



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

## Doctor of Philosophy

**Sheryl Musgrove**

Will defend her prospectus

**Why do Some Municipalities in the United States Engage in Climate Change Action and Not Others? A Multi-Level, Multiple Case Study of “In-Sync” and “Out-of-Sync” Municipalities from States Across the Spectrum of Action on Climate Change**

### Abstract

Efforts to address climate change at the international level have, to date, failed, and national efforts in the United States have, until recently, been lacking. In this setting, the importance of states and municipalities in addressing climate change has come into focus, and efforts at these subnational levels have grown. Such subnational efforts to address climate change are not, however, the norm in the United States, and the level of effort found varies significantly, even between municipalities within the same state. Why is it that some municipalities engage in climate change action and not others? This study will use a multi-level, multiple case study approach to answer this question by selecting states from across the spectrum of action on climate change and examining cities within those states that are “in-sync” and “out-of-sync” with their state’s climate policy. This study will seek to determine the impact of state-level climate policy on municipalities; the drivers and barriers to municipal climate change action; and how some municipalities are able to overcome or transform barriers into opportunities for climate change action.

Monday, October 19, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Wrigley Hall, Room 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:  
Sonja Klinsky, Chair  
Christopher Boone, Member  
Daniel Bodansky, Member  
Abigail York, Member