

**SVPW
ASSP**

Schweizerische Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft
Association Suisse de Science Politique
Swiss Political Science Association

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ETUDES
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS)

Zürich, 9 April 2009

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to invite you to the first workshop & constituting meeting of the new working group "**Development and Environment**" within the Swiss Political Science Association. We would like to encourage all colleagues, Ph.D. students, senior researchers and professors who are interested in the areas of development policy (broadly defined) and / or environmental policy to participate in this initial meeting which follows three objectives:

- 1) Provide an overview of research in development and environmental policy within Switzerland
- 2) Have an in-depth discussion of a few selected research papers presented by participants
- 3) Discuss the way this working group will build up its activities.

The meeting will take place on **8 June, 2009, 10.30 a.m. - 5 p.m.** at the **University of Zurich**. The exact location will be communicated once we know about the number of participants.

If you are interested in the work of this new group, please send an email to katja.michaelowa@pw.uzh.ch **latest by 30 April** and provide us with the following information:

- Your name, affiliation, address and email
- Would you like to participate at the workshop:
 - presenting a research paper (in this case, please provide a copy of the paper)
 - presenting the work of your group at your institution (brief overview)
 - just participating in the discussions ?
- Would you like to be included on our mailing list for information about future activities, even if you are able to attend the initial meeting?

For further details about the new working group, see the information on the backside of this invitation.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Liliana Andonova

Thomas Bernauer

Katharina Michaelowa

Contact addresses

Liliana Andonova
Associate Professor
Graduate Institute of International and
Development Studies
Case postale 136 - 1211 Genève 21 - Suisse
Tel: (+41 22) 908 59 43
Liliana.Andonova@graduateinstitute.ch
<http://graduateinstitute.ch>

Thomas Bernauer
Professor of International Relations
(Political Science)
ETH Zürich
Weinbergstrasse 11
8092 Zürich
Tel: +41 44 632 64 66
Fax: +41 44 632 12 89
thbe0520@ethz.ch
<http://cis.ethz.ch>

Katharina Michaelowa
Professor of Political Economy and Development
University of Zurich / Institute of Political Science and
Center for Comparative and International Studies (CIS)
Hirschengraben 56
CH-8001 Zürich
Tel: +41-44-634-48-81
Fax: +41-44-634-52-69
katja.michaelowa@pw.uzh.ch
<http://cis.ethz.ch>

Initial ideas about the focus and activities of the new working group “Development and Environment”

The objective of the new working group “Development and Environment”, jointly coordinated by Liliana Andonova (HEID), Thomas Bernauer (ETH Zurich / CIS) and Katharina Michaelowa (University of Zurich / CIS) is to provide a forum for the discussion of research related to the areas of environmental and development policy, both individually and in areas where the two fields overlap. Development policy will be interpreted in a large sense including not only donor policies, but also policies and political processes within developing countries. Environmental policy will also be interpreted broadly to include environmental cooperation, law, institutions and governance; local, transnational, and comparative environmental politics; and other topics related to the management of natural resources.

We believe that the group could provide an interesting platform for exchange between scholars with different and complementary backgrounds including both comparative politics and international relations, and covering a wide range of approaches such as policy evaluations, the analysis of policy diffusion, and political economic approaches to national as well as international decision making – to name just a few examples.

In terms of activities, we intend to offer a panel at the annual conference of the Swiss Political Science Association, but also some workshops – possibly focused on more specific topics – in between. We would also like to establish a closer network between political scientists (and researchers active in related fields) working on developmental or environmental issues in Swiss universities and other research institutions.