

Chair for Environmental and Climate Policy

Research Internship Guideline

Dear students, if you are interested in conducting a research internship at the Chair for Environmental and Climate Policy, please read this document to make yourself familiar with the general format, objectives, application steps and possible thematic areas.

General format and application steps

The research internship offers the students at the HfP the possibility of collaborating on a research project with one or more academic staff at the Chair for Environmental and Climate Policy. The research interns typically work on a pre-defined topic related to one of the ongoing research projects at the Chair or on a self-defined topic which is associated with the ongoing projects and the key research areas of the Chair (see next section). The research internship involves 3,5 months of work and the students receive 18 credit points upon successful completion. The internship can also be stretched over a longer period of time. The time plan should be developed in consultation with the internship supervisor. At the end of the internship, the students write a report detailing their work, the acquired knowledge and skills. The report must be approved by the research internship supervisor. During the research internship, the students will obtain close insight to the research work of our Chair and the possibility to sharpen their research skills. The research interns will have the opportunity to report on their conducted research at the website of our Chair and we will strive to produce joint academic publications or conference papers based on the research produced in the internship.

In order to apply for the research internship, please submit a CV and a one-page cover letter which describes your motivation and qualification along with the proposed starting date for the research internship. The application should be sent to one of the academic staff at the Chair responsible for the thematic area of the applicant's interest (see next section).

Thematic areas and topics

We welcome applications on any topic related to environmental, climate and energy policy and politics. Previous experience with environmental politics is desirable, but not required. We particularly encourage applications in one of the currently pursued research themes at the Chair for Environmental and Climate Policy. While the applicants should select one key research project which will be in their focus, they can contribute to several different projects during the internship. Please find below the list of the currently pursued research themes and the responsible academic persons.

1. *Governing Droughts and Water Shortage*
(Theresa Jedd, theresa.jedd@hfp.tum.de)

This research examines the relationship between freshwater shortage (whether due to meteorological and climatological variability or overconsumption and mismanagement) and governance approaches. Of particular interest is the multi-level dimension to governance, which introduces flexibility in planning, but also uncertainty in times of crisis. A generalizable trait across governance systems is that droughts are often recognized only when it is too late to make adjustments such as seasonal cropping, and significant economic losses can ensue. Thus, a

dimension of this work studies how scientific monitoring data are integrated in decision-making. The case studies are supported with data from multiple sources, including documents, participatory workshops, and interviews with water planning officials.

Related publications:

- Jedd, T., D. Bathke, D. Gill, B. Paul, N. Wall, T. Bernadt, J. Petr, A. Mucia, and M. Wall (2018). Tracking Drought Perspectives: A Rural Case Study of Transformations Following an Invisible Hazard. *Weather, Climate and Society*, 10, 653–672, <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-17-0067.1>
- Jedd, T., (2019). The limits of resilience in US community responses to recent drought events, *Community Development*, 50:2, 141-159, DOI: 10.1080/15575330.2019.1574850
- Fragaszy, S.R., T. Jedd, N. Wall, C. Knutson, M. Belhaj Fraj, K. Bergaoui, M. Svoboda, M. Hayes, and R. McDonnell (2020). Drought Monitoring in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region: Participatory Engagement to Inform Early Warning Systems. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, early release, <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-18-0084.1>

2. *Governing Energy Transitions: Technology Phase-outs*

(Florentine Koppenborg, Florentine.koppenborg@hfp.tum.de)

This comparative research project about low-carbon energy transitions asks: “How are different countries governing the phase-out of technologies in the electricity sectors?”

Initially focused on comparing phase-out governance in Germany and Japan, travel restrictions during the pandemic did not allow for fieldwork trips abroad. As a result, the project focus has broadened to include conceptual work. Phase-out as a governance approach is receiving increasing attention, but has thus far remained conceptually weak. Hence, the project aims to (i) draw conceptual lessons from the scholarly debate on phase-outs and to (ii) identify drivers and hurdles for real-life phase outs across cases. To answer the second question, we will conduct a structured comparison of governance approaches for accelerating the abolishment of coal/nuclear power fossil fuel use more broadly.

3. *International Climate Negotiations*

(Florentine Koppenborg, Florentine.koppenborg@hfp.tum.de)

This research project examines recent developments in international climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 2015 Paris Agreement marked a milestone in climate negotiations and established a framework for global action to increase climate mitigation ambition.

As such it creates space for coalitions of the willing to take action that complements the Paris Agreement by working towards achieving the goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrialized levels. One type of coalitions of the willing this project focuses on are so called “climate clubs”.

Furthermore, the Paris Agreement officially recognized non-state and substate actors as important stakeholders in climate politics. The aim here is to take a closer look at different non-state and substate actors and to assess the shift from a state-centric international climate regime to a multi-actor-based process. Central questions we ask are: How does this shift impact climate negotiations? Which role do these actors play in efforts to ramp up ambition and the 2023 Global Stocktake?

4. *Just transition of Energy Supply Systems: Impact of Politics and Public Discourse on Social Disruption and Cohesion in Regions Affected by Coal Phase-out and in Wind Energy Regions, with a Special Focus on Institutional Configurations in Germany and Canada*
(Dörte Ohlhorst, doerte.ohlhorst@hfp.tum.de)

Low carbon energy transformations have social and economic implications, for which solutions must be found. One of the major challenges of phasing out coal is the impact on regions, communities and workers who have been dependent on the coal industry. They are demanding support in order to manage the transition to new business areas and economic sectors. This will be illustrated in the research project by the example of coal phase-out policies in Germany and Canada. The central question is how Germany and Canada deal with the economic and social implications of the coal phase-out and what role the democratic and institutional configurations of the two countries play in this process. In both countries coal still plays a major role in energy supply. Both countries aim to replace coal, oil and nuclear energy as far as possible by gas and renewable energies. While in Germany the concertation of interests is an integral part of political decision-making, the system in Canada has less corporatist characteristics. The relationship between the Canadian state and NGOs is institutionalised to a much lesser extent than in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the project we will consider executive-legislative institutional configurations and the role of the civic society as influencing factors of coal policy, as well as electoral interests and the framework conditions of federalism.

5. *Energiewende in Deutschlands Mehrebenensystem: Nationale Rahmenbedingungen und lokale Verhandlungsarenen* (German language knowledge required)
(Dörte Ohlhorst, doerte.ohlhorst@hfp.tum.de)

Der Ausbau erneuerbarer Erzeugungskapazitäten verknüpft aufgrund der starken Dezentralisierung die kommunale Ebene auf besondere Art und Weise mit Policy Instrumenten und Verhandlungsarenen der nationalen Ebene. Gleichzeitig zeigt die Analyse von Beispielen des Energiesystemwandels auf kommunaler Ebene die Verhandlung energiepolitischer Inhalte in regional- und/oder sozialpolitischen Arenen, sodass Energiesystemwandel einerseits Zielsetzungen mehrerer politisch-administrativer Ebenen unterworfen ist, aber dementsprechend auch unterschiedliche Instrumente zur Umsetzung energiepolitischer Ziele zur Verfügung stehen. Im Projekt werden regionale und kommunale Handlungsräume für energiepolitische Transformationsziele sowie deren Einbindung in übergeordnete Strategien und Zielsetzungen, Identifizierung alternativer, gesellschaftspolitischer Brückenpotenziale und Synergien analysiert. Darüber hinaus werden die Rollen von intermediären und koordinierenden Akteuren mit Blick auf die Verhandlung energiepolitischer Inhalte in regional-/sozialpolitischen Arenen und alternative Policy Instrumente (u.a. regional-/sozialpolitisch) zur Erreichung energiepolitischer Ziele untersucht.

For research internship ideas that go beyond the list of topics provided above, please contact Prof. Miranda Schreurs (miranda.schreurs@hfp.tum.de).