

Who Counts as a Climate Expert? Interdisciplinarity, Expertise, and Climate Governance

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By

Sheryl Riju

Ylva Tordsdatter Halle

Tuva Iselin Haadem Hoff

Summary

This report was produced as part of a summer research project supporting the early development of a PhD project on interdisciplinarity, expertise, and democratic decision-making in Norwegian climate policy. The project explores how climate-related knowledge is produced and used in policymaking, which forms of expertise are most influential, and how different disciplinary perspectives contribute to addressing complex societal challenges.

The work combined policy analysis, literature review, and conceptual development. A substantial part of the project involved reviewing and analysing Norwegian Official Reports (NOUs) related to climate and environmental policy in order to identify how expertise is mobilised and represented in public decision-making processes. Through systematic reading, note-taking, and comparative analysis, key themes and patterns were identified across the reports.

In addition, the project explored theoretical perspectives on interdisciplinarity, collective reasoning, expertise, deliberative democracy, and the role of different knowledge traditions in climate governance. Academic literature from philosophy, political science, economics, and related fields was reviewed to examine the conditions under which diverse forms of knowledge can contribute to better decisions and more robust democratic processes.

Drawing on these analyses, the project developed a series of research notes, conceptual overviews, and preliminary research sketches intended to support the further development of the PhD project. The work highlights the challenges and opportunities associated with interdisciplinary approaches to climate policy and provides theoretical and empirical foundations for future research on expertise, knowledge production, and democratic governance in the context of climate change.