

Politics of Climate Change Reading Group

Felipe Balcazar, Emily Sellars, Gracia Hadiwidjaja, Eric Scheuch, Zagreb Mukerjee, Zoey Xu

Department of Politics, Yale University

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1 Course Introduction

This course will provide an introduction to the politics of climate change. The goal will be to familiarize students with the frontier of climate change research in various subfields. We will cover a wide range of topics, from individuals and firms as climate actors, to topics in international relations, such as trade, international organization, and conflict. Discussions will be guided by Felipe Balcazar.

2 Course Schedule

Biweekly meeting on Fridays, 11.00 am – 12.15 pm, RKZ 301.

3 Requirements

Weekly discussions of assigned readings.

4 Meeting 1: Overview

- Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the Commons*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-3.
- Dell, M., Jones, B. F., and Olken, B. A. (2014). What do we learn from the weather? The new climate-economy literature. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 52(3):740–798
- Aklin, M. and Mildenerger, M. (2020). Prisoners of the wrong dilemma: Why distributive conflict, not collective action, characterizes the politics of climate change. *Global Environmental Politics*, 20(4):4–26.
- Gazmararian, A. F., & Tingley, D. (2023). *Uncertain Futures: How to Unlock the Climate Impasse*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-2.

5 Meeting 2: Public Opinion and Mass Politics

- Egan, P. J. and Mullin, M. (2012). Turning personal experience into political attitudes: The effect of local weather on Americans' perceptions about global warming. *Journal of Politics*, 74(3):796–809
- Blind retrospection: Electoral responses to droughts, floods, and shark attacks. (2017). In C. Achen & L. Bartels, *Democracy for Realists* (pp. 116–145). Princeton University Press.
- Ashworth, S., Bueno De Mesquita, E., & Friedenber, A. (2018). Learning about voter rationality. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(1), 37–54.
- Gaikwad, N., Genovese, F., & Tingley, D. (2022). Creating climate coalitions: mass preferences for compensating vulnerability in the world's two largest democracies. *American Political Science Review*, 116(4), 1165-1183.

6 Meeting 3: Firms

- Abbott, K. W., Green, J. F., & Keohane, R. O. (2016). Organizational ecology and institutional change in global governance. *International Organization*, 70(2), 247–277.
- Malhotra, N., Monin, B., and Tomz, M. (2019). Does private regulation preempt public regulation? *American Political Science Review*, 113(1):19–37
- Kennard, Amanda. (2020). The Enemy of My Enemy: When Firms Support Climate Change Regulation. *International Organization*, vol. 74, no. 2, pp. 187–221.
- Lerner, Michael, and Iain Osgood. (2023). Across the Boards: Explaining Firm Support for Climate Policy. *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 934–57.

7 Meeting 4: Classic IR/IO

- Cipllet, D. (2014). Contesting climate injustice: Transnational advocacy network struggles for rights in a climate politics. *Global Environmental Politics*, 14(4), 75–96.
- Nordhaus. (2015). Climate Clubs: Overcoming Free-Riding in International Climate Policy. *American Economic Review*: 1339-1370
- Lin J. (2018). Global Cities, Climate Change, and Transnational Lawmaking. In: *Governing Climate Change: Global Cities and Transnational Lawmaking*. Cambridge Studies on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Governance. Cambridge University Press:1-20.
- McAllister, Jordan H., and Keith E. Schnakenberg. (2022). Designing the Optimal International Climate Agreement with Variability in Commitments. *International Organization*, 76 (2): 469–86.
- Clark, R. and Zucker, N. (2023). Climate Cascades: IOs and the Prioritization of Climate Action. *American Journal of Political Science*. Early View.

8 Meeting 5: Conflict

- Burke, M., Hsiang, S. M., and Miguel, E. (2015). Climate and Conflict. *Annual Review of Economics*, 7(1):577–617
- Koubi, Vally. (2019). Climate Change and Conflict. *Annual Review of Political Science* 22 (1): 343–60.
- Mach, K.J., Kraan, C.M., Adger, W.N. *et al.* (2019). Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict. *Nature* 571, 193–197.
- Balcazar, C. F. and Kennard, A. (2023). Climate Change and Political Mobilization: Theory and Evidence from India. SSRN Electronic Journal.

9 Meeting 6: Migration

- Bhavnani, R. R. and Lacina, B. (2015). The Effects of Weather-Induced Migration on Sons of the Soil Riots in India. *World Politics*, 67(4):760–794
- Rigaud, K. K., De Sherbinin, A., Jones, B., Bergmann, J., Clement, V., Ober, K., Schewe, J., Adamo, S., McCusker, B., Heuser, S., et al. (2018). *Groundswell: Preparing for internal climate migration*. World Bank.
- McLeman, R. (2019). International migration and climate adaptation in an era of hardening borders. *Nature Climate Change*, 9(12):911–918
- Clement, V., Rigaud, K. K., De Sherbinin, A., Jones, B., Adamo, S., Schewe, J., Sadiq, N., and Shabhat, E. (2021). *Groundswell part 2: Acting on internal climate migration*. World Bank.

10 Meeting 7: Trade and Spatial

- Arkolakis, Costas and Conor Walsh. (2023). “Clean Growth.” Unpublished manuscript.
- Farrokhi, Kang, Pellegrina, and Sotelo. (2023). “Deforestation: A Global and Dynamic Perspective.” Unpublished manuscript.
- Farrokhi and Lashkaripour. (2023). “Can Trade Policy Mitigate Climate Change?” Unpublished manuscript.
- Weisbach, Kortum, Wang, and Yao. (2023). “Trade, Leakage, and the Design of a Carbon Tax.” *Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy*, 2023: 43-90
- Kortum and Weisbach. (2024). “Optimal Unilateral Carbon Policy.” Unpublished manuscript.