

Dr. Brauch on Dr. Odeyemi

Dr. Odeyemi addresses a topic of the first Science Prize competition of 2023 on Climate Change and Conflict in his doctoral thesis under the supervision of Prof. James Goodman entitled: **Climate Risk and Climate Security: A Comparison of Norm Emergence under the FCCC, the EU and the UNSC, 2001-2019**, with which he obtained a PhD from the University of Technology, Sydney in April 2021. This thesis partly addresses the topic of our juror, Dr. Judith Hardt and colleagues, entitled: **Climate Security in the Anthropocene - Exploring** the Approaches of United Nations Security Council Member-States. In his abstract he summarizes his ambitious theoretical approach in political science and international relations which may not be easy to comprehend by common citizens:

This thesis documents and analyses an intensifying dialogue between the changing discourses of global security and climate change governance. It presents a comparative assessment of the extent to which policy statements and debates on climate risk and climate security within three interstate institutions – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council – might indicate an emerging dominant discourse on climate security and thus how these institutions have understood, conceptualised and recognised climate security. Drawing from the literature on epistemic communities, riskification, and securitisation, the thesis conceptualises the three analytical themes as a set of tools relevant for analysing the nuances of climate and security discourses. It applies these themes within the domain of interstate climate security, attending to key differences between the themes while acknowledging conceptual overlaps and interchange between them. In doing so, the thesis demonstrates and extends understanding of how these themes can be deployed.

Using discourse-historical analysis, supplemented by scoping interviews with leading climate security experts, it scrutinises transcripts of relevant meetings held within the three institutions between 2001 and 2019. It offers an in-depth analysis of the extent to which an ‘epistemic community on climate security’ has emerged within these institutions, along with associated commitments that signal a process of ‘climate-riskification’ and ‘climate securitisation.’ The data reveals that the epistemic community on climate security has made riskifying and securitising moves, which have created institutional locations that have allowed the development of climate security in the first stage of the norm life cycle. Serious contestation has persisted but, from all indications, climate security discourse seems unstoppable. The thesis draws out the unfolding but distinct conceptualisations of climate security within the three institutions, including the wider significance of this phenomenon. Despite limits on the policy mandates assigned to the institutions, the thesis finds clear indications of an emerging discourse on climate security and thus a distinctive understanding of security. The findings offer a clear evidence-based guiding tool for scholars and policymakers who aim to identify priority elements for climate security action

This abstract well summarizes his political science approach to get a PhD in Australia.

Dr. Odeyemi focuses in his thesis on three debates on three policy debates on

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992
- Within the European Union and
- In the United Nations Security Council

from 2001 to 2019 primarily based on the scientific debates in the social sciences (political science and sociology) in the global North.

As he has already signed a contract for his revised thesis with another large publisher I encouraged him not to withdraw from this contract and suggested to Dr. Christo to write a slightly different book on the security impacts of climate change on sub-Saharan Africa and

on the policy debates by African policy-makers in pan-African institutions and in the Global South and the emerging discourses among African scholars focusing on the body of literature that is often ignored in the social sciences in the global North. I have published so far with much success several anthologies with texts by African scholars for a global audience in my Anthropocene Series (APESS) published by Springer Nature. Dr. Odeyemi is well skilled to combine his knowledge on the conceptualisations and theoretical approaches with his empirical experience in Sub-Sahara Africa and in his native Nigeria where the impacts of climate change on security and conflicts has become obvious and many people already die from the consequences of extreme weather events due to Anthropogenic Climate Change such as droughts and desertification as well as storms and floods that cannot be coped with by the military with military weapons.

Thus, the HGB Foundation on Peace and Ecology in the Anthropocene wants to give more voice and visibility to scholars from the global scholars and empower them to contribute more to the global scientific discourses and policy debates