

Climate Backlash: Contentious Reactions to Policy Action (BACKLASH)

Dr. James Patterson (Principal Investigator)

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Introduction

This project studies the emergence and dynamics of **volatile social-political reactions to climate policy**. Our objectives are to 1) identify the **drivers** of climate backlash, 2) determine the **mechanisms and processes** by which climate backlash occurs, 3) establish whether and how backlash diffuses within and between different contexts, and 4) explain different forms and variations of backlash across contexts.

Analytical/methodological approach

Combining insights from political science, policy studies, sociology, and geography, we pioneer an original **interdisciplinary lens** for studying climate backlash. We advance an ambitious **mixed-methods research design**, which we apply across a **two-level**, comparative study of patterns across OECD countries and four in-depth case studies (Australia, Canada, France, United Kingdom).

Project 1 – Ksenia Anisimova

Title Patterns of public responses to hard climate policies across OECD countries
Scope Medium-N, mixed-methods
Cases A sample of hard climate policies in OECD countries

Ksenia focuses on analyzing patterns of climate policy responses to hard climate policies in OECD countries. Her research aims to unravel complex interrelations between coercive policy action and transformation of socio-institutional systems.

Project 2 – Jasmin Logg-Scarvell

Title The bureaucratic politics of climate policy backlash
Scope Small-N, qualitative
Cases Contentious carbon pricing policies in Australia and Canada

Jasmin focuses on the role of policy elites in climate policy backlash. Her research aims to reveal how bureaucracies are shaped by - and help to shape - contentious climate policy trajectories at the national level.

Project 3 – Cille Kaiser

Title The contentious politics of climate change and the question of the problem
Scope Small-N, qualitative
Cases Political situations in France and the United Kingdom

Cille focuses on the socio-spatial dynamics of climate policy. Her research aims to unravel how spatially- and situationally specific problems activate and animate contentious interactions over climate and energy policies in West Cumbria (UK) and in Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France).

Socio-political context

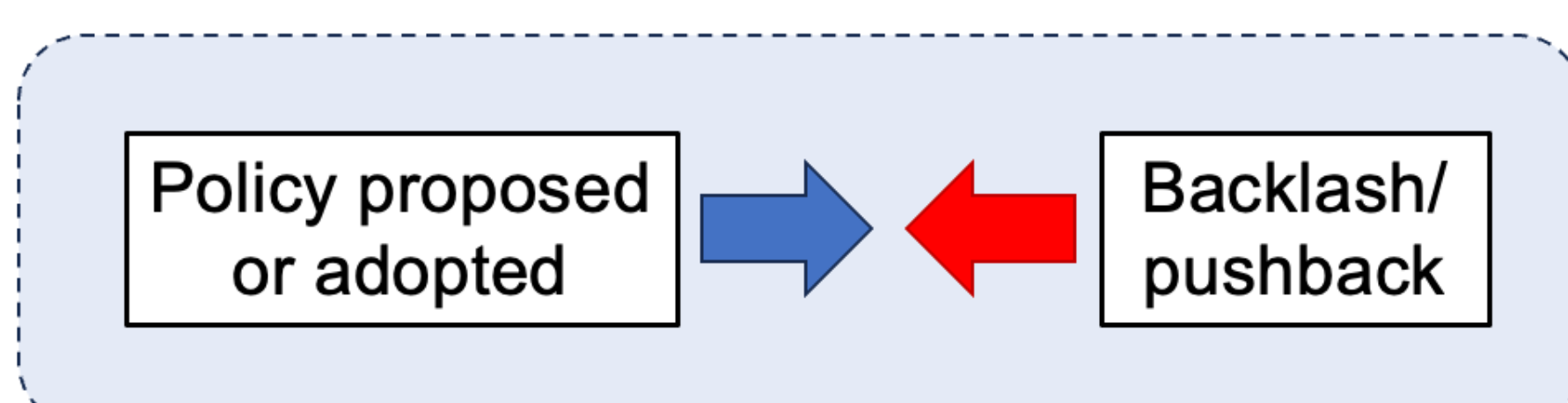


Figure 1
Backlash to climate policy



James Patterson



Ksenia Anisimova



Jasmin Logg-Scarvell



Cille Kaiser



<https://backlashproject.eu/>

References

1. Patterson, J. J. (2023). Backlash to climate policy. *Global Environmental Politics*, 23(1), 68-90.