

AGENCY IN EARTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

The modern era is facing unprecedented governance challenges in striving to achieve long-term sustainability goals and to limit human impacts on the earth system. This volume synthesizes a decade of multidisciplinary research into how diverse actors exercise authority in environmental decision-making, and their capacity to deliver effective, legitimate, and equitable earth system governance. Actors from the global to the local level are considered, including governments, international organizations, and corporations. Chapters cover how state and non-state actors engage with decision-making processes, the relationship between agency and structure, and the variations in governance and agency across different spheres and tiers of society. Providing an overview of the major questions, issues, and debates, as well as the theories and methods used in studies of agency in earth system governance, this book provides a valuable resource for graduate students and researchers, as well as practitioners and policymakers working in environmental governance.

MICHELE M. BETSILL is a professor of political science at Colorado State University. She has more than twenty years' experience in researching nonstate and subnational actors in global environmental governance. Her books include *Transnational Climate Change Governance* (coauthored with members of the Leverhulme Network on Transnational Climate Change Governance, Cambridge University Press, 2014), *NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Nongovernmental Organizations in International Environmental Negotiations* (coedited with Elisabeth Corell, 2008), and *Cities and Climate Change: Urban Sustainability and Global Environmental Governance* (with Harriet Bulkeley, 2003). She was one of the founding leaders of the Earth System Governance Research Network and served on the scientific steering committee from 2008 to 2018.

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48405-3 — Agency in Earth System Governance
Edited by Michele M. Betsill, Tabitha M. Benney, Andrea K. Gerlak
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Economies (2014/2017) and *Toward a New Energy Future* with Jan Froestad, Cameron Holley and Clifford Shearling (forthcoming).

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The **Earth System Governance Project** was established in 2009 as a core project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change. Since then, the Project has evolved into the largest social science research network in the area of sustainability and governance. The Earth System Governance Project explores political solutions and novel, more effective governance mechanisms to cope with the current transitions in the socio-ecological systems of our planet. The normative context of this research is sustainable development; earth system governance is not only a question of institutional effectiveness, but also of political legitimacy and social justice.

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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
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108484053

DOI: 10.1017/9781108688277

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First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Betsill, Michele Merrill, 1967– editor. | Benney, Tabitha M., 1973– editor. | Gerlak, Andrea Kristen, editor.

Title: Agency in Earth system governance / edited by Michele M. Betsill, Colorado State University; Tabitha M. Benney, University of Utah; Andrea K. Gerlak, University of Arizona

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, 2019 |

Series: Earth System Governance series | Includes index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019027819 | ISBN 9781108484053 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108688277 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Environmental law, International. | International organization. | BISAC: LAW / Environmental

Classification: LCC K3585 .A329 2019 | DDC 344.04/6–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019027819>

ISBN 978-1-108-48405-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-70587-5 Paperback

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Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Part I Introduction and Overview	1
1 Introduction: Agency in Earth System Governance	3
MICHELE M. BETSILL, TABITHA M. BENNEY, ANDREA K. GERLAK, CALUM BROWN, SANDER CHAN, OKECHUKWU ENECHI, RONALD B. MITCHELL, INA MÖLLER, JAMES J. PATTERSON, MICHELLE SCOBIE, SANDRA VAN DER HEL, AND OSCAR E. WIDERBERG	
2 Conceptualizing Agency and Agents in Earth System Governance	25
MICHELLE SCOBIE, TABITHA M. BENNEY, CALUM BROWN, AND OSCAR E. WIDERBERG	
3 Theories and Methods of Agency Research in Earth System Governance	38
TABITHA M. BENNEY, AMANDINE ORSINI, DEVON CANTWELL, AND LAURA IOZZELLI	
4 How Geographies and Issues Matter in ESG–Agency Research	52
ANDREA K. GERLAK, MEGAN MILLS-NOVOA, ALISON ELDER, OKECHUKWU ENECHI, PRITEE SHARMA, AND KANAK SINGH	
Part II Agency and the Dynamics of Earth System Governance	63
5 Power(ful) and Power(less): A Review of Power in the ESG–Agency Scholarship	65
ANDREA K. GERLAK, THOMAS R. EIMER, MARIE-CLAIRE BRISBOIS, MEGAN MILLS-NOVOA, LUUK SCHMITZ, JORRIT LUIMERS, AND PAIVI ABERNETHY	
	vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
6	The Performance of Agency in Earth System Governance MICHELE M. BETSILL AND MANJANA MILKOREIT	73
7	Agency and Knowledge in Environmental Governance: A Thematic Review MANJANA MILKOREIT, JENNIFER S. BANSARD, AND SANDRA VAN DER HEL	86
8	Agency and Architecture: Producing Stability and Change JAMES J. PATTERSON	97
9	Agency in a Multiscalar World MICHELLE SCOBIE, MICHELE M. BETSILL, AND HYEYOON PARK	108
10	Agency and Norms: Who Defines What Ought to Be? MICHAEL ANGSTADT AND INA MÖLLER	120
11	Agency in the Allocation of and Access to Natural Resources PRITEE SHARMA, OKECHUKWU ENECHI, AND SALLA NITHYANTH KUMAR	131
12	Agency and Adaptiveness: Navigating Change and Transformation JAMES J. PATTERSON	143
13	Accountability in the Governance of Global Change CALUM BROWN AND MICHELLE SCOBIE	155
14	How to Evaluate Agents and Agency SANDER CHAN AND RONALD B. MITCHELL	168
	Part III Policy Implications and the Future of Agency in Earth System Governance Research	181
15	Conclusion: Policy Implications of ESG–Agency Research and Reflections on the Road Ahead ANDREA K. GERLAK, MICHELE M. BETSILL, JAMES J. PATTERSON, SANDER CHAN, TABITHA M. BENNEY, MARIE-CLAIRE BRISBOIS, THOMAS R. EIMER, AND MICHELLE SCOBIE	183
	<i>Appendix: ESG–Agency Harvesting Database</i>	198
	<i>References</i>	227
	<i>Index</i>	259

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Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the support of a variety of colleagues and friends. From the start, we benefitted from a real collaborative spirit and enthusiasm from a team of colleagues who participated in the coding of the articles that form the basis of this project. Many thanks to our exceptional coders, including Mike Angstadt, Tabitha Benney, Michele Betsill, Sander Chan, Hamish Clarke, Desirée Fiske, Andrea K. Gerlak, Kat Hodgson, Cristina Inoue, Julie Liebenguth, Manjana Milkoreit, Ron Mitchell, Ina Möller, Hyeyoon Park, Sandra van der Hel, Michelle Scobie, James Patterson, Calum Brown, Melanie Boeckmann, Kathryn Brown, and Okechukwu Enechi. Special thanks to Oscar Widerberg for setting up the infrastructure for the collaborative coding exercise.

Professors Diana Liverman and Oran Young offered valuable feedback on an earlier version of the manuscript, for which we are grateful. Many thanks also to Julie Liebenguth, Anne Peterson, and Sam Baty for their constant support and input on the book project. At the Earth System Governance (ESG) Project, Ruben Zondervan and Frank Biermann provided encouragement and linkages to parallel ESG landscape efforts. Finally, we would like to thank Sarah Lambert, Emma Kiddle, the anonymous reviewers, and other helpful staff at Cambridge University Press who made this process so easy for us.