climate Policy,” for the ISA/ABRI Annual Conference, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, July 22-24, 2009.

“A World Beyond Ecological Limits: Lessons from Iain M. Banks’ *Culture* Series,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, February 15-18, 2009.

(with Daniel Chong) “From Knowledge to Action: Applying a Rights-based Approach to Global Climate Change,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, March 26-29, 2008.

“Better Dead than GM Fed?”—Zambia and Genetically Modified Food Aid,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, California, March 22-26, 2006.

“The Poli-Technics of GM Food,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, California, March 22-26, 2006.

“Indexing Energy Security: Some Results from Central and Eastern Europe,” prepared for the Northeastern Political Science Association/International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference, Philadelphia, November 17-19, 2005.

“The Ambivalent Politics of Technology: The Case of GM Foods,” prepared for the oikos Ph.D. Summer Academy, University of St Gallen, Switzerland, August 22-25, 2005.

“Genetically Modified Foods and the Politics of Risk,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 1-5, 2005.

“The Security Politics of Technology,” prepared for the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Summer Workshop, Delhi, India, July 27-August 7, 2004.

“Sustaining Technologies: A Re-evaluation of the Technology-Environment Link,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the UK Political Studies Association, Lincoln, England, April 5-8, 2004.

(with Stephen Hooper) “Living up to the Pacific Promise—New Zealand’s Role in Peace-Building in our Neighbourhood,” published in proceedings of the Just Peace Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 24-28 April 2000.

Other Conference and Workshop Appearances (Selected)

Roundtable participant: “Into the Great Wide Open: Climate Geoengineering in the Anthropocene?” at the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences annual conference, New York, June 11-14, 2014.

Roundtable chair: "Strange Bedfellow: Political Contestation over SRM on the Left and Right," at the Climate Engineering Conference 2014, Berlin, Germany, August 18-21, 2014.

Panel chair: "Climate Geoengineering and the Potential Role of Human Rights Regimes," at the Climate Engineering Conference 2014, Berlin, Germany, August 18-21, 2014.

Organizer, panel participant, and moderator: "A Civil Society Meeting on Geoengineering," meeting organized by the Washington Geoengineering Consortium, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, November 4, 2013.

Panelist: "Biomimicry and Biophilic Cities: What Can Nature Teach Us About Sustainability?" 23rd Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists, Chattanooga, TN, October 2-6, 2013.

Roundtable chair: "The Academy and Earth Responsibility," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, April 3-6, 2013.

Discussant: "Global Diffusion of Solutions to Agricultural Problems," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, April 3-6, 2013.

Moderator and discussant: "Environment," at the College Democrats Next Steps Conference, American University, Washington DC, February 16, 2013.

Moderator and discussant: "US Farm Bill Abroad: From Aid to Trade," at the US Farm Bill 2012: Policy and Potential Symposium, American University, Washington DC, April 27, 2012.

Roundtable chair and participant: "Global Environmental Politics on a New Earth," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2012.

Roundtable participant: "Save the Fish, Save the World," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2012.

Organizer and moderator: "Occupy Wall Street: Why Should We Care?" American University, Washington DC, November 4, 2011.

Roundtable participant: "Following the Food Chain," at the Food Day Conference, American University, Washington DC, October 25, 2011.

Roundtable participant: "Eating Green: A Conversation about Food, Consumption and Sustainability," at the Andrew Wolf Memorial Conference, Washington DC, April 22, 2011.

Panel chair: "Sustainability at the Right Scale?" for American University Earth Week, Washington DC, April 21, 2011.

Roundtable chair: "The Long Transition: A Moderated Conversation on Pathways to a Sustainable World," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, March 16-19, 2011.

Roundtable participant: "Bringing Media Projects into a Non-Media Course," at the annual Ann Ferren Teaching Conference, American University, Washington DC, January 7, 2011.

Roundtable participant: "Intelligent Design? Unpacking Geoengineering's Hidden Sacrifices," launch for the volume *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice*, American University, Washington DC, October 1, 2010.

Organizer and moderator, "The Art of Problem-Driven Theorizing: Writing Dissertations that Engage with the World," Workshop for 18 Ph.D. students from across the United States, American University, Washington DC, October 1, 2010.

Moderator and panelist, "Urban Jungle, Food Desert: How Media Can Help Redefine the Cityscape," organized for a conference titled Urban Transformations: Public and Private Practices of Social Change, Washington DC, March 21, 2009.

Roundtable participant: "Encountering Global Environmental Politics: Pedagogies of Hope," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, February 15-18, 2009.

Roundtable participant: "Climate Change and the Global Environmental Movement," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, February 15-18, 2009.

Roundtable participant: "Carbon on Campus: Implementing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, March 26-29, 2008.

Moderator and panelist, "Benefits and Risks of US Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol," roundtable discussion organized for the International Debate Education Society, Washington DC, June 11, 2005.

Invited Talks (Selected)

"The Contentious Politics of Climate Engineering," Norwegian University of Life Sciences, As, Norway, March 10, 2015.

Plenary panelist: "Assess, Test, or Terminate? What Future for Climate Engineering Research?" at the Climate Engineering Conference 2014, Berlin, Germany, August 18-21, 2014.

"Climate Geoengineering: Coming Soon to a Planet Near You," Yale-NUS, Singapore, March 21, 2014.

Panelist: "Into the Great Wide Open? Discussion of Climate Change Engineering," EPC Forum, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, October 17, 2013.

Panelist: "Is Sustainability Still Possible?" launch of Worldwatch's State of the World 2013, Takoma Park, MD, April 21, 2013.

Panelist: "How to Get to a One-Planet Way of Life—or Get Through the Collapse If We Can't," launch of Worldwatch's State of the World 2013, American University, Washington, DC, April 17, 2013.

Moderator and panelist: "Paving the Way for the First Sustainable Generation," House of Sweden, Washington DC, May 15, 2012.

"Overview of the Feed the Future Research Strategy and Presentation of E-Consultation Results," at the Feed the Future Research Forum, Washington DC, June 21-23, 2011.

"Student Participation in Green Urban Redevelopment," prepared for a workshop organized by the Living City Block Initiative, Washington, DC, April 23, 2011.

"Beyond the Lightbulb: Realizing Effective Environmental Action," prepared for a conference organized by the Ohio-Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, titled *Green Leadership*, Youngstown, OH, October 23, 2010.

"Globalization, Trade, and World Hunger," prepared for participants in the Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship, Washington, DC, April 30, 2010.

"The Political Geography of Hunger," prepared for the Congressional Hunger Center, Washington, DC, July 21, 2009; updated and repeated July 18, 2011; September 26, 2013.

"The Hungry Billion: Making Sense of the Global Food Crisis," prepared for the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, Auckland, New Zealand, March 12, 2009; also presented at the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, April 17, 2009.

"Our Ecological Condition: A Primer on Analysis and Action," prepared for City Year Washington DC's Green Idealism Conference, Washington, DC, May 23, 2008; updated and repeated June 11, 2009.

"Seizing the Bioenergy Opportunity," prepared for a Roundtable hosted by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute titled *The Politics of Corn: The Effects of Corn-Based Biofuels on the Latino Community in the U.S. and Abroad*, Washington, DC, May 14, 2008.

"Sustainable Biofuels: Lessons from the Green Revolution," prepared for a conference titled *Construyendo una Estrategia Sostenible de Biocombustibles para Colombia y la Región*, Bogotá, Colombia, April 24, 2008.

"The Search for Sustainability in Business," Rotorua Tourism Industry Forum, Rotorua, New Zealand, March 10, 2006.

"Emerging Themes in Environmental Security," George Washington University, Washington DC, November 14, 2003.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

- Emerging Technologies and the Environment
- Building a Post-Carbon World
- International Environmental Politics
- Political Ecology of Food and Agriculture
- World Politics
- Introduction to International Relations Research
- Food and Society
- International Conflict Resolution
- Perspectives on Peace
- Sustainable Development, the Global Economy, and Poverty Alleviation
- Quantitative Methods (Economics)
- Microeconomics
- Law and Economics
- Legal Systems
- Contracts
- Dispute Resolution
- Mediation, Facilitation, and Conferencing
- Advanced Mediation (Short course)
- Engineering Systems and the Global Environment (Short course)
- International Law and Human Rights (Short course)

Graduate

- Environment and Politics
- Global Politics of the Environment (online course)
- The Practice of Environmentalism (Fieldwork: Galapagos Islands)
- Building a Post-Carbon World
- Political Ecology of Food and Agriculture
- Sustainable Development, the Global Economy, and Poverty Alleviation
- Advanced Dispute Resolution

AWARDS & GRANTS (Selected)

- 2015-2018 Principal Investigator on funded project, grant from private foundation, "International Governance of Climate Engineering," \$750,000 over three years
- 2014 SIS Dean's office conference travel award, \$1,500
- 2013 American University Faculty Research Support Grant, \$9,493
- 2012 SIS Dean's office conference travel award, \$1,500
- 2011 International Studies Association Workshop Grant, for workshop titled *Global Environmental Politics on a New Earth: Deepening Community and Research for the Environmental Studies Section*. Lead organizer, with Paul Wapner and Sikina Jinnah. Workshop approved for 2011 International Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Canada, supported in the amount of \$10,791. See <http://gepworkshop.blogspot.com/>
- 2009 Outstanding Teaching in a Ph.D. Position, SIS
- 2007 Environmental Politics Outstanding Student Award, SIS
- 2005-2006 SIS Dissertation Fellowship (Stipend and Tuition Remission)
- 2001-2002 Fulbright Graduate Scholarship for study in the United States

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

Manuscript Reviewer:

Books

Columbia University Press
MIT Press
Oxford University Press (proposal reviewer)
University of Toronto Press
W. W. Norton and Company

Journal Articles

Agriculture and Human Values
Cambridge Review of International Affairs
Ecology and Society
Environmental Politics
Global Environmental Politics
Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Journal of International Relations and Development
Religions
Review of International Organizations
Review of International Studies
Review of Policy Research

Other

International Studies Association Compendium Project
Grant reviewer: European Science Foundation (ECRP program)

2013-Present: Co-founder of the Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment (formerly the Washington Geoengineering Consortium), a group devoted to developing more robust public and civil society engagement on the subject of geoengineering: www.dcgeoconsortium.org

2012-2014: Member of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Studies Section of the International Studies Association.

May 2011: Coordinator and moderator for a major on-line consultation for academics and policy makers (more than 1,100 registered participants), examining the research strategy for the US Government's Feed the Future Initiative. See <http://globalfoodsecurityresearch.net/forum.php>

2007-Present: Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Centro de Estudios Estratégicos Latinoamericanos in Bogotá, Colombia (<http://ceelat.org/>).

2010-2012: Co-Chair American University Campus-wide Sustainability Projects Committee.

Professional Memberships: U.S. International Studies Association (ISA), Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS).

REFERENCES (*Contact information and written references available by request*)

Paul Wapner, American University

Ken Conca, American University

Michael Maniates, Yale-NUS College

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, American University

Thomas Princen, University of Michigan

Dan Chong, Rollins College