IVM Institute for Environmental Studies

vrije Universiteit amsterdam

The Amsterdam Lab on Earth System Governance

presents:

Environmental Governance Through Partnerships: A Discourse Theoretical Study

Dr. Ayşem Mert

Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen

About the book:
Sustainability partnerships were the Type-II outcomes of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, which promised increased effectiveness in and wider participation to global environmental governance. They have quickly become the main form of collaboration between UN and non-state actors. This groundbreaking book uses the results of quantitative and qualitative research to analyse sustainability partnerships and their role in environmental governance. It focuses on the origins of and the rationale behind the concept of 'public-private partnership'. With a combination of post-structuralist discourse theory and interpretative methods such as historical discourse analysis and ecocriticism not previously used in studies on partnership, Aysem Mert, examines three discourses that have rooted into the logic of partnerships: privatisation of governance, sustainable development, and democratic participation. Ultimately, Mert argues that these discourses help understand the potential as well as structural limitations of sustainability partnerships. This revolutionary book will be useful to researchers of environmental governance, transnational and global studies looking for an empirical and analytical interpretation of the topic. Political theorists and philosophers as well as discourse analysts will also find the theoretical and methodological perspectives to be of interest.

About the speaker

Ayşem Mert thinks and writes about the democratisation of decision-making on issues concerning all humanity. Her doctoral research at the Institute of Environmental Studies (IVM) focused on transnational sustainability partnerships investigating and critiquing the discourses of democratic participation, sustainable development, and private governance in this context. Her post-doctoral work at the Amsterdam Global Change Institute (AGCI), VU Amsterdam focused on democratic legitimacy of hybrid environmental governance mechanisms. Her current research focuses on fiction and narratives of democracy and the environment.

When and where

Date: **25 June 2015**

Time: **12.00-13.00 hours**

Location: **Room C543**

VU Campus, W&N building, IVM

(entrance via De Boelelaan 1085)

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