

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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**Title: How do barriers emerge in the adaptation governance process in South Asia?:
A mechanism-based analysis**



Climate change governance involves multiple actors, from local to national level, and in their interactions, several challenges might surface and act as barriers to adaptation. While existing studies attempted to create an exhaustive list of barriers by focusing on ‘what’ question, we continue to have a meager understanding on ‘how’ or ‘why’ barriers emerge in the governance process. In this study, selecting Bangladesh as a case study area, we take an effort to explain the mechanisms that cause the emergence of barriers in the climate change adaptation governance process. We adopted key-informant interviews and evidence synthesis techniques to identify how the barriers emerge in the adaptation governance process. Our analysis reveals that there are at least six mechanisms that are involved in the emergence of barriers: frame polarization, power dynamics (enclosure/exclusion), power dynamics (boundary control), conflict infection, organizational inertia, and belief formation. This mechanism-based explanation of barriers will help to address and navigate through the barriers more effectively to ascertain successful adaptation. As climate change is somewhat mainstreamed in development plans and policies in our study area, these mechanisms of barriers can elucidate how development and climate adaptation strategies are affected by governance barriers.