

# KlimaCampus Kolloquium

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## **From climate change to social change: Directions for future social science research and science-policy interactions**

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### **Abstract**

Responding to climate change is not only a matter of infrastructural adjustments, like building dikes, or technical innovations such as implementing renewable energies. Instead, it is a complex process of societal transformations that should be studied as such. The contribution of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) is crucial to understanding these processes of change. In view of the societal changes that response to climate change will inevitably entail, it is argued that the social sciences should have a more prominent role in climate change research. It is very important to have a discussion within the SSH community about the most important social science research topics for the next decade.

SSH research should not only be of scientific value, but also action-oriented and contribute to the development and implementation of successful mitigation and adaptation policies on the international, national, regional and local levels. A better interaction between science and society could increase the relevance of climate research and will contribute to a better application of knowledge and policy recommendations.

Therefore, in this lecture two main questions will be addressed: (a) What are relevant social science research topics for the next decade? (b) How to organise effectively science-policy interactions in order to 'enrich' decision-making or to enhance utilisation of knowledge in public and private decision-making?

Peter Driessen will present his view on these questions, based on his experiences with the European *JPI* climate research programme and the Dutch national research programme *Knowledge for Climate*.