

Book launch: "The Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics"

Wednesday 8 March 2017, 14-16

Helsinki University Main Building, Room 8 (Fabianinkatu 33, 3rd floor)

The Ethical Underpinnings of Climate Economics, published by Routledge (2017), brings together philosophers and economists to discuss the moral demands of climate change policy. It explores the ethical limitations of economic analysis without assuming that economic theory cannot accommodate the concerns raised, examining a wide range of topics including conceptions of value, sustainability, risk management and the monetization of harm.

Economic theory and economic analysis are highly influential in political decision-making. Economic analysis should therefore be able both to recognize and to accommodate the moral demands that an adequate response to climate change must address. Economics has much to offer in terms of our understanding of the nature of the problems that face us and in terms of how best to respond. Questions of economic efficiency, for instance, are vital in determining the correct course of action when faced with a range of possible paths in the use of social resources. Equally, economic solutions to coordination problems have often been highly successful when employed in a range of social situations. As John Broome - one of the book's contributors - notes economic theory "provides essential tools" for thinking about how to respond to climate change.

There are, however, important and daunting ethical challenges that climate change raises for economic theory in general. In order to deal with those, economists need to think more carefully about the ethical underpinnings of their discipline. This volume is thus partly a call for greater dialogue between philosophers and economists to ensure that the climate economics we use is "fit for purpose".

14:15 Opening words and introduction to the book - Adrian Walsh (University of New England)

14:30 Discounting and normative sustainability - Säde Hormio (University of Helsinki)

14:45 Intergenerational sufficientarianism - Simo Kyllönen (University of Helsinki)

15:00 Comments by Matti Liski (Aalto University)

15:15 Q&A with the audience

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us! Refreshments available, no pre-registration required.

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Ethical-Underpinnings-of-Climate-Economics/Walsh-Hormio-Purves/p/book/9781138122963>