Study Guide:
State of the Practice - Guest lecturer: Bethany Rogerson

Issues and Questions

On Tuesday we will have **Bethany Rogerson** as our guest lecturer. **Bethany** is a senior associate for the Health Impact Project, "a national initiative designed to promote the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) as a decision-making tool for policymakers."[1] She is an HIA expert who has vast knowledge of assessments across the county, resources and tools, and notable experience facilitating HIA trainings. This session is meant to provide you with an overview of the breadth, scope, and growth of HIA practice.

The use of HIA in the U.S. dates back to 1999 and, early on, predominated in California. **Kemm's** Chapter 23 reviews the history of HIA usage in the U.S. providing an overview of its early beginnings and more contemporary applications. Selected sections from **National Research Council** highlight the obstacles to conducting HIAs, including issues codifying practices and HIAs limited role in decision-making processes such as NEPA.

Questions

1. HIA has been legislatively required in a few instances. What examples does Kemm list? If you had to speculate, what do you think might be some of the reasons that both examples are related to transportation projects?
2. What challenges are there to conducting HIA? How can these challenges be addressed?
3. Why has human health been minimized in the NEPA process? Where does HIA fit within NEPA?
4. Is there potential to incorporate HIA into federal policy? What could be some benefits and/or drawbacks to this?

Key Terms
EIA
NEPA
Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)

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[1] http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/health-impact-project/about

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