

'Climate Crisis: Social Science Strategies for Change'



Prof. dr. (em.) Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich):
Effective climate policies. How to deal with inequality and the problem of policy acceptance

I will first discuss a number of climate policy measures and ask about the effectiveness of the policies for reducing greenhouse gases. This is followed by the question of the consequences for the distribution of burdens and benefits. For climate policies to be accepted, it is important that the measures are perceived as fair. I will discuss measures that promote the energy transition and at the same time ensure fair burden sharing between poorer and wealthier households. Finally, I will draw attention to the need to evaluate policies on a regular basis. However, this requires systematic data collection.

Dr. Thijs van Dooremalen (U-Leiden):
Extreme weather events: blessings in disguise to tackle the climate crisis?



One reason that is often brought up for the climate crisis being difficult to tackle, is that the biggest consequences are yet too far away to stimulate clear political action today. But when they will be there, in a few decades, it will be too late to solve the crisis. This is the so-called Giddens' Paradox.

Extreme weather events bring a glimpse of the big consequences to the here and now and thus might be stimuli to introduce clear climate crisis actions. In my contribution, I will look into the framing of heatwaves in the British media and of flooding in German and Dutch politics, to see when and how this hypothesis might hold.



Dr. Tim Immerzeel (UU): *Climate Lessons: How climate sociology education provides new generations with action perspectives*

The earth we live on is under threat. Global warming, pollution of the environment, extreme weather conditions and the loss of biodiversity show that climate change is one of the greatest ecological and social existential problems now and in the future (e.g., Brulle & Dunlap, 2015; IPCC, 2015, 2021). The global impact of climate change has driven many scientists, including sociologists, to understand why climate change is happening and what we can do about it (Klinenberg et al., 2020). These scientists often emphasize that mitigating and adapting to climate change ask for a social transition and that a.o. climate change education and engagement are needed to keep the climate on earth in 2050 stable and livable (Otto et al., 2020). In this presentation, various initiatives will be discussed that show how sociology education could approach the climate crisis: the Dutch national minor in climate sociology for sociology-bachelor students across the country, a platform in climate lessons for teachers Maatschappijleer/social studies in secondary schools and a training programme for sociologists working as sustainability professionals.

Dr. Daan Uhm (UU): *Climate change, criminogenic asymmetries, and ecojustice*



Climate change has transformed the world as we know it today. These changes encompass social and ecological, but also criminological dimensions. The nexus between climate change and crime is embedded in the causes of global warming through environmental crimes and harms as well as the consequences of climate change. In the context of criminogenic asymmetries in our globalized world, climate change will trigger conflicts over natural wealth and produce new inequalities that can be exploited by legal and illegal entrepreneurs. In this presentation, climate change will be connected to criminogenic implications by reflecting upon environmental, ecological and climate justice.



Prof. dr. Tine de Moor (EUR): *Triggering transitions? Identifying spill-over effects of citizen collectives*

How does change in society start? And who are/can be the major agents of societal transitions? In recent years, citizens across Europe have demonstrated a willingness and capacity to take the lead through various forms of citizen collectives in a broad spectrum of sectors, from energy to food to care, both in urban centers and in the countryside. But how do they develop and what can they bring? We will look into 1. theoretical and empirical research that explains the emergence and diffusion of such collectives in past and present, both through contextual and spatiotemporal factors, 2. The scaling strategies such organisations employed and 3. the potential effects of such organisations when it comes to triggering transitions, both on the macro-level as on the level of the individual participant's behaviour.