

SIMON JAMES NICHOLSON
Curriculum Vitae

School of International Service
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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, with Distinction (2001)

LLB, 1st Class Honors (1998)

BMS (Bachelor of Management Studies), 1st Class Honors (1998)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

American University, Washington, DC

Assistant Director of Global Scholars program (2011-Present)

Assistant Professor (2009-Present)

Instructor (2007-2009)

Adjunct Professor (2003-2007)

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)

RESEARCH

Academic Journal Articles and Book Chapters

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

(with Daniel Chong) “Jumping on the Human Rights Bandwagon: How Rights-based Linkages can Refocus Climate Politics,” (2011) Global Environmental Politics vol. 11(3), pp. 121-136.

“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(1), pp. 57-61, 77. Available at: www.wcl.american.edu/org/sustainabledevelopment/documents/08fall.pdf.

“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

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

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.

Other Writings and Reports (Selected)

“Research and the Feed the Future Initiative: Final Report of a Consultation with the International Research Community,” (forthcoming 2011).

“Feed the Future E-Consultation Summary: Synthesis of E-consultation Discussion Conducted May 9-27, 2011,” June 2011, based on work completed for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APUL). Available at <https://www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=3251>. 39 pp.

“A Sea Change in Food Aid?” (2009) Foreign Policy (online edition) 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.

Conference Proceedings

(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.

Academic Conference and Workshop Presentations

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

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

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

(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, 16-19 March 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, 16-19 March 2011.

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

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

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

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, 21 March 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, 15-18 February 2009.

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

Roundtable: "Climate Change and the Global Environmental Movement," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, 15-18 February 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, 26-29 March 2008.

Roundtable: "Carbon on Campus: Implementing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment," at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, 26-29 March 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, 22-26 March 2006.

“The Poli-Technics of GM Food,” prepared for the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, California, 22-26 March 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, 17-19 November 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

Invited Talks (Selected)

“Student Participation in Green Urban Redevelopment,” prepared for a workshop organized by the Living City Block Initiative, Washington, DC, 23 April 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, 23 October 2010.

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

“The Political Geography of Hunger,” prepared for the Congressional Hunger Center, Washington, DC, 21 July 2009; updated and repeated 18 July 2011.

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

“Our Ecological Condition: A Primer on Analysis and Action,” prepared for City Year Washington DC’s Green Idealism Conference, Washington, DC, 23 May 2008; updated and repeated 11 June 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, 14 May 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, 24 April 2008. Slideshow (in Spanish) available at www.ceelat.org/eventos.html.

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

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

Research in Progress

Book Manuscripts

Walking the Tightrope: Biotechnology and the Future of Food. (Manuscript in preparation for MIT Press, for Robert Gottlieb’s *Food, Health, and Environment* series.)

(with Paul Wapner) *Action for the Earth: A Political Ecology Reader for Global Change* (An edited reader. Manuscript in preparation for Paradigm Press.)

Articles and Book Chapters

(with Daniel Chong) “From Knowledge to Practice: Applying a Rights-Based Approach to Global Climate Change,” (In preparation. Submission, based on conference paper, invited by the editors of International Studies Perspectives).

“Radical Continuities: Biotechnology and the Contemporary Agricultural Landscape,” (preparing for submission to Review of Policy Research).

“Genetically Modified Foods and the Global Food Crisis” (preparing for submission to The Journal of Environment and Development).

Other Projects

- Developing new long-term research project looking at the uses of emerging mapping and surveillance technologies in environmental management, and situations of conflict and large-scale disaster.
- (with Bill Gentile) In talks with the US Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Free Range Media, and other media developers and funders to develop texts, a film, and a multimedia project titled “The Search for a New American Prosperity,” to examine emerging ideas about low-consumption/high-prosperity living in the wake of the global financial crisis.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

- International Environmental Politics
- Political Ecology of Food and Agriculture
- World Politics (Intro to IR Theory)
- 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

- The Practice of Environmentalism (Fieldwork: Galapagos Islands)
- Political Ecology of Food and Agriculture
- Sustainable Development, the Global Economy, and Poverty Alleviation
- Advanced Dispute Resolution

COURSES BEST PREPARED TO TEACH

- Global Environmental Politics
- Global Food Politics
- World Politics (Intro to IR Theory)
- International Relations Research
- Perspectives on Peace
- The Politics of Technology
- International Political Economy
- International Development

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 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 author, 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 Student Award, SIS
- 2005-2006 SIS Dissertation Fellowship (Stipend and Tuition Remission)
- 2005 Grant from oikos International to attend the oikos Ph.D. Summer Academy in St Gallen, Switzerland
- 2004 Fulbright Professional Enhancement Grant (for conference travel)
- 2004 Grant from the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) to cover attendance at the ACUNS Summer Workshop in New Delhi, India
- 2001-2004 American University Hurst Fellowship (Stipend and Tuition Remission)
- 2001-2002 Fulbright Graduate Scholarship for study in the United States

- 1999 University of Waikato Masters Scholarship
- 1999 University of Waikato Law School Scholarship for Masters Studies
- 1999 Law and Economics Association of New Zealand Scholarship
- 1996-1998 Rotorua (New Zealand) Energy Charitable Trust Tertiary Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

Reviewer: Global Environmental Politics, Review of Policy Research, Agriculture and Human Values, Journal of International Relations and Development, International Studies Association Compendium Project, European Science Foundation (ECRP program).

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>

Co-Chair (2011-Present) American University Campus-wide Sustainability Projects Committee.

Professional Memberships: U.S. International Studies Association (ISA), American Political Science Association (APSA), Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).

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

REFERENCES (*Written references available by request*)

Paul Wapner, American University, pwapner@american.edu, 202-885-1647

Ken Conca, American University, conca@american.edu, 202-885-6391

Michael Maniates, Allegheny College, michael.maniates@allegheny.edu, 814-332-2786

Patrick Jackson, American University, ptjack@american.edu, 202-885-2036

Judith Shapiro, American University, shapiro@american.edu, 202-885-1629

Dan Chong, Rollins College, dchong@rollins.edu, 407-646-2158

Thomas Princen, University of Michigan, tprincen@umich.edu, 734-647-9227