



Keynote lecture by Joyeeta Gupta (University of Amsterdam, NL): Climate Change, Scientific Uncertainty, Skepticism and Politics: A Thirty Year History

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Climate change became a global issue in 1979 when the World Climate Conference discussed it. Ten years later, it had become a global political issue. With the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change, institutional frameworks were set up to both assess the science of climate change and to create a policy framework. These circumstances catapulted action and in 1992, just two years later a legally binding convention was adopted. And yet in the following 20 years, a combination of scientific uncertainty, scientific skepticism, the political inconvenience of climate change, and other factors have slowed down the pace of negotiation results. This lecture traces the key challenges over time focusing on scientific uncertainty, climate skepticism and politics.