

From 'Carbon Democracy' to 'Climate Democracy'?

What are the democratic requirements for effective climate action? how can 'climate democracy' be conceptualised? Liberal democracies emerged on the back of fossil fuels, creating what Tim Mitchell called 'carbon democracy'. Three decades of climate policy have affirmed the controlling influence of fossil fuel interests. Runaway climate change now threatens the very foundations of social life. Today we face a very clear democratic question, of whether the fossil fuel sector has the right to determine the planet's climate future. Achieving global energy transformation at the scope and scale needed requires a democratic transformation, to overcome the stranglehold. This book examines these requirements. It debates the political constituencies, agendas and institutions that are emerging from climate crisis, comparing evidence of emergent themes. New claims are emerging, for 'green deals', 'climate justice', 'energy justice', 'energy democracy' and 'de-growth', reflecting a new intensity of contestation as climate change impacts deepen. This book will be of great relevance to students, researchers and policymakers with an interest in comparative politics, democracy studies, climate change and environmental policies. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of Globalizations.

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