P01 / What can be done? Comparing public policy responses and climate change-issues across regions as two sides of the same challenge

Topic : COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Chair : Eduardo Grin (Fundaçao Getulio Vargas- Brazil)

Second Chair : Alvaro Artigas (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po))

Third Chair : Maria Ela Atienza (University of the Philippines Diliman)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The panel aims at addressing the complexities of policy analysis from a comparative cross-perspective and from the specific standing point of the discipline and the most recent developments in the field of environmental research. The issue of the governance of climate change gravitates around specific dedicated objects, like the policy transfer (Alibasic 2023) or diffusion of grand accords, specific related policies that are critical to mitigation strategies (like transportation and energy transitions (Artigas & Mouton 2017) or specific levels (Grin 2024) concerned by environmental strategies (like national plans or specific local governmental responses at the city§metro level) and their corresponding capacity-building dynamics. More novel research has pinpointed specific issues pertaining to policy dismantling of specific related policies, zombi policies (Peters & Nagel 2020) politicization/mobilization/and conflictuality in regards to specific issues that remain low in the policy agenda, the increasing intersection of environmental technologies regulation, among others. Cutting across these different issues and research objects, fundamental dimensions of multi-level governance (considering the rapport between levels within supranational entities, cities and national governments or specific regional administrative constructs) have become relevant as per coordination imperatives of climate based policies.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This panel is open to a wide variety of environmental related topics and methodological approaches, keeping however an important silver lining of comparative studies, looking into how research can communicate better, discussing concepts such as framing, instrumentation, evaluation across their context specific meanings and at times difficult adaptation. In this context, several issues should be considered: to facilitate the promotion of cross-comparative research on environmental governance, especially in critical regions of the planet, exposed to the full onslaught of climate change but confronted as well to significant shortcomings in terms of streamlining of environmental programs, to improve local government policy capacity, to take into account the weight of climate diplomacies and technical cooperation agencies and the power of central states. Furthermore, many countries have been facing contradictory issues such as climate change denialism and the fundamental challenge of the integration of expertise to their policy process. What can we learn from these parallel and increasingly convergent agendas worldwide?

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Session 1

Thursday, July 3rd 08:00 to 10:00 (SME-F3)

What do cities do as part of their climate adaptation strategies ? Comparing two French cities

Charlotte Halpern (Sciences Po Paris - Centre d'Etudes Européennes (CEE))

Roberto Rodríguez (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po))

Climate change emerged as a growing concern for cities worldwide, shaping their climate agendas at different paces. Academic interest in adaptation has also grown, focusing specifically on understanding planning processes, climate impacts, adaptation barriers, types of changes, and the policy instruments used to address adaptation needs.

While urban authorities adopted climate plans early on to address mitigation, adaptation only gained prominence towards the late 2010s and in a selected number of cities, at a time when limited attention and resources were available to public authorities to develop a robust adaptation policy agenda (Bulkeley and Tuts, 2013; Fazey et al., 2018; Pasimeni et al., 2019). This interest was justified in view of the challenges those cities faced in the context of climate change (e.g., heatwaves, droughts, etc.). In the French (and the European) context, the cities of Lyon and Paris were considered as frontrunners in the French (and European) context. Notably, the 2003 heatwave underscored the tangible impacts of climate change, highlighting the need for adaptation. Paris began addressing adaptation through its 2015 strategy, while Lyon followed with its “adaptation update” of 2017 and its second climate plan in 2019. Both cities actively contributed to shaping national debates about adaptation policies. Yet beyond rhetoric’s and symbolic gestures, to what extent has this agenda developed into a fully-fledged urban policy area?

Drawing on an original qualitative dataset that combines a document analysis of main policy documents on climate adaptation and interviews in both cities, this paper examines adaptation policy developments in both cities (e.g., policy priorities, the selection of policy instruments, the mobilization of policy resources etc.) and its outcomes in terms of strengthening forms of urban governance (Le Galès 2011). It argues that adaptation policies were primarily shaped through endogenous drivers (e.g., local initiatives and learning, new political majorities, etc.) – rather than exogenous pressures (e.g., international standards and frameworks) (Patterson et al. 2019). Following previous work on comparative urban climate policies and governance, the paper also argues that adaptation was singled out as a renewed opportunity to challenge the State’s authority by repoliticizing classic areas of state interventions, such as risk and water management.

(Virtual) Is AI Turning the Climate Crisis into a Pandemic? Lessons from Successful COVID-19 Management for the Coming Exponential Increase in AI Energy Demand

Peng Gao (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

A growing body of literature emphasizes the benefits of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into sustainability efforts, a field known as AI for sustainability. While promising, this research often overlooks AI's environmental impact, particularly its substantial energy demands during training and inference. In this

paper, we argue that AI's exponential energy consumption has transformed climate change into an even more urgent superwicked problem by reducing the time available for effective action.

Current policies and industry practices often overlook the environmental impact of AI. In AI-related policies, AI is viewed primarily as a tool to achieve goals, not as a potential problem. In industry, the exponential energy demand is addressed by locating near stable energy sources or reviving nuclear power. In short, the industry assumes technological breakthroughs will resolve the issue. This misguided perspective needs correction. AI should not only be seen as a solution but also as a contributor to the problem. Policies must account for this dual role. In other words, a nuanced understanding of AI's impact on climate goals is essential.

We draw parallels between climate change and the rapid response to crises like COVID-19, arguing that anticipatory policy design, particularly path dependency analysis, offers a promising approach. We propose the concept of a 'thermostatic institution,' where durable objectives enable adaptable policies to achieve long-term goals.

Why subnational environmental governance matters: the challenges of incomplete decentralization in a biodiversity conservation incentive program.

Cristina Miranda-Beas (Université de Montréal)

In the last 20 years the number of incentive initiatives for biodiversity conservation in response to the global climate crisis has increased substantially, often as a process of institutional experimentation in which governments have innovated ad tested their capacities. However, the emphasis on how conservation payments can generate financially sustainable forms of payments has not allowed us to explore the role of the politica-institutional dynamics that their introduction, design, implementation and evaluation have implied for governments. This research focuses on the political-institutional dimension of the National Forest Conservation Program for Climate Change Mitigation (PNCB) of Peru, one of the 20 megadiverse countries in the world with 55 indigenous peoples, where the government implements a payment-for-results scheme targeting Amazonian indigenous communities. The PNCB administered by the national government is implemented in remote forested territories of the Amazon, where coordination with subnational governments and multilevel governance is crucial. However, after a review of secondary literature and documentary inspection it is clear that intergovernmental relations between the PNCB and subnational governments have been precarious over the years. Two Amazonian subnational governments with divergent evolutions and processes, San Martin and Madre de Dios, were selected. Thus, the objective of the research is to analyze how the PNCB implemented its payment by results (PBR) for indigenous communities in the territory administered by the Regional Governments of San Martin and Madre de Dios. A theoretical framework on multilevel governance and decentralization is used to understand how incomplete processes of devolution, poor intergovernmental coordination, duplication and overlapping of functions, as well as inadequate provision of financial resources and weak institutional capacities at the national and subnational levels impact climate policies and environmental governance.

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Session 2

Thursday, July 3rd 10:15 to 12:15 (SME-F3)

Climate risk management in public and private organisations: what are driving the effort and what more can be done?

Wimonmat Srichamroen (Chulalongkorn University)

Climate risk management, defined as planning and preparing for both anticipated and unforeseen climate change impacts on operations and stakeholders, is vital given the escalating frequency of climate events. This preliminary study utilises a performance management framework to analyse how Thai public and private organizations are addressing the increasingly critical issue of climate risk management. The study reveals that executive understanding of the significance and necessity of climate risks based on the context of the organisation’s missions is the foundational element for successful climate risk management performance. Furthermore, there are many differences between sector-specific performance management components, including organisational structure, target setting, data utilisation, communication, and performance evaluation, significantly influence the effectiveness of climate risk management outcomes

Decarbonization Mechanisms, Social Inequalities and Public Policy Instruments: A Critical Debate over Solutions in the Brazilian Capital

Anderson José Sant’Anna De Oliveira (University of Brasilia, Brazil)

Luiz Fernando Bessa (Universidade de Brasília)

As the world enters the second quarter of the XXI century, the international community has to deal with a critical climate changing scenario, in which efficient measures are urged to either interrupt the the entropic causes or adjust modern living conditions to the inevitable consequences.

Although action discussions have been intensified mostly in the las three decades, there are still a long path to reach satisfactory and effective results. The urgency of climate crises calls for innovative public policy responses that shall incorporate the variety of socioeconomic perspectives, local needs and operationally feasibility.

In accordance with its concerns, the international community has been acting to support the States and their societies dealing with this global challenge by establishing a prepositive agenda, in which some mechanisms were created to serve as policy instruments.

Therefore, taking these tools into account and compromised with the collective climate efforts to achieve, nations worldwide have been struggling to carry on their own proposed National Determined Contributions.

In accordance with these introductory considerations, this article proposal aims at bringing an analysis of the phenomena related to the main barriers and expectations behind the implementation of decarbonization mechanisms at the same time observing the UNFCCC objectives to promote higher living condition and social equity.

Based on a study case taken place in Brasilia, the article will

begin by outlining the theoretical framework of public policy instrumentation as articulated by Halpern, Lascoumes, and Le Galès. Their workpiece emphasizes that policy instruments are not merely technical tools but they are imbued with political significance and can unbalance the dynamics of policy processeses. This perspective might be extremely relevant to better grasp how climate mitigation policies can be instrumentalized local expectations to enhance sustainable urban development in vulnerable areas of the Brazilian Federal Capital.

By utilizing a qualitative approach, this research will also make use of a branch of the Theories of Social and Economic Development known as the Structuralist Approach that was especially pushed forward by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cepal). Furthermore, the Structuralist Development lens will sharpen the necessary perceptions to critically confront the effectiveness of the decarbonizations measures vis-a-vis the social, infrastructural and economic peculiarities that characterize the Latin American complex realities.

At the end, it is the intention of the proposing authors to collaborate with the high level ongoing discussions on what can be done in terms of public policy responses and climate-issue actions, by proving a nuanced and methodologically built understanding on how local arenas are addressing climate change challenges. Moreover, the

proposed paper might also be a provocative output on behalf of more integrated approaches that leverage international frameworks like the UNFCCC to foster local sustainable and inclusive public policies.

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(Virtual) Evaluating polycentricity of national environment policies: A comparative study of Indian and Singapore

Anmol Rattan Singh (Panjab University)

Around the globe, green policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation are increasingly taking up space within governance and economic structures of states. This shift in environmental policy comes in lieu of the momentum for reducing the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C. Countries have developed their nationally determined contributions (NDC) which serve as their game plan for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions. Two nations with a regional similarity but distinct multi-level governance and economic systems—Singapore and India—have come up with their respective policy strategies: Green Plan 2021 (Singapore) and Panchamrit 2022 (India). Both the policies are aimed at strategically mitigating and adapting to the diversity of climate change impact spread across the nations' territories. Given the diversity of the issue, a diffusion of action and learning is embedded in the need. Taking a cue from this diffracted engagement need of the policy, the paper is a seminal attempt at comparative legal and policy analysis of the two nation's green plans through the polycentric governance framework.

Ostrom's (2009) framework for polycentric governance views governance systems comprising governing units at various levels 'rather than a monocentric unit'. In line with this, the Paris agreement also recognised the importance of coming up with a bottom-up approach for governing climate change. It is in this context that this paper attempts at analysing the green policies of two Asian countries. The paper presents a qualitative analysis focused on cumulative mapping with an in-principle adaptive co-management model. Aiding the qualitative analysis is the quantitative assessment of National Greening of Financial Systems (NGFS) Low carbon economy transition pathways of the two nations for a policy outcome study. Preliminary evaluation suggests differences in polycentric governance models, but both are largely centralised. In addition, the quantitative assessment suggests that Singapore's model may be closer to meeting the 2030 ambitions. The study adds to the existing literature on polycentric governance on climate change by undertaking a policy analysis of two governance models addressing climate change.

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Session 3Session 3

Thursday, July 3rd 16:00 to 18:00 (SME-F3)

Impact of Recyclable Material Collectors on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and interactions with thermostatic institutions in the global North and Brazil.

Luiz Henrique Pires (Universidade de Brasília)

Luiz Fernando Bessa (Universidade de Brasília)

The low carbon transition (GHG) is a movement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The objective is to mitigate global warming and reduce the impacts of climate change. This practice involves policies and strategies to reduce the “carbon footprint” and is a response to the challenges of climate change and the need to promote sustainable development. Therefore, we will seek to understand the impact of recyclable material collectors in Brazil in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a comparison with the policies adopted in nations in the global north, considering the current legislation of the carbon credits aimed at this vulnerable social group. The theme will be related to the recent legislation of the Brazilian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System (SBCI), which represents law 15,042 of 2024 and other current qualitative data on carbon credits in the context of the global north and Brazil. In this scope, and understanding of the durable institutional arenas involved permeates the legislative assessment of Decree 11,413/2023, which establishes the Reverse Logistics Recycling Credit Certificate, the General Packaging Structuring and Recycling Certificate and the Future Mass Credit Certificate , legislation in force in the Brazilian field.The proposal has social importance as collectors play an essential role in Brazil's recycling chain, being responsible for collecting 90% of recyclable materials, despite the well-known precarious working conditions. Unfortunately, recycling credit is still seen as inaccessible to the majority of workers in this category, as working conditions are not the most appropriate. Therefore, Brazilian recyclable material collectors are part of the air pollution governance network in the national territory and we seek to know if there is any relationship between vulnerable social groups in the nations of the global north with this issue. Thermostatic institutions, which means well-entrenched institutions of governmental authority whose sole purpose is to maintain a clearly specified policy objective, are playing an adequate role in ensuring that carbon credits return financially to Brazilian recyclable materials collectors within the context of the low-income economy carbon? What are the most effective public policies of developed nations to reduce GHG, considering the Paris Agreement? Within this context, Cashore and Howlett (2007) demonstrate that external disturbances outside the policy subsystem, characterized by some type of social upheaval, are critical in explaining the development of profound and durable policy changes that are otherwise impeded by institutional stability. The current geopolitical context allows room for broad discussions on the socio-environmental issues of nations and this proposal will consider all these aspects.

Examining of the configuration of conditions that shape wastewater reuse systems across diverse country contexts

Kirsty Holstead (Wageningen University)

Authors: Kirsty Holstead (Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands), Katrin Pakizer (EAWG, Switzerland), Nicolas Jager (Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands), Manuel Fischer (EAWG, Switzerland)

Abstract

A broad discourse exists around circular water management, which manifests in calls to reuse more water

to reduce pressure on existing water sources. Although often viewed as a technical problem, a shift toward new water management practices, including reuse, implies far-reaching changes in the water sector. Water reuse requires rethinking actor roles, responsibilities, policy instruments, and institutional arrangements.

Research fields have different assumptions on the conditions necessary for implementing wastewater reuse systems. Scholars offer perspectives on how governance should be structured, what policies to adopt, and which actors to be involved in implementing and managing wastewater reuse. Several studies examine drivers of water reuse, showing that economic, institutional, technological, and sociological factors influence water reuse. At the same time, transition research has identified factors necessary for implementing and scaling niche technologies, which wastewater reuse systems still are. We combine research fields to develop a comprehensive list of conditions we operationalise and test. Previous research provides individual case studies that typically focus on limited cases and drivers, largely neglecting the interrelationship between different conditions. There is value in a comprehensive examination across contexts to identify configurations or pathways to support wastewater reuse.

We use Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) to investigate 20 cases, asking what configuration of governance conditions leading to wastewater reuse? By comparing cases across various governance situations (governance levels from local to national and substantive issues) that already reuse wastewater, this study identifies archetypal pathways to successfully implementing wastewater systems.

Keywords

1. Circular water management
2. Wastewater reuse
3. Qualitative Comparative Analysis

(Virtual) Challenges of the Local Governance of Climate Change. The case of the “Local Climate Change Action Plans” in Chile

Cecilia Osorio Gonnet (Universidad de Chile)

Antoine Maillet (Universidad de Chile)

The paper analyzes the challenges of local climate action in Chile, focusing on the role of municipalities and their compliance with the legal mandate to develop Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP). Through a mixed-methods approach, the study aims to describe the design process of these plans. The findings reveal limited progress, with only 2% of municipalities completing their LCCAP as of June 2024. The main obstacles include a lack of financial resources, limited technical capacity, and, in some cases, the absence of political will. However, the study also identifies factors that can facilitate the implementation of these plans, such as municipal leadership, experience in previous environmental initiatives, and participation in collaborative networks. Based on these findings, the paper seeks to contribute to the discussion on Latin America's local climate action and subnational governments' role in multilevel climate governance, highlighting the need for differentiated support strategies to strengthen municipal capacity in environmental planning.