

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

David Victor

*School of Global Policy and Strategy
University of California–San Diego*

“Experimentalist Approaches to
Governing Global Commons”

Monday, October 16, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



One of the central difficulties in managing global commons problems is that the relevant actors often do not know which actions to take nor the cost and impact of changing behavior. This problem of uncertainty can often impede cooperation, especially when actors are risk averse and when incumbents are well-organized to block policies that could undermine their market position. Drawing from the literature on experimentalist governance (XG), Victor will explain why some areas of coordination on climate policy—for example, on forests and on expansion of renewable energy—are moving quickly even as most others remain entrenched. This talk will present the opening chapter from a book Victor is finishing with Charles Sabel, and will focus on the implications of XG thinking for international cooperation theory as well as the fate of the Paris Agreement and other climate institutions. It will also suggest, by reexamining history, that many of the iconic examples of successful international governance—such as in trade and in protecting the ozone layer—owe their success to XG-like institutions.



David Victor is director of the Laboratory on International Law and Regulation and a professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego where he also co-leads the University's Deep Decarbonization Initiative. His research focuses on how regulatory law affects the environment, technology choices, industrial structure, and the operation of major energy markets. Prior to joining UC San Diego, Victor served as director of the Program on Energy and Sustainable Development at Stanford University ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).