



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**  
**Snigdha Nautiyal**

Will defend her prospectus

**Boundaries of Knowledge for Climate Action: A Case Study on  
Capacity Building within the United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

9:30 am

Wrigley Hall 102

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Chair

Dr. Daniel Schugurensky, Member

Dr. Christine Keller Lemley, Member

**Abstract**

The purpose of this research study is to explore the pathways through which capacity building as both, an enabler and a form of climate action is being coproduced within the bodies and institutions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Given the diversity in climate impacts and responses globally, I will carry out a case study analysis to explore how and why only a few particular framings of capacity building for climate action dominate within the UNFCCC. First, I will explore coproduction of capacity building across three distinct and salient boundaries of climate knowledge that are used to organize and manage climate action in UNFCCC spaces: the science-policy-society boundary, the Global North-Global South boundary, and the global-local boundary.

Second, I will identify opportunities and challenges for opening diverse and socially just forms of climate action through capacity building in UNFCCC spaces. I will use qualitative methods for data collection and analysis, including semi-structured interviews, document analysis and participant observations. Third, integrating insights from international development and theories of education and social change, I will propose a range of capacities for furthering the goals of climate justice through capacity building for climate action.