1. Full citation.

Wälti S. 2004. How multilevel structures affect environmental policy in industrial countries. *European Journal of Political Research***43**(3): 599–634

2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials?  (This question only has to be answered once for Vogel.)

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3. What are the topics of the text?

The author discusses multi-level governance structures, and their impacts on environmental performance.

4. What is the main argument of the text?

The primary argument here is that multi-level structures play an important role in determining environmental performance, though it is often an indirect role. The author makes the case that multi-level structures affect the ways in which other variables (i.e. economic development) impact environmental performance.

5. Describe at least three ways that the argument is supported.

The argument is supported through an analysis of air quality data, which the author used to assess environmental performance. Bivariate and multivariate analyses help define the relationships between governance structure and other factors. Walti also draws upon the results of previous environmental policy analyses to strengthen her argument. She makes good use of tables in her analyses, using them to define and compare information

6. What three quotes capture the message of the text?

“Institutional elements shape outcomes by means of intermediary variables.”

“Interactions occur when an explanatory variable interferes with the way other explanatory variables affect the dependent variable. Thus, the effect the leve lof economic development exerts on environmental performance may depend on the presence of multilevel governance structures.”

“In short, multilevel governance inﬂuences the way in which economic development and corporatist accommodation structures affect environmental performance. This trend is robust across pollutants and across multilevel variables.”

7. What three questions about environmental risk and precaution does this article leave you with?

What other factors are affected by multi-level governance, other than economic development and corporatist accommodation structures?

What are the specific benefits of multi-level governance in regards to large scale environmental issues, particulary climate change?

As we’ve already discussed, the EU has adapted a more risk-averse approach to environmental issues; is this a direct result of their multi-level system?

8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution? (Provide citations, with a brief explanation of what you learned.  One of these should be fully annotated, as your second required reading for each week.)

First of all, I had to look up the definition of a multi-level governance. This is what I found: “*Multi-level governance can be defined as an arrangement for making binding decisions that engages a multiplicity of politically independent but otherwise interdependent actors – private and public – at different levels of territorial aggregation in more-or-less continuous negotiation/deliberation/implementation, and that does not assign exclusive policy competence or assert a stable hierarchy of political authority to any of these levels.”*

Source: Schmitter, Philippe (2004), “Neo-functionalism”, in A. Wiener and T. Diez eds: European Integration Theory, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 45-74.

Interestingly, this quest for a definition led me to a paper discussing the implementation of multi-level governance in the EU. I thought the following quote was interesting (and perhaps worthy of class discussion):

“.. by mobilizing trans-nationally and by participating in EU policy-making, in association with or in opposition to national states, sub-national authorities and civil societies end up sharing some of each other’s defining traits. Sub-national authorities end up promoting their territorially defined interests through lobbying activities, as if they were no longer general interest authorities but just particular interests. Social movements and non-governmental organizations, in turn, end up sharing some of the responsibilities of the territorial authorities and acquiring a public function, as if they were not just particular interests but public interests.”

Source: Piattoni, S. *MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Finally, I found myself desiring a more concise definition of corporatism, in order to better understand how it relates to federalism. Corporatism, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is “the organization of a society into industrial and professional corporations serving as organs of political representation and exercising control over persons and activities within the jurisdiction.” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/corporatism>)