

*Clear-Eyed Equity: Setting a Climate Equity and Justice  
Research Agenda  
Workshop Bonn, 15 May 2017*

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**Research Agenda Proposal**

The international environmental law scholarship has relied on the concept of a North versus South geo-political and ideological divide as the predominant structural framework to analyse the genesis and the evolution of key conceptual and normative aspects of international environmental law, including questions related to climate equity and climate justice. Although this North versus South dichotomy has long been recognized as an oversimplification, the lack of an alternative compelling structural framework to substitute this perspective has thus far prevented the mainstream scholarship from abandoning this dichotomy as an important analytical tool to investigate climate equity and justice. As emerging economies like China, India and Brazil, and higher income developing countries like Chile and Singapore, have decoupled from other developing countries in terms of their contributions to climate change, their financial and technological capabilities to act on climate, and their development needs, questions related to climate equity and climate justice within the Global South have gained relevance. Have the evolving interests and values of emerging economies influenced the way they approach differentiated responsibilities related to the fair allocation of climate burdens and climate costs among Parties to the UNFCCC? As emerging economies' global share of absolute and cumulative greenhouse gas emissions rise, will they maintain the same position as other developing countries when it comes to contentious aspects of the climate regime, such as loss and damage? With the prospects of a persistent gap in global financial resources for climate adaptation in developing countries, how to ensure that higher income developing countries will not crowd out adaptation finance opportunities for lower income developing countries?

My current postdoctoral studies tackle some of these research questions. In "From Justice to Participation: The Paris Agreement's Pragmatic Approach to Differentiation" (Ferreira, P. in Abate, R. *Climate Justice*, ELI 2016) I argue that emerging economies have adopted an instrumental approach to the principle of differentiation for the 2015 Paris agreement, which departs from their historic position on differentiation in the climate regime. The shift has implications to the conceptual underpinnings of the principle of differentiation in the climate regime, and to processes to understand and promote climate justice related to the fair global allocation of burdens and costs of climate action. In a manuscript in progress I investigate the limitations of climate funds' existing criteria to equitably allocate scarce climate adaptation finance among developing countries with significantly different socio-economic profiles.