



The International Politics of Geoengineering Research

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As concerns about the state of our global climate mount, solar radiation management (SRM) geoengineering schemes that might be able to rapidly moderate GHG-induced climate change are receiving increased scientific, public and political attention. In principle, such SRM schemes could be of considerable utility for insuring global public welfare against at least the worst potential outcomes of highly uncertain climate change. In practice, however, the coupling of significant scientific uncertainty about these schemes, with familiar roadblocks to international cooperation on global climate issues, could easily prevent this global utility from being realized. Moreover, serious national-level efforts to develop SRM technologies could spark international tensions that further obstruct global progress toward urgently needed carbon emission reductions. This talk will begin with an overview of the latest science underlying prominent SRM proposals, including the latest scientific proposals for SRM research, and then explore the variety of international coordination and political challenges likely to be associated with developing large-scale national and/or international SRM research programs.