

15 567 -HS-

Environmental Federalism - comparing India and Europe

(2 SWS), Block (s. A.)

Dr. Kirsten Jörgensen,
PD. Dr. Christian Wagner

Short summary:

Environmental policy and climate protection take place in multi-level institutional structures, especially in federal systems. This is not only the case in a variety of nation states such as India, but also in the quasi-federal system of the European Union. The institutional setting therein, as well as the division of tasks between different political levels, most likely effects problem-solving capacity in one way or another. Federal structures have their assets and drawbacks; as can be demonstrated by the background of numerous examples - among them US and European climate protection policies -, they provide for both innovation and gridlock.

The purpose of this seminar is to study the institutional structure of the environmental federalism and its practical implications in India and the EU. We will explore constraints and potentials of political decision-making, implementation and management in the Indian multi-level system. Of particular interest will be the exploration of problem-solving capacities of the Indian states, as well as their analogues on local level, whereby consideration will be given to non-state actors and the role they can play therein. Our main field of interest will be the cross-sectional problem of climate change, the policy areas related to it inter alia energy policy, transportation and industrial policy and other environmental policy domains. We will compare the dynamics of multi-level governance in the European Union and India in respect to these policy issues and draw conclusions on the assets and drawbacks of their governance structures for effective problem-solving and on potentials for lesson-drawing.

The Program:

Friday, Nov 27th 2009: Introductory meeting:

Introduction to the seminar, the topic, the programme and the requirements

Environmental challenges and environmental governance in the multi-level systems of India and the European Union: Does a comparative view of policy-making in these most different polities make sense?

Introductory lecture: Kirsten Jörgensen

Discussant: Dr. Devi Prasad, Science counsellor Indian Embassy

Plenary discussion

Top 3: Distribution of student presentations.

Friday Jan 22nd, 2010

Comparative politics in the Indian federalism as well as the quasi-federalist system of the European Union:

- Lecture Christian Wagner: Parameters of political decision-making in the federal system of India – Institutions, actors and dynamics.

- Lecture Kirsten Jörgensen: Environmental governance in the quasi-federal structures of the European Union – Institutions, actors and dynamics.

Recommended reading: Wagner/Knill

Plenary Discussion

- Electronic waste Management – comparing multi-level governance in Europe and India (Guest student group: Philip Strothmann, Alexander Lloyd, Yvonne Dinter, Alexandra Skinner present their project from WS 09/10)

Plenary discussion

Work in groups: Formulating basic assumptions concerning the constraints and potentials of political decision-making, implementation and management in India and Europe.

Friday Jan 29th

Studying cases of environmental politics in different policy domains – identifying pattern and dynamics (In the morning):

- Promoting renewable energy – a number of Indian states on the forefront
Student presentation based on a student project from 2008 and own research
By Alexander Reinhard (MA)
- Water Management – Conflict and dispute between Indian states and centre-states dynamics (Guests: Steffen Schwörer, Stefan Görlitz, Marius Ferdin present their project from WS 09/10)
- Climate Protection Adaptation in the northern states of India. Policies regarding to the melting glaciers of the Himalaya (Fabian Schroth)

Plenary discussion

Work in groups: Drawing conclusions from the case studies concerning the constraints and potentials of environmental performance in the federal system of India.

Afternoon:

Discussion:

Saturday, Jan 30th

Students present case studies on state policies:

- Climate Protection - Mitigation in selected Indian States (Anne Raam Christensen)
- The role of the third tier of government - the local level in climate governance (adaptation) (Anasha Petersen)
- Clean Air policies and the role of the Indian Civil Society (Iolanda Saviuc and Susan Welsh MA)

Plenary discussion: Summing up with Guest: Dr. Devi Prasad
Course evaluation

Attendance and grading

Importance will be placed on regular attendance, active class participation, as well as punctual submission of the seminar paper.

The final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

Active and productive class participation	20 %
Student presentation	30%
Seminar paper	50%

Class meetings are designed to be a series of lecture and discussion meetings, with full participation by all students.

Students are required to make a short oral presentation and write a seminar paper (ca. 10 pages) that relates to their seminar presentations. The paper is due by March 26th and will not be accepted later. The papers should use citations and be properly referenced. Students are responsible for bringing one paper copy and are asked to transmit an electronic copy as well.

The course uses the FU Blackboard.