The CEPP Fall 2013 Speaker Series Welcomes

Edward Miguel
Oxfam Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics

Solomon Hsiang
Asst. Professor of Public Policy

Marshall Burke
PhD Candidate Agriculture and Resource Economics

‘Quantifying the Influence of Climate Change on Human Conflict’

Monday, November 18, 2013
Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Room 250 at Goldman School of Public Policy
1893 Le Roy @ Hearst Ave

Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to cepp@berkeley.edu by Thursday, November 14, 2013.

About the Seminar: A rapidly growing body of research examines whether human conflict can be affected by climatic changes. Drawing from archaeology, criminology, economics, geography, history, political science, and psychology, we assemble and analyze the 60 most rigorous quantitative studies and document, for the first time, a striking convergence of results. We find strong causal evidence linking climatic events to human conflict across a range of spatial and temporal scales and across all major regions of the world. The magnitude of climate’s influence is substantial: for each one standard deviation (1σ) change in climate toward warmer temperatures or more extreme rainfall, median estimates indicate that the frequency of interpersonal violence rises 4% and the frequency of intergroup conflict rises 14%. Because locations throughout the inhabited world are expected to warm 2σ to 4σ by 2050, amplified rates of human conflict could represent a large and critical impact of anthropogenic climate change.

About the Speakers: Edward Miguel’s main research focus is African economic development, including work on the economic causes and consequences of violence; the impact of ethnic divisions on local collective action; and interactions between health, education, environment, and productivity for the poor. Solomon Hsiang combines data with mathematical models to understand how society and the environment influence one another. In particular, he focuses on how policy can encourage economic development while managing the global climate. Marshall Burke’s research studies how environmental conditions shape a range of economic outcomes in both the developed and developing world.

About CEPP: The Center for Environmental Public Policy (CEPP) at the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) aims to bridge the gap between environmental theory and policy implementation. It integrates interdisciplinary environmental theory and policy implementation through its seminars, workshops, and conferences. CEPP’s programs seek to educate, direct and motivate those in environmental public policy. In particular, CEPP activities are geared to help fill the local and global need for competent environmental managers who are adept at policy-making within the context of limited and varying resources.