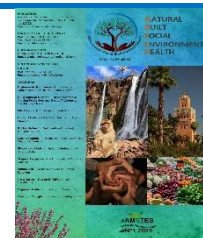




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BOOK REVIEW

From Paris to Glasgow. In Search of Policies for Climate Negotiations and their Implementation, by Majid Asadnabizadeh, Berlin: Logos Verlag Berlin GmbH, 2025, 247 pp., €39.50 (hardback), ISBN: 978-3-8325-5764-5.

The author opens this ambitious work with a compelling question: how have international climate negotiations evolved since the Paris Agreement, and what frameworks can help us understand their implementation? Far more than a mere historical account, as traditional analyses often present climate governance, this book introduces a novel theoretical framework—Intergovernmental Integrated Decision-making (IID)—that offers both diagnostic and prescriptive approaches to addressing climate change governance (pp. 1-3).

By deconstructing conventional theoretical frameworks, Asadnabizadeh examines climate negotiations through a systemic approach, intertwining political science, international relations theory, and environmental governance. The author highlights the transition from the Kyoto Protocol's imposed targets to the Paris Agreement's voluntary nationally determined contributions (NDCs), arguing that this shift represents a "real transformation" in global climate governance that requires new analytical tools (p. viii).

The author first traces the evolution of climate negotiations and justifies the need for effective integrated analysis. Drawing on established theories, including regime theory and the epistemic community approach of Peter M. Haas, Young, Keohane, and Nye, Asadnabizadeh constructs a five-component framework comprising decision situation, decision centre, decision process, decision itself, and implementation—all interconnected elements that provide a comprehensive lens for understanding climate governance (pp. 57-83). This approach complements Bodansky *et al.*'s [1] comprehensive analysis of international climate change law and builds on Gupta and van der Grijp's [2] work on mainstreaming climate change in development cooperation.

The book's methodological approach combines historical analysis with a multi-criteria assessment framework, dividing the decision-making process into political stages (PS-DMP) and economic stages (ES-DMP). This dual structure allows the author to identify approximately

17 political tipping points and 12 economic tipping points that have characterized global climate negotiations (pp. 150-152), providing a nuanced understanding of how decisions are formed and implemented in this complex arena. This approach addresses gaps identified by Keohane and Victor [3], who noted the fragmented nature of climate governance institutions.

The first chapter examines the global climate change situation, exploring both natural causes (volcanic activity, solar output, Earth's orbit) and anthropogenic factors (transportation, industrialisation, deforestation). The author's detailed analysis of the scientific evidence through IPCC, UNFCCC, and other institutions' findings demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the physical basis for climate action (pp. 7-46). The author's perspective extends Rayner and Jordan's [4] examination of EU climate policy, while offering a more optimistic view than Spash [5], who critiques the Paris Agreement as inadequate to address climate realities.

In the second chapter, Asadnabizadeh introduces a multi-criteria assessment framework for evaluating the decision-making centre, categorising key actors into developed countries, developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing states (pp. 47-98). This categorisation highlights the power dynamics and competing interests that shape climate negotiations, addressing methodological gaps identified by Vihma [6] in UN climate negotiations analysis.

The third chapter presents perhaps the book's most innovative contribution: a two-stage structure for analysing the Paris Agreement negotiations, tracing the political stages through Durban, Doha, Warsaw, Lima, and Paris, while parallel economic phases shaped the underlying conditions for agreement (pp. 99-152). This analytical framework offers a powerful tool for understanding how complex international decisions emerge from multiple, overlapping processes, building on Young's [7] emphasis on the need for adaptive governance systems in the Anthropocene era.

The fourth chapter dissects the Paris Agreement itself, examining its principles (CBDR, human rights, gender equality, food security) and rules for NDCs. The author's analysis reveals how the Agreement establishes substantive elements through transparency mechanisms, loss and damage provisions, education and public awareness requirements, voluntary cooperative approaches, and financial mechanisms (pp. 153-200). This detailed examination provides insights into both the strengths and limitations of the Agreement as a governance framework.

The fifth chapter evaluates the post-Paris implementation process through COP22 to COP26, with particular attention to Article 6 mechanisms. The author's analysis of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), the Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM), and non-market approaches (NMAs) reveals the critical importance of carbon markets in the future of climate governance (pp. 201-242). The author notes that "Article 6 and carbon market mechanisms" will be the central focus of climate negotiations from Paris to Glasgow and beyond (p. 245).

The IID framework represents the book's central theoretical contribution, characterised as "multidimensional," "interactive," "emergent," "iterative," "dynamic," and "synergistic" (p. 245). Unlike previous approaches that analyse environmental decision-making broadly, IID specifically examines the politics of global climate negotiations since Paris, linking national and international politics in a unique way. The author presents this framework as a "3-axis model" with exploration, interpretation, and finalisation steps (p. 245), providing both analytical clarity and practical utility.

The author concludes that the Paris Agreement embodies a "real architecture" in global climate decision-making, not merely a "mirage" or "dummy" (pp. 242-245). This optimistic assessment is tempered by recognition of implementation challenges, particularly regarding Article 6 and carbon markets. The book's final message echoes the author's own words: "Climate change is a huge and dramatic event that requires collective thinking and collective action" (p. 5).

Logos Verlag Berlin, known for its academic publications in environmental policy and international relations, delivers an essential reference with this book. A comprehensive analysis of climate governance evolution, this volume meticulously examines global negotiation frameworks, highlighting both the limitations of current approaches and the opportunities for more effective implementation. Through its innovative IID framework, it offers concrete pathways toward more coherent and sustainable climate governance.

More than just an assessment of the status quo, this indispensable handbook provides both a theoretical foundation and practical tools to rethink international climate cooperation. For climate negotiators, scholars of international relations, environmental policy students, and climate policy practitioners, Asadnabizadeh's work represents a significant contribution to understanding and improving the complex architecture of global climate governance.

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