

Michaël Aklin

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International relations, international and comparative political economy, environmental and energy politics, political economy of finance

CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2019- **Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh**
- 2018- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science Department, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015- Assistant Professor of Public Policy (secondary affiliation), GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh

OTHER AND PAST AFFILIATIONS

- 2018- Director of Energy Access Research, Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy
- 2018 Visiting Scientist, Sciences Po, Paris (Summer)
- 2017 Visiting Scientist, Sciences Po, Paris (Summer)
- 2015- Affiliate, Global Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015-19 Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 2014-15 Postdoctoral Fellow, Browne Center for International Politics, University of Pennsylvania
- 2008-13 Visiting Scientist, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. in Politics, New York University
- 2008 M.A. in Political Economy (*with distinction*), University of Essex (UK)
- 2007 *Licence* in International Relations, Graduate Institute of International Studies (Switzerland)

BOOKS

- 2018 Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. *Escaping the Energy Poverty Trap: When and How Governments Power the Lives of the Poor*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. *Renewables: The Politics of a Global Energy Transition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

[Reviews by [Foreign Affairs](#), [Varun Sivaram](#), [Josh Busby](#), and [Dustin Mulvaney](#).]

ARTICLES

- Forth. Aklin, Michaël and Andreas Kern. Forthcoming. The Side Effects of Central Bank Independence. *American Journal of Political Science*.
- 2019 Aklin, Michaël and Andreas Kern. 2019. [Moral Hazard and Financial Crises: Evidence from American Troop Deployments](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 63(1): 15-29.
[Coverage by [NPR](#).]
- 2018 Aklin, Michaël. 2018. [How Robust Is the Renewable Energy Industry to Political Shocks? Evidence from the 2016 U.S. Elections](#). *Business & Politics* 20(4): 523–552 (special issue edited by Llewelyn Hughes and Jonas Meckling).
Aklin, Michaël, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. [A Global Analysis of Progress in Household Electrification](#). *Energy Policy* 122: 421-428.
Aklin, Michaël, Chao-yo Cheng, Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. [Social Acceptance of New Energy Technology in Developing Countries: A Framing Experiment in Rural India](#). *Energy Policy* 113: 466-477.
Aklin, Michaël, Chao-yo Cheng, Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. [Geography, Community, Household: Adoption of Distributed Solar Power across India](#). *Energy for Sustainable Development* 42: 54-63.
Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. [Economics of Household Technology Adoption in Developing Countries: Evidence from Solar Technology Adoption in Rural India](#). *Energy Economics* 72: 35-46.
- 2017 Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2017. [Does Basic Energy Access Generate Socio-Economic Benefits? A Field Experiment with Off-Grid Solar Power in India](#). *Science Advances* 3(5): 1-8.
[Coverage by [The Economist](#), [Reuters](#), [Economic Times](#), and others.]
- 2016 Aklin, Michaël. 2016. [Re-Exploring the Trade and Environment Nexus Through the Diffusion of Pollution](#) *Environmental & Resource Economics* 64(4): 663-682.
Aklin, Michaël, Chao-yo Cheng, Johannes Urpelainen, Karthik Ganesan, and Abhishek Jain. 2016. [Factors Affecting Household Satisfaction with Electricity Supply in Rural India](#). *Nature Energy*. 1(16170): 1-6.
- 2015 Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2015. [The Political Economy of Energy Access: Survey Evidence from India on State Intervention and Public Opinion](#). *Energy Research and Social Science* 10: 250-258.
Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2015. [Quantifying Slum Electrification in India and Explaining Local Variation](#). *Energy* 80(1): 203-212.
- 2014 Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [Information and Energy Policy Preferences: A Survey Experiment on Public Opinion about Electricity Pricing Reform in Rural India](#). *Economics of Governance* 15(4): 305-327.
Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [The Global Spread of Environmental Ministries: Domestic-International Interactions](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 58(4): 764–780.

- Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [Who Blames Corruption for the Poor Enforcement of Environmental Laws? Survey Evidence From Brazil](#). *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies* 16(3): 241-262.
- Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [Perceptions of Scientific Dissent Undermine Public Support for Environmental Policy](#). *Environmental Science & Policy* 28: 173-177.
- 2013 Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2013. [Political Competition, Path Dependence, and the Strategy of Sustainable Energy Transitions](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 643-658.
- Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2013. [Understanding Environmental Policy Preferences: New Evidence from Brazil](#). *Ecological Economics* 94: 28-36.
- Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2013. [Debating Clean Energy: Frames, Counter Frames, and Audiences](#). *Global Environmental Change* 23(5): 1225-1232.
- [Coverage in [Nature Climate Change](#).]

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2018 Aklin, Michaël. "International Relations Theories and Climate Change Politics." In Urs Luterbacher and Detlef Sprinz (eds.). *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- 2015 Aklin, Michaël, Eric Arias, Emine Deniz, and B. Peter Rosendorff. 2015. "Domestic Politics of Trade Policy." In Robert Scott and Stephen Kosslyn (eds). *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

REPORTS

- 2015 Jain, Abhishek, Sudatta Ray, Karthik Ganesan, Michaël Aklin, Chao-Yo Cheng, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2015. [Access to Clean Cooking Energy and Electricity](#). New Delhi: Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

MEDIA

- 2018 [Middle-Income Countries Big Winner from Off-Grid Energy. Who's Next? Power for All](#), November 22, 2018.
- [Six Nuclear Reactors Worth of Off-Grid Renewable Energy Deployed in Last 10 Years – But Sub-Saharan Africa Lagging](#), Power for All, November 20, 2018.
- [How India's impressive electrification compares with South Asian nations](#), *The Print*, September 13, 2018.
- 2017 [Off-grid power not a silver bullet for rural India](#), *Swissinfo*, August 16, 2017.
- [Off-grid solar power and the future of rural electrification in India](#), *Ideas for India*, July 17, 2017.
- 2015 [Can solar micro-grids deliver basic electricity access in Indian villages?](#) *Ideas for India*, April 17, 2015.

- 2014 [La Suisse doit reprendre l'initiative en Europe avec une politique énergétique proactive](#), *Le Temps*, October 31, 2014.
[How \(not\) to talk about climate change](#), *Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), May 22, 2014.

TALKS

* = invited talk

- 2019 ETHZ, NYU, MPSA, EPFL, University of Lucerne
 2018 UCSB*, ETHZ/KOF*, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, Strathclyde*, MPSA, APSA
 2017 Sciences Po*, NYU*, MPSA, APSA
 2016 Heidelberg*, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*, Princeton (SSRC Workshop), Environmental Politics & Governance
 2015 Washington University in St Louis*, University of Pennsylvania*, IPES, MPSA
 2014 ETHZ/University of Zürich*, Université de Montréal*, APSA, IPES, MPSA
 2013 University of Pittsburgh*, Columbia University*, Yale*, APSA, IPES, MPSA
 2012 IPES, MPSA
 2011 Princeton University, IPES, MPSA
 2010 University of Potsdam*
 2009 International Scientific Conference on Climate Change (Denmark)

OTHER SKILLS

Computer Skills: R, Stata

Languages: English (fluent), French (native speaker), German and Swiss German (native speaker)

HONORS & GRANTS

- 2017 *British Academy*, "The Effectiveness of Carbon Markets in Europe, 2005-2012." Co-PI (with Patrick Bayer).
- 2016 *University of Pittsburgh*, Global Academic Partnership (\$20,000). Promoting Sustainability in the Solar Microgrid Sector.
- 2015 *International Growth Centre (IGC)* (GBP22,040). A Global Database of Rural Electrification. Co-PI (joint with S.P. Harish and Johannes Urpelainen).
Browne Center, University of Pennsylvania. Exchange Rates in Argentina. Co-PI (with Julia Gray).
- 2014 *Shakti Foundation* and *ClimateWorks* (\$77,000). A Comprehensive Survey of Rural Energy Access and Poverty in Six Major Deprived States of India. Co-PI (joint with CEEW and Johannes Urpelainen)
- 2013 *International Growth Centre (IGC)* (\$44,200). Rural Electrification with Off-Grid Community Microgrids: An Impact Evaluation in Uttar Pradesh. Co-PI (joint with Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen).
 IPES Travel Grant

2009 *International Scientific Conference on Climate Change, Copenhagen.* Travel grant.

TEACHING

Political Research and Analysis (intro to econometrics) (graduate)
International Political Economy of Developing Countries (graduate)
Global Environmental Politics (undergraduate)
Politics and Financial Crises (undergraduate)
Climate Change and Public Policy (undergraduate)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Service to the university: undergraduate committee; Chair selection committee; Arts & Sciences grant committee.

Service to the discipline:

- 2018- Committee member, Virtual IPES
- 2018- American Political Science Association: committee member for the best book award of the *International Collaboration* section.
- 2018 International Steering Committee, Environmental Politics & Governance conference

Reviewer for the following journals: *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Business & Politics, Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy, Ecological Economics, Economics of Governance, Economics & Politics, Energy, Energy Journal, Energy Policy, Energy Research & Social Science, Environmental Politics, Environmental & Resource Economics, Environmental Science & Policy, European Political Science Review, Foreign Policy Analysis, Gender, Place, and Culture, Global Environmental Change, International Interactions, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, Journal of Environment and Development, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Policy, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Nature Energy, Palgrave Communication, PNAS, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research and Methods, Policy Studies Journal, PS: Political Science and Politics, Public Opinion Quarterly, Review of Development Economics, Review of International Organizations, Social Science Journal, State Politics & Policy Quarterly, Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy, Third World Quarterly, Utilities Policy.*

Reviewer for the following institution: *Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, NSF, Oxford University Press, Social Science Research Council, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Routledge.*

Last updated: July 11, 2019