

INNOVATING CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

After the perceived failure of global approaches to tackling climate change, enthusiasm for local climate initiatives has blossomed worldwide, suggesting a more experimental approach to climate governance. *Innovating Climate Governance: Moving Beyond Experiments* looks critically at climate governance experimentation, focusing on how experimental outcomes become embedded in practices, rules and norms. Policy which encourages local action on climate change rather than global burden sharing suggests a radically different approach to tackling climate issues. This volume reflects on what climate governance experiments achieve, as well as what happens after and beyond these experiments. A bottom-up, polycentric approach is analysed, exploring the outcomes of climate experiments and how they can have broader, transformative effects in society. Contributions offer a wide range of approaches and cover more than fifty empirical cases internationally, making this an ideal resource for academics and practitioners involved in studying, developing and evaluating climate governance.

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Moving Beyond Experiments

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Preface

This volume is a product of our collaboration within the EU-COST Network on Innovation in Climate Governance (INOGOV) that aims to contribute to understanding how climate governance can be innovated by exploring the relationships between sources, patterns and effects of climate policy and governance. The network brings together a research community which informed and acted as a test bed for our reflections on the topic of experimentation in climate governance. A network like INOGOV is an ideal space for the exploration of new ideas, as it brings together a group of committed and intellectually diverse experts, generating opportunities for critical reflection and cross-fertilisation of perspectives. A workshop organised at the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) by Mikael Hildén on experimentation in climate governance in March 2015 convinced us not only of the richness of scholarship on the topic but also of the need to combine an emerging understanding of the process of experimentation with an understanding of the legacy and broader outcomes of experiments: ‘beyond experiments’. How is it that, despite an explosion in the number of local and non-state experiments with climate governance, very little is known about how and whether these initiatives may add up, learn from each other, persist through time, travel or become institutionalised? These are the questions we sought to explore.

This book was further shaped by the Centre for Innovation and Energy Demand (CIED), which provided an enabling research environment for two of us during the writing period. In particular, the Centre’s focus on experimentation and accelerated diffusion allowed us to actively draw on parallels between energy innovation and climate governance innovation.

With funding from INOGOV and CIED, we followed up with our own workshop in Brighton, at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, on 25–27 April 2016. The event attracted about twenty scholars from eight countries to discuss questions related to how experiments in climate governance can benefit society, particularly in terms of lasting impacts, beyond the

(spatial and temporal) boundaries for which they have been originally designed. This volume brings together many of the contributions to this workshop, providing an overview of the diversity of scholarship on this topic. The level of engagement of participants during and after the workshop, their commitment to constructive debate and critical feedback and their willingness to learn from neighbouring fields made our task as editors very enjoyable. We wish to thank all contributors and hope to have accurately conveyed the relevance and substance of their ideas in our introducing and concluding chapters.

We are also very grateful to Andy Jordan and Dave Huitema (Chairs of INOGOV) for supporting the idea early on and for encouragement and advice, as well as for contributing a chapter (led by Harro van Asselt) that offers a crucial overview of the changed opportunities and challenges for climate experimentation post-Paris Agreement. We wish to thank Johanna Forster (Tyndall Centre, University of East Anglia) for her generous support to enabling our workshop. We are indebted to Benjamin Sovacool (SPRU) for continued advice and for hosting us in Brighton.

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