

# Michaël Aklin

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## PRIMARY POSITIONS

- 2019- **Associate Professor of Political Science (primary) and Public Policy (by courtesy), University of Pittsburgh**
- 2021- Director of Graduate Admission and Placement, Political Science Department

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- 2019- Research Fellow, Kigali Collaborative Research Center, Rwanda
- 2019- Affiliated, Asian Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018- Affiliated, Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy, Johns Hopkins University
- 2015- Affiliated, Global Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh

## PAST POSITIONS

- 2018-21 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science Department,
- 2018 Visiting Scientist, Sciences Po, Paris (summer)
- 2017 Visiting Scientist, Sciences Po, Paris (summer)
- 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

[2] 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.

[Reviews: [Caitlin Robinson](#), [Elizabeth Chatterjee](#).]

[1] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. *Renewables: The Politics of a Global Energy Transition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

[Reviews: [Foreign Affairs](#), [Nina Kelsey](#), [Varun Sivaram](#), [Josh Busby](#), [Dustin Mulvaney](#).]

## ARTICLES

[32] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. The Evolving Role of Solar-Based Lighting Solutions in Rural India: Global Lessons for Distributed Renewables. *Energy for Sustainable Development*.

[31] Aklin, Michaël, Namrata Chindarkar, Johannes Urpelainen, Abhishek Kain, and Karthik Ganesan. The Hedonic Treadmill: Electricity Access in India Has Increased, But So Have Expectations. *Energy Policy*.

[30] Aklin, Michaël, Brian Blankenship, Vagisha Nandan, and Johannes Urpelainen. The Great Equalizer: Inequality in Tribal Energy Access and Policies to Address It. *Energy Research & Social Science*.

[29] Aklin, Michaël, Julia Gray, and Eric Arias. Inflation and Mass Preferences Over Currency Policy. *Economics & Politics*.

[28] Aklin, Michaël. Do High Electricity Bills Undermine Public Support for Renewables? Evidence from the European Union. *Energy Policy*.

[27] Pelz, Setu, Michaël Aklin, and Johannes Urpelainen. Electrification and productive use among micro- and small-enterprises in rural North India. *Energy Policy*.

[26] Aklin, Michaël, Andreas Kern, and Mario Negre. 2021. [Does Central Bank Independence Increase Inequality?](#) *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* 9522.

[25] Aklin, Michaël. 2021. [The Off-Grid Catch-22: Effective Institutions as a Prerequisite for the Global Deployment of Distributed Renewable Power](#). *Energy Research & Social Science* 72: 101830.

[24] Aklin, Michaël and Andreas Kern. 2021. [The Side Effects of Central Bank Independence](#). *American Journal of Political Science*.

[23] Aklin, Michaël, Chao-yo Cheng, Johannes Urpelainen. 2021. [Inequality in Policy Implementation: Caste and Electrification in Rural India](#). *Journal of Public Policy* 41(2): 331-359.

[22] Aklin, Michaël and Matto Mildemberger. 2020. [Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change](#). *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4): 4-27.

[Featured in [The Atlantic](#), [Bloomberg](#), [New York Magazine](#), [New York Times](#)]

[21] Bayer, Patrick and Michaël Aklin. 2020. [The European Union Emissions Trading System reduced CO2 emissions despite low prices](#). *PNAS* 117(16): 8804-8812.

[Featured in [Ars Technica](#)]

[20] Rosenberg, Meital, Daniel Armanios, Michaël Aklin, and Paulina Jaramillo. 2020. [Evidence of Gender Inequality in Energy Use from a Mixed Methods Study in India](#). *Nature Sustainability* 3: 110-118.

[Featured in [The Hindu](#), [Business Standard](#), [Times of India](#), and others]

[19] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2020. [Trials and Tribulations: Lost Energy Access Gains in Rural India](#). *Energy for Sustainable Development* 55: 190-200.

[18] Aklin, Michaël and Andreas Kern. 2019. [Moral Hazard and Financial Crises: Evidence from American Troop Deployments](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 63(1): 15-29.

[Featured in NPR.]

[17] 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.

[16] Aklin, Michaël, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2018. [A Global Analysis of Progress in Household Electrification.](#) *Energy Policy* 122: 421-428.

[15] 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.

[14] 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.

[13] 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.

[12] 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.

[Featured in [The Economist](#), [Reuters](#), [Economic Times](#), and others.]

[11] Aklin, Michaël. 2016. [Re-Exploring the Trade and Environment Nexus Through the Diffusion of Pollution](#) *Environmental & Resource Economics* 64(4): 663-682.

[10] 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.

[9] 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 & Social Science* 10: 250-258.

[8] 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.

[7] 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.

[6] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [The Global Spread of Environmental Ministries: Domestic-International Interactions.](#) *International Studies Quarterly* 58(4): 764–780.

[5] 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.

[4] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. [Perceptions of Scientific Dissent Undermine Public Support for Environmental Policy.](#) *Environmental Science & Policy* 28: 173-177.

[3] 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.

[2] Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2013. [Understanding Environmental Policy Preferences: New Evidence from Brazil](#). *Ecological Economics* 94: 28-36.

[1] Aklin, Michaël and Johannes Urpelainen. 2013. [Debating Clean Energy: Frames, Counter Frames, and Audiences](#). *Global Environmental Change* 23(5): 1225-1232.

[Featured in [Nature Climate Change](#)]

## BOOK CHAPTERS

[3] Aklin, Michaël. "Renewable Energy, Energy Poverty, and Climate Change: Opportunities and (Many) Challenges." In *Oxford Handbook on Comparative Environmental Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

[2] Aklin, Michaël. "International Relations Theories and Climate Change Politics." In *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

[1] Aklin, Michaël, Eric Arias, Emine Deniz, and B. Peter Rosendorff. 2015. "Domestic Politics of Trade Policy." In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

## REPORTS

[5] Sharma, Shruti, Tom Moerenhout, Michaël Aklin, and Kavya Bajaj. 2021. [How to Target LPG Subsidies in India: Evaluating policy options in Jharkhand](#). IISD/GSI Report.

[4] Sharma, Shruti, Tom Moerenhout, and Michaël Aklin. 2020. [How to Target Residential Electricity Subsidies in India](#). IISD/GSI Report.

[3] Aklin, Michaël. 2019. [Global Progress in Electrification](#). ISEP Policy Brief 2019-2.

[2] Aklin, Michaël, Patrick Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2017. [Small off-Grid solar systems displace kerosene, but evidence for social and economic impact remain weak](#). ISEP Policy Brief 2017-1.

[1] 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

[9] [Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien: les bienfaits de la loi sur le CO2 compensent ses carences](#), *Le Temps*, October 20, 2020.

[8] [Middle-Income Countries Big Winner from Off-Grid Energy. Who's Next?](#) Power for All, November 22, 2018.

[7] [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.

- [6] [How India's impressive electrification compares with South Asian nations](#), *The Print*, September 13, 2018.
- [5] [Off-grid power not a silver bullet for rural India](#), *Swissinfo*, August 16, 2017.
- [4] [Off-grid solar power and the future of rural electrification in India](#), *Ideas for India*, July 17, 2017.
- [3] [Can solar micro-grids deliver basic electricity access in Indian villages?](#) *Ideas for India*, April 17, 2015.
- [2] [La Suisse doit reprendre l'initiative en Europe avec une politique énergétique proactive](#), *Le Temps*, October 31, 2014.
- [1] [How \(not\) to talk about climate change](#), *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, May 22, 2014.

## TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

\* = invited research talk

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| 2021 | University of British Columbia  |
| 2020 | World Bank (CPLC), University of Lucerne  |
| 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)

## GRANTS

As PI or co-PI:

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| 2019 | <i>Energy for Growth Hub</i><br><i>International Growth Centre (IGC)</i> |
| 2018 | <i>Oak Foundation</i>  |

- 2017 *British Academy*
- 2016 *University of Pittsburgh, Global Academic Partnership*
- 2015 *International Growth Centre (IGC)*  
*Browne Center, University of Pennsylvania*
- 2014 *Shakti Foundation and ClimateWorks*
- 2013 *International Growth Centre (IGC)*

## TEACHING

International Political Economy of Developing Countries (graduate)  
 Political Economy of Growth (graduate)  
 Political Research and Analysis (linear model) (graduate)  
 Climate Change and Public Policy (undergraduate)  
 Global Environmental Politics (undergraduate)  
 Politics and Financial Crises (undergraduate)  
 Politics of COVID (undergraduate) (course coordinator)

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Service to the university: Arts & Sciences grant committee (2016-2019); Arts & Sciences Promotion and Tenure committee (ad hoc) (2020-); Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Council (2021-2024).

Service to the discipline: 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 (2018-).

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*, *Development Engineering*, *Ecological Economics*, *Economics & Politics*, *Economics of Governance*, *Energy*, *Energy Journal*, *Energy Policy*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, *Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning, and Policy*, *Environmental & Resource Economics*, *Environmental Politics*, *Environmental Science & Policy*, *Environmental Sociology*, *European Political Science Review*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Gender, Place, and Culture*, *Global Environmental Change*, *Global Policy*, *International Interactions*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Studies Review*, *IOP SciNotes*, *Joule*, *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 Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Nature Energy*, *Palgrave Communication*, *PNAS*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *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*, *Sustainable Production and Consumption*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Utilities Policy*

Reviewer for institutions and presses: CEEW, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, MIT Press, NSF, Oxford University Press, Social Science Research Council, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Routledge, Yale University Press.

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