

Tackling climate change

The politics of Carbon Dioxide Removals (CDR)

11 & 12 April 2023

Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers), Centre des colloques, Salle 100

Tuesday, the 11th of April

2 - 2.15 PM: Welcoming coffee

- 2.15 - 2.45 PM: **Introduction** – *Hélène Guillemot (CAK), Laure Manach (CAK)*

Session 1: Construction of CDR – Historic and scientific perspectives

- 2.45 - 3.30 PM: **BECCS to the future: IAMs and the invention of CDR** – *Béatrice Cointe (CSI¹ - Mines Paris)*

3.30 - 3.45 PM: Coffee break

- 3.45 - 4.30 PM: **History of CDR techniques in international climate governance** – *Christophe Cassen (CIRED²)*
- 4.30 - 5.15 PM: **How to categorize CDR? Techniques and typologies** – *Yann Gaucher (LSCE³)*

Wednesday, the 12th of April

Session 2: “Unavoidable CDR”? – Discourses, promises and negotiations

- 9 - 9.45 AM: **The assessment of Carbon Dioxide Removal in IPCC AR6** – *Oliver Geden (SWP⁴)*
- 9.45 - 10.30 AM: **CDR policy in major economies: A comparative perspective** – *Felix Schenuit (SWP⁴)*
- 10.30 - 11.15 AM: **Policy incentives and business models for engineered carbon removals** – *Mathias Frihahl (Linköping University)*

11.15 - 11.30 AM: Coffee break

Session 3: CDR in the fields – Politics and debates

- 11.30 AM - 12.15: **Political economy of REDD+** – *Alain Karsenty (CIRAD⁵)*
- 12.15 - 1 PM: **The French promise of soil carbon sequestration** – *Stéphanie Barral (LISIS⁷), Céline Granjou (LESSEM⁶), Robin Leclerc (LESSEM⁶), Léo Magnin (LISIS⁷),*

1 - 2.30PM: Lunch break

2.30 - 4PM – Panel discussion – *animated by Hélène Guillemot and Laure Manach*

4 - 5PM: Cocktails

*Workshop organized by Hélène Guillemot & Laure Manach,
funded by the ANR research project “POSCA: the promises of soil carbon sequestration”, coordinated by Céline Granjou.*

¹ CSI : Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation

² CIRED : Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement

³ LSCE : Laboratoires des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (IPSL)

⁴ SWP : Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik - German Institute for International and Security Affairs

⁵ CIRAD : Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

⁶ LESSEM : Laboratoire écosystèmes et sociétés en montagne

⁷ LISIS : Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations Sociétés



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In order to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2° and possibly 1.5°, as stated in the Paris Agreement signed in 2015, the world must achieve net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. According to the IPCC, reducing emissions will not be sufficient: the 1.5° (or even 2°) target requires removing CO₂ from the atmosphere at a large scale through the use of the so-called Carbon Dioxide Removals (CDR) – also known as Negative Emission Technologies (NET). CDR brings together different techniques by which CO₂ is captured from the atmosphere and stored in forests and soils, in the ocean, or in geological formations, either by enhancing natural sinks or by using technological processes. Despite being widely put forward in IPCC decarbonation pathways, CDR mostly exist today as prototypes or at a small scale.

CDR techniques have received little attention from governments and non-state actors until recently and the issue is almost absent in the public debate and media space, particularly in France. There are arguably good reasons for this silence: many fear that the promise of CDR will be used as an excuse for companies and policy makers to avoid necessary emission cuts, while others underline the “technological solutionism” of this approach. However the field is evolving rapidly. Investments in CDR techniques are increasing and a growing body of scientific articles, expert reports and conferences address the topic, which is moving up the agendas in climate policy. Considered “unavoidable” by the 6th IPCC report, CDR will play an important role in climate debates and policies in the near future.

In this context, this workshop aims to open the debate on CDR techniques in France. We wish to foster a broad, multidisciplinary and pluralistic discussion of the issue, combining talks on scientific and governance approaches together with social sciences and historical accounts. Our goal is to scrutinize CDR historical construction and to develop grounded, critical understandings of their development, mobilizations and governance, in order to unpack the shifting visions of the fight against climate change that they carry.