

ACSF Topical Lunch on Climate Justice

Title: What is Climate Justice and What Are Its Implications?

Host: Ravi Kanbur

Date: Thursday May 12, 2016 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

Climate justice requires sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. It thus takes us beyond the supposed neutrality of climate science. It brings together justice between generations and justice within generations. In particular it requires that attempts to address justice between generations through various interventions designed to curb greenhouse emissions today, do not end up creating injustice in our time by hurting the currently poor and vulnerable. More generally, issues of distribution and justice are of paramount importance in any discourse on climate change. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) summit in September 2015, and the Conference of Parties (COP) in December 2015, brought climate change and its development impact, including climate justice, center stage in global discussions. This topical lunch is a prelude to a conference at Cornell later in May which builds on the momentum of these meetings to take stock of and advance the analysis of climate change from a distributional and justice perspective in an interdisciplinary interaction among economists, philosophers and policy makers.

The objective of this topical lunch is to bring together faculty from across the university who are interested in advancing conversation about Climate Change and Climate Justice. Participants will be asked to reflect on the two sets of questions. First, what is Climate Justice, how does it differ from Science as Usual and what are the implications of the difference, especially for policy at the national and global levels? Second, could climate justice become a real banner on campus and how or who could keep it going past this topical lunch and the conference which follows?