Some "Big" Social Science Research Questions for the Study of Global Change

with Dr. Arnulf Grubler

December 8th 3:30-5:00
LeFrak Hall, Room 1124
University of Maryland, College Park

Meet & Greet session with Dr. Grubler 3:00-3:30
Light refreshments will be served

Dr. Grubler will give a personal reflection of 20 years research into global change and discuss four illustrative "big" research questions including:

1. What determines socio-economic baselines beyond aggregated proxy macro-drivers usually discussed and modeled in the global change modeling community?
2. How to deal with social and spatial heterogeneity that is increasingly recognized as a major factor in social and economic systems and framing their opportunities and vulnerabilities?
3. How to understand the constraints and opportunities of behavioral/organizational change vis a vis changes in technological hardware and their interrelationships?
4. What drives the self-organizational nature and regularity of many macro-phenomena such as rank-size distributions or scaling patterns?

Dr. Grubler is a Professor at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies every fall term and a senior research scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria for the remainder of the year. His research and teaching interests focus on the interplay between energy and technology systems and their implications on the environment, in particular on climate change.