

recasting of theoretical expectations to better explain environmental performance. The literature on multilevel governance systems is comparatively analyzed in another three chapters. These explore how well scholars have been able to explain the influence of international institutions on domestic policy, the convergence and divergence of policy within federalist systems and between comparable federalist systems, and the context-specific management of local common-pool resources.

Overall, this book constitutes an exemplary review and analysis of the theories, practice, and prospects of comparative environmental politics, a field that is important in and of itself but important also because comparative political inquiry has a great deal to offer the study of environmental governance generally. It is not fully comprehensive (no book could be in only 403 pages), but *Comparative Environmental Politics* provides a solid launch platform for the debates that ought to be happening among researchers and within classrooms about what we've learned and the research agendas that ought to be formulated going forward, and it also constitutes a significant resource to inform those debates.

Pamela S. Chasek and Lynn M. Wagner, eds. 2012. *The Roads from Rio: Lessons Learned from Twenty Years of Multilateral Environmental Negotiations*. New York and London: Routledge.

Reviewed by Mark Axelrod
Michigan State University

In *The Roads from Rio*, reporters for the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) bring together their expertise to identify two decades of trends in global environmental negotiations. The authors report on official events throughout the life cycle of various global environmental regimes. Their purview includes negotiation of treaties and protocols, as well as conferences and meetings of the parties once those agreements are in place. They do not directly assess state actions, such as compliance behavior, outside of these official discussions. This framework plays into ENB expertise covering both treaty negotiations and subsequent meetings. For those seeking important research questions in global environmental politics, this book provides a wealth of possibilities.

As with most edited volumes, the diverse projects included in this book each deserve an individual assessment, but this review attempts instead to bring them together under one overarching framework. These chapters are bound together by a common effort to describe twenty years of change from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Together the authors chronicle the evolution of negotiating processes, participants, and issues within global environmental regimes. Unlike much work in the field,² this volume does not set out to explain these changes, but rather to

2. Gerring 2012.

carefully describe them. In addition to demonstrating temporal patterns, this book reiterates how useful a resource ENB—many volumes of which are cited in each chapter—can be for empirical research on environmental negotiations. While the book is descriptive in nature, a few explanatory hypotheses are suggested. For example, Deborah Davenport et al. question the conditions under which a range of informal negotiating processes enhance trust and therefore negotiating success. Lynn M. Wagner et al. propose that unstable bargaining coalitions block consensus, and Sikina Jinnah and Alexandra Conliffe identify four motivations for multilateral negotiating bodies to develop linkages with climate change.

Hypothesis-testing is clearly not the main goal of this volume, however, nor do the authors claim to test these explanations. Instead, this book provides an empirical record and leaves causality to future research efforts. As experienced reporters, the authors are well placed to present details of these processes over time and across diverse issue areas. Indeed, their rich description provides a great deal for other scholars to explain in the coming years. Each of the trends they observe, from increased negotiation to shifting implementation mechanisms, may explain other regime outcomes. For instance, the authors elucidate the wide variety of possible scientific, bureaucratic, and NGO participation frameworks that may affect negotiation outcomes.

Similarly, the issues section avoids simply presenting topics that have received attention in new multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Instead, these chapters point toward shifts within the existing regimes. The extensive overlap between MEAs and issues of trade and climate receives special attention. Definitional disputes and varied implementation processes are also considered as sources of complexity that may slow negotiations. In addition to their influence on global environmental politics in general, each of these shifts is also worthy of being explained in its own right. As such, this book also provides a series of dependent variables (e.g., linkage decisions, secretariat involvement) that could greatly expand the study of international institutions more generally.

At least thirteen different negotiating processes are covered in this volume. This diversity is the book's greatest strength as well as its one minor flaw. Coverage of all these topics provides an opportunity for comparative analysis and categorization. For those who are not familiar enough with these processes after their introduction in the main text, the appendix provides a brief summary of each agreement. This step, along with only limited use of jargon, makes the volume accessible even for those without experience in this field.

On the other hand, only the Convention on Biological Diversity is addressed in every empirical chapter, and each of its protocols represents a separate negotiating process with different interest alignments. It is difficult to see how this "collection of insights" (p. 267) is linked, when each trend is examined in different issue areas. Fortunately, the ENB archive provides a wealth of information with which to expand any analysis of interest to the reader.

Many other empirical questions emerge while reading this volume. For example, while the book covers cross-issue interactions, authors provide only a glimpse of *how* all these shifts might interact with each other. Do coalition shifts, for example, influence the role that science is given in MEA processes? Do definitional arguments create or limit opportunities for secretariat influence?

Broader systemic trends are on display throughout the book, raising yet another series of productive research questions. The notion of regime envy—IPCC envy, climate envy, and Montreal Protocol envy—points to the fact that participants are well aware of other MEA processes. Similarly, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources uses the Basel Convention implementation mechanism, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing draws lessons from other environmental and human rights regimes. These cross-institutional adaptations raise questions about how ideas are (or are not) transmitted across negotiating processes.

The Roads from Rio provides an excellent starting point for future research. As a global community of scholars, we clearly have our work cut out for us to meet the challenges laid down by this book.

Reference

Gerring, John. 2012. Mere Description. *British Journal of Political Science* 42 (4): 721–746.

Preston, Christopher, ed. 2012. *Engineering the Climate: The Ethics of Solar Radiation Management*. Plymouth: Lexington Books.

*Reviewed by Jonathan Symons
Macquarie University, Sydney*

In the preface to *The Human Condition*, Hanna Arendt describes the launch of the first satellite in 1957 as marking a “new and yet unknown age,” which she speculates will prompt humanity’s “fateful repudiation of an Earth who was the Mother of all living things.”³ Arendt worries that unreflective utilization of new technologies will inadvertently transform the human condition, which is embodied in our relationship to the Earth. Today, the likelihood that solar radiation management (SRM) will be deployed as a technological fix for climate change raises diverse normative and ontological questions and suggests a literal dénouement to Arendt’s speculation. *Engineering the Climate* is a significant collection of articles that unpacks many of these issues. Preston’s introduction, which offers an admirably balanced primer and careful overview of ethical concerns, seeks to establish the subject matter’s importance by claiming that deliberate geoengineering takes humanity into new “moral terrain,” as we will intentionally assume “responsibility for the very skies under which all life on earth

3. Arendt 1958, 2.