



## The atmosphere business: on the politics and organization of climate change

Department of Business Administration, Lund University, 15 December 2009, 12.30-17.00, room EC3-109.

Global climate change is at the moment the most urgent problem that the world is facing. The United Nations Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, happening in tandem with this seminar, puts much of its hope in ‘the atmosphere business’, most importantly carbon trading. But is this commodification of the atmosphere really the solution to today’s problem? To what extent do carbon markets actually lead to a cut of greenhouse gas emissions? And how is today’s ecological crisis situated in the broader history of modern capitalism?

Because of the growing importance of the marketization of climate change a discussion of its underlying logic becomes crucial. This seminar – organized by *ephemera* and sponsored by The Lund Institute of Economic Research – aims to contribute to this discussion by bringing together some of the world’s most outstanding theorists on the politics and organization of climate change.

### Programme

12.30-12.45 Welcome by *ephemera*

12.45-13.45 **Larry Lohmann**: ‘Carbon markets: A new global political economy’

13.45-14.45 **Patrick Bond**: ‘Repaying Africa for climate crisis: “Ecological debt” as a development finance alternative to emission trading’

14.45-15.15 Coffee break

15.15-16.15 **Jason W. Moore**: ‘Crisis, what crisis? Capitalism as the limit to nature’

16.15-17.00 **Steffen Böhm** and **Siddhartha Dabhi**: ‘Why carbon offsetting will not save the planet’

17.00 Book launch of Steffen Böhm and Siddhartha Dabhi (eds.) *Upsetting the Offset: The Political Economy of Carbon Markets* (available at [www.mayflybooks.org](http://www.mayflybooks.org), 2009) followed by drinks reception.

## Date and Location

15 December 2009 at Department of Business Administration, Lund University, Sweden. Lund is a one-hour train ride from Copenhagen airport (Kastrup). The seminar takes place in room EC3-109, Holger Crafoords Ekonomisentrum, Tycho Brahes väg 1. For directions, visit <http://www.ehl.lu.se/en/about/maps>.

## Registration

The seminar is free and open to all but the number of participants is limited. Please confirm your attendance by sending an email to [sverre.spoelstra@fek.lu.se](mailto:sverre.spoelstra@fek.lu.se).

## About the speakers

**Jason W. Moore** ([jasonwsmoore@gmail.com](mailto:jasonwsmoore@gmail.com)) is a world historian of the relations between economic, ecological, and social change in the modern world-economy, from its origins in the 16th century. He works at the Department of Human Geography, Lund University.

**Larry Lohmann** ([larrylohmann@gn.apc.org](mailto:larrylohmann@gn.apc.org)) works with The Corner House, a UK-based research and advocacy organization. His books include *Pulping the South: Industrial Tree Plantations in the Global Paper Economy* (with Ricardo Carrere) (Zed, 1996) and the edited volume *Carbon Trading: A Critical Conversation on Climate Change, Privatization and Power* (Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, 2006). He is a founding member of the Durban Group for Climate Justice.

**Patrick Bond** ([pbond@mail.ngo.za](mailto:pbond@mail.ngo.za)) is professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Development Studies in Durban, South Africa, where since 2004 he has directed the Centre for Civil Society. His recent books include: *Climate Change, Carbon Trading and Civil Society*; *Looting Africa*; *Talk Left, Walk Right*; and *Elite Transition*. In service to the new South African government from 1994-2002, Patrick authored/edited many policy papers, including the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

**Siddhartha Dabhi** ([sdabhi@essex.ac.uk](mailto:sdabhi@essex.ac.uk)) is a researcher from India, currently based at the University of Essex, UK, working on critiques of the political economy of carbon markets. He did his post-graduate studies in Economics at the University of Essex (UK) and his undergraduate studies in Economics at St. Xavier's College – Ahmedabad (India).

**Steffen Böhm** ([steffen@essex.ac.uk](mailto:steffen@essex.ac.uk)) is Reader in Management at the University of Essex. His research focuses on the critique of the political economy of organization and management. He is co-founder of *ephemera*, and co-founder and co-editor of the new open publishing press MayFlyBooks ([www.mayflybooks.org](http://www.mayflybooks.org)). He has also published *Repositioning Organization Theory* (Palgrave) and *Against Automobility* (Blackwell).