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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

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The CC-VISAGES project

The CC-VISAGES project (Climate Change Inferred through Social Analysis, Geography and Environmental Systems) is a postdoc / Habilitation project at the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU).

Its goal is to investigate a strategy for climate change policy analysis for multi-level governance. Considering findings that climate change mitigation covers a broad range of negotiations on the international scale including development, migration, and securities issues (Vlassopoulos, 2012), the different perceptions between national governments and their federal states, and between governmental bodies and communities, the different demands from different perspectives must be considered in the policy making process. The failure of the debates has been identified as been caused in the lack (or ignorance) of knowledge regarding the different demands from the various stakeholders in multi-level policy-making processes. Perceived justice (Kaufmann, 2012; Maguire & Lind, 2003; Steelman & Maguire, 1999) and the degree of marginalization frame antagonistic demands towards successful climate change governance. In order to provide such a frame, a critical policy analysis (Dryzek, 2009) frame was applied to describe the vulnerability to the climate change related distribution of environmental burdens and environmental goods.

The project developed a comparable human stress index (HSI) on the community level in the three chosen case countries of Brazil, Canada, and Germany. Using six (6) social vulnerabilities (income, education, age, gender, migration, population density) und the Temperature Humidity Index (THI), a Climatological Environmental Justice Index (CEJI) was developed. By the HIS,

THI, and CEJI three geographical representations of climate change vulnerabilities for each of the three countries were created through a geographical information system (GIS).

The comparable result is a list of vulnerable communities in each country. Top vulnerable communities are will be analysed at local with help of a comparable, mixed-method approach called Q Oracle (see below). The findings will be displayed in community based Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS) that complement to the macro GIS models.

The CC-VISAGES project provides a much needed multi-level policy frame to deal with the multifaceted issue of climate change.

The Q Oracle

The Q Oracle method was developed for the purpose of the CC-VISAGES project. Its applicability, however, ranges much further. The method is not limited to its primary scope of climate change.

It is a new method mix that helps both policy analysists and policy makers to find solutions for good governance. Combining two established methods, Q Methodology and Delphi Techniques, the method allows for transforming qualitative information from the involved stakeholders into measurable data.

The method is capable of revealing discourse differences within the field (e.g. community) and testing the possibility of consensus. Moreover, the method is able to provide a possible consensus or reveal the unresolved controversial aspects of a dispute.

Q Oracle analyses ideal-typical discourse differences in the field by statistical means and then tests the possibility of consensus.

Herewith, the method shows which arguments go together with each other. Unlike classical surveys that can tell something about what a group of persons is thinking about a topic, Q Oracle draws connections between statements. The method provides answers to the question of *what goes with what*, and not *who goes with whom* as large surveys do. The existing discourses are inferred by the inverted bell curve.

Based on the existing discourses, the method allows for distilling the discourse differences by statistical means. The discourse differences are found in the different degree of acceptance or disagreement regarding single statements by the experts.

The experts are then asked to discuss these differences in an anonymous and monitored manner. The Kendall W coefficient of concordance will tell whether a formal consensus can be achieved. The commentaries will give the monitoring team the information that are needed to interpret both the process of discussion and remaining open issues.

Final counselling will then rely on empirical data that can even be mapped by the geographic position of the participants.

Ethical issues or issues of data privacy don't occur since the research focus is the opinion and not the person itself that provides the information.

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