POSC 439: Environmental Participation

This course examines civic participation in international, national, and local environmental governance. We will first discuss theories on public participation and the development of civil society, looking at political, economic, social, and psychological motivations. We will then examine public attitudes and behavior on environmental issues. Student will study the influence of environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOs) on shaping environmental policy-making and expanding civic participation. In the last segment of the course we will evaluate the impact of various forms of public participation on setting the public agenda.

Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias is an associate professor of the practice in Environmental Studies and Political Science. She has written on environmental politics, climate change policies, public attitudes toward climate change, and international relations. Her most recent book Changing Climate Politics: U.S. Policies and Civic Action provides a comprehensive account of the current state of government action and political participation in the United States on the issue of climate change.