From Congress to Parliament: Communication and use of environmental science in legislatures

Abstract:
The quantity and complexity of scientific and technological information provided to policymakers has been on the rise for decades. Yet, little is known about how to provide science advice to legislatures, even though scientific information is widely acknowledged as valuable for decision-making within many policy domains, including energy and the environment. Karen Akerlof will describe two of her studies that attempt to identify and answer some of these questions both in the U.S. and abroad, placing the projects in the context of recent heightened interests worldwide in evidence-informed policymaking. The first study explores the communication and use of environmental science in the U.S. Congress, and the second, the development of an international research agenda for legislative science advice. Akerlof is affiliate faculty in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy and a visiting scholar at the American Association for the Advancement of Science.