Come to the Fall 2013 Sustainability Roundtable

Monday, October 21, 1 pm, Standish Room, Science Library

Professor Jennifer Dodge, Public Administration and Policy

Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State: Storylines of Public Policy and Governance

Making responsible public decisions about whether or not to allow hydraulic fracturing and under what conditions requires a type of policy analysis that considers the underlying politics in the controversy. This session will present a preliminary map of the “storylines” about the social, political and economic impacts of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in New York State that different political coalitions are advancing. The analysis reveals three central value-based conflicts that play out over: 1) the best approach to economic development for declining rural communities (an issue rooted in class conflict), 2) the appropriate locus of control for making environmental decisions, including who should be involved, and 3) the best individuals/groups to most effectively control corporate behavior. This analysis reveals that, in addition to conflicts over environmental policy, more fundamental controversies are playing out over visions of economic development and environmental governance more generally. Dr. Dodge was assisted in this study by PhD students Steve Jackson and Jeongyoon Lee.