

Towards Ethical and Practical Geoengineering

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Interest in “geoengineering” technologies has increased significantly over the past few years because of concern about global climate change coupled with a growing recognition of the inadequacies of the Kyoto Protocol and ongoing climate change negotiating process. In order to effectively evaluate geoengineering, it is critical to understand that it has a very explicit, and strangely bounded, definition. For example, the British Royal Society in its authoritative 2009 report, *Geoengineering the Climate: Science, Governance, and Uncertainty*, defines it as (at ix) as “deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth’s climate system, in order to moderate global warming.” Deployment of such technologies without a more sophisticated framework that emphasizes portfolio management of different techniques operating at different scales, and a more inclusive definition of appropriate technologies, would likely be unnecessarily costly and risky.