



MERSHON CENTER for International Security Studies

- ABOUT US
- RESEARCH
- NEWS
- EVENTS
- GRANTS
- PEOPLE
- CONTACT
- PUBLICATIONS

You are here: [Home](#) ▶ [Events](#) ▶ Robin Leichenko and Karen O'Brien

EVENTS & DEADLINES

- Apr 22** Stephen Brooks
04/22/2015, -
Woody Hayes Speaker Series
- Apr 24** Mershon Happy Hours
04/24/2015, -
Internal Event
- Apr 30** Hal Brands
04/30/2015, -
Woody Hayes Speaker Series
- May 01** Military Frontiers: A Graduate Student Symposium
05/01/2015, -
Mershon Center Conference
- May 02** Military Frontiers: A Graduate Student Symposium
05/02/2015, -
Mershon Center Conference

ARCHIVED EVENTS

Academic Year

 Month

SEARCH

EVENTS CALENDAR

Special Event

ROBIN LEICHENKO AND KAREN O'BRIEN

"The Adaptive Challenge of Climate Change: How Do We Make a Quantum Leap to Sustainability?"

Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:30AM - 12:00PM
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43212

This event is for Mershon affiliates only.

[Register here to attend.](#)

Robin Leichenko is professor of Geography at Rutgers University and co-director of the Rutgers Climate Institute. Her current research explores economic vulnerability and resilience to climate change, economic and social equity implications of climate adaptation, and the interplay between climate extremes and urban spatial development. Leichenko chairs the Economic Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. She also served as a review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report. Her book with co-author Karen O'Brien, *Environmental Change and Globalization: Double Exposures* (2008, Oxford University Press), won the Meridian Book Award for Outstanding Scholarly Contribution from the Association of American Geographers.

Karen O'Brien is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Oslo, Norway. Her research focuses on climate change impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation including how climate change interacts with globalization processes and the implications for human security. She is interested in how trans-disciplinary and integral approaches to global change research can contribute to a better understanding of how societies both create and respond to change, and particularly the role of beliefs, values and worldviews in transformations to sustainability. She has participated in four IPCC reports and is on the Science Committee for Future Earth, a 10-year global change research initiative. She is also the co-founder of cCHANGE.no, a website that provides perspectives on transformation in a changing climate.

Abstract

Robin Leichenko and Karen O'Brien will discuss climate change in the context of globalization and its implications for equity and human security, including the types of responses that can lead to an equitable and sustainable future. Drawing on recent IPCC reports, they argue that "bending the curves" calls for more than technical solutions -- it calls for challenging some key assumptions about social change. The adaptive challenge of climate change may, in fact, call for the transformation of science itself, including the role that the social sciences play in integrated global change.

[^ back to top](#)

[Back](#)

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MERSHON CENTER

- About Us
- Research
- News
- Events
- Grants

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- Office of International Affairs
- Global Gateways
- International Students
- International Scholars
- Study Abroad

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- Center for African Studies
- Center for Latin American Studies
- Center for Slavic & East European Studies
- Polish Studies Initiative
- East Asian Studies Center

RESOURCES

- Current Events
- Print Newsletter
- Annual Report
- Photo Album
- Events Archive

[People](#)

[Grants and Scholarships](#)

[Institute for Chinese Studies](#)

[Knowledge Bank](#)

[Publications](#)

[International Agreements](#)

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1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614-292-1681 | Fax: 614-292-2407

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