

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Earth System Governance

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REMAKING POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BEYOND

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-70842-5 — Remaking Political Institutions: Climate Change and Beyond
James J. Patterson
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

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, 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

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108708425

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108769341

First published 2021

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

ISBN 978-1-108-70842-5 Paperback

ISSN 2631-7818 (online)

ISSN 2631-780X (print)

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Remaking Political Institutions: Climate Change and Beyond

Elements in Earth System Governance

DOI: 10.1017/9781108769341
First published online: January 2021

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Abstract: Institutions are failing in many areas of contemporary politics, not least of which concerns climate change. However, remedying such problems is not straightforward. Pursuing institutional improvement is an intensely political process, which plays out over extended timeframes, and is intricately tied to existing setups. Moreover, such activities are open-ended, and outcomes are often provisional and indeterminate. The question of institutional improvement, therefore, centers on understanding how institutions are *(re)made* within complex and nonideal settings. This Element develops an original analytical foundation for studying institutional remaking and its political dynamics. First, it explains how institutional remaking can be observed. Second, it provides a typology comprising five key areas of institutional production involved in institutional remaking: novelty, uptake, dismantling, stability, and interplay. This opens up a new research agenda on the politics of responding to institutional breakdown, and brings sustainability scholarship into closer dialogue with scholarship on processes of institutional change and development.

This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core

Keywords: institutional change, transformation, institutional development, path dependence, governance

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ISBNs: 9781108708425 (PB), 9781108769341 (OC)
ISSNs: 2631-7818 (online), 2631-780X (print)

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