

WINTER 2012
CICS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
& DEVELOPMENT FELLOW LECTURE



Energy Politics and What it Means for the Climate

Much of the current debate on climate change policy has focused on whether China, India, and other developing countries should agree to caps on greenhouse gas emissions. Yet countries differ profoundly in their political systems, and politics shapes the way supply and demand for energy are mediated between citizens, industry, and other groups. Using a variety of data including satellite imagery of the earth at night, I show that elections have a profound effect on how energy is distributed and to whom. The results suggest a need to incorporate improved political analysis in our models of how countries will pursue their energy needs.

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