

Predicting Global Environmental Policy

Syllabus Fall 2018/2019

Prof. Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.

Purpose and Contents

This course combines environmental policy and applied methods training in a format accessible to undergraduate and graduate students. To this end, students will be introduced to forecasting political negotiations in the field of environmental policy, employing the “The Predictioneer’s Game” software.

The seminar will combine lectures on specific aspects of environmental policy and on the simulation software, hands-on sessions using the Predictor’s Game, actor papers, and group simulation papers. In particular, students will undertake two major strands of predictions: (1) whether the loss & damage mechanism under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change will develop into a full-fledged compensation mechanism for climate impacts, and (2) the prospects for expanding forest carbon biomass to lessen climate impacts.

As a result of this course, students will be able to use the Predictioneer’s Game to forecast the outcomes of generic multi-party (environmental) negotiations to assist strategic decisions in a variety of settings within and outside of the environmental policy field.

Learning Goals

Knowledge & Understanding

- understand the core inputs of a prediction models, and
- understand the core outputs

Applying, Analyzing & Evaluating

- undertake predictions of multi-actors negotiations for hitherto unresolved challenges of global environmental and climate policy
- agree, among students and facilitated by the instructor, standardized position input scales that are topic-specific for comparability of student actor papers, and
- research, execute, and evaluate their own model runs

Creating

- students develop their own research strategy amendable to using prediction tools, e.g., for subsequent use in their thesis.

Logistics

Time & Location: →*Course Overview*

Please note that Module 11 takes place on 29 Nov. 2018.

Location: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Albert-Einstein-Science Park, Telegrafenberg, A56, second floor, room “Asien/Asia”, (→<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/contact/where>). For exceptions, please consult →*Course Overview*

Prerequisites: M.A. or Ph.D. student status in Political Science, Public Administration or related discipline; see →<https://puls.uni-potsdam.de> for details; undergraduates admitted by special permission

Course Registration: →<https://puls.uni-potsdam.de>, Course: 430511

Deadline for Dropping the Course: 20 Nov. 2018

Credit Points: 9 (ECTS)

Course website: Moodle →<https://moodle2.uni-potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=17965>

Capacity: 20

Contact Details:

dsprinz@uni-potsdam.de (include “PGEP Fall 2018” in the subject line)

www.sprinz.org

Office Hours: by appointment

Code of Conduct

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper academic conduct as specified by the University of Potsdam and courses offered jointly with other universities and academic programs (→<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/am-up/2011/ambek-2011-01-037-039.pdf>). You are expected to undertake all your *individual* assignments independently. For *group* assignments, resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with individual components clearly marked). Failure to comply with such rules may lead to the consequences stipulated →www.uni-potsdam.de/am-up/2013/ambek-2013-03-035-055.pdf (§17).

Each written submission in this course shall include page 2 of →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/wisofak/Dateien/Studium/informationen_f_r_s_tudierende_plagiatssoftware_april_2014.pdf (also made available on the →Moodle website for this course).

Select students appear to have fallen in love with around-the-clock connectivity and social media. During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate on this course.

All personal information that you encounter in conjunction with this course or on →Moodle shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes.

Students are expected to attend all sessions. In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit an appropriate medical certificate. In addition, in case you need accommodations (“Nachteilsausgleich”), please inform the instructor to this effect and provide the necessary documentation during the first three sessions of this course.

In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadline.

You have to read the EULA (End User License Agreement) of the Predictioneer's Game software and you accept it automatically when submitting the first simulation paper.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course combines short lectures and an excursion with colloquia, hands-on sessions in structured workshop-style settings, quizzes, breakout groups, paper assignments, as well as their presentation (see below for details). Students are expected to have read *all* assigned readings prior to class and are expected to ask questions in the beginning of class to advance their understanding of the readings and to enhance the usefulness of hands-on exercises.

Your grade comprises the following components:

Requirements	9 ECTS
Oral Participation (<i>throughout</i> the course), incl. quizzes	20%
(Individual) Actor Paper & Presentation	15% each
(Group) Simulation Paper & Presentation	25% each

Textbooks

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York, NY: Random House.

Luterbacher, Urs, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2018. *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

All other readings will be made available via →Moodle (→Schedule & Readings).

Software

<http://www.incidepro.com/> (Predictioneer's Game - software)

<http://www.predictioneersgame.com/game> (support website)

Course Overview

Date	Time	Module	Topic	Activities
<i>Overview</i>				
18 Oct. 2018	13:00-14:30h	1	Course Overview, TED Talk (video)	Ice Breaker 1: What is Prediction Good For? – breakout groups Icebreaker 2: Learning Goals - breakout groups Video: TED talk
25 Oct. 2018	13:00-14:30h	2	Global Environmental Politics – Actors, Issues, Negotiations	Icebreaker 3: Introduce your neighbor HW: Brief paper: What is missing on the syllabus?
<i>The Predictioneer’s Game: The Model</i>				
25 Oct. 2018	14:45-16:15h	3	The Predictioneer’s Game: Overview	jigsaw discussion on components
02 Nov. 2018	9:30-11:00h <i>Room Africa, third floor</i>	4	The Predictioneer’s Game: Advanced Issues and Q&A	quizz on components; breakout groups on advanced issues (non-rotating or rotating?); one-minute paper at end of class
02 Nov. 2018	11:15-12:45h <i>Room Africa, third floor</i>	5	Actor Papers and Issue Scaling; Replicating an Analysis; Brief Course Feedback	“Cascade” group work on scales (e.g., on mitigation)/ think-pair-share; replication analysis using the Predictioneer’s Game (please bring your laptop to class) Brief Course Feedback
08 Nov. 2018	9:00-14:00h, German Foreign Office, Europasaal, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin	6	COP 24 at Katowice (in German?) Please register at: → https://www.deutsches-klima-konsortium.de/no_cache/en/events/event-registration.html	
<i>Prediction 1: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage?</i>				
08 Nov. 2018	15:00-16:30h	7	Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage: Policy Overview	HW: one-paragraph paper due: Which is the most pressing negotiations issue on compensation/ loss & damage?

15 Nov. 2018			Dies academicus – International Day 2018	
22 Nov. 2018	15:00- 16:30h	8	Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage: Actors and Positions, Q & A	HW: one-paragraph assignment due: position scale & graph; “Cascade” group work/ think-pair-share on position scale
29 Nov. 2018	13:00- 14:30h	9	Prediction 1 – Actor Papers & Presentation: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage, Q & A	Prediction 1: Actor Paper due & Presentation
06 Dec. 2018	13:00- 14:30h	10	Prediction 1 – Presentation of Simulations: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage, Q & A Intermediate Course Feedback	Prediction 1: Simulation Paper due & Presentation
<i>Prediction 2: Avoided Deforestation/Afforestation</i>				
29 Nov. 2018	14:45- 16:15h	11	Guest Lecture: Prof. Charlotte Streck: Avoided Deforestation/Afforestati on: Policy Overview	HW: one-paragraph paper due: Which is the most pressing negotiations issue on geoengineering & net negative emissions?
06 Dec. 2018	14:45- 16:15h	12	Avoided Deforestation/ Afforestation: Actors and Positions, Q & A	HW: one-paragraph assignment due: position scale & graph; “Cascade” group work/ think-pair-share on position scale
13 Dec. 2018	13:00- 14:30h	13	Prediction 2 – Actor Papers & Presentation: Avoided Deforestation/ Afforestation, Q & A	Prediction 2: Actor Paper due & Presentation
20 Dec. 2018	14:00- 15:30h	14	Prediction 2 – Presentation of Simulations: Avoided Deforestation/Afforestati on, Q & A	Prediction 2: Simulation Paper due & Presentation
20 Dec. 2018	15:30- 17:00h	15	Course Review	

Assignments

Actor and Simulation Papers

Students will write a total of four papers:

- one individual actor paper each on (1) loss & damage/compensation for climate impacts and (2) avoided deforestation/afforestation, and
- one group simulation each on (1) loss & damage/compensation for climate impacts and (2) avoided deforestation/afforestation.

Actor papers will be up to 1,000 words in length, simulation papers will be up to 1,000 words in length per group member. Details on the paper format and the submission procedure will be provided in the formal assignments. All papers are due the day *prior* to their presentation in class. Papers are submitted via →Moodle. Papers have to include their student ID and a brief description who did what (the latter refers only to group papers), the topic, and a word count on the cover page.

We will elaborate relevant position scales (Modules 4-6) for the respective predictions in class (Modules 7 & 11), using working groups.

For the actor papers, please provide a brief historical overview of the actor, its central positions over time on the particular issue under investigation, and score the actor with respect to influence, position, salience, flexibility, veto status (as introduced in Modules 3-5). Each of these scores has to be justified and sources fully referenced. The actor papers will be presented in class (Modules 8 & 12) and will be subject to Q & A by your peers.

For the simulation paper, you will have to determine which actors to include (beyond the actors covered by actor papers), potentially revise the scores offered in individual actor papers, and devise a strategy for employing the Predictioneer's Game, including robustness checks (variations of the input structure, e.g., on parameters where point values cannot be reasonably or reliably ascertained). Please appendix the input file for the simulations as .txt file(s) and provide full references for all sources. The simulation papers will be presented in class (Modules 10 & 14) and will be subject to Q & A by your peers.

Modules

Module 1: Course Overview

Course Overview

Module 2: Global Environmental Politics – Actors, Issues, Negotiations

Overview Lecture

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2018. Global Warming of 1.5 °C: Summary for Policymakers (subject to copy edit), http://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

Luterbacher, Urs, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2018. Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press chs. 1, 7, 8, 9, & 12, <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/global-climate-policy>.

Watch

- [The Inside Story of the Paris Climate Agreement](#)
- [The Paris Climate Deal: An Inside Account of How it Happened](#)

Module 3: The Predictioneer's Game: Overview

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York: Random House, chs. 1-3, 5, 10, & 11 (skim the remainder of the book).

Module 4: The Predictioneer's Game: Advanced Issues and Q&A

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2011. A New Model for Predicting Policy Choices. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28 (1):65-87. doi: 10.1177/0738894210388127.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2010. Judging Judgment. *Critical Review* 22 (4):355-388. doi: 10.1080/08913811.2010.541686.

Sprinz, Detlef F., Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Steffen Kallbekken, Frans Stokman, Håkon Sælen, and Robert Thomson. 2016. Predicting Paris: Multi-Method Approaches to Forecast the Outcomes of Global Climate Negotiations. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):172-187. doi: 10.17645/pag.v4i3.654.

Module 5: Actor Papers and Issue Scaling; Replicating an Analysis; Brief Course Feedback

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York: Random House, 215-217.

Prepare a “.txt” data input file from the table on page 217.

Sprinz, Detlef F., and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2015. Predicting Paris: Forecasting the Outcomes of UNFCCC COP-21 With the Predictioneer's Game. Potsdam and New York City: PIK - Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and New York University, doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3722.1840, http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz_BuenodeMesquita.2015.PredictingParis.Summary.ResearchGate.pdf .

Module 6: COP 24 in Katowice

→Course Overview for details

Module 7: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage: Policy Overview

Tol, Richard S. J., and Roda Verheyen. 2004. State Responsibility and Compensation for Climate Change Damages - A Legal and Economic Assessment. *Energy Policy* 32 (9):1109-1130. doi: 10.1016/s0301-4215(03)00075-2.

Adelman, Sam. 2016. Climate Justice, Loss and Damage and Compensation for Small Island Developing States. *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* 7 (1):32. doi: <https://doi.org/10.4337/jhre.2016.01.02>.

Sprinz, Detlef F., and Steffen von Bünau. 2013. The Compensation Fund for Climate Impacts. *Weather, Climate, and Society* 5 (3):210-20.

Explore: <https://natcatservice.munichre.com> (exclude geophysical events).

Explore: <http://www.sigma-explorer.com/index.html>

Swiss Re. 2014. sigma Natural Catastrophes And Man-Made Disasters in 2013: Large Losses From Floods and Hail; Haiyan Hits the Philippines, Zurich: Swiss Re, esp. 15-27.

Sprinz, Detlef F., Rebekka Popp, Jennifer Bansard, and Peter Hefele. 2017. *Compensating for Climate Change Impacts? Priorities for Research and Public Policy*. Brief. Hong Kong & Potsdam: RECAP – Konrad Adenauer Foundation & Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).

Munich Climate Insurance Initiative. 2017. ACRI+ Video “The Silver Linings of Natural Disasters,” <https://youtu.be/IRUNWIoPTY> .

Module 8: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage: Actors and Positions, Q & A

Explore

- <https://unfccc.int>
- http://enb.iisd.org/process/climate_atm.htm

Verheyen, Roda, and Peter Roderick. 2008. Beyond Adaptation: The Legal Duty to Pay Compensation for Climate Change Damage. Godalming, Surrey: WWF-UK, assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/beyond_adaptation_lowres.pdf .

Module 9: Prediction 1 – Actor Papers & Presentation: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage, Q & A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 10: Prediction 1 – Presentation of Simulations: Compensating for Climate Impacts/Loss & Damage, Q & A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 11: Guest Lecture: Prof. Charlotte Streck: Avoided Deforestation/Afforestation: Policy Overview

Romano, Severino, Simone Targetti Ferri, Gennaro Ventura, Francesco Di Napoli, and Mario Cozzi. 2015. Land Use Sector Involvement in Mitigation Policies Across Carbon Markets. In *The Sustainability of Agro-Food and Natural Resource Systems in the Mediterranean Basin*, edited by Antonella Vastola, Cham: Springer International Publishing, 243-254.

van der Gaast, Wytze, Richard Sikkema, and Moriz Vohrer. 2018. The Contribution of Forest Carbon Credit Projects to Addressing the Climate Change Challenge. *Climate Policy* 18 (1):42-48. doi: 10.1080/14693062.2016.1242056.

Boucher, Douglas H. 2015. The REDD/Carbon Market Offsets Debate: Big Argument, Small Potatoes. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 34 (6-7):547-558. doi: 10.1080/10549811.2015.1031909.

Rowe, Elana Wilson. 2015. Locating International REDD+ Power Relations: Debating Forests and Trees in International Climate Negotiations. *Geoforum* 66:64-74, doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.09.008.

Commission of the European Communities. 2008. Addressing the Challenges of Deforestation and Forest Degradation to Tackle Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. Brussels, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52008DC0645>.

Geden, Oliver, Vivian Scott, and James Palmer. 2018. Integrating Carbon Dioxide Removal into EU Climate Policy: Prospects for a Paradigm Shift. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 9 (4), doi:10.1002/wcc.521.

Module 12: Avoided Deforestation/Afforestation: Actors and Positions, Q & A

Explore

- http://enb.iisd.org/process/forest_desertification_land.htm
- <https://unfccc.int>
- http://enb.iisd.org/process/climate_atm.htm

**Module 13: Prediction 2 – Actor Papers & Presentation: Avoided
Deforestation/Afforestation, Q & A**

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

**Module 14: Prediction 2 – Presentation of Simulations: Avoided
Deforestation/Afforestation, Q & A**

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 15: Course Review