

## Propositions

accompanying the thesis

### **The Turbulent Waters of Climate Action: Public Trust, Public Attention, and Climate Policy Intractability in Developed Countries**

by

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1. The role of media audiences in coalitional organizing and associated influences on policy outcomes is not sufficiently addressed in policy process theory, particularly with respect to the role and impact of extreme weather events (Chapter 5).
2. The frequency and severity of climate/environment-related *focusing events* cannot alone be relied upon to direct attention to climate policy. It is necessary to also understand how media preemptively condition public attention (Chapter 6).
3. Individuals are more willing to lend trust and exhibit confidence in institutions associated with media and politics when they can be assured of the effectiveness of policy commitments to the global greater good (Chapter 7).
4. Policymakers and scholars too often overlook how the confluence of public trust and public attention influence policy processes and outcomes (Chapter 8).
5. Climate policy intractability must be addressed by considering 'upstream' influences that can nudge the public from passive climate policy acceptance to active support for international climate policy commitments.
6. The capacity of nations to mobilize collective responses to the threat of climate change is the defining issue of this century.
7. Historic and projected GHG emissions require responses that go beyond mitigation strategies alone. Responses to the threat of climate change must also include aggressive adaptation strategies.
8. International normative institutions play a significant role in defining climate policy goals and defining the steps necessary to achieve the same.
9. Financial institutions – be these public, private or multilateral – are critical enablers in the transition to a post-carbon future.
10. Continued engagement of *all* countries, regardless of political systems or ideology, is necessary if we are to make progress in global climate policy.
11. "We must hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."