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THE POLITICS OF DEEP TIME

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The Politics of Deep Time

Elements in Earth System Governance

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Abstract: Human societies increasingly interact with processes on a geological or even cosmic timescale. Despite this recognition, we still lack a basic understanding of these interconnections and how they translate into politics. This Element provides an exploration and systematization of “the politics of deep time” as a novel lens of planetary politics in three steps. First, it demonstrates why deep-time interactions render the politics of deep time essential; second, it asks how deep time should be politicized; and third, it explicates the politics of deep time by examining representative cases. The Element also formulates a conceptual framework to open up possibilities for alliances that seek to better understand and realize the politics of deep time, pioneering a debate on how planetary temporalities can be politically institutionalized. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/Hanusch

Keywords: deep time, Earth system governance, long-term governance, democracy, geopolitics

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