

Postcarbon Democracy

The Law and Politics of Climate Transformation

Dr. Maxim Bönnemann

- Syllabus -

October 27, 2023, 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm

Session 1: Introduction and Outline

January 12, 2024, 12:15 pm – 7 pm

Block 1: The Past

Session 2: Setting the Stage – The Climate Crisis and Democracy

Mandatory reading: **Amanda Machin, Climates of democracy: Skeptical, rational, and radical imaginaries**, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change, 13 (2022), p.e774.

Optional reading: Alyssa Battistoni / Jedediah Britton-Purdy, *After Carbon-Democracy*, *Dissent* 67 (2020), 51–60 (highly recommended!); David Wallace-Wells, *The Uninhabitable Earth* (accessible [here](#)); Elizabeth Ellis, *Democracy as Constraint and Possibility for Environmental Action*, in: Teena Gabrielson (ed.) et al., *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory*, p. 505-519; Robyn Eckersley, *Ecological democracy and the rise and decline of liberal democracy*. *Environmental Politics*, 29 (2020), 214–234.

Session 3: Philosophical Roots - Have liberal political ideas fueled the climate crisis?

Mandatory reading: **Marcel Wissenburg, Liberalism**, in: Andrew Dobson/Robyn Eckersley, *Political Theory and the Ecological Challenge*, p. 20-34

Optional reading: Derek R. Bell *Political, Liberalism and Ecological Justice*, *Analyse & Kritik* 28/2006 p. 206–222; Piers Stephens, *Environmental Political Theory and the Liberal Tradition*, in: Teena Gabrielson (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory*, p.57-71; Robyn Eckersley, *The Green State: Rethinking Democracy and Sovereignty*, 2004, Introduction

U N I K A S S E L

Session 4: Colonial Roots – Reparations and Racial Justice

No mandatory readings (we will watch a speech by Mia Mottley)

Optional reading: Olúfemi O. Táíwò, Reconsidering Reparations, 2022, entire chapter five (“What’s Next: Why Reparations Require Climate Justice”); Kyle Whyte, Too late for indigenous climate justice: Ecological and relational tipping points. Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change, 11 (2020), p.e603; Robyn Eckersley, Responsibility for Climate Change as a Structural Injustice, Teena Gabrielson (ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory, 346 – 361.

January 19, 2024, 12:15 pm – 7 pm:

Block 2: The Present

Session 5: Deliberative Democracy - Citizens’ Assemblies

Guest Lecture by Leonie Sendker (Klimamitbestimmung e.V.)

Mandatory reading: **Rebecca Willis, Nicole Curato, and Graham Smith, Deliberative democracy and the climate crisis**, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change 13, no. 2 (2022): e759.

Optional reading: H el ene Landemore, No Decarbonization without Democratization: To Save the Climate, Open Democracy, in: David W. Orr (Ed.), Democracy in a Hotter Time: Climate Change and Democratic Transformation, p. 37 – 50.

Session 6: Radical Democracy - Civil Disobedience and Social Movements

Guest Lecture by Dr. Liz Hicks

Mandatory reading: **Thea Riofrancos, A Burning Planet Should the climate movement embrace sabotage?**

Optional reading: William E. Scheuermann, Political disobedience and the climate emergency, Philosophy & Social Criticism, 48(6), 791-812; James Goodman, Social Movements and Climate Change: “Climatizing” Society From Within (available [here](#)); Liz Hicks, Environmental Protest and Civil Disobedience in Australia, Verfassungsblog, 2023 (available [here](#)); Maxim B onnemann (Ed.), Kleben und Haften: Ziviler Ungehorsam in der Klimakrise, 2023 (available [here](#); English introduction available [here](#))

Session 7: Decolonial Democracy – Indigenous and Non-Western Approaches

Mandatory reading: Kothari, A., Demaria, F. & Acosta, A. **Buen Vivir, Degrowth and Ecological Swaraj: Alternatives to sustainable development and the Green Economy.** *Development* 57, 362–375 (2014).

Optional reading: Kyle Powys Whyte & Chris Cuomo, *Ethics of Caring in Environmental Ethics: Indigenous and Feminist Philosophies*, in: Gardiner/Thompson (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Ethics*, forthcoming; Kyle Powys Whyte, *Indigenous Environmental Movements and the Function of Governance Institutions*, in: Teena Gabrielson (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory*, p. 563–579.

January 26, 2024, 12:15 pm – 7 pm:

Block 3: The Future

Session 8: Power to the Experts - Technocracy and Environmental Authoritarianism

Mandatory reading: Ross Mitiga, **Political Legitimacy, Authoritarianism, and Climate Change.** *American Political Science Review*, 116(3), 998-1011

Optional reading: Mark Beeson, *The coming of environmental authoritarianism*, *Environmental Politics*, 19 (2010), 276-294; Yifei Li / Judith Shapiro, *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet*, 2020

Session 9: Power to the Courts - Climate Constitutionalism and the Promise of Rights

Mandatory reading: **Excerpts of the German Federal Constitutional Court's 2021 Climate Decision and of Asghar Leghari vs. Federation of Pakistan**

Optional reading: Joana Setzer / Lisa Benjamin, *Climate Litigation in the Global South: Constraints and Innovations*, *Transnational Environmental Law*, 9 (2020), 77-101; Corina Heri, *Climate Change before the European Court of Human Rights*, *European Journal of International Law*, Volume 33, Issue 3, August 2022, p. 925–951; Sam Bookman, *Demystifying Environmental Constitutionalism*, *Forthcoming, Environmental Law*, Vol. 54, No. 1, 2024.

Session 10: Power to the People – Post-Extractivism and Economic Democracy

U N I K A S S E L

Mandatory reading: **Alberto Acosta, Post-extractivism: From Discourse to Practice—Reflections for Action**, in: Gilles Carbonnier / Humberto Campodónico / Sergio Tezanos Vázquez (Eds p. 77-99).