

Department of Environmental Science and Policy
Seminar Series

Rethinking Climate Policies: The Green New Deal Policy Paradigm

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Salem State University

DATE: Friday, 11/15/2024

TIME: 10:30am

ROOM: UNGAR 230-E

Zoom: <https://miami.zoom.us/j/92964807674>



Abstract: Recent Green New Deal (GND) proposals in the U.S. aim to address climate change and socioeconomic inequalities simultaneously. Critics of the GND argue that inequality is not a primary driver of climate change and warn that its broader agenda may undermine decarbonization efforts. This talk demonstrates how socioeconomic inequalities not only contribute to emissions but also enable elite obstruction of climate policies, erode public support, and weaken collective action. It proposes that integrating carbon-centric climate policies with wider social, economic, and democratic reforms can better achieve decarbonization. Furthermore, narrowly focused, carbon-centric climate policies may exacerbate racial disparities arising from fossil fuel extraction and use. The talk concludes by highlighting the GND's failure to adequately address global climate justice, as many proposals prioritize national interests over the Global North's climate responsibilities to the Global South.

Bio: Noel Healy is a Professor in the Geography and Sustainability Department at Salem State University (SSU) and the Director of the Climate Justice and Just Transformations Lab. His research focuses on the socio-political dimensions of rapid climate change mitigation, with an emphasis on climate justice, fossil fuel politics, and obstructionism—particularly in relation to economic and racial justice in climate and energy policy. Dr. Healy was a contributing author of the UN's IPCC (AR6/WGIII) report, and he serves on the advisory board of Cell Reports: Sustainability and the editorial board of Energy Research and Social Science. Dr. Healy has held fellowships at LMU Munich and the Global Center for Climate Justice and is currently a visiting professor at EAFIT University in Medellín. His work has appeared in leading academic journals such as One Earth, WIREs Climate Change, Energy Policy, and Climatic Change, as well as in prominent popular outlets like The Guardian, The Hill, and Scientific American.

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