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Globalising the Climate: COP 21 and the Climatisation of Global Debates; Stefan C. Aykut, Jean Foyer and Edouard Morena; Oxon and New York; Routledge; 2017; 198 pp.; Index; 105 GBP; 9781138675599; e-book available.

Globalising the Climate: COP 21 and the Climatisation of Global Debates describes in details the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) on climate change issues where states adopted the Paris Agreement on climate change. Yet, it does not comment in details the content of the Paris Agreement. Rather, it details the process that led to the agreement, focusing mostly on non-state dynamics. The choice to refer to a climate change conference without analysing its formal output indeed rests on the conviction that climate change reflects many other current global problems and is therefore illustrative of broader debates. Isolating the COP 21 from the rest of the world's dynamics is impossible.

Before detailing the analytical focus of the volume, a short note on its methodology is in order. Announced as “collective” (p.11) it rests on “a fairly young research collective of approximately twenty researchers, representing a variety of different institutions, disciplines (...) and specialities and theoretical groundings ...”. It is exclusively qualitative with each researcher conducting fieldwork observations and interviews with key actors. To increase the cohesion of the group and to create a common lens of analysis, the team even rented a flat in Paris, it used as a project hub during the COP. The result of this methodology, in terms of the coherency of the edited volume, is remarkable. The entire book is indeed organised around two analytical threads, broad enough to enable different research sensitivities to still be expressed, but federating enough to enable comparisons across chapters.

The first thread concerns the issue of the “globalisation of the climate” defined as “the inclusion of new issues and actors into the climate regime” (p.5). The “globalisation of the climate” rationale is straightforward: we cannot ruin the planet to save the climate. As a result, concerns about development discrepancies, climate vulnerability or technological capacities for instance have to be included in international climate talks to make adopted solutions feasible both for the climate and for the planet.

The second thread concerns the dynamic of the “climatisation of the world”, “whereby actors in other arenas present issues that were formerly unrelated to the climate problem through a “climatic lens”” (p.5). For instance, traditional security fora such as the United Nations Security Council are starting to embrace the climate issue (see Chapter 6). The book was actually published a weeks before Trump's declaration explaining that the United States would not join the Paris Agreement, showing that the climatisation of the world could be reversed.

In addition to providing for a strong discussion on both aspects, the book is also impressive for providing fresh insights in neglected topics of global environmental politics. First, it highlights new aspects of climate politics. For instance, in Chapter 2, one learns that the adopted scientific target – the 1,5 ° limit – has been very controversial, especially inside the scientific community that recognised the accuracy of the target but feared that states would be discouraged and therefore not respect it. Another interesting element in Chapter 8 is that indigenous and local knowledge can be used to adapt to climate change. Chapter 4 presents new forms of civil society organisations, like the Place2B, an “outside-insiders” organisation, a category defined as “movement actors who actively support and promote the formal negotiation process without directly engaging in it” (p. 77).

Second, the book covers an impressive range of actors that have usually been neglected in former studies on climate change politics, such as philanthropic foundations (Chapter 5), indigenous populations (Chapter 8), international development stakeholders (Chapter 7). This also means that the book makes the novel choice not to centre on state politics (at the exception of Chapter 1 on the formal negotiation process).

Third, the book embraces the recent trend of institutional interactions' studies, discussing cross-pollination successes and failures between climate change and other pressing international issues such as security (Chapter 6) or energy (Chapter 9). While the globalisation of the climate is progressing, the climatisation of the world is only incomplete, with "selective climatisation" (p. 186) occurring in topics such as global energy governance.

Despite the absence of a conclusion, the concluding message of the volume is rather clear: it is a praise of pragmatism, in line with the "paradigm shift" (p. 9) introduced by the Paris Agreement and according to which the aim is to make climate change governable without governing, by creating collateral performativity schemes and irreversibility. Overall, it seems that this paradigm shift is welcome by a number of actors, and not least by business coalitions: "the business voice that emerged from COP 21 showed actual awareness for the disruptive power of climate change as an investment handicap, an unwanted uncertainty compromising strategic planning" (p.72). Because this paradigm shift is sensitive, "the priority thus becomes of finding new, innovative and more effective ways of building up a global movement beyond COPs" (p. 92). There is no doubt that this edited volume will inspire such a global movement.