

FSR Climate Annual Conference 2022 – 8th edition

Thursday 1 December

10:00-12:15 | Session – Environmental taxation

Presenter: Adrien FABRE (CIRED & ETH Zurich)

Title: *Fighting Climate Change: International Attitudes Toward Climate Policies*

Abstract:

Using new surveys on more than 40,000 respondents in twenty countries that account for 72% of global CO₂ emissions, we study the understanding of and attitudes toward climate change and climate policies. We show that, across countries, support for climate policies hinges on three key perceptions centered around the effectiveness of the policies in reducing emissions (effectiveness concerns), their distributional impacts on lower-income households (inequality concerns), and their impact on the respondents' household (self-interest). We show experimentally that information specifically addressing these key concerns can substantially increase the support for climate policies in many countries. Explaining how policies work and who can benefit from them is critical to foster policy support, whereas simply informing people about the impacts of climate change is not effective. Furthermore, we identify several socioeconomic and lifestyle factors – most notably education, political leanings, and availability of public transportation – that are significantly correlated with both policy views and overall reasoning and beliefs about climate policies. However, it is difficult to predict beliefs or policy views based on these characteristics only.

Co-authors: Antoine Dechezleprêtre, Adrien Fabre, Tobias Kruse, Bluebery Planterose, Ana Sanchez Chico, Stefanie Stantcheva

Webpage and programme [here](#)