

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES RESEARCH GROUP



This research group examines the role of public policies in the field of environment in the broadest sense. It includes research in the fields of sustainable development, climate change, green growth and, more recently, energy and ecological transitions. It aims at making sense of the transition dynamics at work and to shed light on choices made by policy-makers and actors.

Thematically, this research group includes a set of research studies that evaluate such policies by focusing on the production of data, expertise and knowledge, the boundaries and limits of public regulation, and the functioning of the vast array of organisations (public, private, civil society) that contribute to environmental regulation. This research combines theoretical approaches and investigation methods from social sciences (political science, economics, sociology), natural sciences, and life sciences. This interdisciplinary approach allows us to respond to the challenges raised by the evaluation of environmental policies: actions conducted at multiple levels (international, European, national, local); a diversified "toolbox" (law, taxation, incentives, etc.); disjointed temporalities and uncertainties; strong permeability to context effects.

## Co-directors : Charlotte HALPERN



Tenured researcher in political science at Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (Sciences Po). Her research focuses on

the governing of ecological transitions from a governance and a public policy perspective. She is the director of the forthcoming Institute for Environmental Transformations.

## Martin HENDEL



Associate Professor at ESIEE Paris and member of Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Energies de Demain (LIED). His research

focuses on the study of urban cooling techniques, from the thermal behaviour of urban surfaces under heat wave conditions to decision support tools at the city project scale, including urban cooling technique evaluation.

## Affiliated members:

- Nathalie BLANC
- Jean CHICHE
- Nathalia CAPELLINI
- Benjamin CASHORE
- Cristina PEÑASCO
- Marc RINGEL

## Project holders PIREES 55:

- Marc RINGEL (European Chair for Sustainable Development and Climate Transition, Sciences Po)
- Cristina PEÑASCO (University of Cambridge)

## Project holders CAPin GHG :

- Charlotte HALPERN
- Benjamin CASHORE

## Project holders Civic Act 2 :

- Nathalie BLANC
- Jean CHICHE

## Systematic review project holders:

- Nathalia CAPELLINI
- Charlotte HALPERN

## Guiding research principles

- A processual approach to identify the actors and mechanisms at work from policy formulation to policy implementation;
- A cross-sectoral comparative perspective to address: first, the dynamics at play within issue-specific environmental policies (biodiversity, etc.) and resulting from the mainstreaming of environmental protection objectives throughout sectoral policies (agriculture, transport, energy, etc.); second, the comparison between political and institutional contexts to assess policy capacities throughout the policy process and across different levels of governance;
- Public policies analysed from the point of view of both their substance and their instrumentation in order to assess the specific role of monitoring and evaluation devices.

## Research projects, recent and ongoing:

### Policy Instruments for the energy efficiency sector (PIREES55): enabling mechanisms for a "FIT for 55" efficient transition

The Fit for 55 package adopted on 14 July 2021 by the European Commission includes a modification of the energy efficiency directive (EED), aligning its provisions to the new -55% GHG target. The goal of PIREES55 is to shed light on the up-streamed and down-streamed enabling mechanisms needed to reach the proposed EC targets and how these can be translated into national policy guidelines and strategies.

### Climate action plans inventories : policy instruments to reduce GHG emissions at the city level (CAPin GHG)

The CAPin GHG project is a project seeking to examine the selection, uses and effects of GHG inventories in cities in South East Asia and in Europe. Drawing on comparative public policy research, it combines a multilevel analysis of the changes taking place within national case studies and in a context where cities have become significant stakeholders and major drivers for implementing environmental ambitions.

### Understanding the role of collectives and their relations with public policies to reduce socio-environmental inequalities (CIVIC ACT 2)

The research project examines the relations between socio-environmental inequalities and mobilisations in the metropolitan territories of the Grand Paris from the perspective of a just transition, which combines social and environmental justice. This work is developed at the sub-municipal level by focusing on three municipalities of the Grand Paris. Qualitative and quantitative studies will be combined in an interdisciplinary manner (political science, geography, mathematics, statistics,) socio-economics

### Public policies and governance of ecological transitions: literature review.

This systematic and exploratory literature review aims to question the share devoted in studies on ecological transitions to political regulations and in particular to public policies and governance. Based on a corpus of 100 scientific articles, we conducted analyses by metadata, by sector and finally transversally, to identify how public policy and governance - as an object of study and as a discipline - inform the analysis of ecological transitions. In a second step, this literature review also aims to establish a dialogue with practitioners involved in the assessment of transitions, in order to refine the understanding of the role of public policy and governance in these processes.

## Scientific events (selective)

- **30/05/2023 Agriculture et cycle de l'azote**, co-hosted with LIED (Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Energies de Demain)
- **03/05/2023 Workshop Decarbonizing the health sector**, co-hosted with LIEPP's Health policies research group.
- **14/03/2023 European solidarity in the green transition**, co-hosted with LIEPP's socio-fiscal policies research group
- **03/02/2023 Ten Principles For Policymaking In The Energy Transition**: presentation of EEIST report and round table discussion
- **05/12/2022 Policy Instruments for the energy efficiency sector: enabling mechanisms for a "FIT for 55"** co-hosted with the European Investment Bank
- **23/09/2022 Planetary health, protecting nature to protect ourselves**, in cooperation with Alliance santé planétaire.
- **03/05/2022 and 04/05/2022 Planetary boundaries: academic debates and impact on public policies and collective actions** (co-hosted with the Earth Politics Center)
- **06/04/2022 The politics and policy of the allocation of development finance for renewable energy projects.**
- **04/04/2022 Planning the transition to an emission-neutral economy: the role of energy-environment-economy models** (in partnership with AIRE)
- **08/02/2022 Presentation of the literature review « Public policies and governance of ecological transitions »**

## Coopérations

- Centre des politiques de la terre
- Atelier interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l'environnement – AIRE
- Alliance Santé planétaire
- Centre Virchow-Villermé de Santé Publique Paris-Berlin
- EIB Institute



Centre des Politiques de la Terre



SANTÉ PLANÉTAIRE



## Publications

- Céline MAVROT, Fritz SAGER, Markus HINTERLEITNER, David KAUFMAN, Martin GROSJEAN, Thomas STOCKER, Quelle communication scientifique dans la lutte contre le changement climatique ?, *Sciences Po LIEPP Policy Brief*, n°63, February 2023.
- Anna Emilie WEHRLE, Policy Instruments for the energy efficiency sector : enabling mechanisms for a "FIT for 55", Summary for the workshop held on 05/12/2022.
- Charlotte HALPERN, Parnika RAY, Road Space Reallocation for Sustainable Urban Mobility in the EU: The balancing act between EU regulations and cities as urban space managers, *Sciences Po LIEPP Policy Brief* n°60, June 2022
- Carola KLÖCK, Paula CASTRO, and Florian WEILER, Coalitions in the Climate Change Negotiations, *Sciences Po LIEPP Policy Brief* n°55, October 2021.
- Jean-Noël JOUZEL, L'évaluation des risques des pesticides : entre science et fiction d'action publique, *Sciences Po LIEPP Policy Brief* 48, October 2020.