

FLORENTINE KOPPENBORG, PHD

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Trained as a political scientist and an area scholar, my work focusses on phase-outs of unsustainable technologies and substances as well as associated institutional changes in various contexts, from Japanese energy and climate politics to global climate politics and climate clubs.

EMPLOYMENT

- Since 10/2020 **Technical University of Munich (TUM)**, School of Politics and Public Policy
- Senior Researcher and Lecturer
 - Research focus: **phase-out governance, global climate governance, climate clubs**
- Since 10/2017 **Technical University of Munich (TUM)**, School of Politics and Public Policy
- Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer
 - Research focus: **global climate governance, Japan's energy and climate politics**
- 12/2016 – 09/2017 **Free University of Berlin**, East Asian Studies Department
- Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer
 - Research focus: **Japan's energy and climate politics**

EDUCATION

- 10/2013 – 05/2017 **Free University of Berlin**, Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS)
- **PhD in Political Science** (magna cum laude)
 - PhD Thesis topic: Reforming nuclear safety administration in Japan after the Fukushima nuclear accident: A critical juncture in regulatory practices
- 10/2010 – 08/2013 **MA Japanese Studies and Political Science** at **Free University of Berlin** (Grade 1.7)
- MA thesis topic: The ASEAN Regional Forum's institutional design: An analysis of reasons for change and inertia
- 10/2005 – 04/2010 BA East Asian Studies and Political Science at **Free University of Berlin** (Grade 1.4)
- 10/2008 – 03/2009 Student exchange & Japanese language training at **Tsukuba University**, Tsukuba, Japan

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

- 09/2025 University of British Columbia (UBC), Political Science Department, Canada
- 09/2024 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Center for Sustainability Science & Strategy, USA
- 03/2024 German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Japan
- 02/2023 & 05/2023 Kyoto University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Japan
- 09/2022 Waseda University, School of International Liberal Studies, Japan
- 03/2019 – 04/2019 Kyoto University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Japan
- 08/2018 – 09/2018 University of Tokyo, Social Science Institute, Japan

03/2015 – 09/2015 Sophia University, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Japan

GRANTS

- 10/2025 – 03/2026 **AI Guide Grant**
- TUM: 3500 € for AI training and student assistant
- 03/2024 – 12/2024 **Project Seed Funding**, Climate Clubs in Global Climate Governance
- Technical University of Munich (10,000 €) for a research assistant, guest researcher visit at MIT and observer participation in UN climate change negotiations
- 01/2022 – 12/2023 **Project Lead**, Governing Sustainability Transitions: Technology Phase-Outs
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): ca. 29,000 for collaborative research with Kyoto University and Waseda University in Japan
- 03/2021 – 05/2023 **Project Co-Lead**, Geopolitics of Renewable Energy (GeoReSim)
- EU Program for Education, Youth and Sports: Erasmus+: ca. 264,800 € for developing an educational simulation game with European partners
- 04/2023 – 09/2023 **Hybrid Teaching Grant**
- TUM: 3000 € for technical equipment and teaching assistant
- 03/2021 **Workshop Funding**, Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11
- Fritz Thyssen Foundation: ca. 3,300 €
- 03/2020 – 12/2021 **Project Lead**, Governing Energy Transitions: Phase-In and Phase-Out of Technologies
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): ca. 27,000 € for collaborative research with Kyoto University and Waseda University in Japan
- 02/2020 **Teaching Exchange** at Kyoto University, Japan
- EU Program for Education, Youth and Sports: Erasmus+: ca. 2,700 €
- 03/2019 – 04/2019 **Exchange Funding** for a stay at Kyoto University
- DAAD-Kyoto University partnership programme for SDGs: ca. 4,000 €
- 10/2013 – 11/2016 **PhD Grant**
- German Research Foundation (DFG): ca. 65,000 €

PUBLICATIONS

OVERVIEW

Total Citations: 150

h-index: 7

Full publications list: [Google scholar](#)

MONOGRAPH

2023 *Japan's Nuclear Disaster and the Politics of Safety Governance*, **Cornell University Press - nominated** for the John Whitney Hall Book Prize

PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

In progress *Formal independence beyond delegation: Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority – in revision* for **Regulation & Governance**

In progress *Climate Clubs: A Typology and a Research Agenda* – under review with **Climatic Change**

- Forthcoming *Legal Fallout from Fukushima Dai'ichi: Fundamental Changes in Nuclear Safety Administration in Japan*, in: Weizdörfer, J. F. & Lauta, K. C. (Eds.): *Fukushima and the Law*, **Cambridge University Press - in print**
- Forthcoming *Special Issue: Phase-Out Politics and Governance* (with A. Rinscheid & G. Trencher) – **accepted by Environmental Politics.**
- 2026 *A coalition on compliance carbon markets to make climate clubs politically feasible*, **Nature Climate Change**, DOI: 10.1038/s41558-025-02541-5.
- 2025 *Phase-Out Clubs: An Effective Tool for Global Climate Governance?*, **Environmental Politics**, Vol 23 (1).
- 2025 *Post-3.11 Nuclear Safety Regulation*, in: Ohta, H. (Ed.): *Handbook of Japan's Environmental Law, Policy and Politics*, **Amsterdam University Press.**
- 2023 *The Evolution of "Phase-Out" as a Bridging Concept for Sustainability: From Pollution to Climate Change* (with G. Trencher, A. Rinscheid, D. Rosenbloom, N. Truong & P. Temocin), **One Earth**, Vol 6 (7).
- 2023 *More Weapons than Windmills: Japan's Military and Energy Policy Response to Russia's Attack on Ukraine* (with U. Hanssen), **Czech Journal of International Relations**, Vol 58 (2).
- 2023 *More Than Just Organics: Boosting Separate Collection of Dry Recyclables with Door-to-door Bio-waste Collection in EU Capitals* (with K. Abeshev), **Waste Management**, Vol 161.
- 2022 *Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11: Processes and Dynamics in State-society Relations* (with A. Wiemann & T. Weiss), **Contemporary Japan**, Vol 34 (2).
- 2022 *Nuclear Revival won't Rid Japan of its Energy Crisis*, **East Asia Forum.**
- 2021 *Japan's Climate Change Discourse: Towards Climate Securitisation?* (with U. Hanssen), **Politics and Governance**, Vol 9 (4).
- 2021 *Special Issue Introduction: Japan's Energy Transition 10 Years after the Fukushima Nuclear Accident*, **Social Science Journal Japan**, Vol 24 (1).
- 2021 *Nuclear Restart Politics: How the 'Nuclear Village' Lost Policy Implementation Power*, **Social Science Journal Japan**, Vol 24 (1).
- 2021 *Japan's Nuclear Safety Regulation Policy*, in: Midford, P. & Espen, M. (Eds.): *New Challenges and Solutions for Renewable Energy*, **Palgrave Macmillan.**
- 2021 *Waning Support for Nuclear Power 10 Years after Fukushima*, **East Asia Forum.**
- 2020 *Japan's Growing Dependence on Coal* (with Ulv Hanssen), **East Asia Forum.**
- 2018 *Remodelling Japan's Climate Policy*, **East Asia Forum.**
- 2017 *Ausstieg oder Wiedereinstieg? Abes widersprüchliche Atompolitik*, in: Heinrich, S. & Vogt, G. (Eds.): *Japan in der Ära Abe. Eine politikwissenschaftliche Analyse*, **Iudicium.**
- 2017 *Will the Silent Comeback of Coal Threaten Japan's Climate Goals?*, **East Asia Forum.**
- 2016 *Japan's Nuclear Power Plans Don't Add Up*, **East Asia Forum.**
- 2016 *Japanese Climate-related Aid to South East Asia: Furthering 'Weak' or 'Strong' Sustainability?*, **ASIEN- German Journal on Contemporary Asia**, Vol 138 (1).

OPINION PIECES AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

2026	Interview for <i>Japan restarts world's largest nuclear plant as Fukushima memories loom large</i> , BBC News
2025	<i>Fossil fuel phase-out clubs: the new kid on the block in climate governance?</i> , SUS-POL Project Blog, University of Sussex
2025	Interview for <i>Japan to Increase Nuclear Power as New Crises Overshadow fears of Fukushima Repeat</i> , ABC News
2024	<i>Japan's Nuclear Energy Policy Disaster</i> , The Diplomat
2023	Podcast on <i>Japan's Nuclear Disaster and the Politics of Safety Governance</i> for New Books Network
2023	Interview for <i>Japan – vom Klimapionier in Kyoto zum Kohlekönig</i> [Japan – Climate Leader to Coal Champion], Tagesspiegel Background
2022	<i>As Japan Sanctions Russian Coal, it is High Time to Kick the Habit Altogether</i> (with U. Hanssen), Climate Home News
2021	<i>A Turning Point for Japan-US Climate Cooperation? Biden Needs to Put More Pressure on Japan to Abandon Coal</i> (with U. Hanssen), The Diplomat
2021	<i>Japan's Climate Policy in Light of COP 26</i> , 9Dashline
2021	<i>Japans Nuklearer Weißer Elefant</i> [Japan's Nuclear White Elephant], Süddeutsche Zeitung

FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Since 2021	Observer at Climate Negotiations in Glasgow (COP 26), Dubai (COP 28), Baku (COP 29), Bonn (SB 62)
March 2025	MaxQDA Methods Workshop
11/2023 – 12/2024	Interdisciplinary Research and Team Leadership Training
04/2023	Hybrid Teaching Training
10/2020	Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) Workshop
08/2017	Statistical Methods Workshop
02/2017 – 07/2017	Teaching Certificate 1 & 2: Learning and Planning Teaching & Advanced Workshop

SUPERVISION

17 Bachelor Theses, **19 Master Theses, 2 PhD Students**

8 Research Assistants

SCIENTIFIC SERVICE

Since 2020	Reviewer for scientific publications including Environmental Politics, Energy Research & Social Science, Regulation & Governance, Energy Policy, Czech Journal of International Relations, Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics, International Politics
Since 2020	Guest editor for scientific publications including Environmental Politics, Social Science Japan Journal and Contemporary Japan
Since 2025	Stiftung Energie und Klimaschutz Advisory Board
Since 2024	TUM Sustainability Board
Since 2022	VSJF board – German Association for Social Science Research on Japan
2018 – 2021	Representative of research fellows at the Munich School of Politics and Public Policy
2018 – 2019	Postdoc representative at the Munich School of Politics and Public Policy

SELECT CONFERENCES & TALKS

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION / PANEL CHAIR

August 2025	Climate Clubs: A New Tool for Global Climate Governance Panel, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference , Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
August 2024	Phase-Out Politics and Policies Panel, ECPR Annual Conference , University College Dublin, Ireland
September 2023	Energy, Mobility, and Sustainability Transitions in the Face of Climate Change Conference, TUM Science & Study Center, Germany
March 2021	Continuity and Change 10 years after 3.11, Annual Conference of the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (online)

INVITED TALKS

November 2025	Invited Lecture “Japan’s Climate Politics 10 Years After Paris” at VSJF Annual Conference at University of Vienna
2022 - 2024	4 Invited Book Talks on “Japan’s Nuclear Disaster and the Politics of Safety Governance” at University of Zurich (UZH), Switzerland, Temple University Tokyo, Japan, University of Tokyo, Japan, and University of Vienna, Austria
January 2024 & 2025	Invited Lecture “ International Climate Negotiations ”, Lecture Series on Theory and Practice of Sustainable Resource Management, TUM , Germany
July 2022	Panel Speaker “Climate Futures: Interdisciplinary Strategies for Climate Change”, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (LMU), Germany
March 2022	Panel Speaker “ Climate Summit Legacy: Ambition and Unmet Goals, COP26 Retrospective ”, University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada

PUBLIC OUTREACH

June 2024	Panel Organizer and Moderator, Bridging Science & Society: Navigating Sustainability Challenges Together , TUM Sustainability Day
November 2021	Panel Organizer and Speaker, TUM Excursion to COP 26, TUM Public Climate School
July 2020	Event Organizer, MINT for Girls , TUM

November 2019 Public Lecture on **COP24 and the Evolution of the Climate Regime**, TUM Public Climate School

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- September 2025 **American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference**, Vancouver, Canada
- Paper: Why do countries initiate and join normative climate clubs? The role of club benefits and country interests
- September 2025 **COMP-CAN Colloquium, Political Science Department, University of British Columbia**, Canada
- Presentation: Climate Clubs: Why do countries initiate and join voluntary climate cooperation initiatives?
- August 2025 **European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Paper: Normative Climate Clubs: Mapping and Discussing Core Features
- September 2024 **American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference**, Philadelphia, USA
- Paper: Japan's Proactive and Independent Nuclear Safety Regulator
- September 2024 **Center for Sustainability Science & Strategy Lunch Meeting, MIT**, Boston, USA
- Presentation: Phase-Out Clubs: An effective tool for global climate governance?
- August 2024 **European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Annual Conference**, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Paper: Phase-Out Clubs: An effective tool for global climate governance?
- November 2023 **German Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF) Annual Conference**, Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), Germany
- Paper: Comparing Nuclear Energy Policy in Germany and Japan
- September 2023 **Energy, Mobility, and Sustainability Transitions in the Face of Climate Change**, TUM Science & Study Center, Germany
- Paper presented: Climate Clubs and Phase-Out
- July 2023 **Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance**, University of Antwerp, Belgium
- Paper: "Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority – an Unexpected Independent Regulatory Agency"
- October 2021 **International Sustainability Transitions Conference (IST)**, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Paper presented: "Phase-Outs: A Literature Review" (together with G. Trencher, D. Rosenbloom, A. Rinscheid, N. Truong, P. Temocin)
- November 2020 VSJF Annual Conference, online
- Paper: Japan's Discursive Struggle over Climate Change: Increasing Securitization? (with U. Hanssen)

TEACHING

Climate Politics: International, National and Local dimensions (B.A. Module, English, Winter Semester 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25), evaluation: 1.2¹

Comparative Environmental Politics (B.A. Module, German, Winter Semester 2017/18, Summer Semester 2019), evaluation: 1.4

¹ scale from 1 = "very good" to 5 = "very unsatisfied"

Comparative Politics (B.A. Tutorial, German, Winter Semester 2017/18, 2018/19), evaluation 1.8

Comparative Politics (B.A. Lecture, German, Winter Semester 2022/23), evaluation: 2.1

Environmental and Climate Transformations in the Asia-Pacific (M.A. Seminar, English, Summer Semester 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), evaluation: 1.3

Global Environmental and Climate Governance (M.A. Seminar, English, Summer Semester 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025), evaluation: 1.0

International Climate Strategies in the Context of UNFCCC (M.A. Module, English Winter Semester 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26), evaluation: 1.8

Institutions and Institutional Theory (B.A. Seminar, German, online, Winter Semester 2020/21)

Research Methods in Political Science (PhD programme, Tutorial, Winter Semester 2016/17)

Theories of the Policy Process (B.A. Tutorial, German, Summer Semester 2022, 2023), evaluation 1.7

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