

# Wolfgang Habla

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## Research Interests

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Political Economics, Public Finance, Environmental and Resource Economics, Transport and Urban Economics, Behavioral Economics

## Current Positions & Affiliations

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04/2017 – present Senior Researcher at ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, **Mannheim (Germany)**  
02/2018 – present Affiliated Researcher DFG Collaborative Research Center 884 (SFB 884) “Political Economy of Reforms”,  
**University of Mannheim (Germany)**

## Education & Previous Positions

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02/2018 – 12/2018 Postdoc at the Department of Economics (Chair Professor Ulrich Wagner), **University of Mannheim (Germany)**  
04/2015 – 03/2017 Postdoc at the Department of Economics, **University of Gothenburg (Sweden)**  
04/2009 – 03/2015 Teaching and Research Assistant at the Chair of Public Finance (Bernd Huber),  
**University of Munich (Germany)**  
09/2014 – 10/2014 Visiting Scholar (invited by David Anthoff), **University of California, Berkeley (USA)**  
04/2010 – 10/2014 Ph.D. Thesis on “Environmental Policy in a Politically Motivated World”  
Supervisors: Ralph Winkler, University of Bern and Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research  
Karen Pittel, Ifo Institute and University of Munich  
Grade: summa cum laude (Dr. oec. publ.)  
Date of defense: 10/30/2014  
10/2003 – 03/2009 Diploma (Master’s level) in Economics,  
**Universities of Munich and Regensburg (Germany)**  
8/2006 – 12/2006 System Dynamics (first part of Master’s program),  
**University of Bergen (Norway)**

## Publications

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[Policy Design for the Anthropocene](#) (joint with Thomas Sterner, Edward B. Barbier, Ian Bateman, Inge van den Bijgaart, Anne-Sophie Crépin, Ottmar Edenhofer, Carolyn Fischer, John Hassler, Olof Johansson-Stenman, Andreas Lange, Stephen Polasky, Johan Rockström, Henrik G. Smith, Will Steffen, Gernot Wagner, James E. Wilen, Francisco Alpizar, Christian Azar, Donna Carless, Carlos Chávez, Jessica Coria, Gustav Engström, Sverker C. Jagers, Gunnar Köhlin, Åsa Löfgren, Håkan Pleijel, Amanda Robinson), **Nature Sustainability**, Volume 2, 2019, pp. 14–21.

*Abstract:* Today more than ever “Spaceship Earth” is an apt metaphor as we chart the planetary boundaries for a safe planet. As social scientists, we both analyse why society courts disaster by approaching or even overstepping these boundaries, and we try to design suitable policies to avoid these perils. Since the threats of transgressing planetary boundaries are global, long-run, uncertain and interconnected they must be analysed together to avoid conflicts and take advantage of synergies. To obtain policies that are effective at both international and local levels requires careful analysis of the underlying mechanisms across scientific disciplines and approaches and to take politics into account.

[Climate Policy under Factor Mobility: A \(Differentiated\) Case for Capital Taxation](#), **Journal of Environmental Economics and Management**, Volume 92, November 2018, pp. 100-124.

*Abstract:* In a general equilibrium model with two periods and a finite fossil resource, I analyze the non-cooperative climate policies of symmetric countries that are in competition for mobile factors of production (capital and fossil energy). The paper shows that countries that want to slow down climate change but are also concerned about tax revenues from mobile tax bases have a rationale to supplement environmental taxes on fossil fuels with source-based capital taxes (or subsidies). More specifically, countries find it beneficial to subsidize capital in period one and tax it in period two. The first-period subsidy on capital facilitates a higher environmental tax by counteracting its adverse effects, and increases national and global welfare in equilibrium. By contrast, the capital tax in period two induces inter- and intratemporal distortions that lead to lower welfare. The rate of resource extraction is inefficiently high in equilibrium, no matter which tax

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portfolio is at the governments' disposal. Furthermore, unintended ('Green Paradox') effects of demand-side policies are shown to arise even in general equilibrium with factor mobility. Finally, factor mobility does not necessarily lead to a higher rate of extraction and lower welfare compared to autarky.

[Strategic Delegation and International Permit Markets: Why Linking May Fail](#) (joint with Ralph Winkler), **Journal of Environmental Economics and Management**, Volume 92, November 2018, pp. 244-250.

*Abstract:* We analyse a delegation problem in the context of international climate policy. Principals in two countries first decide whether to merge domestic emission permit markets to an international market, then delegate the domestic permit supply to an agent. We find that principals select agents caring less for environmental damages than they do themselves in case of an international market regime, while they opt for self-representation in case of domestic markets. This strategic delegation incentive renders the linking of permit markets less attractive and constitutes a novel explanation for the reluctance to establish non-cooperative international permit markets.

[The Political Economy of Mitigation vs. Adaptation](#) (joint with Kerstin Roeder), **European Economic Review**, Volume 92, February 2017, pp. 239-257.

*Abstract:* Climate policies have very uneven effects in terms of their fiscal impact. While mitigation of climate change typically raises revenues, adaptation is costly to the taxpayer, and the more so, the more distortionary the tax system. Moreover, the benefits and costs of mitigation and adaptation vary across generations. In an OLG model with majority voting, we show that even in the absence of international pollution spillovers and strategic considerations, neither mitigation nor adaptation can be expected to be set efficiently. The reason is that voters have incentives to use climate policy as an instrument for redistribution. We find that these incentives depend on the underlying tax system. Furthermore, the chosen mitigation or adaptation level may be inefficiently high in a political equilibrium with a distortionary income tax system, although not simultaneously. This finding suggests that a distortionary income tax system favors one policy (mitigation or adaptation) at the expense of the other. The calibration of our model to the German economy reveals that both mitigation and adaptation are lower than their socially optimal levels.

[Political Influence on Non-cooperative International Climate Policy](#) (joint with Ralph Winkler), **Journal of Environmental Economics and Management**, Volume 66, Issue 2, September 2013, pp. 219-234.

*Abstract:* We analyze non-cooperative international climate policy in a setting of political competition by national interest groups. In the first stage, countries decide whether to link their domestic emission permit markets to an international market, which only forms if it is supported by all countries. In the second stage, countries non-cooperatively decide on the number of tradable emission allowances. In both stages, special interest groups try to sway the government in their favor. We find that (i) both the choice of regime and the levels of domestic and global emissions only depend on the aggregate levels of organized stakes in all countries and not on their distribution among individual interest groups and (ii) an increase in lobbying influence by a particular lobby group may backfire by inducing a change towards the lobby group's less preferred regime.

[Intergenerational Aspects of Ecotax Reforms – an Application to Germany](#) (joint with Kerstin Roeder), **Journal of Environmental Economics and Management**, Volume 66, Issue 2, September 2013, pp. 301-318.

*Abstract:* In a model of overlapping generations and majority voting, we analyze an ecotax reform consisting of the tax rate and the budgetary rule. Revenue can be recycled through a lump-sum transfer or a reduction in pension contributions. Our theoretical results as well as the calibration of our model to the German economy show that the median voter's preferred tax rate may exceed the efficient rate. This holds whenever income of the decisive voter is sufficiently high compared to the average income, as rich individuals benefit more from a reduction in pension contributions than they are harmed by an increase in ecotaxes. The calibration confirms that the median voter prefers the earmarking of tax revenue for reductions in pension contributions to the alternative lump-sum transfer. This is quite an accurate prediction of the situation in Germany. Aging of society as expected for Germany lowers the ecotax in the political equilibrium below its optimal level.

## Current Working Papers & Work in Progress

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[Experimental and Non-Experimental Evidence on Limited Attention and Present Bias at the Gym](#) (joint with Paul Muller; submitted).

Managerial Incentives for Environmental Degradation in Chinese-style Federalism (joint with Yuanyuan Yi and Jintao Xu; submitted).

Lobbying in the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (joint with Dimitri Sizerman and Ulrich Wagner).

Electric vs. Conventional Vehicles: Environmental Externalities and Urban Spatial Policies (joint with Efthymia Kyriakopoulou and Erik Verhoef).

Strategic Delegation and Centralised Climate Policy (joint with Maria Arvaniti).

Capital Tax Competition under a Centralized Emissions Cap (joint with Oliver Schenker and Ralph Winkler).

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Self-driving Vehicles in Dilemma Situations: Some Experimental Ethics (joint with Mitesh Kataria, Peter Martinsson and Kerstin Roeder).

## Research Grants & Externally Funded Projects

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Urban form, location choice and transport solutions for low-carbon cities ([BREATHE](#); funded under EU JPI): case study on Gothenburg (computable spatial general equilibrium model; joint work with the OECD).

Pathways to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Supply Chains ([Mistra Carbon Exit](#); funded by MISTRA): sub-project on the political economy of electric vehicle subsidies.

Forschungsnetzwerk zur Entwicklung neuer Methoden der Energiesystem-Modellierung ([4NEMO](#); funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy).

## Conference Participation & Invited Talks

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- 2019 Environmental Economics Brownbag Seminar, University of **Hamburg (Germany)**; Environmental Economics Brownbag Seminar, University of **Gothenburg (Sweden)**
- 2018 WCERE, **Gothenburg (Sweden)**.
- 2017 FZU-ZEW Environmental Economics Monthly Brownbag Seminar, University of Heidelberg, **Heidelberg (Germany)**; APET, **Paris (France)**; Research Seminar Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, **Berlin (Germany)**.
- 2016 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian PhD and Early Career Workshop in Environmental Economics, **Ottawa (Canada)**; Swedish National Conference in Economics, **Gothenburg (Sweden)**; Environmental Economics Seminar Toulouse School of Economics, **Toulouse (France)**.
- 2015 Environmental Protection & Sustainability Forum, **Bath (UK)**; EAERE, **Helsinki (Finland)**; Journées “Énergie et territoires”, **Dijon (France)**; Research Seminar in **Umeå (Sweden)** and **Augsburg (Germany)**.
- 2014 Research Seminar on Environment, Resource & Climate Economics, **TU Berlin (Germany)**.
- 2013 International Workshop on Natural Resources, Environment, Urban Economics, International Trade & Industrial Organization, **St. Petersburg (Russia)**.
- 2012 APET, **Taipei (Taiwan)**; Atlantic Workshop on Energy & Environmental Economics, **A Toxa (Spain)**; Silvaplana Workshop in Political Economy, **Silvaplana (Switzerland)**.
- 2011 IIPF, **Ann Arbor (USA)**; EAERE, **Rome (Italy)**; Climate Economics & Law Conference, **Bern (Switzerland)**; Environmental Protection & Sustainability Forum, **Exeter (UK)**; Brown Bag Seminar **University of Bern (Switzerland)**.

## Popular Writing (with various co-authors) & Media Coverage

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[Wie der Einfluss von Lobbyismus auf die Politik in Deutschland und der EU wahrgenommen wird – Auswertung einer repräsentativen Umfrage in Deutschland zu Lobbyismus allgemein und Lobbyismus in der EU-Klimapolitik](#), **ZEW Kurzexpertise** August 2019.

[Für eine evidenzbasierte Debatte um die innerstädtische Schadstoffbelastung](#), **ZEW News** Juni 2019.

[Tempolimits und Grenzwerte: für eine evidenzbasierte verkehrspolitische Debatte](#), **Wirtschaftsdienst**, Volume 99, Issue 5, 2019, pp. 330-334.

[“Was Schadstoffe in der Luft uns alle kosten”](#), Standpunkt im **Tagesspiegel** Background, April 2019.

[Erinnerungen per E-Mail motivieren zu häufigerem Training](#), **ZEW News** April 2019.

[„Freie Fahrt für freie Bürger?“ – Für eine Versachlichung der Debatte um Tempolimits](#), **ZEW News** April 2019.

[Plädoyer für eine evidenzbasierte Politik in der Debatte um Grenzwerte und Tempolimits](#), **ZEW policy brief**, April 2019.

[Schwerpunkt Energiemarkt](#) (ZEW Energiemarktbarometer), **ZEW News** July/August 2018.

[Wie die zunehmende Elektromobilität die Energiebranche herausfordert](#) (ZEW Energiemarktbarometer), **ZEW News** January/February 2018.

[The future of electric vehicles according to experts in the energy sector](#), **The Conversation**, February 2018.

[COP23: Enttäuschung über EU-Klimaplan](#), Interview with **Deutsche Welle**, November 2017.

[Die Straße wird im Vergleich zu Schiene, Wasser und Luft wettbewerbsfähiger](#), **ZEW News** May 2017.

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ResearchGate: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Wolfgang\\_Habla](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Wolfgang_Habla)

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[Warum „Tanken für die Rente“ gut für die Umwelt ist](#), *Ökonomenstimme*, March 2014.

[Anpassung an den Klimawandel: 'Race to the bottom' oder 'race to the top'?](#), *Wirtschaftsdienst*, Volume 92, Issue 3, 2012, pp. 181-184.

[Canberra Integrated Waterways: Feasibility Study. Report for Territory and Municipal Services, ACT, CSIRO, Chapter 10 \(Multi Criteria Process and TBL Assessment\)](#), *Water for a Healthy Country National Research Flagship*, Black Mountain, Canberra, Australia, 2009.

## Refereeing for Journals

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Journal of Public Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Environmental and Resource Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, European Journal of Political Economy, Energy Economics, Resource and Energy Economics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, Journal of Public Economic Theory, Environment and Development Economics, Economics Bulletin, International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics.

## Internships & Consulting

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11/2011 – 03/2012	External Scientific Consultant to the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ) on the Political Economy of Environmental Tax & Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reforms in Developing Countries
06/2008 – 09/2008	Internship Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), <b>Canberra (Australia)</b> <i>Project: Deliberative Multicriteria Analyses</i>
03/2008 – 05/2008	Internship Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), <b>Potsdam (Germany)</b> <i>Project: Econometric Estimation of the Energy Ladder Hypothesis</i>
01/2007 – 03/2007	Internship PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, <b>Munich (Germany)</b> <i>Accounting and Auditing</i>
03/2006 – 04/2006	Intern, Lindner AG, <b>Arnstorf (Germany)</b> <i>Controlling</i>
06/2003 – 08/2003	Intern, Passauer Neue Presse, <b>Passau (Germany)</b> <i>City desk</i>

## Awards and Scholarships

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Young Mobility Changer scholarship for Future Mobility Summit 2019 in **Berlin (Germany)**

Erasmus scholarship for studying in **Bergen (Norway)**

ECONnect scholarship of the Department of Economics, University of **Munich (Germany)**

Travel stipend for internship abroad, University of **Munich (Germany)**

Handelsblatt Fellowship for Munich Economic Summit 2009 in **Munich (Germany)**

## Teaching

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Lectures given on the undergraduate level at the **University of Mannheim**:

- “Markets and the Environment” (spring term 2018: **grade 1.76**, where 1 is the highest)

Lectures given on the graduate and PhD level at the **University of Gothenburg and Chalmers**:

- “Environmental Policy Instruments” (with Thomas Sterner, using the “flipped classroom” concept that requires the recording of videos and podcasts), Master’s level in Engineering, January – March 2016 (**grade 4.88, where 5 is the highest**), January – March 2017 (no grade available)
- “Natural Resource Economics” (with Thomas Sterner), PhD level, April 2016 (**grade 4.83 of 5**)
- “Environmental Policy Instruments” (with Thomas Sterner), PhD level, May 2016 (no grade available)

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## Guest lectures:

- Lecture on “Green Paradox” in the graduate course “Environmental Economics” at the **University of Mannheim**, April 2018 and March 2019
- Lecture on “International Permit Markets and Linking” in the PhD level course “Environmental Policy Instruments” at the **University of Gothenburg**, March 2019

## Tutorials given on the graduate & undergraduate level at the **University of Munich** (two tutorials each semester):

- “Sozialversicherung & Staatsverschuldung” (summer term 2009: **grade 1.7**, where 1 is the highest)
- “Finanzwissenschaft I: Ressourcenallokation & Wirtschaftspolitik” (winter term 2009/10: **2.0 & 2.2**, 2011/12: **1.31 & 1.55**)
- “Finanzwissenschaft II: Das öffentliche Budget – Einnahmen & Ausgaben” (summer term 2013: **1.62 & 1.81**, winter term 2013/14: **1.57**, summer term 2014: **1.47**, winter term 2014 15: **1.2**)
- “Finanzwissenschaft & Wirtschaftspolitik” (summer term 2010: **1.91 & 2.05**, 2011: **1.67 & 1.71**, 2012: **1.37 & 1.61**)
- “Makroökonomie II” (winter term 2012/13: **1.4**)
- “Public Economics: The Economics of the Welfare State” (winter term 2010/11: **1.96**, 2014/15: **1.8 & 1.9**, summer term 2015)

## Supervision:

- **University of Munich**: Supervision of approximately 20 seminar papers & 15 Bachelor and Master theses
- **University of Gothenburg**: Supervision of 1 Master thesis
- **University of Mannheim**: Supervision of 2 Bachelor theses
- **ZEW**: Supervision of 4 interns

## Skills

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German (native), English (excellent), French (basic)  
Matlab, Mathematica, Stata, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

## Services to the Profession & Other Activities

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Organization of the Workshop “[Challenges and Opportunities for Low Carbon Mobility](#)” at ZEW on September 13-14, 2018.  
Organization of the General Economics Seminar series (spring term 2016) and the Environmental Economics Seminar series (2015 – 2016) at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden).  
Organization of the Public Finance Seminar series (summer term 2011, winter term 2012) at the University of Munich (Germany).  
Organization of Works Council election at ZEW in 2018

Bavarian Red Cross: Disaster prevention

Academic Forum Munich (AFM): Organization of scientific talks and lectures

Hobbies: Swimming, Nordic blading, biking, cross-country skiing, travelling