



POTSDAM INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE IMPACT RESEARCH



Modeling Political Decisions for Sustainability

Module 1: Introduction and Overview of the Seminar

17 Oct. 2024, 8:45-11:15h

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Motivation for this Course



- To solve the negotiation challenges, incl. how they relate to sustainability challenges
- Combination of methods (Predictioneer's Game) with a practical sustainability challenge (role of carbon removals as part of the 2040 EU greenhouse gas mitigation goals)
- Relevance across the social sciences
 - business administration
 - economics
 - international relations
 - political science
 - public administration
 - public management
- Lehrfellowship/Teaching Fellowship by Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft

Detlef Sprinz



- Diplom-Volkswirt/Economics
- Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Taught at Michigan, Oslo, Potsdam, Yale, Zurich
- Specializes in
 - long-term policy
 - climate policy
 - environmental policy
 - effect of international institutions
 - social science research methods
- Lead author, International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), ch. 14 (on international cooperation)
- Board member of various journals



What You Can Expect From this Course



- Methods training in combination with an application to a sustainability challenge
- Students from different backgrounds, different disciplines, and different cultures with a maximum of 20 students
- Individual and team work in interdisciplinary groups

Structure of the Course



Part 1: Introduction to "Predictioneer's Game", a rational choice-based simulation software developed by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita (New York University)

Learn a method

Part 2: Apply the "Predictioneer's Game" to the *forthcoming* political decision: To which degree will the 2040 EU greenhouse gas net emission reduction goal be allowed to be met by carbon removals?

Write one actor paper and undertake (group) predictions of negotiation outcomes

Apply a method

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Important Points



- For Organizational Matters: Syllabus
- For Thematic Overview: Syllabus - Course Overview
- For Grading: Syllabus - Grading
- For communication: in person; Open.UP; backup: Zoom
- For documentation, upload, questions: Moodle
- Please come prepared to every module, have your readings completed, videos watched, questions prepared
- Chatham House Rules
 - "When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed." (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>, last accessed: 11 Oct. 2024)

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Your Questions



- Ask!

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Introduce Your Neighbor



- Name
- Field of study
- # of semesters
- Home institution/university
- Why you chose this course

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Outlook → Modules 2 & 3



- Watch Videos
- Do the readings
- Post questions on Open.UP - by module – by 18:00h the day before class