

# 21<sup>st</sup> Young Researchers Meeting

8 and 9 June 2023

Graduate School Climate Sciences, University of Bern



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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

OESCHGER CENTRE  
CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

## Climate Policymaking

The impact of science, media, politics, and civil society

In 1990, the IPCC published the First Assessment Report, which included a summary for policymakers. Since then, scientists have warned of the drastic impacts of climate change for decades - with (too) little effect, as some argue: we do not need more reports, we need more and better climate policy and action. This year, the young researchers meeting is about the actors and mechanisms of policymaking, and we discuss our role as climate scientists.

### PROGRAM

#### Thursday, 8 June 2023

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|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:50 – 10:30 | Bus arrival at Leissigen. Taxi transport and check-in at Hotel Meielisalp                                                                                                                               |
| 10:35 – 10:45 | Welcome and introduction                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Keynote 1 (Karin Ingold)<br><b>Overview: What impacts policymaking?<br/>The role of science, media, civil society and politics</b>                                                                      |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Keynote 2 (Charlotte Blattner)<br><b>Climate change litigation and its impact on law and policy:<br/>the case of the “Klimaseniorinnen” in Strasbourg</b>                                               |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Synthesis 1 (Karin Ingold and Charlotte Blattner)<br><b>From practice to theory: What is evidence-based policymaking and how<br/>would political sciences interpret learnings from Keynotes 1 and 2</b> |
| 12:30 – 13:45 | <i>Lunch break</i>                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13:45 – 14:30 | Keynote 3 (Karin Ingold)<br><b>Climate policy and politics: what is the difference, and who decides when,<br/>how and on what?</b>                                                                      |
| 14:30 – 16:45 | Workshop 1 (Karin Ingold and team)<br><b>The use of evidence in climate policy and politics</b><br><i>coffee break included</i>                                                                         |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | Keynote 4 (Dana Fisher, online)<br><b>Civil society and Climate activism:<br/>their role for climate policymaking</b>                                                                                   |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Synthesis 2 (Karin Ingold)<br><b>From theory to practice: Learnings from the afternoon program</b>                                                                                                      |
| 18:45         | <i>Dinner</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Friday, 9 June 2023

|               |                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:15 – 08:35 | <i>Breakfast and check-out</i>                                                                                                                           |
| 08:35 – 08:45 | Announcements / Introduction                                                                                                                             |
| 08:45 – 09:30 | Keynote 5 (Sarah Bütikofer)<br><b>Science, media, lobbying and policymaking:<br/>being challenged as a scientist by media</b>                            |
| 09:30 – 11:45 | Workshop 2 (Sarah Bütikofer)<br><b>Science communication and how to answer best to journalists</b><br><i>Coffee break included</i>                       |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Synthesis 1 (Sarah Bütikofer)                                                                                                                            |
| 12:15 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch break</i>                                                                                                                                       |
| 13:30 – 14:25 | Input and Interview 1 (Julia Steinberger, Kaspar Meuli)<br><b>On the role of (climate) science and scientists:<br/>Honest broker versus activist</b>     |
| 14:30 – 15:25 | Input and Interview 2 (Thomas Stocker, Kaspar Meuli)<br><b>On the role of (climate) science and scientists:<br/>Lessons learnt from the past decades</b> |
| 15:25 – 15:30 | Wrap-Up and Closure, Taxi transport to Leissigen                                                                                                         |

## MORE DETAILS ON THE MEETING PROGRAM

Please bring your own laptop. You will be informed about assignments and preparatory tasks.

**Keynote 1 and 3** (Karin Ingold) tell us what policymaking is and by whom and what influences policy-making. Besides politicians and decision-makers, what kind of impacts do media, courts, activists, and last but not least science have?

**Keynote 2** (Charlotte Blattner) focuses on the question how law can impact policymaking, and more specifically, how activist circles view responsibility for climate change, how corporations and states are being sued, and the implications of third-party interventions for policy.

**Workshop 1** (Karin Ingold and team) The use of evidence in framing climate policy. Participants are split up in working groups. These groups reconstruct the causal model of a selected policy and will then reframe the policy and develop a rival policy narrative.

**Keynote 4** (Dana Fisher) What does science tell us about impacts of (climate) activism on policymaking? Dana presents her research over the years on climate activism in the US.

**Karin Ingold** is a professor of Political Science at the University of Bern, where she leads the research group on policy analysis and environmental governance. Karin is interested in the analysis and design of policy processes and instruments, with a focus on energy and climate change policy. Also, she is the Vice-President of the Oeschger Centre, and she chairs the ProClim steering committee.

**Charlotte Blattner** is a Senior Scientist with the Department of Public Law at the University of Bern. In her habilitation thesis, she addresses climate change as a disruptive factor of social organization, with a focus on Swiss constitutional and administrative law.

**Dana Fisher** is a professor of Sociology with the University of Maryland, USA. Her research focuses on questions related to democracy, civic engagement, activism, and climate politics. As „One of America’s Most Prescient Political Thinkers“, she will present her findings and views on climate activism and the role for climate policymaking.

**Keynote 5 and Workshop 2:** Many political and social decisions in a democracy depend on scientific knowledge. Hence, scientists must communicate their findings in a comprehensible way in order to reach a broader audience and share their expertise with the public. On this Friday morning, you will practice how to communicate your expertise and translate scientific findings into plain language - and feel good about it. You will be asked for some preparatory work prior to the workshop.

**Short Inputs and Interviews 1 and 2:** In the final sessions, two scientists give their views on (their own) climate communication, experience with journalists, media, and politicians, and they will also elaborate on how they see their role and the role of (climate) science in informing and educating the public about climate change, and maybe in nudging society towards a more planet-friendly behavior.

**Julia Steinberger** is a professor of Societal Challenges of Climate Change at the University of Lausanne. She researches and teaches ecological economics and industrial ecology. Her research investigates the links between resource use, societal activity and human well-being. Julia is also highly engaged as a climate activist.

**Thomas Stocker** is a professor of Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern. His research is about modelling and reconstruction of past and future climate change. Thomas was elected Co-Chair of Working Group I of the IPCC for the period 2008 to 2015. In this function, he has met and discussed with many politicians, industry leaders, activists, and citizens, and he has given countless interviews and presentations on climate change.

**Kaspar Meuli** is the Oeschger Centre's communications officer. He has a lot of experience in getting scientists to explain complex topics in simple terms.

## REGISTRATION

Please register online at [www.oeschger.unibe.ch/yrm](http://www.oeschger.unibe.ch/yrm)

**Deadline for registration: Sunday, 7 May 2023**

The number of available places is limited. By registering, you acknowledge that there will be assignments to complete in preparation for the workshops.

**Please note cancellation costs** of 100 CHF after Sunday, 7 May 2022 if no replacement is presented. Cancellation costs do not apply in cases of health or family emergency. Deadlines to submit a thesis or a paper and other workshops / field work, etc., however, are not considered as a case of emergency.

## VENUE

Hotel Meielisalp: [www.meielisalp.ch](http://www.meielisalp.ch)

**Accommodation:** double room, full board.

**Meals:** Please note that we will opt for vegetarian food. You may specify special diets in the registration, but need to be aware that not everything may be catered for.

**Costs:** The costs of the meeting (full board accommodation and teaching material) are covered by the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research. Reimbursement of travel expenses must be organized through the individual projects / research groups.

For any further question and requirements please contact Isabel Jakob ([isabel.jakob@unibe.ch](mailto:isabel.jakob@unibe.ch)).

## TRAVEL

These are the ideal train and bus connections from Bern to Leissigen, Schulhaus. Upon request (see registration), taxi transport is organized to the hotel. If you prefer to walk, count with 45 minutes steep uphill.

09:04 dep. Bern (IC to Interlaken Ost)

09:33 arr. Spiez

09:37 dep. Spiez (Bus 60, direction to Interlaken, same platform, near the head of the train)