

## 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*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-06953-4 — Climate Justice and Historical Emissions  
Edited by Lukas H. Meyer , Pranay Sanklecha  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India  
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107069534](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107069534)

© Cambridge University Press 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2017

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Meyer, Lukas H., editor. | Sanklecha, Pranay, editor.

Title: Climate justice and historical emissions / edited by Lukas H. Meyer, Pranay Sanklecha, University of  
Graz, Austria.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2017. |  
Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016030025 | ISBN 9781107069534 (Hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Environmental justice. | Transitional justice. | Climatic changes—Social aspects. |  
Environmental policy—Social aspects. | BISAC: LAW / Environmental.

Classification: LCC GE220 .C557 2017 | DDC 363.738/74—dc23 LC record available at  
<https://lccn.loc.gov/2016030025>

ISBN 978-1-107-06953-4 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy  
of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication  
and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction: On the Significance of Historical Emissions for Climate Ethics <i>Lukas H. Meyer and Pranay Sanklecha</i>	1
1 Climate Ethics, Affirmative Action, and Unjust Enrichment <i>David Heyd</i>	22
2 Historical Responsibility and Climate Change <i>Janna Thompson</i>	46
3 Historical Emissions: Does Ignorance Matter? <i>Daniel Butt</i>	61
4 How Legal Systems Deal with Issues of Responsibility for Past Harmful Behavior <i>Daniel A. Farber</i>	80
5 Asking Beneficiaries to Pay for Past Pollution <i>Anja Karnein</i>	107
6 Benefiting from Unjust Acts and Benefiting from Injustice: Historical Emissions and the Beneficiary Pays Principle <i>Brian Berkey</i>	123
7 A Luck-Based Moral Defense of Grandfathering <i>Rudolf Schuessler</i>	141
8 In Defense of Emissions Egalitarianism? <i>Christian Baatz and Konrad Ott</i>	165

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9	In the Name of Political Possibility: A New Proposal for Thinking About the Role and Relevance of Historical Greenhouse Gas Emissions <i>Sarah Kenehan</i>	198
10	Right to Development and Historical Emissions: A Perspective from the Particularly Vulnerable Countries <i>Mizan R. Khan</i>	219
	<i>Index</i>	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 Binghamton 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

and Genetics at UCLA; and a Visiting Scholar at the New York University Center for Bioethics.

E-mail: [akarnein@binghamton.edu](mailto:akarnein@binghamton.edu)

**Sarah Kenehan** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania (United States).

E-mail: [skenehan@maryu.marywood.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pranay.sanklecha@uni-graz.at)

**Rudolf Schuessler** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

E-mail: [rudolf.schuessler@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto: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](mailto:J.Thompson@latrobe.edu.au)