

Senior Security Studies Course

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May 17-21, 2021

Topic Overview

Environmental & Resource Security

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Overview

Global trends of increasing demands on natural resources, human interactions around the Food-Energy-Water (FEW) nexus generate complex, interlinked security issues. Continuing small scale conflicts over FEW resources suggest that resolving natural resource conflicts will be a defining peace and security challenge for the 21st century. Climate change is a “threat multiplier” with adverse and growing impacts on many aspect of FEW-related security. Security practitioners must understand the complex interactions among climate and the FEW nexus. Security governance must anticipate, innovate, and cooperate to manage potential conflict over resources.

Objectives

- More deeply understand the complex nature of human interactions around the FEW nexus, the tightly interwoven aspects of FEW resources and security, and the ever-growing impacts of climate change related to these.
- Better appreciate the growing and ever-more-urgent needs for both internal and trans-national whole-of-society collaboration and cooperation in order to successfully resolve environmental and resource challenges in coming decades.

Recommended Readings

Climate Change and Security: Perspectives from the Field

<https://cpr.unu.edu/research/projects/climate-change-and-security-perspectives-from-the-field.html#outline>