



SCHOOL OF
**PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Environmental Policy Seminar

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University of Colorado School of Public Affairs

Friday, April 12, 2019 • 2:00-3:30pm • Hodge Hall Room 2057

**Understanding and Analyzing Policy Conflict:
Lessons from Energy Debates in the U.S.**

Abstract

All political systems exhibit conflict of various intensities over public policy issues, but we continue to struggle in describing and comparing the characteristics of these policy conflicts. This presentation introduces the Policy Conflict Framework (PCF), which was developed as a tool to guide and organize theoretical, practical, and empirical research around policy conflicts. It also presents examples of three recent applications of the PCF in the context of debates over oil and gas development and the siting of natural gas pipelines in the US, using data from surveys and media analyses. From these applications, this presentation will offer lessons about the nature of policy conflicts in the energy domain along with a research agenda for extending our knowledge of policy conflicts.



Bio

Professor Heikkila's research and teaching focus on policy processes and environmental governance. She is particularly interested in how conflict and collaboration arise in policy processes, and what types of institutions support collaboration, learning and conflict resolution. Some of her recent research has explored these issues in the context of interstate watersheds, large-scale ecosystem restoration programs, and unconventional oil and gas development. Prof. Heikkila has published numerous articles and books on these topics and has participated in several interdisciplinary research and education projects. She enjoys collaborating with faculty and students, especially through the Workshop in Policy Process Research at CU Denver, which she co-directs. Prior to coming to CU Denver, Prof. Heikkila was a post-doctoral fellow at Indiana University's Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis and an Assistant Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. A native of Oregon, she received her B.A. from the University of Oregon and then learned to appreciate desert life while completing her MPA and Ph.D. at the University of Arizona.