

**German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ)**

**DIJ Social Science Study Group**

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## **Scientific Advice in Environmental Politics: A Comparative Study of Japanese Policy-Making**

The integration of scientific advice in environmental policy processes is more than ever of great importance: ‘Science translators, ‘knowledge broker’, or ‘intermediaries’ theoretically facilitate the relationship between science and policy (Nowotny, 1993; Litfin, 1994; Young & Osherenko, 1993). However, the manner and degree to which scientific advice is integrated in the policy process differs markedly between countries, and scholarship has yet to fully describe the role of such actors. Politicization of scientific knowledge, and closed, vertical policy-networks, as we can find in Japan (Hartwig, Kobashi, Okura, & Tkach-Kawasaki, 2014), lead to lock-outs or questions experts’ independence. In comparison, Japan has been criticized to lack independent scientific advice (Arimoto, Sato, Matsuo, & Yoshikawa, 2016). This is an obstacle for sustainable and effective climate mitigation measures.

This study looks at how scientific advice is integrated in the policy-making process in Japan in comparative perspective by hypothesizing that the degree of such integration, and the provenance of intermediaries acting as knowledge transmitters can explain the problem of lacking independent scientific advice. By mixing qualitative and quantitative inquiries (mixed methods), combining policy-actor-network and discourse coalition approach (Bulkeley, 2000), this form of inquiry is expected to add to scholarly efforts in opening the black box of policy change and to empirically grasp the complexity of climate change governance in Japan.

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The DIJ Social Science Study Group is organized by S. Brucksch, S. Ganseforth, S. Heinrich, B. Holthus, H. Jentzsch, N. Kottmann, D. Kremers.

All are welcome to attend, but registration is appreciated ([kremers@dijtokyo.org](mailto:kremers@dijtokyo.org)).

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