



Proposal for Senior Honors Thesis

HONS 497 Senior Honors Thesis Credits 2 (2 minimum required)

Directions: Please return signed proposal to the Honors Office **at least one week prior to your scheduled meeting with the Honors Council**. This proposal must be accepted by Honors Council the semester before presentation.

Student's Name: Adoniah Simon

Primary Advisor: Dr. Curtis VanderWaal

Secondary Advisor:

Thesis Title: Carbon Emission Reduction in the Global North: Fashioning Environmental Policy for the U.S.

Local Phone: (503) 484-4455

Email: adoniah@andrews.edu

Targeted Semester for Poster/Final Thesis: Spring 2023

Expected Semester of Graduation: Spring 2023

- I. Provide goals and brief description of your project or research.
- II. Outline your methodology. **Please be specific.** How does this achieve your goals and how reliable is it?
- III. Explain in what sense your project is original, unique, or beyond normal senior expectations. How does it relate to current knowledge in the discipline?
- IV. Include a substantive annotated bibliography of similar or related work.
- V. Provide a statement of progress to date and list the research methods coursework completed.

Department Chair Approval

- This student's performance in his/her major field is acceptable.
- He/she has completed the requisite research methods coursework for the research to be pursued.
- I understand that he/she plans to graduate with Honors.

Curtis VanderWaal
Department Chair (signature required)

Research Advisor Approval

I have read and support this proposal:

Curtis VanderWaal
Primary Advisor (signature required)

I have read and support this proposal:

Secondary Advisor (signature required)

If human subjects or if live vertebrate animals are involved, evidence of approval from the Institutional Review Board or an Animal Use Committee is needed through the campus scholarly research offices (Ext. 6361).

Carbon Emission Reductions in the Global North: Fashioning Environmental Policy for the U.S.

The connection that Indigenous people groups across the world have to the planet is something that the vast majority of the human population no longer know intuitively. With the technological advances that have come with running water, indoor plumbing, air conditioning, and cars, there have clearly been advantages and benefits in terms of human health and productivity. However, there have also been disadvantages to our modern way of life that people are simply unaware of, because all they have known is the lives they have now, with all of its technologies and tools. The climate crisis puts humanity face to face with the disadvantages and the consequences modern life has for Indigenous groups. These people on the margins of the countries they inhabit are facing the most dire and current consequences of climate change. For them, climate change--the result of a gross disrespect and unawareness of the boundaries and limits of the planet and its resources--is not a future projection involving a series of mathematical and statistical models. They do not have such a luxury.

For Indigenous peoples such as the Gwich'in, the Inuit, and other northern communities on the margins, sea level rise, freshwater salinification, soil degradation, the melting of arctic and polar ice, deforestation, and a dramatic uptick in natural disasters due to rampant human activity, are a present reality, and a threat to their lives and their traditional ways of life. Climate change poses an existential challenge to their rights to live on and live off of the lands they call home. For communities that rely on the land, there is an intuitive understanding that the health of humanity is dependent on the health of this planet. Protecting human life and human rights in turn protects environmental life and vice versa.

As crucial as international conventions, climate accords and action plans are, until they recognize the current plight of communities on the margins, they are not doing enough. Action to

address climate change (which are actions to protect environmental and human rights to health) must, most simply, include the most vulnerable populations if these actions are to protect everyone. For most people, the effects of climate change are hardly felt beyond the increasingly hotter summers and colder winters of the past years. There's a general awareness of a larger influx of natural disasters of greater intensity; the wildfires and hurricanes of 2020 made this especially evident. When climate change is considered—when it is even makes it to a nation's agenda in a significant way—its discussions seldom focus on the present and incoming consequences that are being faced by Northern communities of the margins. It's an injustice that those who are the least responsible for climate change (in terms of carbon emission output versus the *rest of the world*) are now having the deal with the worst of climate change now, and into the future.

Protecting the most basic right - the right to life - requires political action informed by Northern communities on the margins. Environmental policies of a nation must account for the most vulnerable populations in order to ensure air and water quality. They protect and preserve the land where people reside, ensuring that crops can continue to grow, that animals can continue to live on the farms and plots of land continue to be habitable. The human rights that environmental policies endeavor to protect are the most fundamental. They concern one's abilities to care for their most basic needs for safety and for life. Human rights protections as this scope mean broader protections for the environment and the people, animals and plants that call it home.

There are many ways to conceptualize the challenges, understand the scope of present and future consequences, and address the many problems posed by climate change. It is both community specific and yet also international. Activities in one country produce immediate and long-term impacts for the region and the world at large. The local is intricately tied to the global.

For the sake of creating a research quality of clarity, here is how the issues of climate change, its consequences, and policy solutions will be framed. The project begins and ends with respecting

human life and the boundaries of the Earth's resources and systems. The project also recognizes how anthropogenic activities, everything from the burning of carbon dense fuels in homes, to the industrial production of energy and goods, put a strain on the planet's boundaries that have long reached unsustainable levels. The activities that generate pollution and propel carbon emissions affect the land, air and water, intensifying acute climate disasters, long-term climate changes, and environmental degradation that poses a threat to human health and wellbeing. The strength of a climate or environmental disaster is dependent on the capacity of a community to withstand it.

Thousands of communities face acute climate disasters such as hurricanes, long-term climate changes such as sea level rise, and environmental degradation as oil drilling threatens the natural resources local communities depend on for survival. These disasters pose an even greater risk when one recognizes the marginal positions these communities occupy in their nations socially, economically, and politically. These are the issues this project is grappling with, and here is how it aims to address them. Policies and regulations pertaining to carbon emissions will be investigated in the U.S., and utilizing the comparative policy analysis methodology, comparisons and contrasts will be drawn between the U.S. and other global north countries in order to understand what is working and what isn't in current carbon emission reduction strategies. Through reductions in emissions, and placing appropriate bounds on the industries and activities responsible for them, future environmental and public health can be protected, and the oncoming climate change consequences can be mitigated against and adapted to through policy action.

This project will utilize comparative policy analysis to investigate the policy process and policy outcomes for Indigenous groups in the U.S. Arctic Circle, such as the Gwich'in and Inuit and vulnerable communities experiencing the hazardous effects of air pollutants worsening climate change. Analyzing policy process increases understanding of how a problem is conceptualized, and how policies are created, chosen and integrated in order to address them (Adolino & Blake 2011;

Smith & Larimer 2013; Vogel & Henstra 2015). Directing attention at policy outcomes accounts for the consequences of said policies, understanding where policies are falling short of goals for health, safety, etc., and locating plans and strategies elsewhere that could be replicated in the context being studied (Ibid.).

Comparative policy analysis (CPA) is by no means an exact science. The field of policy research emerged in the 70s, at a time when positivist methods were being questioned for their effectiveness in fields that did not as readily render objective and unifying theories. CPA is one particular method within a larger set of policy orientations (policy process, evaluation, design, and analysis) that is useful in the search for answers and solutions amidst competing personal and political values. This is a messy endeavor. Methodologies such as CPA give the tools necessary to navigate and make sense of the irrational, subjective, and tumultuous world of politics and policy. It is *the* methodology of the field of policy to unearth the particular goals, targets, instruments and agents of policy objectives within a given context, be it a municipality, county, state, or country. What's more is that it can offer up a way forward to actualize the values and needs that drive the policy process. It is a method that contains within it tools such as comparative case study analysis and content analysis. CPA and its tools are best suited to the task of this research, which seeks to generate knowledge of the content and process of environmental policy.

- **Research Questions:**

- How are policies pertaining to carbon emissions affecting environmental and public health, especially the health of vulnerable and marginalized communities?
- How can people and the planet be better protected through regulation and policy from governments and industries that seek to exploit their resources?
- How can partnerships with organizations already creating policy, programs, initiatives and tools inform these efforts?
- How can a scaling down of U.S. carbon emissions be done in a way that is both responsive to

serious environmental hazards, and conscious of our reliance on fossil fuels and pollutant heavy industries?

- **Goals:**

- To provide sufficient background on climate change and its impacts on communities on the margins of countries, experiencing acute and long-term climate changes. This project will pay particular mind to air pollutions' effects on Indigenous and Black communities in the U.S. and Canada, as they most often bear the brunt of pollution.
- To investigate the most significant U.S. governmental policy and regulatory developments of the past 40 years to understand the impact of climate change and the pollution that exacerbates it on environmental and human health.
- To apply comparative policy analysis methodology, policies and initiatives in addressing the carbon emissions problem in the global north, with particular application toward their feasibility in the U.S.
- To develop recommendations for policies, initiatives and programs that the U.S. should take in order to mitigate consequences and adapt to climate change.

- **Achievement of goals:** Each element of the methodology helps create a thorough understanding of what is being done, and what could be done better in order to protect human life and respect planetary boundaries.

To discuss the pressing sociological, psychological, spiritual, and physical health consequences of a changing climate, and the industrial and developmental projects that exacerbate it, the current situation of the Gwich'in, Inuit and other Indigenous groups of the Arctic Circle region of North America will be explored, as well as communities of color experiencing the direst effects of air

pollution. Their stories will serve as case studies, providing phenomenological data as to the threat climate change and carbon emissions are posing currently.

Solutions to rural and urban instances of environmental hazard in the U.S. will be evaluated for their potential to improve the conditions for communities facing these realities. Policies, social services, and governmental initiatives will be investigated for their ability to meet adaptation and mitigation goals. Then, the project will move into a comparative policy analysis between the U.S., and Canada primarily, alongside other global north countries. In order to make policy recommendations for the U.S., two questions must be answered: how successful could the policy be in its context of origin, and how successful could it be here? Considerations must be made for the policy stakeholders, the interrelation of politics and policy in a given country, and citizen concerns for and against said policies. The goal is to use specific U.S. instances of environmental hazard or climate impacts as case studies to understand how American localities address climate related concerns. Content analysis—of official policy documents, reports, records, and papers from committees, municipalities, councils, and other such bodies—further builds upon these case studies in order to contribute to current theories and constructs for policy-making in the fields of climate adaptation and mitigation.

- **The Steps:**

- A literature review and a content analysis of official documents, reports, and other such data will create a case study of the current issues facing two communities on the margins: the Gwich'in and a locality dealing with the consequences of pollutants for environmental and public health in order to demonstrate the wide experience of climate change.
 - These comparative case studies will contribute to understandings of carbon emissions-related policies in the U.S. currently, while providing some

historical context and precedent for policies in the present.

- Promising policy strategies in other parts of the global north will be evaluated for their feasibility in the U.S. context, using content analysis of relevant documents.
- Content analysis of other successfully implemented adaptation and mitigation strategies will inform the policy recommendations made for the two American case studies.

How does this project relate to current knowledge in the discipline?

- The use of comparative policy analysis in an environmental context distinguishes this project from others in my field. However, it isn't enough for this project to be unique. It is my aim that my thesis is contributing to policy decisions being made that affect vulnerable populations. I believe that this thesis goes beyond normal senior expectations because of this aim. My aim to better protect the lives of people, the lands they live on, and the cultural practices that enrich and sustain them. This is a goal my thesis will not accomplish in my remaining years in undergraduate study. It is a lifelong goal, and my thesis is putting me in the pursuit of it. It goes beyond normal senior expectations. It goes beyond myself—my own academic journey—and perhaps into a calling, a vocation. I feel humbled by this opportunity I have to join my efforts to the many others engaging in this sort of macro-level policy work. This project is a synthesis of my education as a social worker, as a pre-law student, as an Honors scholar, and as a lifelong learner.

Relation to the field of Social Work?

- This Honors Thesis project aligns with the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics. Two of its six core principles are recognized in this research: social justice and the dignity and worth of the person. Climate change, until relatively recently has been framed as solely an environmental concern that hasn't given full regard to the socio-political

underpinnings. The consequences are unjustly distributed based off of socioeconomic development. The further entrenched an individual, a family, or a community is in poverty, the less resources they will have to readily stave off and adapt to the worst climate impacts. Environmental justice is connected to social justice. It is a priority that will only grow in urgency and scope with time. It would serve the social work profession to consider how environmental justice should be advocated for in whatever localities social workers practice in. When mitigation and adaptation efforts become a national and global priority, this makes a statement to vulnerable communities of the present, and future life on the planet. No longer will they be ignored. Making substantial strides to meet the challenge climate change poses dignifies, legitimizes and affirms the struggles and demands communities around the world have been lifting up to the international community: environmental health cannot wait.

- The social workers guiding paradigm - the person-in-environment perspective - is one that should be informed by one's physical location, not just their social, economic, and cultural environment. The concentric circles spreading out from the "person" of the model include family, friends, schools, and churches, and even the broader socioeconomic and political conditions of where a person resides. Yet the model has yet to fully integrate an understanding of how physical place plays a part of each "circle" of one's life. One's particular place - with its specific resources, and opportunities - should be considered as social workers seek to understand the bigger picture of clients' lives.
- Social workers, and other helping professions comprise the connective tissue of society. Between people, government, industries, institutions, and the land, there social workers are, working in every field and niche of American life, supporting the organized lives of the people they serve. Social workers, through their involvement in the social justice movement and their advocacy for client rights, provide a barrier, a layer of protection between populations in desperate need and the ravages of social,

economic, political, and environmental ills.

- **A Statement of Progress to Date**

- By the end of Spring 2021, I will have completed SOWK461 & SOWK462, which comprise the Social Work Research Methods course, taken over Fall and Spring semesters.
- I completed the necessary statistics course for my discipline, STAT285: Elementary Statistics in the Fall of 2019.
- This 2020-2021 school year has allowed me the time necessary to become well acquainted with the issues at the heart of my Honors research regarding both the science, the policy, and the lived experiences of those enduring the consequences of climate change and the air pollution intensifying it. In particular, the assignments and readings in PLSC435: Public Policy and PLSC420: Human Rights have so greatly informed my methodology and approach to this research. By the end of Spring 2021, these courses will be completed.
- In Spring 2020, I took SOWK350: Social Policy. This class equipped me to understand and engage in the American policy context.
- As a part of the Public Policy course I'm currently taking, I had the opportunity to be a member of a Collaborative Online International Learning program run and hosted by Osaka City University. It was a semi-synchronous learning intensive where, over the course of two weeks, we wrote extensively upon themes such as "glocal" environmental sustainability, supply chains and climate impacts, and circular economy and waste reduction. We proposed solutions to issues within our countries of residence.
- Conducted an extensive literature review of the field of public policy, environmental

policy initiatives, qualitative data on the experience of climate change for Indigenous groups, environmental justice, perspectives on climate action from communities currently facing it, as well as reports on climate change policy priorities for the UN, Canada, and the U.S.

- Adopted a methodological framework—comparative policy analysis—and its two underlying methods: comparative case study and content analysis in order to create a well rounded heuristic to understand the environmental policy that informs and affects the communities being studied.
- Created a “mini-framework” or model that serves the analytical approach taken for this research.

References

Adolino, J. R., & Blake, C. H. (2011). *Comparing public policies: Issues and choices in industrialized countries*. CQ Press.

This introductory text dive into the specifics of the field of public policy. Its first four chapters, those who are informing the theoretical understandings of policy lay the groundwork for understanding policy analysis in an industrialized, global north perspective. The cultural, economic, political and institutional influences that endeavor to explain policy decisions, as well as the conceptual tools to understand the policy process are also discussed. Finally, it's summarization of the political systems, which inform policy making, aid this research's understanding of feasibility and policy implementation cross-nationally.

Allen, S. and Xanthaki, A. (eds) (2010). *Reflections on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Studies in International Law). Oxford: Hart Publishing.

Anaya, S. J. (2004). *Indigenous Peoples in International Law* (2nd edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Anderson, C. (1971). Comparative Policy Analysis: The Design of Measures. *Comparative Politics*, 4(1), 117-131. doi:10.2307/421437

Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages. (2015). <https://doi.org/10.6027/TN2014-567>

Arctic Indigenous Climate Summit & Gwich'in Steering Committee. (2020, November 2). *Arctic Indigenous climate summit report*. Our Arctic Refuge. <https://ourarcticrefuge.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/aics2019-report-final.pdf>

Bayu, F. M. (2020). Cost reduction and forest preservation potential of advanced stoves and challenges of their adoption in higher education: the case of werabe university, Ethiopia. *Heliyon*, 6(8), e04693

- Bergh, K. (2012). *The arctic policies of Canada and the United States: Domestic motives and international context*. Sipri.org. Retrieved from <https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/files/insight/SIPRIInsight1201.pdf>.
- Berry, P., & Woods, K. (2016). The environment. In M. Goodhart (Ed.), *Human rights: Politics and practice* (3rd ed., pp. 405–418). Oxford University Press.
- Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework*. Rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1560523306861/1560523330587>.
- Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework*. Wilson Center. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/canadas-arctic-and-northern-policy-framework>.
- Couturier, D. (2020). *Negotiating the Dehcho: Protecting Dene Abt'ít'e Through Modern Treaty-Making*. The Arctic Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/treaties-modern-negotiation-indigenous-resource-management-canadian-arctic/>.
- Craft, J., & Howlett, M. (2013). Policy capacity and the ability to adapt to climate change: Canadian and US case studies. *Review of Policy Research*, 30(1), 1-18.
- Dominelli, L. (2012). *Green social work: From environmental crises to environmental justice*. Polity.
- Exec. Order No. 13990, 3 C.F.R. 7037 (2021).**
- <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021/02/f83/eo-13990-protecting-public-health-environment-restoring.pdf>**
- Within Section 2a of this executive order are a number of policy actions aimed at fulfilling four climate change goals. These goals include: “Reducing Methane Emissions in the Oil and Gas Sector,” “Establishing Ambitious, Job-Creating Fuel Economy Standards,” “Job-Creating Appliance- and Building-Efficiency Standards,” and “Protecting Our Air from Harmful Pollution.” Heads of agencies are to submit a one-to-five year action plan by the end of this year as to how their agencies will fall under compliance with the aforementioned climate goals

and policies named within each goal. The action plan "...shall seek input from the public and stakeholders..." This is a crucial addition. This EO places a moratorium on all activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the ancestral homeland of the Gwich'in and other Indigenous groups. The Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program will be reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland for the oil and gas program's environmental impacts. The Keystone XL Pipeline's permit was revoked through this EO's action. The Biden administration seeks to prioritize the U.S.'s development of a clean-energy economy. In order to accomplish this goal in a holistic manner, a Work Group was created to calculate the social costs of greenhouse gas (SCGHG) in order to better advocate for the reduction of climate pollution. The methodology for calculating the SCGHG will be revised to include climate risk, environmental justice and intergenerational equity. The goals of this EO are ambitious, and they provide a number of U.S. environmental policies to analyze. This Working Group will be an important organization to track.

Grafakos, S., Trigg, K., Landauer, M., Chelleri, L., & Dhakal, S. (2019). Analytical framework to evaluate the level of integration of climate adaptation and mitigation in cities. *Climatic change*, 154(1), 87-106.

Havemann, P. (2016). Indigenous people's human rights. In M. Goodhart (Ed.), *Human rights: Politics and practice* (3rd ed., pp. 333–348). Oxford University Press.

Hayes, K., Blashki, G., Wiseman, J., Burke, S., & Reifels, L. (2018). Climate change and mental health: Risks, impacts and priority actions. *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, 12, 12. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s13033-018-0210-6>

Climate change, ecology, the environments one grows up cannot be separated from the nations, communities, and individuals they sprung up from and are intimately connected to. "Mental health impacts are often products of long and complex causal pathways, many of

which can be traced back to distal but potent root causes, such as famine, war, and poverty, *of which climate change is an accelerator.*” They go on to say how mental health is shaped by both social and ecological factors that can not only sway but intensify the consequences of other influences on wellbeing. This perspective speaks to the social work emphasis in the “person-in-environment” perspective. Climate change is the thing that is warping—to varying degrees based on socioeconomic status, where one lives, family of origin, culture, etc.—every system of life. Furthermore, it undercuts marginalized people’s ability to cope with trauma of any origin and acute environmental hazards.

Climate change’s consequences do not fall equally upon all people. In fact, it the most marginalized, most economically pressed peoples are often the least equipped to handle to biopsychosocial consequences that come with both extreme weather events and the incremental climate changes such as rising temperatures, sea levels, and droughts that can all lead to increased risk for violence and aggression as resources become more scarce (2). Hayes et al. contend that until our responses to climate change, weather emergencies and mental health become proactive, it will be marginalized individuals and communities that will bear the initial brunt of a crises we will all directly experience sooner or later. “Climate change acts as a health “threat amplifier”, compounding existing social injustices (3).” This paper contributes to an understanding of climate change as a phenomena that is experienced in every facets of one’s life, and can lead into Indigenous understandings of a changing climate’s effect on health.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2014). *Summary for policy-makers*. In: Field, C.B., Barros, V.R., Dokken, D.J., Mach, K.J., Mastrandrea, M.D., Bilir, T.E., Chatterjee, M., Ebi, K.L., Estrada, Y.O., Genova, R.C., Girma, B., Kissel, E.S., Levy, A.N., MacCracken, S., Mastrandrea, P.R., White, L.L. (Eds.), *Climate Change 2014:*

Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom/New York, NY, pp. 1–32.

All the work put forward by the UN's IPCC is absolutely fundamental and instrumental for all policy work for the environment that wishes to couple itself to international research. The three working groups and reports they provide are the scientific consortium that assesses and provides insights and data on three broad categories. First, the IPCC working groups contribute to the physical scientific basic of the climate system and climate change. Secondly, they assess the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, as well as adding to understandings of its consequences, and options for adapting to it. The work that the IPCC publishes comprehensive research that is global in scale, and this report provides specific insights for policy adoption. Its forthcoming Assessment Report no. 6 is set to be released April of 2022.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2014). *Adaptation planning and implementation*. In: Field, C.B., Barros, V.R., Dokken, D.J., Mach, K.J., Mastrandrea, M.D., Bilir, T.E., Chatterjee, M., Ebi, K.L., Estrada, Y.O., Genova, R.C., Girma, B., Kissel, E.S., Levy, A.N., MacCracken, S., Mastrandrea, P.R., White, L.L. (Eds.), *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom/New York, NY, pp. 1–41.

Konisky, D. (2007). Regulatory Competition and Environmental Enforcement: Is There a Race to the Bottom? *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 853-872, 2007, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2708147>

There doesn't seem to be competition between states (a race to the bottom) when one state loosens restrictions on environmental regulations. Some do respond to each other, however, in the opposite direction than expected. There seems to be an increase in regulatory behavior in response to increases by competitors (given three variables: contiguous or neighbor states, states that share a a region, and states that are economically similar). A race to the top. Or perhaps a speed-walk to the top. Or a saunter?

Towards the end, he discusses why this might be the case. This could be to attract newer, cleaner industries, or it could signal collaboration between states to mitigate effects of climate change. Going into the article, I assumed that Konisky would find stronger evidence for a race to the bottom effect, but if anything, he found something towards the contrary.

What is to be made of this potential race to the top effect, and Konisky's hypotheses for it?

In addition, he posits a hypothesis as to why the factors he measured so weakly predict responsiveness to the regulatory behavior of other states, and why his results were mixed overall. Large and small states may respond differently to increases or decreases in regulatory behavior. Large states might be more readily equipped to respond either way. There might just also be too many differences between states and regions to get an accurate, nationwide picture of regulatory competition. This affirms in the need for region specific-research, or otherwise more specifically scoped research, such as the kind this research is going to accomplish.

Kymlicka, W. (1995). *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Laukkonen, J., Blanco, P. K., Lenhart, J., Keiner, M., Cavric, B., & Kinuthia-Njenga, C. (2009). Combining climate change adaptation and mitigation measures at the local level. *Habitat international*, 33(3), 287-292.

This article calls for the creation of a tool that can help nations and localities set climate related priorities. It begins by identifying that among the stresses that render environmental and human systems vulnerable (less able to respond to and cope with a changing climate) to climate change includes the failures of governments to address current climate change impacts. In order to address this mitigation and adaptation strategies must be adopted in tandem at all relevant levels of government towards vulnerable populations (the article discusses the urban poor throughout). Mitigation (reducing impacts) and adaptation (withstanding consequences) are two strategies that aren't immediately congruent. They must be implemented together under a comprehensive approach that considers stakeholders at various levels, resources availability, and current capacities (related to natural resources and socioeconomic development). This study highlights the challenges policymakers must acknowledge in mitigation and adaptation efforts: the collaboration needed, the synergies that currently exist, and the tool and procedures that would help in the creation of best response. Provides aims and direction for how this thesis and the field comparative policy analysis as applied to climate change issues can create movement toward tools and methods for the climate policy process.

Lerner, S., & Brown, P. (2012). *Sacrifice zones: The front lines of toxic chemical exposure in the United States* (The MIT Press) (Reprint ed.). The MIT Press.

Mackie, K. (2021). Succeeding and failing in crafting environment policy: Can public policy theories help? In Mercer T., Ayres R., Head B., & Wanna J. (Eds.), *Learning Policy, Doing Policy: Interactions Between Public Policy Theory, Practice and Teaching* (pp. 205-220). Australia: ANU Press.
doi:10.2307/j.ctv1j9mjmg.17

May, P.J., Jones, B.D., Beem, B.E., Neff-Sharum, E.A. and Poague, M.K. (2005), *Policy Coherence and Component-Driven Policymaking: Arctic Policy in Canada and the United States*. Policy Studies Journal, 33: 37-63. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-0072.2005.00091.x>

Patagonia. (2020, September 25). *Public Trust Feature Film | The Fight for America's Public*

Lands [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGjnIG7puzY>

Purdon, M. (2015). Advancing comparative climate change politics: Theory and method. *Global*

Environmental Politics. [https://direct.mit.edu/glep/article/15/3/1/14824/Advancing-](https://direct.mit.edu/glep/article/15/3/1/14824/Advancing-Comparative-Climate-Change-Politics)

[Comparative-Climate-Change-Politics](https://direct.mit.edu/glep/article/15/3/1/14824/Advancing-Comparative-Climate-Change-Politics)

Schlosberg, D., & Carruthers, D. (2010). Indigenous struggles, environmental justice, and

community capabilities. *Global Environmental Politics*, 10(4), 12-35.

Schröder, P. (2020). Promoting a just transition to an inclusive circular economy.

10.13140/RG.2.2.24974.59204.

The circular economy recognizes that the genie can't be put back into the bottle, so to speak. America is an industrialized, capitalistic, and neoliberal society that up until relatively recently in its history did not stop to consider where a focus on profit and output was doing to the earth and its communities. Reordering local, national, and international economies from linear economies (take-make-waste) to circular economies that design out waste in favor of tapping into natural capital in a sustainable way. This represents a shift from degradative to regenerative practice! Waste, within this "circular" paradigm, is seen as something that can be designed out the process of production. This shift can happen at all levels, and can in fact empower environmentally vulnerable communities as industrial waste is eradicated, and they are given avenues to earn sustainable, and ethical income.

Environmental, social and economic sustainability are all tied together, and countries must make the transition to circular economies in ways that minimize consequences to regions, industries, workers and communities that are adversely impacted by climate change mitigation measures and environmental policies.

This shift towards a circular economy can happen at all levels, and can in fact empower environmentally vulnerable communities as waste is eradicated, and they are given avenues to earn sustainable, and ethical income. A circular economy has the power of bring communities together, and bringing people on the outskirts (economically, geographically, etc.) into the fold! Careful considerations must be made in order to implement a circular economy that leaves no one behind.

This will not happen by default; conscious effort must be made to ensure social and economic security and sustainability alongside environmental sustainability. They are tied to one another. The burdens in the transition from linear to circular could easily fall on the poor in worsening work conditions and health impacts, reduced livelihoods, or job loss. There are cities and communities in the U.S. and abroad that are quite reliant on linear sectors like mining, drilling, manufacturing, etc. As countries in the global north begin making strides toward sustainability, many call out countries such as Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo for doing the same extraction of resources these countries were doing centuries prior. There is little question that promoting a circular economy is crucial to the continued survival on Earth, but we cannot ignore the challenges we can and must solve. Linear economies, local and global, are ones that has long been ordered by the exploitation of natural and human capital. This can and must change. This paper provides a basis for understanding the environmental justice element of this research.

Scruggs, L. (2001). Is There Really a Link Between Neo-Corporatism and Environmental Performance? Updated Evidence and New Data for the 1980s and 1990s. *British Journal of Political Science*, 31(4), 686-692. doi:10.1017/S0007123401220262

This article details a follow-up study to one that was done a decade earlier. This study performed a cross-sectional multivariate regression analysis that with data from 1980-1995. It

pitted seven indicators of 'neo-corporatism' against a variety of alternative explanations for environmental performance that the first didn't. This follow-up study held close to the results of the first, even despite gaps in the data that biased the data against finding a strong neo-corporatist effect. Their effects on greater environmental performance are significant. The dependent variable was a composite score of six pollution indicators, where the higher the number, the greater the country performed. Holding everything else constant, a move from the most to least corporatist country reduced the score by about 140-190 points. The estimates are both substantively and statistically significant (690). Scruggs has a few hypotheses. The first is that there is a built-in vested interest to resolve disputes related to their actions due to neo-corporatist organization of institutions. The second is that peak associations (groups that have the power to enforce the government-labor-business agreement) have the authority and incentive to ensure compliance with environmental laws. The third hypothesis Scruggs makes is that consensual corporatist institutions are a better alternative than a competitive market that prioritizes profit. A priority that makes accountability to the law and responsibility towards the planet and life on it secondary. Scandinavian countries, with some of the best healthcare and education systems in the world, are on one end (neo-corporatism). America is towards the other end (laissez faire, free market pluralism). They are excelling in environmental performance where America is lagging behind. This study is interesting, for it brings up questions for further study that are relevant to this research. What is it about neo-corporatism and how it organizes institutions that seems to be quite effective in mitigating environmental damage? Accountability? A sense of responsibility on the part of corporations? What would need to change for America to take on some neo-corporatist leanings with how it regulates big business?

Sealey-Huggins, L. (2018). *The climate crisis is a racist crisis: structural racism, inequality and climate change*. In: Johnson, Azeezat and Joseph-Salisbury, Remi and Kamunge, Beth, (eds.) *The Fire Now: Anti-Racist Scholarship in Times of Explicit Racial Violence*. London, UK: Zed Books, pp. 99-113.

Shindell, D. T. (2015). The social cost of atmospheric release. *Climatic Change*, 130(2), 313-326.

Silverman, A. (2014). *Know Your Rights Related to REDD+: A Guide for Indigenous and Local Community Leaders*. Washington, DC: Tebtebba & Centre for International Environmental Law. <http://theredddesk.org/resources/know-your-rights-related-redd-guide-indigenous-and-local-community-leaders>

Smith, C., DeCouto, T., & Carvill, A. (2020). *Balancing Worldviews: Climate Change Solutions in Canada's North*. The Arctic Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/balancing-worldviews-climate-change-solutions-canada-north/>.

Smith, K. B., & Larimer, C. W. (2013). *The public policy theory primer*. Westview Press.

Smith and Larimer take an approach that embraces the complexities of the world of public policy. It is a field that has within it many tools, heuristics, frameworks, typologies, and models that they take care to explain. Furthermore, they stress that the many instruments of the field are not exhaustive. They are only to serve as conceptual tools to organize the study of the continuous process of policy-making. They endorse a non-positivist approach to methodology, favoring a phenomenological approach to policy research that can pull apart the focal points—the small units and key decisions of policy outputs—from the lenses that are used to evaluate impacts. “Policy”, in their words, “symbolizes what, and whom society values (69).” Their text pulls apart the many pieces that make up the whole of policy-making, and invites students into seeing the influences, values, and objectives at play.

Statement on Canada's Foreign Policy. Web.law.columbia.edu. (2010). Retrieved from

<https://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/climate-change/files/Arctic-Resources/Arctic>

[Council/01_02_Canadas%20statement%20on%20arctic%20foreign%20policy%20%28booklet%29.pdf](#).

Steffansson Arctic Institute. (2004). *Arctic Human Development Report*. Akureyri, Stefasson Arctic Institute.

Susskind, L., Anguelovski, I. (2008). *Addressing the Land Claims of Indigenous Peoples*. MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice

Tobin, B. (2014). *Indigenous Peoples, Customary Law and Human Rights: Why Living Law Matters*. London: Earthscan/Routledge.

Vogel, B., & Henstra, D. (2015). Studying local climate adaptation: A heuristic research framework for comparative policy analysis. *Global Environmental Change*, 31, 110-120.

This article confronts the challenges of climate related policy. There is an issue of scope, implementation, the intergovernmental division of tasks, and the long-term nature of climate change itself makes adaptation policies difficult to advocate and generate support for. In their view that comparative policy research can populate the field with the necessary data on the content and process of climate adaptation policy. In this way, the research can infuse clarity into policy discussion, clarifying the particular limits, strength and goals a given locality should pursue, bearing in mind where they are at along the policy process continuum (from agenda-setting to implementation and evaluation). This paper provides needed clarity to this research project for its discussion of each of the five general policy making functions, drawing from specific climate change policy case studies in succinct ways. Vogel and Henstra demonstrate each step in the adaptation policy process, solidifying their place in the field as guiding voices.

Waldron, I. R. G. (2018). *There's something in the water: Environmental racism in Indigenous & Black communities*. Fernwood Publishing.

Wettestad, J., Eikeland, P.O. & Nilsson, M. (2012). EU Climate and Energy Policy: A Hesitant Supranational Turn? Global Environmental Politics - GLOB ENVIRON POLIT. 12. 67-86. 10.1162/GLEP_a_00109.

We have an interesting extension to the discussion started by Kopinski with Wettestad et al.'s "EU Climate and Energy Policy: A Hesitant Supranational Turn?" There were both external factors (over reliance on energy imports from the Middle East, and Russia, both places that have experienced serious turmoil/war before), and various internal drives to centralize energy policies. So, the EU began its forays into vertical integration in the late 90s and early 2000s--in which EU institutions earned greater power to advise, monitor, report, and make binding decisions in the case of disagreements between nations. At first, its Emissions Trading System (ETS) was "fundamentally decentralized", and a failure, because decentralized (environmental) regulations and policies make for difficult comparisons and assessments. So began the call for more harmonization and a greater degrees of vertical integration under the EU. The re-vamped ETS became the "cornerstone of EU climate policy," as nations realized that the non-harmonized options threatened their national interest. With the decentralized ETS, a sort of "race to the bottom" was seen, as National Allocation Plans were created under time constraints. There were 27 competing systems under the old ETS, and one, well-ordered system under the new one. I also thought it worth mentioning that France supported strong vertical integration, due in part to the fact of its fossil-fuel free nuclear power industry. They were more willing to see more regulations, especially for industries they had no stakes in. This lends further credence to Kopinsky's hypothesis of attracting/retaining cleaner industries. Wettestad et al. take a page to discuss

two other countries with very different views on vertical integration to make the point that states had to see how their national interests would suffer if they didn't take part in further harmonization efforts. The following questions are some that this research will have to contend with to some degree. Is the U.S. is too large to ever meet this integrative vision? Is it incompatible with its federalist system, or are there only more barriers to overcome? What might those barriers be? Europe has an advantage in that they aren't nearly as large a producer of nonrenewables as the U.S. is. How can the U.S. hope to phase out of fossil fuels energy in regions that are reliant on those industries? Could the well-adapted feed-in tariffs mentioned in the article (page 10 of 21 of the PDF) be a viable option? What *are* feed-in tariffs