

TOWARDS A CULTURAL POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Towards a Cultural Politics of Climate Change provides a new perspective on how climate change matters in policy making, business, and everyday life. It argues that the work of low-carbon transitions takes place through the creation of devices, the mobilization of desires, and the articulation of dissent. Using case studies from the United States, Australia, and Europe, the book examines the creation and contestation of new forms of cultural politics – of how a climate-changed society is articulated, realized, and contested. Through this approach it opens up questions about how, where, and by whom climate politics is conducted and the ways in which we might respond differently to this societal challenge. This book provides a key reference point for the emerging academic community working on the cultural politics of climate change, and a means through which to engage this new area of research with the broader social sciences.

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TOWARDS A CULTURAL POLITICS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE

Devices, Desires and Dissent

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABC	Approach: attitudes, behavior and choice
ANT	Actor–network theory
AUS	Australia(n)
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARD	Community Action for Retrofit Delivery
CCS	Carbon capture and storage
CJA	Climate Justice Action
CSA	Community-supported agriculture
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FCOJ	Frozen concentrated orange juice
FDA	Food and Drug Administration (US)
FDC	Florida Department of Citrus
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HMRC	Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (UK)
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
KPI	Key performance indicator
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
NFC	Not-from-concentrate (juice)
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NSW	New South Wales
OJ	Orange juice
RTD	Ready-to-drink (juice)
SDC	Sustainable Development Commission

SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
STS	Science and technology studies
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TTT	Transition Town Totnes
UK	United Kingdom
UK-GBC	UK Green Building Council
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US	United States
USA	United States of America

Acknowledgments

This book's cover image, "Playing in the Sunset," captures the art installation "Greetings to the Sun" at Croatia's Zadar waterfront. The installation, done by the architect Nikola Bašić, is part of the revitalization and transformation of the harbor area. The monument consists of a large circle of solar panels, interspersed with LED lights that come to life after sunset, releasing the solar energy stored during the day. The technology of photovoltaics thus becomes a stage for the playfulness of life, with kids riding bikes or running around, and for moments of reflection by people gathering in and around the monument. The installation, which is at once technical and cultural, speaks to many of the themes explored in this book, from renewable energy and urban transitions to experimentation and everyday life. Each evening, the installation brings together a new "low carbon public." And, similar to the large chunks of Arctic ice (harvested as free-floating icebergs from a fjord outside Nuuk, Greenland) that Olafur Eliasson and Minik Rosing placed for melting in a ring formation at the Place du Panthéon during COP21 in Paris (December 2015), the space gets its meaning and importance from the conversations it gives rise to. Both these art installations are about emergence, from the playfulness at the sunset to the tangible experience of the fragility and decay of the Arctic. The book that you hold in your hand is not about "climate art projects" as such, but about culture in a broader sense. The book travels through many sites where the material and social come together in particular ways; sites through which society's response to climate change is coming to be realized – homes, workplaces, markets, infrastructure systems, and local economies. What is at stake in society's response to climate change are not the isolated actions of individual agents, but, rather, the socially and materially constituted ways in which climate change comes to be made meaningful, realized, and contested.

This book arose out the workshop "Devices and Desires: The Cultural Politics of a Low Carbon Society" that we, the editors, organized in Lund in May 2014. The workshop was part of Harriet's King Carl XVI Gustaf's Professorship in

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*Harriet Bulkeley, Matthew Paterson, and Johannes Stripple
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