IBS

INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

AT BOULDER ■

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

Ari Rabl

Senior Scientist, Centre d'Energétique of the Ecole des Mines de Paris

"How to Measure the Impacts and Costs of Air Pollution Mortality"

April 21, 2008
12:00-1:00

Assessments of air pollution damage costs, both in the European Union and the United States, have found that air pollution mortality is the biggest contributor. However, there is much confusion about the correct way of calculating it. The media likes to cite the number of deaths which is more dramatic sounding than years of life lost, and so does the Environmental Protection Agency. However, air pollution is not an identifiable cause of death and it is easy to show that the true number of attributable deaths cannot be determined, neither from time series nor from cohort studies. By contrast, loss of life expectancy can be calculated correctly on the basis of cohort studies; from time series it can be determined only if the observation window is sufficiently long (on the order of years). For the corresponding cost one needs valuation studies of life expectancy gain, a subject that has only recently attracted the attention of economists. The available contingent valuation studies will be described.

IBS 3 Conference Room

IBS 3 is the second building north of Starbucks Coffee on Broadway.
Feel free to bring a brownbag lunch.