Will We Ever Have Paris?
The U.S. and the International Politics of Climate Change
a discussion with

Matthew Hodgetts
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science
November 15, 2019 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Kelvin Smith Library Dampeer Room  11201 Euclid Ave.

Once upon a time, the United States was a leader in international health and safety regulation. Political scientists elaborated theories about why American standards were generally more stringent and enforced more strictly than policies in other rich democracies.

Times have changed.
The balance switched around 1990 – after the George H.W. Bush administration supported a strengthened Clean Air Act. In the U.S., as David Vogel writes, that was the, “last time that there was extensive bipartisan cooperation to address a major environmental risk.” Environmental activism is now far stronger in the European Union. We can see the difference in many policies, ranging from food safety to regulation of toxic chemicals. Yet they have been most prominent in conflict over issues that require international cooperation, especially climate change. The U.S. helped negotiate but did not sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. President Obama announced the U.S. would adhere to the 2016 Paris Agreement, but in 2017 President Trump, strongly supported by his party, withdrew from the agreement.

So would change in party control put the U.S. back into a leadership position on climate change and other environmental issues? Maybe not. Join us as Matt Hodgetts reports based on his own work as a scholar of environmental politics.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/