

Two Levels, Two Strategies: Explaining the Gap Between Swiss National and International Responses Toward Climate Change

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Abstract

In a complex and multilevel regime, countries' national and international strategies to address climate change may considerably differ. Adopting an actor-centered approach, the aim of this article is to outline and understand the potential difference between a nation's domestic climate policy and its position in the international climate regime. We adopt social network analysis focusing on actors' identification, their relational profiles, interests, and resources. Through survey data and content analysis, we focus on those actors' positions within Swiss national and foreign climate policy. Results show that it is crucial to identify actors that participate in both the national and foreign policymaking. But participation on two levels seems to be a necessary but not sufficient condition. Actors should play a central role in both processes, and defend similar policy interests on the two levels, in order for them to be able to coordinate actions and produce coherent outputs in overlapping subsystems.

Keywords: *Multilevel governance; policy output; climate change; social network analysis; Switzerland; two-level game*

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