

DESCRIPTION

Hamish van der Ven:

"Can Industry Self-Regulation Be Credible? Insights from Sustainable Aquaculture Certification."

Voluntary sustainability standards and consumer-facing eco-labeling schemes play a growing role in governing transboundary environmental problems. However, the credibility of such schemes remains highly variable. Whereas some eco-labeling organizations engage in transparent, rigorous, and democratic standard-setting procedures, others do not. In this talk, I explain variation in the credibility of sustainability standard-setting procedures with reference to a particularly salient sector: aquaculture. Through comparative case studies of four eco-labeling organizations for aquaculture, I show that which types of businesses are targeted by eco-labeling organizations has important consequences for the credibility of procedures used to create and manage sustainability standards. Eco-labeling organizations that target large, downstream retailers tend to demonstrate greater concern for transparency, rigor, and democratic principles. Conversely, those that target smaller upstream suppliers are less attentive to procedural credibility. My findings suggest that who owns an eco-labeling scheme is less important than who is governed by it. A key implication is that credible eco-labels can come from industry sources, under certain conditions.

Hamish van der Ven is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the The MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto. His research interests include global environmental politics, private authority in international affairs, and corporate social responsibility.

DATE AND TIME

Tue, 1 March 2016
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EST
[Add to Calendar](#)

LOCATION

Ted Rogers School of Management
575 Bay Street
Room 3-099
Toronto, ON M5G 2C5
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