

COLLOQUIUM BY KATHINKA FÜRST

CIVIL SOCIETY AND RISK REGULATION: INSIGHTS FROM NGOS EFFORTS TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN CHINA

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, THURSDAY, 09 MARCH 2017

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

Civil Society and Risk Regulation: Insights from NGOs Efforts to Reduce Industrial Pollution in China

Speaker: Kathinka Fürst, Research Fellow, the Netherlands China Law Centre (NCLC), University of Amsterdam (UvA) Law School



* The event is also a **faculty recruitment seminar for Environmental program.**

ABSTRACT:

In the past decade the Chinese State has played a vital role in the development of a civil regulatory space for environmental NGOs, by, amongst others, introducing laws that grant citizens and social organisations the right to participate in public hearings, to obtain information related to environmental issues and to initiate environmental public interest litigation. The Chinese State clearly envisions a role for civil society in their recently proclaimed 'war against pollution'. With a focus on civil non-state regulatory theories and based on insights from a study of twenty-seven environmental NGOs from fifteen different provinces in China, this presentation outlines the regulatory roles NGOs in China plays in regulation of

industrial pollution, the Chinese characteristics of civil regulation and a number of theoretical implications derived from a study of civil regulation in an authoritarian state.

BIO:

Dr. Kathinka Fürst has studied and worked in China for the last fifteen years. In October 2016 she defended her doctoral dissertation "*Regulating through Leverage: Civil Regulation in China*" at the Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam. The thesis focuses on the role of non-state actors in the regulation of industrial pollution risks in China. The thesis uses an inductive methodology and is based on data gathered through explorative fieldwork with representatives of twenty-seventeen environmental NGOs based in fifteen different provinces.

Dr. Fürst's interdisciplinary MA thesis "*Access to Justice in Environmental Disputes: Opportunities and Obstacles for Chinese Pollution Victims*" sought to identify various structural, political, financial, technical, legal and cultural obstacles Chinese citizens face in the process of invoking their legal rights. It was based on empirical qualitative data derived from fieldwork in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Dr. Fürst has more than ten years of experience as a China researcher. She organized several key events in China, including a workshop with practitioners that uniquely brought NGOs, governments and industry together in Beijing to discuss co-regulation. She also played a vital role in organizing a mid-term workshop that included collaboration with UC Berkeley and resulted in a special edition she co-edited about China's new regulators in *Regulation & Governance*. And of vital importance she organized an event with key Chinese practitioners based on her research findings to train and discuss the usage of evidence by NGOs in their pollution related work.

Dr. Fürst's professional history includes positions such as senior consultant at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, research fellow at the Social Science Research Council's China Environment and Health Initiative, and guest researcher and visiting scholar at a number of Chinese academic institutes.

This event is open to all and entry is on a first come, first served basis. For any queries email y973@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.