

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

CALL FOR PAPERS

Track nr 5A: *Inducing self-governance for sustainable development: Evaluating
New Environmental Policy Instruments and Common Pool Resources
Management*

Track chairs: Dr. Hens Runhaar (Utrecht University, the Netherlands);
Dr. Rüdiger Wurzel, (University of Hull, UK); Dr. Giangiacomo Bravo (University
of Brescia, Italy); Dr. Leticia Merino (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico).

The governance literature on sustainable development often identifies a declining role for (central) government in dealing with sustainability issues due to emerging polycentric decision-making structures which encourage increased direct citizen and stakeholder involvement. Strategies for sustainable development therefore must take into account non-hierarchical modes of 'governance' which are often seen as replacing top-down hierarchical 'government' which usually takes the form of 'command-and-control' regulation. Governance refers to non-hierarchical modes of steering, where state and societal actors participate in the formulation, adoption and implementation of public policies. In practice, new forms of governance have included cooperative arrangements between government actors, NGOs and private actors in the form of 'negotiated agreements', 'covenants', or 'partnerships'. These new forms of governance rely more heavily on horizontal steering instead of top-down government intervention. In addition to top-down government and cooperative forms of governance between public and private actors, a third mode of governance for sustainability can be identified which relies on the *self-governance* of societal actors.

The academic literature on new forms of governance for sustainable development is characterised by two distinct analytical approaches: 'New environmental policy instruments' (NEPIs) and 'common-pool resources management' (CPRM). NEPIs research focuses on a broad range of new modes of governance, which range from instruments of self-governance by societal actors (such as eco-labels and voluntary agreements) to government induced incentives for more sustainable behaviour by societal actors (such as market-based instrument i.e. eco- taxes and emissions trading). CPRM research is aimed at analysing and developing institutions for the sustainable exploitation and management of common-pool resources that prevent Hardin's "tragedy of the commons".

This track aims to connect NEPIs and CRPM analysis which, up to now, have been used in isolation. The aim is to bring together researchers from both schools of thought in order to find out what they can learn from each other about new forms of governance for sustainable development. We invite academic as well as practical papers that evaluate NEPIs and/or institutions for CRPM for achieving sustainability. We are particularly interested in empirical research on (and theoretical explanations of) the conditions under which new modes of governance

(ranging from smart regulation to various forms of self-governance) result in solving sustainability issues and/or promote sustainable development. We also invite papers which analyse the similarities and/or difference of NEPIs and CPRs.

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the Submission & guidelines button at the left side.