

Environmental Studies Research Colloquium

October 21, 2020

11:30 – 12:30pm

Contact nicoleboucher@uvic.ca for Zoom login credentials

Biography:



Currently an assistant professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, Dr. Katya Rhodes has focused her professional and academic career on prioritizing evidence-based, practical climate change policy solutions to address this key threat to humanity. Dr. Rhodes is trained in resource and environmental management, international business, and economics and management, and has gained diverse professional experiences working with many levels of government in BC.

With a background in the multi-disciplinary analysis of climate policies, Dr. Rhodes played a key role in the recent realization of a provincial CleanBC plan, where she was instrumental in the development and implementation of cutting-edge emissions-reducing policies. Other professional highlights include the development of clean technology and green jobs databases at the Vancouver Economic Commission, analysis of the provincial policy for the Cumulative Effects Framework in the BC Government, and the investigation of public and stakeholder perceptions of BC's carbon tax at the Pembina Institute.

Dr. Rhodes current research interests include understanding consumer motivations for adopting residential heating technologies, best practices for modelling climate policy impacts, and the design of flexible climate regulations. Her research has been published in highly regarded journals including *Ecological Economics*, *Energy Policy*, and *Global Environmental Change*. Dr. Rhodes is currently organizing a national 2021 conference for the Canadian Society of Ecological Economics at the University of Victoria.

Abstract:

With COVID-19 and upcoming elections in both BC and the United States, is climate success possible?

While most agree that the current state of global emissions is unsustainable and causing dramatic impacts to society, the economy and the environment, there are ongoing debates about best strategies for low-carbon transitions. In this talk, Dr. Katya Rhodes will speak on how we can do a better job addressing the global challenge of deep decarbonisation. Key topics will include why global climate action is difficult, what policies climate-sincere politicians implement, and what practical steps governments and individuals can take to address climate change going forward. Dr. Rhodes will use case studies from British Columbia and California to demonstrate examples of effective and politically acceptable climate policies and actions, and will discuss how climate efforts fit into post-COVID recovery and upcoming elections. Join Dr. Rhodes to discuss a path forward to climate success.