

Contamination, Conflict and Culture: The Role of Science in the Pacific Rim

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) contamination is a form of environmental contamination that has serious harmful effects on human and ecosystem health. The solution to this contamination is simple: prevention of POP discharge. While there is a scientific knowledge to how POPs work, cultural factors are in play in the scientific debates and policy implications on the ways to prevent the use or discharge of specific POPs.

The research team has chosen Australia, Korea and Japan as subjects for study on the POPs contamination. Besides being industrialized countries which may contribute to higher POPs contamination, the 3 countries also offer interesting range of variations in terms of degrees of industrialization, the spectrum of policy-making process and population density. The team will address the cultural, scientific, and methodological/policy dimensions of the contamination and conflict associated with POPs in the Pacific Rim.

Investigators:

Anna Carr, Australian National University (a.carr@surrey.ac.uk)

Dong Soo Lee, Seoul National University (leeds@snu.ac.kr)

Sabine Fruhstuck, University of California, Santa Barbara
(fruhstuc@eastasian.ucsb.edu)