

# Research Agenda

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## Upcoming and running Projects

1. The Politics of Ecological Modernization
2. Regulating regulation? The OECD in regulatory policy
3. Internet politics in Germany

## What holds these projects together?

- ▶ general interest:
  - comparative public policy analysis with a multi-level perspective
  - questions of policy change and stability
  - mostly EU and OECD countries
- ▶ general approach:
  - case-oriented
  - small- and intermediate-n designs
  - mostly qualitative

## The Politics of Ecological Modernization

- ▶ General information
  - new project, at conceptual stage
  - prospected running time: four to five years
  - goal: book and/or journal articles
- ▶ premise: environmental crisis calls for (major) social and economic transformations, i. e. of patterns of production and consumption
- ▶ puzzle: why (and how) do some countries transform their patterns of production and consumption faster than others?

## Ecological Modernization I

- ▶ theory and reform policy, starting in the early 1980s
- ▶ basic tenets:
  - technological and political innovation is the solution to environmental crisis
  - win-win situations for economy and environment are possible
- ▶ academic discourse picked up by political actors in the 1990s
- ▶ european, asian, north and south american countries

## Ecological Modernization II

- ▶ hegemonic discourse/frame (national, european, international level)?
- ▶ theory and practice of EM is contested and blurred: strong and weak EM, sustainable development, green growth/capitalism, just green washing. . .
- ▶ economic transformation leads to winners and losers
- ▶ transformation of patterns of consumption: questions of individual lifestyle and culture (»wicked problems«)

## Design

- ▶ what (combinations and sequences of) configurations of causal factors lead to what transformations?
- ▶ cross-country, cross-policy comparison
- ▶ policies
  - energy
  - mobility
  - agriculture (food)
- ▶ countries: forerunners and laggards out of OECD countries
- ▶ long term perspective beginning in the late 1970s

## »Suspects« as causal factors

- ▶ public opinion
- ▶ strength of environmental movements
- ▶ veto points
- ▶ green agenda in party manifestos
- ▶ green parties in government
- ▶ structure of economic sector
- ▶ disasters and scandals as triggers
- ▶ diffusion from european and/or international level
- ▶ european and international agreements, monitoring and review processes
- ▶ ...



## Next steps

- ▶ better operationalization of causal factors and outcome
- ▶ case selection
- ▶ solving methodological problems: design seems to call for some form of QCA which can not handle time yet

## Regulating regulation?

- ▶ puzzle: OECD is generally seen as an influential actor in international regulatory policy but we do not know much about its agenda
- ▶ How has the agenda of the OECD developed since 1993 and how can we explain changes and (seemingly) contradictions?
- ▶ theory-led document analysis of recommendations, reviews and reports
- ▶ first milestone: paper at ECPR Standing Group on Regulation and Governance conference (May this year)
- ▶ next step: complementing interviews to better understand internal dynamics in the OECD
- ▶ goal: journal article (manuscript submitted end of summer 2013)

## Internet politics in Germany

- ▶ puzzle: political conflicts around the (content) regulation of the internet are said to constitute a new policy in Germany but there are only journalistic accounts up to know
- ▶ what are actor constellations (interests, discourses) and do we find stable coalitions or even institutional change to some degree to speak of a new policy field?
- ▶ construction of an appropriate analytical framework and stock taking of actors, discourses, conflicts and their changes over time
- ▶ goal: edited volume (together with Andreas Busch and Yana Breindl), chapters therein (manuscripts by Spring 2013)