

Title: Social Mobilization and the Politics of Climate Change

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Climate change is arguably one of the most serious threats facing the global community and yet it occupies scant space on the political landscape in the United States. Significant reductions in greenhouse gases are probably only possible with government policy, but there has been little public mobilization around such policies. As others have noted, the environmental movement has lost the widespread appeal that galvanized political support for radical change in the 1970s, and no alternative forms of mobilization have taken its place. And yet, there are local-level movements and protests around issues related to climate such as alternative energy (such as natural gas and fracking), mountain-top removal for coal, etc. In this topical lunch, we will discuss the relationship between climate change, social mobilization and political action. We hope to bring together a wide range of academic disciplines to talk about different approaches to understanding - and potentially influencing - the political landscape of climate change action.