

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Building Blocks, Facilitators and Catalysts:
Dynamic Interactions between International
Institutions within a Climate Regime Complex”



Wednesday, December 11, 2019

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

This paper will develop a new concept, ‘institutional catalyst’ – an institution that shapes the momentum and direction of a complex institutional landscape. It asks: How are institutional catalysts created within that complex landscape and how do they end up shaping that landscape? Scholars have characterised international climate governance as a regime complex or polycentric system. This paper will examine the emergence, and impact, of a regional climate arrangement, the US - China bilateral deal, within that broader climate institutional complex. It will show that institutional catalysts are the products of interactions between institutional building blocks and organizational facilitators when global multilateral institutions are deadlocked. It will further argue that institutional catalysts will trigger discussions and negotiations in other forums, and potentially overcome multilateral deadlocks. Through process tracing and data collected from interviews with climate diplomats and policymakers, this paper will argue that institutional catalysts are one pathway through which countries navigate and manage a complex institutional landscape.

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[Giridharan Ramasubramanian](#) is a doctoral candidate in the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy in the Australian National University. In 2018, he received an Endeavour Research Fellowship and was based at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in Princeton University. Previously, he completed his Master of Arts (International Relations) with Honours and Master of Diplomacy from the Australian National University. Prior to that, he did his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Melbourne University.

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