CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HISTORICAL EMISSIONS

This volume investigates who can be considered responsible for historical emissions and their consequences, and how and why this should matter for the design of a just global climate policy. The authors discuss the underlying philosophical issues of responsibility for historical emissions, the unjust enrichment of the earlier developed nations, as well as questions of transitional justice. By bringing together a plurality of perspectives, in terms of both the theoretical understanding of the issues and the political perspectives on the problem, this book presents the remaining disagreements and controversies in the debate. Giving a systematic introduction to the debate on historical emissions and climate change, the book also provides an unbiased and authoritative guide for advanced students, researchers, and policy makers in climate change justice and governance and, more widely, for anyone interested in the broader issues of global justice.

LUKAS H. MEYER is a professor in the Department of Philosophy and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Graz, Austria. Professor Meyer’s research focuses on intergenerational justice, the ethics of climate change, and historical justice. He was leader of the research project Climate Change and Justice: The Significance of Historical Emissions from 2010 to 2014, and one of the lead authors of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

PRANAY SANKLECHA is an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Graz, Austria. Professor Sanklecha’s teaching and research interests cover topics including the meaning of life, intergenerational justice, the ethics of climate change, methods of justification in normative philosophy, and philosophy as a way of life. He has written articles on intergenerational justice, particularly as it relates to climate change.
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HISTORICAL EMISSIONS

Edited by

LUKAS H. MEYER
University of Graz, Austria

PRANAY SANKLECHA
University of Graz, Austria
## Contents

[List of Contributors](#) page vii

**Introduction: On the Significance of Historical Emissions for Climate Ethics**

1 Lukas H. Meyer and Pranay Sanklecha

1 Climate Ethics, Affirmative Action, and Unjust Enrichment

David Heyd

2 Historical Responsibility and Climate Change

Janna Thompson

3 Historical Emissions: Does Ignorance Matter?

Daniel Butt

4 How Legal Systems Deal with Issues of Responsibility for Past Harmful Behavior

Daniel A. Farber

5 Asking Beneficiaries to Pay for Past Pollution

Anja Karnein

6 Benefiting from Unjust Acts and Benefiting from Injustice: Historical Emissions and the Beneficiary Pays Principle

Brian Berkey

7 A Luck-Based Moral Defense of Grandfathering

Rudolf Schuessler

8 In Defense of Emissions Egalitarianism?

Christian Baatz and Konrad Ott
### Contents

9  In the Name of Political Possibility: A New Proposal for Thinking About the Role and Relevance of Historical Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
   *Sarah Kenehan*  
   198

10  Right to Development and Historical Emissions: A Perspective from the Particularly Vulnerable Countries  
   *Mizan R. Khan*  
   219

Index  
   250
Contributors

Christian Baatz is Faculty Member at the Department of Philosophy, University of Kiel, Germany.
E-mail: baatz@philsem.uni-kiel.de

Brian Berkey is Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics in the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, an associated faculty member in the Penn Philosophy Department, and an affiliated faculty member of the Institute for Law and Philosophy at the Penn Law School.
E-mail: bberkey@wharton.upenn.edu.

Daniel Butt is Associate Professor of Political Theory at the University of Oxford; Fellow and Tutor in Politics at Balliol College, Oxford; and Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Justice, Oxford.
E-mail: daniel.butt@politics.ox.ac.uk

Daniel A. Farber is Sho Sato Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the Co director of the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment. He is a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Life Member of the American Law Institute.
E-mail: dfarber@law.berkeley.edu

David Heyd is Chaim Perelman Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, the Hebrew University.
E-mail: david.heyd@mail.huji.ac.il

Anja Karnein is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Binghampton University, State University of New York, and has been a Visiting Fellow for the Center for Ethics, Harvard University; a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Society
List of Contributors

and Genetics at UCLA; and a Visiting Scholar at the New York University Center for Bioethics.
E-mail: akarnein@binghamton.edu

Sarah Kenehan is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania (United States).
E-mail: skenehan@maryu.marywood.edu

Mizan R. Khan is Professor at the Department of Environmental Science and Management at North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has been attending the climate negotiations as a member of the Bangladesh delegation since 2001.
E-mail: mizan.khan@northsouth.edu

Lukas H. Meyer is Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at the University of Graz, Austria.
E-mail: Lukas.meyer@uni-graz.at

Konrad Ott is, since 2012, Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Ethics at the University of Kiel, Germany.
E-mail: ott@philsem.uni-kiel.de

Pranay Sanklecha is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Graz, Austria.
E-mail: pranay.sanklecha@uni-graz.at

Rudolf Schuessler is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.
E-mail: rudolf.schuessler@uni-bayreuth.de

Janna Thompson is a Professorial Fellow at La Trobe University and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.
E-mail: J.Thompson@latrobe.edu.au