



GLOBAL TALKS SERIES

Presented by the Centre for Global Studies



Ted Parson

Climate Engineering” Challenges to International Governance (and Human Societies)

**Free Public Seminar | August 20th, 2013
1:00-3:00 pm | Sedgewick C 168**



As evidence mounts of climate change underway and serious risks to come, and efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gases continue to stall, there has been a surge of attention the past few years in engineered interventions that can cool the Earth (on average) without reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere – called geoengineering, or climate engineering. These things pose an awful choice. The climate-change risks we are already running are so big, the ability to limit or reverse them by cutting emissions so slow even if we suddenly shift to serious efforts, and current efforts so un-serious, that climate engineering interventions increasingly look like a highly valuable, perhaps essential, tool to limit global environmental risks. But they don't solve the whole problem (environmentally, or even climatically), and they raise many additional risks themselves, that many people's reasonable

reaction to them is horror.

Dr. Parson will discuss his recent and continuing work looking at the risks these pose, the challenges of international (and national) governance that would be involved in managing these risks, and how these might fit into a complete climate-change response strategy so as to reduce rather than increasing total societal risks.

