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KlimaCampus Kolloquium

Prof. Matt McDonald

Ethics and Climate Security

The way the relationship between climate change and security is understood in academic and policy circles varies significantly, with different discourses of climate security encouraging different policy responses. Given these differences, it becomes important to identify progressive security discourses: discourses underpinned by defensible ethical assumptions and encouraging effective practical responses to environmental change. Here I make a case for an ecological security discourse. Such a discourse orients towards ecosystem resilience and the rights and needs of the most vulnerable across space (populations of developing worlds), time (future generations) and species (other living beings). Such a discourse is both morally more defensible than other security discourses and most likely to encourage practices oriented towards redressing the problem of climate change itself, though its embrace and implementation of course faces profound practical and epistemological challenges.

Prof. McDonald from the University of Queensland is invited by the The Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy

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