

# 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. (2009)	<b>University of California</b> (Irvine, CA) Political Science. <u>Concentration</u> : IR, Environmental 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, and sustainability; interdisciplinary aspects of climate change; and climate policy.

International Law: international environmental law; environmental justice; and climate law and justice.

## 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 human security. The 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. Global climate change is exacerbating environmental conditions and creating entirely new environmental and human hazards at the local level. The thesis of this dissertation is that global climate change policy requires reframing to centralize climate impacts and adaptation. Current climate policy mischaracterizes the risks posed by climate change, focusing on technical solutions, global modeling, new technologies, and economic rationality. I argue, in contrast, that the greatest "risk" from GCC is the long-term ripple effects to global system from local instability and insecurity. Thus, climate change becomes more than an environmental issue, one bound by simple accountings of greenhouse gas emissions and paths to mitigation; rather, it is a collective social and security problem bound by multiple local human security issues.

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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- DISSCRS V (Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research)—“symposia designed to catalyze formation of interdisciplinary collegial networks on climate change,” March 13-20 2010, Saguaro Lake Ranch, Mesa, Arizona.
- 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 (Peer-Reviewed)**

- Fisher, P. Brian, forthcoming (2011). “Ecological Governmentality: The Displacement of the Local in the Rio Negro Region of Brazil.” *Human Ecology*.
- Fisher, P. Brian, Olivia DeLee, Jenn Marlon, Ryan Emmanuel, Rebecca Barnes, and Sarah Henkel, forthcoming (2011). “Meeting the Demands of Interdisciplinary Research in Global Environmental Change.” *EOS*.
- Fisher, P. Brian, forthcoming (2011). “Climate Change in Tuvalu: The Effect of Marine Ecosystem Changes on Human Security,” *Global Change, Peace and Security* 23:3.

### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

- \* “Reframing the Climate Agenda After COP 15: The Need for Long-Term Goals under UNFCCC Art 2.” (under review, *Portal*, Special Edition on Climate Governance).

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

- \* “Greenhouse Gas Audit: College of Charleston”, P. Brian Fisher (due in June 2011)
- \* “Climate Change and Security: Comparing Inuit and Tuvalu”, P. Brian Fisher
- \* “Climate Mitigation as a Crisis of Energy: Synergies between the US and China” (with Guoli Liu).
- \* Book Manuscript: *Reframing Climate Approaches for Vulnerable Communities*  
*The manuscript explores both the global level effects to governance from climate change as well as at the local level in Funafuti, Tuvalu and Nunavut, Canada. This comparison of local cases provides insight into the how climate change affects vulnerable communities. The research suggests that these impacts are pervasive and once they enter the society, it transitions from environmental issue to that of human security. At the global level, the asymmetry of the economic and political system, combined with the lack of developmental and adaptive capacity to address human insecurity from climate change, means that there is a significant issue of justice. This suggests the importance of operationalizing norms of justice and security within the climate regime in developing effective and equitable climate policy.*

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

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2010. “Climate Change in Funafuti, Tuvalu: An Issue of Security or Justice?” International Studies Association-South, St. Petersburg, FL, 22-24 October.
2010. “Climate Mitigation as a Crisis of Energy: Synergies Between the US and China for Effective Global Policy” (with Guoli Liu) American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington, DC, 2-6 September.
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 Climate Adaptation: 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.

## PROFESSIONAL WORKS

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- Fisher, P. Brian (March, 2010). "Drilling off SC Coast: Economics vs. Environment", Newsmakers TV Show, Comcast 2.
- Fisher, P. Brian (July 31, 2010). "Carbon Emissions Raise Global Temperature, Coastal Risks," *The Post & Courier* (Charleston, SC).

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS/TALKS

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- November 2010. "Fueling the Debate: The Future of Energy." Friends of the Library, College of Charleston.
- November 2010. "Environmental Justice in Favelas." City Gallery at Waterfront, Charleston, SC.
- January 2008. "Climate Change Effects and Adaptation 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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### ▪ Beijing, China (June-July 2010)

This project will investigate two main cities in China (Beijing and Tianjin) to compare with two US cities, NYC and Charleston, SC. Our project asserts that global level management of climate emissions is losing traction, yet in both countries municipal or city level administration of climate emissions has traction in policy. This research will explore this data in comparison to examine synergies between the four cities for future climate governance.

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

Conducted extensive research designed to comprehensively catalogue of the effects of climate change in Funafuti, 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.

▪ **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.

## **CONSULTANT AND COLLABORATIVE POLICY WORK**

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▪ **Islands First (Climate NGO Advocate for PSIDS) and PSIDS**

Collaboration and consultancy with groups associated with representing Pacific Small Island Developing States in global policy making.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Courses Taught)**

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### ***Undergraduate***

Introduction to International Relations (summer '05, '06)  
International Law (spring '10, spring '11)  
International Environmental Law (Summer '05, '06)  
Global Environmental Politics (summer '08)  
Law & Policy of Global Climate Change (summer '08)  
Debating Climate Change (fall '09)  
Environmental Justice (summer '07)  
Environmental Policy (fall '09, fall '10)  
Sustainability (fall '10, Summer '11, fall '11)  
Capstone: Climate Change: A Brave New World? (spring '11)  
Environmental Law (fall 2011)

### ***Graduate***

Negotiating Climate Policy (fall '09)  
Environmental Justice (spring '10)  
Case Studies of Environmental Issues (fall '10)  
Social Science Methods (spring '11)  
Sustainability (fall '11)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- **CofC Dean's Award**, October 2010 (\$500) for research presentation on climate security.
- **DISCCRS V**, March 2010 (all costs for symposia).
- **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 (\$10,000)
  - ▶ 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