

UiO: Energy and Environment
Summer Research Project Description

Title: Ambition in International Climate Negotiations

Supervisor: Manjana Milkoreit

Preferred Background of Candidates: Master student in the social sciences, e.g., human geography, political science, or psychology, with some experience with literature reviews, qualitative research methods and/or computational methods for text analysis (text mining).

Number of projects: 1

Preferred project period: August 7 – October 29 (12 weeks/50% preferred, but would consider a 6-week project August 14 – September 29)

Project Work and Expected Outcomes:

The student would contribute to a research project that investigates whether and how the Paris Agreement on Climate Change increases countries' ambition in climate action over time. The project is led by NUPI Researcher Kacper Szulecki. The project aims to provide the first systematic evaluation of peer review mechanisms and their impact on national pledges. We ask: What are the effects of the Paris Agreement's Pledge & Review (P&R) mechanism on the contents of Nationally Determined Contributions? To answer this question, we will provide an empirical assessment of change in ambition resulting from the Paris Agreement's P&R and identify the causal mechanisms triggered by states' obligation to pledge, report, and review and the practices emerging around the key elements of the Agreement's P&R.

To build the conceptual foundations for this project, the supervisor is leading a sub-project that investigates the multiple meanings of the terms ambition and ambition mechanism in the context of the international climate change negotiation, and how this meaning has changed over time. The student will support this work by collecting and reviewing relevant literature, collecting data (documents from the negotiations of the UNFCCC, media reports and other texts available online), organizing a database, and conducting qualitative and computational content analyses. The supervisor will provide methodological training to enable the student to complete these tasks. The student would contribute to a jointly authored research article.

Expected outcomes of the work would be (1) database establishment, (2) presentation on results of qualitative and quantitative document analyses, and (3) drafting of sections of a research article.