The Tempest Within: Reconciling Disagreements on Climate-Conflict Links

By Cullen Hendrix, Professor of Politics, University of Denver

How dire are the security implications of climate change, and for whom? Research findings on the relationship between climate and conflict are diverse and contested, leaving policymakers of various types uncertain about productive ways to integrate climate into risk assessments and action plans. This talk discusses the evolution of debate around the security implications of climate change before reflecting on the benefits of inclusive, rather than confrontational, approaches to reconciling scholarly and scientific disagreements. Using a recent expert elicitation-based, consensus-building exercise as a positive case study, this talk assesses whether the incentive structure of standard scientific exchange is adequate for meeting the needs of the human and natural systems that will be affected by global environmental change.

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