

4th International ESS Conference

Turbulent times in Europe: Instability, insecurity and inequality

15-17 April 2019 | University of Mannheim

C1. Public attitudes to climate change

Recent years have experienced important positive as well as negative changes in public climate change attitudes, behaviors and policies. In the aftermath of “Fukushima”, the German government decided to move away from nuclear power; in Paris, the countries of the world successfully negotiated the Paris accords; the US voted for a climate change sceptic President who announced to withdraw from the treaty; the “We are still in” movement formed, sending an own delegation to the COP22 negotiations; Chinese and Indian mega-cities are hidden in smog; the small Pacific island states beg for help in light of rising sea levels; industrial countries ban gas and diesel cars within the next 15 years; disruptive shifts to green energy production; floods, hurricanes and wild fires devastating densely populated areas all around the world. But how have these events influenced climate change attitudes and behaviors? Has the salience of climate change as an issue changed over recent years? Can we observe changes in pro-environmental attitudes or climate skepticism? Are people (finally) ready to change their consumption or driving patterns to save the planet? Are voters supportive of policy changes towards “green energy”? Or are they even demanding changes towards more eco-friendly policies their politicians are not ready for yet?

The most recent Wave 8 (2016) of the ESS contains a special module on “public attitudes to climate change”, inviting a broad range of new and unique analyses in the European context.

This panel invites papers that deal with public attitudes to climate change, energy, eco-friendly behavior and the like from an empirical as well as more theoretical point of view. We invite single-country studies as well as papers employing a more comparative approach, either covering contemporary analyses or longer time periods. All proposals have to use data from the European Social Survey, exclusively or in conjunction with other data (e.g. other survey data, macro data), so please indicate which data you want to use for your analyses.

Session Organisers:

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