

The ERC-SOGIP research team has the pleasure to invite you to the annual seminar¹

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS -- 2015-2016

Organized by Irène Bellier and Verónica González González

Thursday December 10, 2015, 9 am to 2 pm

EHESS, Salle du Conseil A, 190 av de France, 75013 Paris



1 : how climate change affects indigenous peoples communities and their rights

2 : the COP negotiations and indigenous peoples expectations

With translation

The UN adopted in 1992 the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This non-binding normative framework is promoted by the Conference of Parties (COP), a body where all signatories member states are represented. The COP is also responsible for making decision related to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, a binding instrument on climate change, adopted in 1997. Based in Bonn, the COP meets annually to assess the effects of measures taken by States and the progress made in the field of climate change. This year the COP is meeting for the 21th time in Paris, giving the French Government the opportunity to play a major role in the progress of negotiations.

Indigenous peoples are one of the groups of civil society that actively participates in the negotiations on climate change. To this end, they established the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on

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Climate Change (IIPFCC), which enables indigenous NGOs to be observers of this process and to present their ideas. This forum seeks to defend the rights of indigenous peoples, one of the sectors of the global population that is being most affected by climate change. Indigenous peoples' participation in the negotiations on climate change is a space where indigenous peoples fight for the recognition of their « traditional knowledge » by the international community as a fundamental contribution to the climate change mitigation, to diminish weather forecasting uncertainty in the context of the climate adaptation that suffers our planet today. So doing, they fight against the epistemological disparity suffered by their knowledge. Indigenous peoples are also particularly involved in projects and actions that are undertaken to mitigate climate change, such as those on forest conservation and the REDD + Programme (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

The SOGIP seminar *Comparative Perspectives on the rights of indigenous peoples* which holds monthly sessions since 2010, organizes 2 round tables to hear the views of indigenous delegates to COP 21. This event will gather indigenous experts from the 7 regions identified by the United Nations permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, plus representatives of the women and youth caucus. They will present the issues faced by their communities in the context of climate change, and how the phenomenon impacts the realization of their rights. With the participation a researchers, teachers and students, the seminar constitutes an opportunity to analyze the issues that are at stake for indigenous peoples in the negotiations of COP 21.

The following persons will be participating in our round tables (in alphabetical order):

Joan Carling, Secretary General Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, expert member of the UN Permanent forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues, member of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum for Climate Change (IIPFCC)/ Global Steering Committee (GSC), indigenous delegate to COP 21 from the indigenous region of Asia

Berlin Diques Jiribati, from the Ashaninka indigenous people, indigenous delegate to the COP 21, from the indigenous region of Central and South America and the Caribbean

Marishori Najashi Samaniego, from the Ashaninka indigenous people, indigenous delegate to the COP 21, from the indigenous region of Central and South America and the Caribbean

Jorge Fugararo, Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), IIPFCC/ GSC, indigenous delegate to the COP 21 from the indigenous region of Central and South America and the Caribbean

Tom BK Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network, indigenous delegate to the COP 21, from the indigenous region of North America; member of the IIPFCC and active in the UNFCCC COP since 1998

Rosalee Gonzalez, Co-cordinator of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, North region, indigenous women delegate to the COP 21

Paul Gorrie, SEED, youth indigenous delegate to COP 21, from the Pacific indigenous region

Pacifique Mukumba, Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minorités vulnérables, indigenous delegate to COP 21, the indigenous region of Africa

Rodion Sulyandziga, Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North. Co-chair of the GSC of the IIPFCC; indigenous delegate to the COP 21 for the indigenous region of Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

Cathy Towtongie, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporation, Inuit Circumpolar Council, indigenous delegate to COP 21 from the indigenous Arctic region

THE DYNAMIC OF THE SEMINAR

Our seminar is generally attended by a public of approximately 40 people: students (graduate and undergraduates), Ph.D. candidates, researchers, professors and development professionals. Translation will be provided, thanks to our students. In the context of COP 21, it will be widely advertised.

Due to the exceptional participation of so many indigenous peoples to COP 21, the seminar will be organized in the form of 2 round-tables as to ensure the best distribution of time among the speakers. Each participant will have between 10 and 15 minutes for his or her presentation, depending on whether we get a simultaneous or a consecutive interpretation. A 30-minute session for questions and comments from the public and answers will be open.

8:30 : Welcoming and coffee

9:00 to 11:20 AM,

focus on how climate change has affected indigenous communities and their rights

After a short introduction, we will hear indigenous experiences with climate change in communities in different regions. We especially want to understand what are the most important challenges these changes raise in relation to the accomplishment of indigenous peoples' rights.

11:20 -11:35 COFFEE BREAK

11:40 to 14:00

focus on the COP negotiations and expectations

We would like to hear indigenous delegates' experiences with the UN climate change negotiations. Their presentation will be organized around two questions: How the COP is useful for their community? What are the difficulties that they have found when engaging with the CC-related mechanisms?

Scientific outcome

SOGIP keeps audio (and sometimes visual) recording of the scientific events it organizes. These documents are part of the internal-use archive of our project and are not going to be diffused. On the basis of the COP 21 recording of the seminar INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COP 21, we will make a summary of the roundtables to be published in our website, in order to diffuse the activities we are involve in.

