Publications Christian Flachsland

1. Five key publications

1. Germany’s Federal Climate Change Act (2021, *Environmental Politics*)

This paper assesses the state of climate policy integration in Germany before and after the introduction of the Federal Climate Change Act (CCA, *Bundesklimaschutzgesetz*) in 2019. Based on document analysis and 26 elite interviews, we find only moderate climate policy integration prior to introduction of the CCA. The sectoral emission targets legislated by the CCA enhance climate change mitigation to the level of a priority sector goal in non-energy sectors, and CCA provisions for monitoring, assessing and implementing policy reforms promise to enhance alignment of instruments with the legislated greenhouse gas emission reductions targets over time.

2. Sequencing to ratchet up climate policy stringency (2018, *Nature Climate Change*)

Ratcheting up national climate policy stringency over time is a core idea of the Paris Agreement. This paper conceptualizes ratcheting up in terms of barriers limiting attainable climate policy stringency levels at a given point in time. Policy options can trigger mechanisms that relax these barriers over time, thus enabling more ambitious policy in later periods. California and Germany are the main case studies underpinning the theoretical analysis.


This article analyzes structural social, political, and economic variables that correlate with the existence and level of carbon prices implemented worldwide so far. It estimates a Tobit regression model to investigate variations in explicit carbon prices over 262 national and subnational jurisdictions. We identify institutional quality and supportive public attitudes as the most important conditions for the introduction and significant levels of carbon pricing, while a high share of fossil fuel consumption in the energy system is a barrier.

4. How to avoid history repeating itself. The case for an EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) price floor revisited (2020, *Climate Policy*)

This article identifies and discusses arguments against the proposal to implement a price floor in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). Based on a literature review and a series of EU ETS stakeholder reviews, we find these arguments relate to views over (i) the political nature of allowance supply and related credibility issues, (ii) potential myopia of market participants and firms, and (iii) waterbed and rebound effects resulting from policy interactions. The paper argues that an EU ETS price floor remains an important improvement in the design of the system as long as these distortions and design flaws persist.

5. A Polycentric Approach to Global Climate Governance. (2017, *Global Environmental Politics*)

This article offers a specification of Elinor Ostrom’s attempt to conceptualize polycentric climate governance. We review the Ostromean literature on polycentric climate governance and identify four key features of polycentric climate governance and related mechanisms: an emphasis on self-organization, a recognition of site-specific conditions, the facilitation of experimentation and learning, and the building of trust. The concept of polycentricity and these features offer both high descriptive value for understanding the horizontal and vertical differentiations of current climate governance, and provide normative criteria informing the design of polycentric governance approaches across multiple levels, regions and sectors.
2. Peer-reviewed publications (full list)

German stakeholder perceptions of an EU carbon border adjustment mechanism. *Environmental Research Letters*, 17(12) [with Ann-Kathrin Kuehner and Michael Jakob]


Actors, objectives, context. A framework of the political economy of energy and climate policy applied to India, Indonesia, and Vietnam. 2020. *Energy Research & Social Science* 70: 101775. [with Michael Jakob, Jan Christoph Steckel and Johannes Urpelainen]


A Polycentric Approach to Global Climate Governance. 2017. *Global Environmental Politics* 17 (2): 45-64. [with Marcel J. Dorsch]


From climate finance towards sustainable development finance. 2016. *WIREs Climate Change* 8: e437. [with Jan Christoph Steckel, Michael Jakob, Ulrike Kornek, Kai Lessmann and Ottmar Edenhofer]


Science and religion in dialogue over the global commons. 2015. *Nature Climate Change* 5: 907-909. [with Ottmar Edenhofer and Brigitte Knopf]

Closing the emission price gap. 2015. *Global Environmental Change* 31: 132-143. [with Ottmar Edenhofer, Michael Jakob, Felix Creutzig, Sabine Fuss, Martin Kowarsch, Kai Lessmann, Linus Mattauch, Jan Siegmeier and Jan Christoph Steckel]


3. Journals and book chapters


Theologie und Kirche als Impulsgeber für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung (Weltkirche und Mission 7). Pustet, p.30-34. [with Ottmar Edenhofer, Jérôme Hilaire and Michael Jakob]


Der Grundriss für ein neues Klimaregime. 2016. ifo Schnelldienst 69 (03): 11-15. [with Ottmar Edenhofer and Ulrike Kornek]

Laudato si’. Die Sorge um die globalen Gemeinschaftsgüter. 2015. Studia Bobolanum 4: 5-19. [with Ottmar Edenhofer]

Laudato si’: Concern for our global commons. 2015. thinkingfaith.org, 24.09.2015: https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/laudato-si%E2%80%99-concern-our-global-commons [with Ottmar Edenhofer]

Laudato si’. Die Sorge um die globalen Gemeinschaftsgüter. 2015. Stimmen der Zeit 9: 579-591. [with Ottmar Edenhofer]


Der Friedensnobelpreis für den Weltklimarat. 2008. Stimmen der Zeit (2): 75-86. [with Ottmar Edenhofer]

Ein Global Deal für den Klimaschutz. 2008. Amos international (2) 1: 24-33. [with Ottmar Edenhofer]

Eckpunkte einer globalen Klimaschutzpolitik. 2008. Kirche und Gesellschaft, Nr. 355. p. 3-16.[with Ottmar Edenhofer and Gunnar Luderer]


4. Policy papers and reports


Eckpunkte und no-regret Maßnahmen für die Weiterentwicklung der CO2-Bepreisung auf deutscher und europäischer Ebene. Ariadne-Hintergrund. 2022. [with Michael Pahle, Mirjam Kosch, Brigitte Knopf, Ottmar Edenhofer]


Bewertung des Klimapakets und nächste Schritte. CO2-Preis, sozialer Ausgleich, Europa, Monitoring. 2019.[with Ottmar Edenhofer, Matthias Kalkuhl, Brigitte Knopf and Michael Pahle]

Optionen für eine CO2-Preisreform. MCC-PIK-Expertise für den Sachverständigenrat zur Begutachtung der gesamtwirtschaftlichen Entwicklung. 2019. [with Ottmar Edenhofer, Matthias Kalkuhl, Brigitte Knopf and Michael Pahle]

Five Myths About an EU ETS. Carbon Price Floor. 2018. RFF Working Paper. [1st author, with Michael Pahle, Dallas Burtraw, Ottmar Edenhofer, Milan Elkerbout, Carolyn Fischer, Oliver Tietjen and Lars Zetterberg]


MCC Background Paper prepared for UNEP Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on GEO-6. 2014 [with Martin Kowarsch, Jason Jabbour, Jennifer Garard, Pauline Riousset]


CITIES: Car industry, road transport and an international emission trading scheme - policy options. A report commissioned by BMW. 2010. [with Felix Creutzig, Ottmar Edenhofer, Emily McGlynn, Jan Minx and Steffen Brunner]


Translating model results to economic policies. RECIPE Working Paper. 2009. [with Karsten Neuhoff, Susanne Dröge, Ottmar Edenhofer, Hermann Held, Mario Ragwitz, Jan Strohschein, Andreas Türk and Axel Michaelowa]


Developing the International Carbon Market. Linking Options for the EU ETS. Report to the Policy Planning Staff at the German Federal Foreign Office. 2008. [with Ottmar Edenhofer, Michael Jakob, Jan Steckel]


5. Media and blogs

Call to European leaders: do not bury the ETS2. Opinion. EURACTIV, 07.06.2022.

"Nous appelons le Parlement européen à s’en tenir à la vision de la Commission sur la trajectoire de réduction des émissions de CO₂". Le Monde, 03.06.2022.

Zia Weise and Karl Mathiesen: Germany’s new climate minister aims for green economic miracle. Politico Europe. Pro Energy and Climate. 07.12.2021


How can democracy support climate action? Discussion & Podcast with Bernd Ulrich, Dr. Tanja Wielgoß, Pascal Föhring, Hertie School & rbb inforadio. 1.10.2019 https://www.inforadio.de/programm/schema/sendungen/forum/201910/06/362727.html

TV-interview on the German government’s new proposal for a CO₂ price, ZDF, Berlin direkt, 22.09.2019.


Warum wir einen Mindestpreis im EU ETS brauchen. Tagesspiegel Background Klima & Energie, 12.12.2017, with Christoph Wolff

The case for a price floor in the EU ETS. 18.12. 2017. Euractiv opinion blog. Available at: https://www.euractiv.com/section/emissions-trading-scheme/opinion/the-case-for-a-price-floor-in-the-eu-ets, with Anna Leipprand

Immer heißer. Es gibt nicht zu wenig, sondern zu viel fossile Ressourcen – sie müssen in der Erde bleiben. Le monde diplomatique 9.7.2015 with Ottmar Edenhofer, Jérôme Hilaire and Michael Jakob

TV-interview on the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, 3Sat nano, on 16.02.2015.