

# P. BRIAN FISHER

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FACULTY  
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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. (June 2009)	<b>University of California</b> (Irvine, CA) Political Science. <u>Concentration:</u> IR, Environmental Law & Policy.
J.D.	<b>Loyola University</b> (New Orleans, LA)
B.A.	<b>Auburn University</b> (Auburn, AL) Economics.

## APPOINTMENTS

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**Assistant Professor**, College of Charleston, Department of Political Science and Environmental Studies Faculty, 2009-Present.

## FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Environmental Policy: human dimensions of ecological change, including human security, vulnerability, sustainability; global climate change; and global environmental governance.

International Law: international environmental law; human rights; environmental justice; and the legal aspects of climate change.

## DISSERTATION

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### **Reframing Global Climate Change: Achieving Human Security for Vulnerable Communities**

Abstract: The dissertation focuses on adaptation to climate change in vulnerable communities within a context of climate justice. The focal case studies are Tuvalu and the Inuit, which are representative of many vulnerable communities in that climate change already threatens the way of life and potential survival. It employs mixed methodological techniques designed to triangulate climate data, primarily through original quantitative data derived from survey questionnaires and in-depth qualitative interviews. The main thesis is that biophysical changes exacerbate environmental conditions and create entirely new environmental and human hazards, imperiling human security in an unprecedented way. From this perspective, the cases demonstrate that climate change is much more than an environmental issue, one bound by simple accountings of greenhouse gas emissions and tradable credits; rather, it is a social justice problem bound by multiple human security issues, which will perpetuate global inequality and marginalization. This conclusion challenges current approaches to climate change, and illustrates that present solutions are, at their core, limited and unjust. The final chapter builds on this conclusion by exploring how to produce equitable multi-

scale climate policy that embraces a fundamental duty toward adaptation.

Committee: Cecelia Lynch (UCI), Chair, [clynch@uci.edu](mailto:clynch@uci.edu); Richard Matthew (UCI), [rmatthew@uci.edu](mailto:rmatthew@uci.edu); Alison Brysk (UCI), [abrysk@uci.edu](mailto:abrysk@uci.edu); Paul Wapner (American University), [pwapner@american.edu](mailto:pwapner@american.edu).

## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

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- Institute for Qualitative Methods Research (IQRM), Colloquium for Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM), Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, January 3-13, 2006.
- Interpretive Methods Workshop at ISA-Northeast, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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### PUBLICATIONS

Fisher, P. Brian, forthcoming (2010). "Ecological Governmentality: The Displacement of the Local in the Rio Negro Region of Brazil." *Human Ecology*, v.38.

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

- \* "Achieving Long-Term Goals for Climate Policy: UNFCCC Article 2 and Human Security"
- \* "Lessons for Climate Policy: Examining Human Insecurity in Funafuti, Tuvalu"
- \* "Reframing Approaches to Global Climate Policy to reflect Global and Local Realities"
- \* "Contentions and Synergies in American and Chinese Perspectives on Global Crises" with Guoli Liu, College of Charleston.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

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2010. "Achieving Long-Term Goals for Climate Policy: UNFCCC Article 2 and Human Security." International Studies Association (ISA), New Orleans, LA, 18-21 February.
2009. "Human Security and Climate Change: A Comparative Case of Tuvalu and the Inuit." International Studies Association (ISA), New York, NY, 15-18 February.
2009. "Encountering Global Environmental Politics: Pedagogies of Hope." Chair/Participant. International Studies Association (ISA), New York, NY, 15-18 February.
2008. "Climate Justice: Human Security and Climate Change in Tuvalu." International Studies Association (ISA), San Francisco, CA, 26-29 March.
2007. "Contextual Environmentalism: The Effects of Climate Change." Western Political Science Association (WPSA). Las Vegas, NV, 8-10, March.
2007. "The Construction of Arctic Global Climate Change: The Case of the Inuit." International Studies Association (ISA), Chicago, IL, 28 February-3 March.
2006. "Nature Divided: Transnational Environmental Discourse and the Environment in the Brazilian Amazon." ISA-NE/NPSA, Boston, MA, 9-11 November.
2006. "The Network Construction of Global Environmental Governance: The Role of NGOs." International Studies Association (ISA), San Diego, CA, 22-26 March.
2005. "Bridging the Human Rights-Environment Divide: Manifesting Ecological Rights." ISA-NE/NPSA, Philadelphia, PA, 17-19 November.
2005. "A Global Governance Network: A Framework for Global Ecological Problems." Conference: UCI IR Group. University of California, Irvine, 14 May.
2005. "Environmental Values: Postmaterialism or Culture?" Greening XIV. UCI, 22 January.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS/TALKS

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- January 2008. "Climate Change in Tuvalu." University of California, Irvine. Environmental Law Society.
- October 2007. "Social Entrepreneurship, Sustainability and Security: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change." University of California, Irvine.
- September 2007. "Effects of Climate Change in Tuvalu." Tuvaluan Climate Network, Funafuti, Tuvalu.
- November 2006. "Climate Change: A Weapon of Mass Destruction?" Law and Security Symposium, University of California, Irvine.
- February 2006. "The Politics of Climate Change." Sierra Club, Irvine, CA.

## FIELD RESEARCH SITES

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### ▪ Funafuti, Tuvalu (April, September 2007 and June 2008)

Conducted extensive research designed to comprehensively catalogue of the effects of climate change in Tuvalu and its impact on human security. I conducted more than 45 in-depth video interviews of government officials (including Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, and 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister), elders and community leaders, scientific officers and NGOs. I also created a survey project designed to assess quantitatively the observed impacts of climate change, adaptive responses, and the costs associated with these impacts. This survey (N=141) was conducted in June 2008 through in-depth questionnaires and distributed door-to-door to just over 20% of the households in Funafuti (main island).

### ▪ Arctic: Baffin Island, Canada & Ottawa, Canada (August-September 2006)

Conducted 35+ qualitative interviews among various sectors of Inuit society and the Canadian government. The research was designed to assess the physical effects of climate change, its physical and social/cultural impact on the Inuit, and analyze the consequences of these impacts. In addition, I collected data (from previous surveys) on climate change throughout the region, as well as conducted socio-historical research in Iqaluit. I interviewed the lead counsel for the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) Petition filed on behalf of the Inuit against the U.S.

### ▪ Rio Negro River Region, Amazonas, Brazil (June-July 2005)

Research consisted of interviewing individuals in various communities along the Rio Negro River. The project focused on examining changes in human (and state) interaction with the environment, and how those changes, in turn, affected the well-being of community members. I was specifically interested in communities that would not be afforded additional protections as "indigenous" but who had lived in the same place for generations and had a stake in the land, nature, and community. A sub-phase of the research centered on climatic changes and its impact on the people of the region.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Undergraduate*

Introduction to International Relations  
International Law  
Global Environmental Politics  
Law & Policy of Global Climate Change  
Global Climate Policy  
International Environmental Law  
Environmental Justice  
Environmental Policy

## **Graduate**

Negotiating Climate Policy  
Environmental Justice

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

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- **University of California, Dean's Graduate Dissertation Fellowship**, spring 2009 (\$10k)
- **University of California, Social Science Fellowship**, fall 2008 (tuition + \$5000)
- **Center for Unconventional Security Fellowship**, spring 2008
  - ▶ Climate Impacts Survey in Funafuti, Tuvalu
- **University of California, Social Science Research Award**, summer 2008
- **University of California, Outstanding Teaching Awards**
  - ▶ Spring 2004; fall 2004; winter 2005; fall 2006; spring 2006; spring 2008
- **University of California Regents Dissertation Fellowship**, 2008
- **Coalition Advocating Human Security (CAHS) Fellowship** (\$10k), 2006-07
  - ▶ Research on the effects of climate change on Pacific SIDS (Small Island Developing States)
- **University of California, Social Science Research Award**, summer 2007
  - ▶ Research on global climate change in Funafuti, Tuvalu
- **University of California, Social Science Research Award**, summer 2006
  - ▶ Research on Arctic climate change and the Inuit
- **University of California Regents Pre-dissertation Fellowship**, 2006 (tuition + \$4500)
- **University of California, Social Science Research Award**, summer 2005
  - ▶ Research in Amazonas, Brazil on local rights and global climate change
- **University of California, Political Science Merit Fellowship**, spring 2005 (tuition + \$4500)
  - ▶ Academic merit award for accelerated course study, tuition and stipend
- **University of California, Social Science Research Award**, summer 2004
- **University of California, Political Science Merit Fellowship**, fall 2003 (tuition + \$4500)
  - ▶ Merit award for accelerated course study, tuition and stipend
- **University of California, Social Science Merit Award**, 2003-08
  - ▶ Five-year award; teaching assistantship for tuition plus stipend

## **TRAVEL GRANTS**

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- **CGPACS (Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies), Research Grant**, 2006
- **CGPACS, Research and Travel Grant**, 2005
- **University of California, Political Science Research Travel Grant** (Peru and Brazil), 2005