

Call for Papers

Climate Cultures in Europe and North America: Local, Regional and Transatlantic Formation of Climate Change Knowledge and Action

Edited Volume with Routledge (tentative)

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Overview

This edited volume aims to bring together new social science studies on the current diversity of climate cultures in Europe and North America. To date, these two regions bear the biggest responsibility for the severe climate change crisis that has engulfed us on a global level, yet they are also among the most likely sources for implementing solutions and adaptations. We are particularly interested in the increasing variability of perceptions and practices surrounding climate change that are developing below and above the level of nations in these regions, for instance, within local and translocal contexts, as well as the formation of new transatlantic coalitions and collaborations. In order to contribute to the creation of climate change solutions and the implementation of adaptations, we must develop a deeper scholarly understanding of the many voices, actors and forces that shape the global debate and politics of climate change today.

For the purpose of this volume, “climate cultures” are understood as collectively shared perceptions of problems and opportunities for action, as well as the remedial tactics in which different social and cultural groups engage regarding climate change. When comparing the varied climate change-related perceptions and actions in Europe and North America, it becomes obvious that climate cultures do not neatly correspond with national borders. Complex and dynamic differences and similarities emerge within local, regional and transatlantic contexts. Robust findings by contemporary research on climate change skepticism and environmental social movements illustrate this point. Social and cultural differences in climate change perception and action deeply divide North Americans and Europeans today, especially *within* national borders. For instance, in the United States, new coalitions of actors from private industry, higher education, as well as local and regional government have emerged after the Trump administration’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in 2017 and are asserting their commitment to continue the Paris goals even without the support of the national government. New local movements and coalitions devoted to fighting climate change have also developed within other countries, and it is increasingly common for these new actors to build bridges across national borders and across the Atlantic.

For this special issue, we invite contributions that explore the varied formations and workings of climate cultures within and across North American and European countries. Suitable chapters may address, but also go beyond, the following questions:

- Which older and newer climate cultures can be observed and differentiated in North America and Europe today? How did they develop? How do they operate? What are their goals and strategies?
- Which background factors in social structure, politics, the economy, and other institutions can be identified as determinants of climate cultures? Which cultural and personal factors, such as values, beliefs and identities, play a role?
- Which interactions, and more specifically conflicts, occur between various climate cultures? How do these exchanges divide or unite members within groups, and across group boundaries?
- When, where and how do competing climate cultures enter and influence public opinion, as well as discourse in the media and other institutions? How do they impact policy regulations and tangible environmental outcomes (mitigation and/or adaptation measures)?
- How are climate cultures manifested in transnational advocacy networks? How do international coalitions translate into climate change adaptation at the local level?

We invite papers from scholars who are working in a variety of disciplines—including sociology, anthropology, political science, disaster studies and others—and at all career levels. We welcome papers that represent the entire diversity of theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches in this area of study. While papers based on original research are expected to make up the bulk of the volume, theoretical contributions are invited as well. All papers must display a strong conceptual grounding in current international research on the phenomenon of climate cultures. Lastly, contributions authored by women, members of minority groups and scholars from the Global South are especially encouraged.

Please submit paper proposals by **August 1, 2019** and include:

- title and abstract of proposed chapter (250-300 words)
- five key words
- names, titles and affiliations of all authors
- contact information for one corresponding author

Please email the requested information (in one document) to **Thorsten Heimann** at thorsten.heimann@fu-berlin.de for an initial round of review. We will then invite all authors of accepted proposals to submit full chapters by February 2020.