Thursdays for ... Predicting Environmental Policy

Syllabus
Fall 2019/2020

Prof. Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.

Purpose and Contents

This course combines environmental policy and applied methods training in a format accessible to undergraduate and graduate students. To this end, students will be introduced to forecasting political negotiations in the field of environmental policy, employing the "The Predictioneer's Game" software.

The seminar will combine lectures on specific aspects of environmental policy and on the simulation software, hands-on sessions using the Predictor's Game, actor papers, and group simulation papers. In particular, students will undertake two major strands of predictions: (1) the eligibility of forest carbon under the market mechanisms of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and (2) minimum price for carbon emissions in Germany (t.b.c).

As a result of this course, students will be able to use the Predictioneer's Game to forecast the outcomes of generic multi-party (environmental) negotiations to assist strategic decisions in a variety of settings within and outside of the environmental policy field.

Learning Goals

Knowledge & Understanding
- understand the core inputs of a prediction model, and
- understand the core outputs

Applying, Analyzing &Evaluating
- undertake predictions of multi-actors negotiations for hitherto unresolved challenges of global environmental and climate policy
- agree, among students and facilitated by the instructor, standardized position input scales that are topic-specific for comparability of student actor papers, and
- research, execute, and evaluate their own model runs

Creating
- students develop their own research strategy amendable to using prediction tools, e.g., for subsequent use in their thesis.

Logistics

Time & Location: →Course Overview
Location: →Course Overview
Prerequisites: M.A. or Ph.D. student status in Political Science, Public
        Administration, MasterIB, Master of Public Management or related
        discipline; see →https://puls.uni-potsdam.de for details; undergraduates
        admitted by special permission
Course Registration: →https://puls.uni-potsdam.de, Course: 430511
Deadline for Dropping the Course: 10 Nov. 2019
Credit Points: 9 (ECTS)
Course website: Moodle →https://moodle2.uni-
        potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=21751
Capacity: 20
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Montana Attwood (attwood@uni-potsdam.de)
Contact Details:
        dsprinz@uni-potsdam.de (include "T4…PEP, Fall 2019" in the subject line)
        www.sprinz.org
        Office Hours: by appointment

Note

For prediction 2 on contemporary German climate policy decisions, reading
capacity of German will be of great advantage. Please inform the instructor if you
do not have a capacity to read German sources.

Code of Conduct

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper
academic conduct as specified by the University of Potsdam and courses offered
jointly with other universities and academic programs (→https://www.uni-
potsdam.de/am-up/2011/ambek-2011-01-037-039.pdf). You are expected to
undertake all your *individual* assignments independently. For *group* assignments,
resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with
individual components clearly marked). Failure to comply with such rules may
lead to the consequences stipulated → https://www.uni-potsdam.de/am-
up/2018/ambek-2018-06-371-395.pdf (German) and https://www.uni-
potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsg
rundlagen/BAMAO_Lesefassung_EN.pdf (English) (§17).

Each written submissions in this course shall include page 2 of
→https://www.uni-
potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/wisofak/Dateien/Studium/informationen_f__r_s
tudierende_plagiatssoftware_april_2014.pdf (also made available on the →Moodle
website for this course).

Select students appear to have fallen in love with around-the-clock connectivity
and social media. During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate on this
course!

All personal information that you encounter in conjunction with this course or on →Moodle shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes.
Students are expected to attend all sessions. In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit an appropriate medical certificate. In addition, in case you need accommodations ("Nachteilsausgleich"), please inform the instructor to this effect and provide the necessary documentation during the first four modules of this course.

In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadline.

You have to read the EULA (End User License Agreement) of the Predictioneer's Game software and you accept it automatically when submitting the first simulation paper.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course combines short lectures and an excursion with colloquia, hands-on sessions in structured workshop-style settings, quizzes, breakout groups, paper assignments, as well as their presentation (see below for details). Students are expected to have read *all* assigned readings prior to class and are expected to ask questions in the beginning of class to advance their understanding of the readings and to enhance the usefulness of hands-on exercises.

Your grade comprises the following components:

Requirements	9-10 ECTS
Oral Participation (*throughout* the course), incl. quizzes and other short assignments	20%
(Individual) Actor Paper & Presentation	15% each
(Group) Simulation Paper & Presentation	25% each

If you take only 6 ECTS, the three best of your four {papers & presentations} assignments will be chosen and reweighted.

Textbooks

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York, NY: Random House.
Luterbacher, Urs, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2018. *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/potsdamuni/detail.action?docID=5473266 .
All other readings will be made available via →Moodle (→Schedule & Readings).

Software

http://www.incidepro.com/ (Predictioneer's Game - software)

Course Overview

Date	Time & Location	Module	Topic	Activities
			Overview	
17 Oct. 2019	9:00-12:30h, 3.06. S15	1	Course Overview, TED Talk (video)	Ice Breaker: What is Prediction Good For?
17 Oct. 2019	9:00-12:30h, 3.06. S15	2	The Predictioneer's Game: Overview [Scaling]	[Develop a position scale]
24 Oct. 2019	9:00-12:30h, 3.06. S15	3	The Predictioneer's Game: Advanced Issues and Q&A	Icebreaker: Introduce your neighbor; Quiz on core components of the Predictioneer's Game
24 Oct. 2019	9:00-12:30h, 3.06. S15	4	Actor Papers and Issue Scaling; Replicating an Analysis; Brief Course Feedback	"Cascade" group work on scales (e.g., on mitigation)/ think-pair-share; replication analysis using the Predictioneer's Game (please bring your laptop to class); Assignment to Actor Papers for Prediction 1
31 Oct. 0219	*Reformation Day – No classes*			
07 Nov. 2019		5	*Reading Week on Climate Policy*	
14 Nov. 2019	*9:00-14:00h, German Foreign Office, Weltsaal, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin*		Briefing for UNFCCC COP-25: Register at: https://www.deutsches-klima-konsortium.de/registration Dies academicus	

Prediction 1: Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms				
15 Nov. 2019	14:00-15:30h, 3.06. S24	6	Guest Lecture: Montana Attwood (PIK & UP): Policy Overview	HW: one-paragraph paper due: Which is the most pressing negotiations issue on forest carbon & market mechanisms?
15 Nov. 2019	16:00-17:30h, 3.06. S24	7	Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms: Actors and Positions, Q&A	HW: one-paragraph assignment due: position scale & graph; "Cascade" group work/ think-pair-share on position scale
21 Nov. 2019	9:00-10:30h, 3.06. S18	8	Prediction 1 – Actor Papers & Presentation: Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms, Q & A	Prediction 1: Actor Paper due & Presentation
28 Nov. 2019	9:00-10:30h, 3.06. S13	9	Prediction 1 – Presentation of Simulations: Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms, Q & A	Prediction 1: Simulation Paper due & Presentation
Prediction 2: The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government				
28 Nov. 2019	11:00-12:30h, 3.06. S13	10	Guest Lecture: Dr. Michael Pahle (PIK): The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government	
05 Dec. 2018	9:00-10:30h, 3.06. S22	11	The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government: Q&A	HW: one-paragraph assignment due: position scale & graph; "Cascade" group work/ think-pair-share on position scale
12 Dec. 2019	9:00 – 11:30h, 3.06. S22	12	Prediction 2 – Actor Papers & Presentation: The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government, Q&A	Prediction 2: Actor Paper due & Presentation
19 Dec. 2019	9:00 – 11:30h, 3.06. S13	13	Prediction 2 – Presentation of Simulations: The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government, Q&A	Prediction 2: Simulation Paper due & Presentation
19 Dec. 2019	11:30-12:30h, place t.b.d.	14	Course Review	

Assignments
Actor and Simulation Papers

Students will write a total of four papers:
- one individual actor paper each on (1) the eligibility of forest carbon under the market mechanisms of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and (2) minimum price for carbon emissions in Germany (t.b.c.), and
- one group simulation each on (1) the eligibility of forest carbon under the market mechanisms of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and (2) minimum price for carbon emissions in Germany (t.b.c.).

Actor papers will be approx. up to 1,000 words in length, simulation papers will be approx. 1,000 words in length per group member. Details on the paper format and the submission procedure will be provided in the formal assignments. All papers are due the day *prior* to their presentation in class. Papers are submitted via →Moodle. Papers have to include student IDs and a brief description who did what (the latter refers only to group papers), the topic, and a word count on the cover page.

We will elaborate relevant position scales for the respective predictions in class (Modules 7 & 11), using working groups.

For the actor papers, please provide a brief historical overview of the actor, its central positions over time on the particular issue under investigation, and score the actor with respect to influence, position, salience, flexibility, veto status (as introduced in Modules 1-4). Each of these scores has to be justified and sources fully referenced. The actor papers will be presented in class (Modules 8 & 12) and will be subject to Q & A by your peers.

For the simulation paper, you will have to determine which actors to include (beyond the actors covered by actor papers), potentially revise the scores offered in individual actor papers, and devise a strategy for employing the Predictioneer's Game, including robustness checks (variations of the input structure, e.g., on parameters where point values cannot be reasonably or reliably ascertained). Please appendix the input file for the simulations as .txt file(s) and provide full references for all sources. The simulation papers will be presented in class (Modules 9 & 13) and will be subject to Q & A by your peers.

Modules

Module 1: Course Overview

Course Overview

Module 2: The Predictioneer's Game: Overview

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York: Random House, chs. 1-3, 5, 10, & 11 (skim the remainder of the book).

Module 3: The Predictioneer's Game: Advanced Issues and Q&A

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2011. A New Model for Predicting Policy Choices. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28 (1):65-87. doi: 10.1177/0738894210388127.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2010. Judging Judgment. *Critical Review* 22 (4):355-388. doi: 10.1080/08913811.2010.541686.

Sprinz, Detlef F., Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Steffen Kallbekken, Frans Stokman, Håkon Sælen, and Robert Thomson. 2016. Predicting Paris: Multi-Method Approaches to Forecast the Outcomes of Global Climate Negotiations. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3):172-187. doi: 10.17645/pag.v4i3.654.

Module 4: Actor Papers and Issue Scaling; Replicating an Analysis; Brief Course Feedback

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2009. *The Predictioneer's Game: Using the Logic of Brazen Self-Interest to See and Shape the Future*. New York: Random House, 215-217.
Prepare a ".txt" data input file from the table on page 217.

Sprinz, Detlef F., and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2015. Predicting Paris: Forecasting the Outcomes of UNFCCC COP-21 With the Predictioneer's Game. Potsdam and New York City: PIK - Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and New York University, doi: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3722.1840, http://www.uni-potsdam.de/u/sprinz/doc/Sprinz_BuenodeMesquita.2015.PredictingParis.Summary.ResearchGate.pdf .

Module 5: Reading Week

Luterbacher, Urs, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2018. Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press chs. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, & 12, https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/global-climate-policy. Skim the remainder of the book.

Deutsches Klimakonsortium. n.d. Climate Change, Risks and Challenges.
Online course.
https://www.oncampus.de/weiterbildung/moocs/climate-change-risks-and-challenges

Module 6:   Guest Lecture: Montana Attwood (PIK & UP): Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms - Policy Overview

Romano, Severino, Simone Targetti Ferri, Gennaro Ventura, Francesco Di Napoli, and Mario Cozzi. 2015.Land Use Sector Involvement in Mitigation Policies Across Carbon Markets. In *The Sustainability of Agro-Food and Natural Resource Systems in the Mediterranean Basin,* edited by Antonella Vastola, Cham: Springer International Publishing, 243-254.

van der Gaast, Wytze, Richard Sikkema, and Moriz Vohrer. 2018. The Contribution of Forest Carbon Credit Projects to Addressing the Climate Change Challenge. *Climate Policy* 18 (1):42-48. doi: 10.1080/14693062.2016.1242056.

Boucher, Douglas H. 2015. The REDD/Carbon Market Offsets Debate: Big Argument, Small Potatoes. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 34 (6-7):547-558. doi: 10.1080/10549811.2015.1031909.

Rowe, Elana Wilson. 2015. Locating International REDD+ Power Relations: Debating Forests and Trees in International Climate Negotiations. *Geoforum* 66:64-74, doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.09.008.

Commission of the European Communities. 2008. Adressing the Challenges of Deforestation and Forest Degradation to Tackle Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. Brussels, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52008DC0645 .

Geden, Oliver, Vivian Scott, and James Palmer. 2018. Integrating Carbon Dioxide Removal into EU Climate Policy: Prospects for a Paradigm Shift. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 9 (4), doi:10.1002/wcc.521.

Module 7:   Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms: Actors & Positions, Q & A

Streck, Charlotte, Andrew Howard, and Raoni Rajao. 2017. Options for Enhancing REDD+ Collaboration in the Context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Washington, D.C.: Meridian Institute, https://www.climatefocus.com/publications/options-enhancing-redd-collaboration-context-article-6-paris-agreement.

Marcu, Andrei. 2016. Carbon Market Provisions in the Paris Agreement (Article 6). *CEPS Special Report.* No.128, Brussels: Centre for European Policy Studies, https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/SR%20No%20128%20ACM%20Post%20COP21%20Analysis%20of%20Article%206.pdf .

Obergassel, Wolfgang. 2017. Shaping the Paris Mechanisms Part II: An Update on Submissions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. JIKO Policy Paper No. 01/2017. Wuppertal: Wuppertal Institut, https://epub.wupperinst.org/files/6682/6682_Paris_Mechanisms.pdf .

Graham, Peter. 2017. Cooperative Approaches for Supporting REDD+: Linking Articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement. Climate Advisers, https://www.climateadvisers.com/cooperative-approaches-for-supporting-redd-linking-articles-5-and-6-of-the-paris-agreement/ .

Explore:
- http://enb.iisd.org/process/forest_desertification_land.htm
- https://unfccc.int
- http://enb.iisd.org/process/climate_atm.htm

Module 8: Prediction 1 – Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms: Actor Papers & Presentation, Q & A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 9: Prediction 1 – Forest Carbon & Market Mechanisms: Presentation of Simulations, Q & A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 10: Guest Lecture: Dr. Michael Pahle (PIK): The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government

Bundesregierung. 2019. Eckpunkte für das Klimaschutzprogramm 2030, Berlin: Bundesregierung, https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/975232/1673502/768b67ba939c098c994b71c0b7d6e636/2019-09-20-klimaschutzprogramm-data.pdf?download=1 .

Edenhofer, Ottmar, Christian Flachsland, Michael Kalkuhl, Brigitte Knopf, and Michael Pahle. 2019. Bewertung des Klimapakets und nächste Schritte - CO2-Preis, sozialer Ausgleich, Europa, Monitoring. Berlin & Potsdam: Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change & Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, https://www.mcc-berlin.net/fileadmin/data/B2.3_Publications/Working%20Paper/2019_MCC_Bewertung_des_Klimapakets_final.pdf .

Agora Verkehrwende - Agora Energiewende, (2018) Die Kosten von unterlassenem Klimaschutz für den Bundeshaushalt. Die Klimaschutzverpflichtungen Deutschlands bei Verkehr, Gebäuden und Landwirtschaft nach der EU-Effort-Sharing-Entscheidung und der EU-Climate-Action-Verordnung. Berlin: Agora Verkehrwende - Agora Energiewende, 7-16, browse the remainder, https://www.agora-energiewende.de/fileadmin2/Projekte/2018/Non-ETS/142_Nicht-ETS-Papier_WEB.pdf .

Module11: The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government: Actors and Positions, Q&A

Module12: Prediction 2 – The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government: Actor Papers & Presentation, Q&A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 13: Prediction 2 – The 2019 Climate Package of the German Federal Government: Presentation of Simulations, Q&A

In-Class Student Presentations

Q & A

Module 14: Course Review