In-class Exercises (Politics of Climate Governance)

Week 3: Systems Thinking Exercise

1) Between your groups members, read these articles

- https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240130-this-louisiana-town-moved-to-escape-climate-disaster
- https://e360.yale.edu/features/as-climate-risks-worsen-u.s.-flood-buyouts-fail-to-meet-the-need
- https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2022/08/the-governments-failure-to-move-vulnerable-people-out-of-harms-way-in-the-era-of-climate-change/
- https://publicintegrity.org/environment/harms-way/disasters-mount-climate-relocation-assistance/

2) Solo work

- Identify the relevant actors and map out connections between them
- Identify the presence of "complexity" in these relationships
- How might you (e.g. officials, communities, households) end up with suboptimal decisions given the action of others?

3) Discuss as a group

- Produce a network diagram of your climate adaptation governance system
- Write up a short summary of your discussion. Focus on providing examples of governance challenges that arise from the presence of complexity.
- Post to discussion board.

Week 5: Climate Communication Experiment Exercise

In groups of 2-3, design an experiment that answers a relevant research question about climate change communication. Write up of approx. 500 words. Include citations (not in word count).

<u>Questions</u>

What is the research question? The goal is to improve some aspect of climate opinion/attitude, broadly defined.

- What is the communication you want to study? Why? Base your question and reasons on the existing research.

How will you measure your constructs?

- What is the outcome variable? i.e. what opinion/attitude and what is the survey question?
- What is the treatment stimulus? Provide the exact stimulus. If it includes images, you can find the image or write the description of the image.
- The words for the stimulus do not count toward the 500

What is the sample? Who will be included?

- Is it the entire population? Is it a certain subgroup? Multiple subgroups? Why?
- For the purpose of this assignment, you can assume you will be able to get a representative sample.

Week 7: Identifying Mechanisms Exercise

1. Identify the inequality discussed in one of the four cases. What is the observed relationship?
2. Discuss the plausible causal pathways (mechanisms) that are at play in the inequalities you identified (draw on our class readings for ideas)
3. Based on the mechanisms you've identified, discuss and propose policies that can address the existing inequalities. Be specific.
4. As a group, summarize your discussion in a short write-up of points 1-3 and post it to the discussion forum.
   - summarize a couple inequalities
   - diagram out their causal mechanisms
   - present the policies, map them onto the mechanisms, and justify them.

Cases:

- How climate disasters hurt adolescents' mental health
- How Racism Flooded Alabama's Historically Black Shiloh Community
- How Environmental and Climate Injustice Affects the LGBTQI+ Community
- Why tenants struggle more in the wake of hurricanes

Week 13: Designing Climate Obstruction Exercise

In groups of 3-5, do the following.

- Take the position of a climate obstructionist actor.
- Identify your strategy.
- Identify your targets.

Discuss and post your position and strategy.