**Climate Transition, Governance and Democracy**

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Can global environmental threats such as climate change be best handled within the institutions of democracy? Alternatively, are democratic polities too slow and cumbersome to handle accelerating global risks and low carbon societal transition? Do mechanisms to increase representation and participation of civil society and NGOs in international policy processes lead to a democratization of global environmental politics? I review the tensions and synergies between democracy and environmentalism. The concept of ecological democracy (or green, environmental democracy) revolves around how to make a commitment to environmental protection compatible with democracy on national and global scales. Eco-authoritarians are skeptical that democracy with its slow and cumbersome process can handle the scale and severity of the global environmental crisis while work on deliberative democracy and environmental citizenship reflects reconciliation between environmental politics and democracy. The widespread notion that humanity has entered the Anthropocene epoch—marked by humanity’s pervasive impact on ecosystems worldwide—has reinforced debates on the democracy-environment nexus . Democratic values, such as representation, inclusion, participation, accountability, and transparency are central research themes in global climate politics. There has been a rise in mechanisms to increase participation and accountability on national levels, in global environmental summits and EU governance, such as multi-stakeholder dialogues, institutionalized representation of NGOs, and civil society deliberation. These represent democratic innovations, which have consolidated a model of “participatory” or “bottom up” environmental governance aimed to reduce the “democratic deficit”. These practices are embedded in various models of democracy – deliberative, representative, stakeholder and participatory.