



UiO : **Institutt for statsvitenskap**
Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet

**Elin Lerum Boasson, professor, political science, University of Oslo and
CICERO, Center for International Climate Research**

**How may states design public
organizations, processes, and policies, to
accelerate climate action towards net-zero
emissions?**





**KICK-OFF = MORE
QUESTIONS THAN
ANSWERS**

Accelerating Climate Action and the State: Getting to Net Zero (ACCELZ)

- Main objective
 - Enhance our understanding of how states can design public organizations, practices, and policies, to accelerate climate action towards net-zero emissions
- Secondary objectives:
 - Establish the study of the state's role in accelerating climate action as a research frontier within climate research
 - Specify how governments, and Norway in particular, can design its political-administrative apparatus and climate policy mix to ensure acceleration of climate action

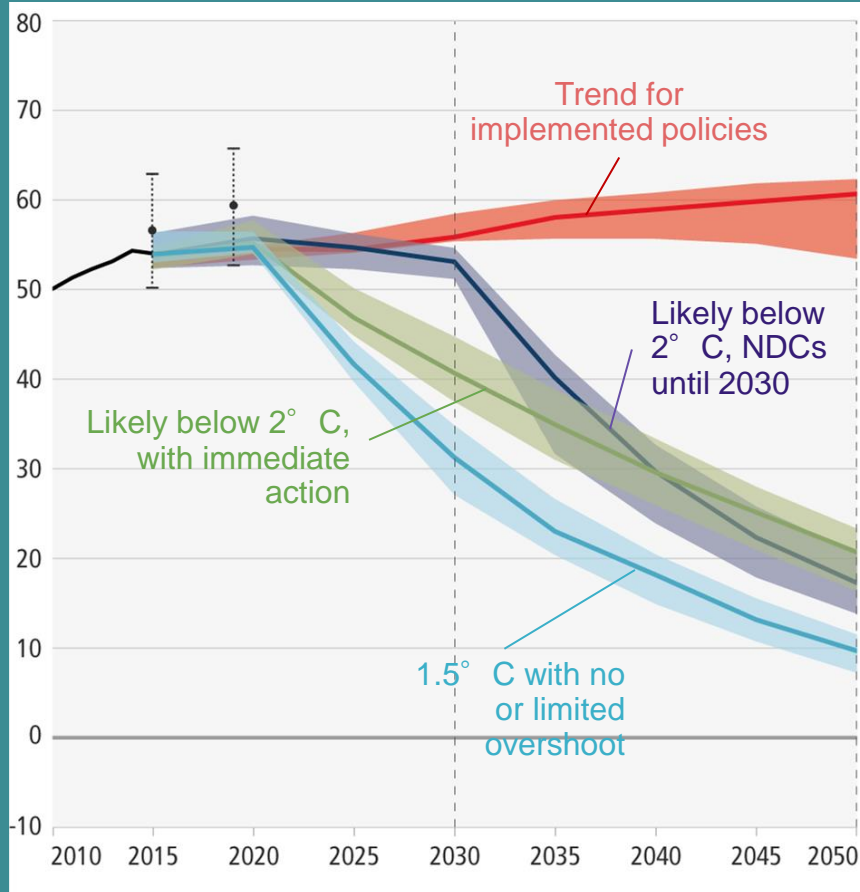
ACCELZ Core Research Team



2 PhD
candidates
Research
assistants



**IPCC WG III:
THE CHALLENGE**



Limiting warming to 1.5 ° C

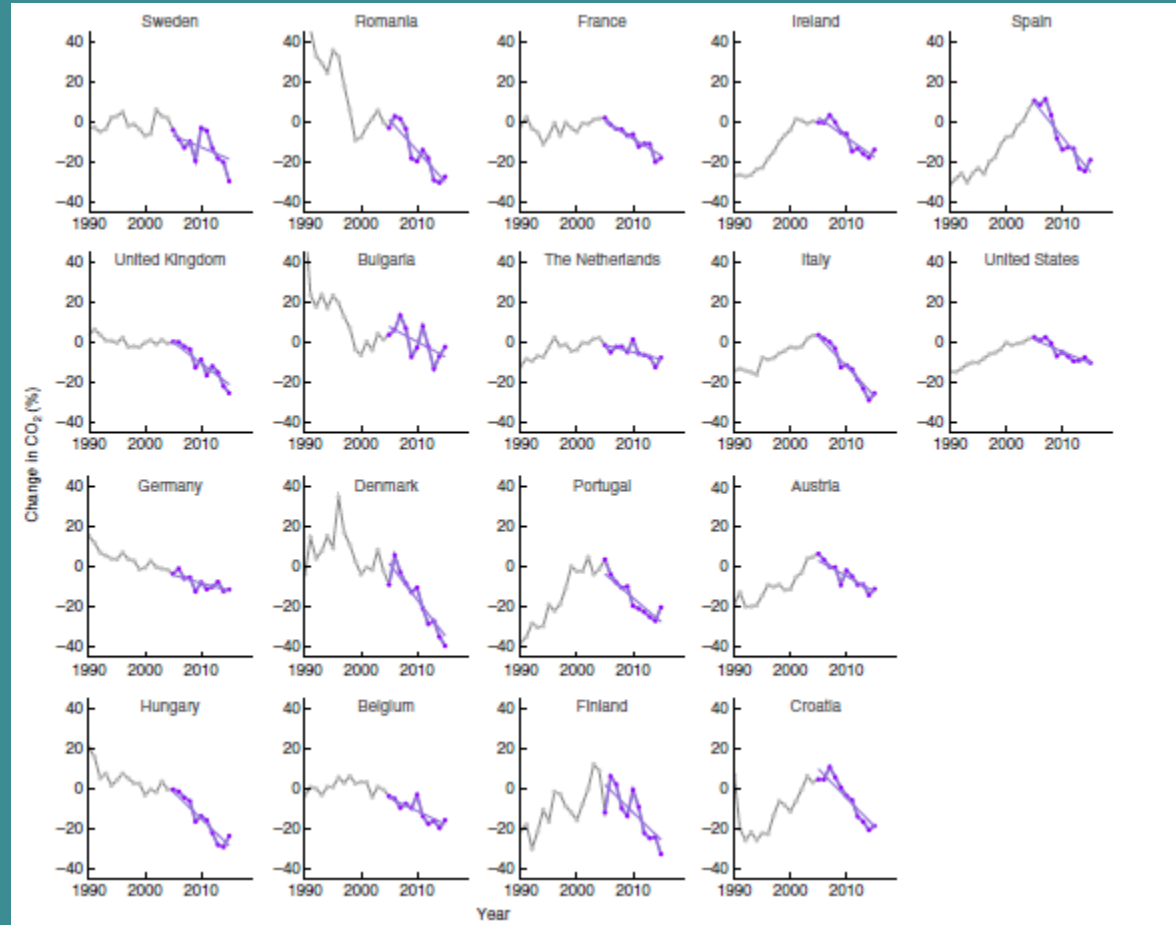
- Global GHG emissions peak before 2025, reduced by 43% by 2030.
- Methane reduced by 34% by 2030

Limiting warming to around 2° C

- Global GHG emissions peak before 2025, reduced by 27% by 2030.

(based on IPCC-assessed scenarios)

18 countries
have cut
emissions in
10 years



SOURCE: Le Quéré. et al., 2019. Drivers of declining CO₂ emissions
in 18 developed economies. *Nature Climate Change* 9, 213–17



**DEFINING
ACCELERATION OF
CLIMATE ACTION**

Glasgow, COP 26 2021 Cover Decision

Calls upon Parties to *accelerate* the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including *accelerating* efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition; (italics added).

What does 'acceleration of climate action' really mean?

DEPTH: Increase size of emissions cut, uptake of emissions, carbon removal or installation of low-carbon technology

- Higher cuts/uptakes every year

BREADTH: Increase the range of activities and sectors involved

- More activities included for every year



**THE ROLE OF THE STATE
IN THE ACCELERATION**

What is the role of the state in the acceleration?

Correcting market failure
STATES implement IPCC
conclusions



Spurring tech. change
STATES spur new
industry and this alters the
power balance

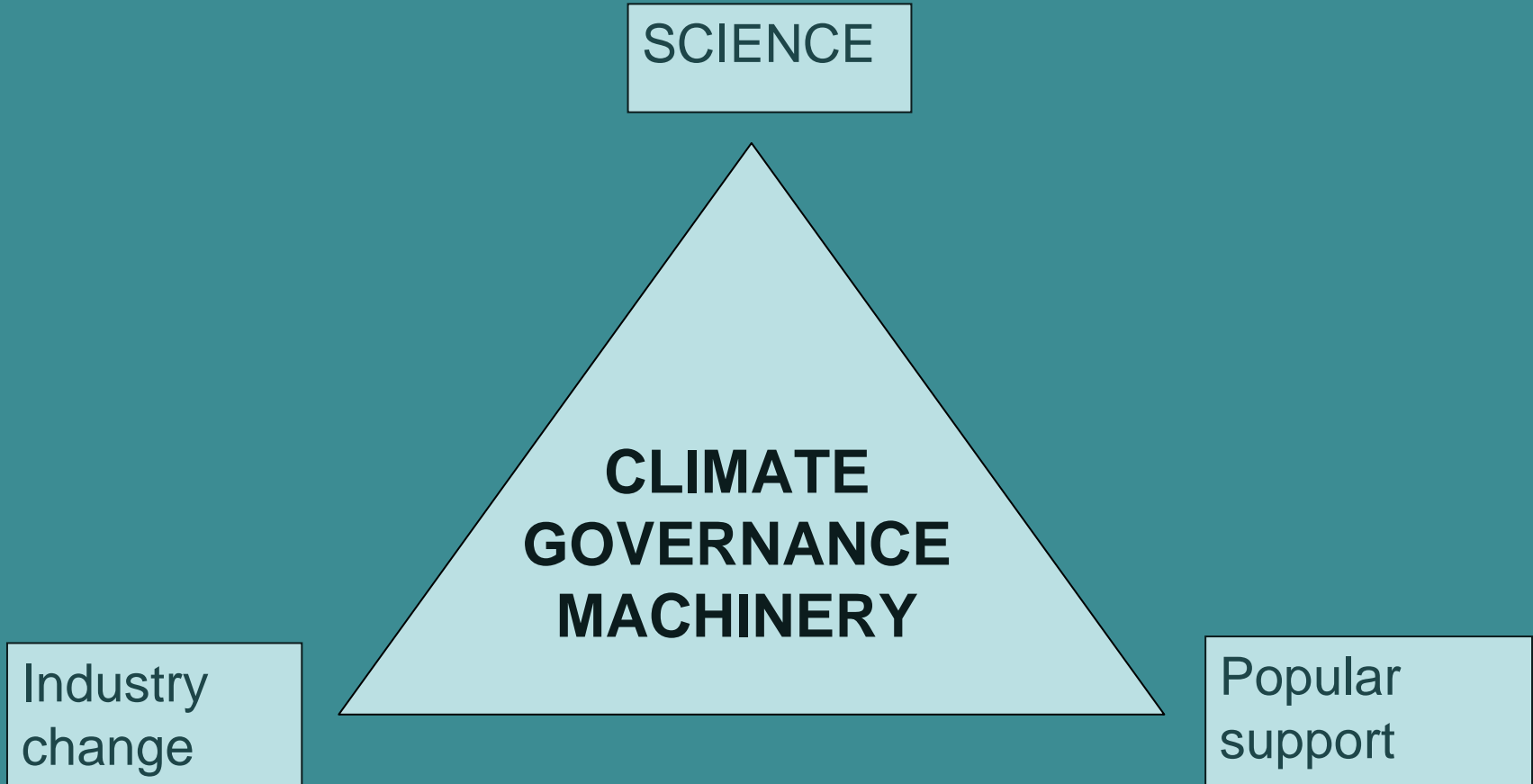


Popular support
STATES develop policy
mixes that increase
support over time

Governance model	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Acceleration characteristics			
Drivers	Science, expert bodies, de-politicization		
Depth	Initially shallow, incremental increases		
Breath	Economy wide		
International cooperation	Monocentric		

Governance model	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Acceleration characteristics			
Drivers	Science, expert bodies, de-politicization	Policy driving industry change, corporative negotiations	
Depth	Initially shallow, incremental increases	Uneven across sectors and over time	
Breath	Economy wide	Gradual broadening	
International cooperation	Monocentric	Polycentric	

Governance model	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Acceleration characteristics			
Drivers	Science, expert bodies, de-politicization	Policy driving industry change, corporative negotiations	Popular measures in the mix, inclusive processes
Depth	Initially shallow, incremental increases	Uneven across sectors and over time	Uneven across sectors and groups
Breath	Economy wide	Gradual broadening	Society wide
International cooperation	Monocentric	Polycentric	Polycentric





**THREE WAYS OF
DESIGNING THE
'MACHINERY OF THE
STATE'**



Strong public administrations are required – but how to design them?



MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Governance model	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Elements of the 'state machinery'			
Targets			
Organizational structures			
Decision-making processes			
Policy Instruments			

Governance model Elements of the 'state machinery'	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Targets	Emission reduction		
Organizational structures	Expert bodies Strong climate ministries and agencies		
Decision-making processes	Top-down De-politicization		
Policy Instruments	Carbon pricing, R&D support		

Governance model Elements of the 'state machinery'	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Targets	Emission reduction	Emission reduction + sector specific	
Organizational structures	Expert bodies Strong climate ministries and agencies	Industry, transport and other sector ministries have strong climate units	
Decision-making processes	Top-down De-politicization	Corporative processes Sector-specific decision-making	
Policy Instruments	Carbon pricing, R&D support	Tech. specific measures, state aid, voluntary agreement	

Governance model Elements of the 'state machinery'	Correcting market failure	Spurring tech. change	Spurring popular support
Targets	Emission reduction	Emission reduction + sector specific	Climate targets linked to welfare and other issue areas
Organizational structures	Expert bodies Strong climate ministries and agencies	Industry, transport and other sector ministries have strong climate units	Responsibilities delegated to municipalities Climate units in ministries remote from emissions
Decision-making processes	Top-down De-politicization	Corporative processes Sector-specific decision-making	Bottom-up Inclusive process Politicization
Policy Instruments	Carbon pricing, R&D support	Tech. specific measures, state aid, voluntary agreement	Complex + thick policy mixes

ACCELZ Research Questions

RQ 1	How is climate organized into the governmental apparatus, and what explains differences across countries and over time?	WP 1 WP2
RQ 2	What is the inter-relationship between how climate is organized into the state apparatus and climate policy mixes?	WP 2
RQ 3	How have the climate governing of states translated into GHG emission developments?	WP 3
RQ 4	How can states design public organizations, policies and practices to spur acceleration of climate action and reach net-zero?	WP 4