

Vegard H. Tørstad

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Current positions

2025-(-) **Senior Researcher**, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Oslo
2024-(-) **Researcher** (20%), Department of Political Science, University of Oslo

Education

2016-2021 PHD in Political Science, European University Institute, Florence
2016-2017 MASTER OF RESEARCH in Political Science, European University Institute, Florence
2014-2016 MASTER OF SCIENCE in International Affairs, *cum laude* (top 5%), Sciences Po, Paris
2011-2014 BACHELOR in Political Science, University of Oslo

Previous experience

2024-25 **Senior adviser**, Parliamentary Research Service, Norwegian Parliament
2022-24 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
2021-22 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Dep. of Law and Governance, BI Norwegian Business School
2015-20 **Lecturer**, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
2015 **Lecturer**, Norwegian Environmental Agency, Oslo
2015 **Research consultant**, DNV-GL and United Nations
2015 **Research assistant**, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
2014 **Research assistant**, CICERO Center for Climate Research, Oslo

Visiting appointments

2019 **Visiting scholar**, Ralph Bunche Institute, CUNY Graduate Center, New York
2018-20 **Guest researcher**, PluriCourts, Department of law, University of Oslo
2017 **Guest researcher**, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
2015 **Guest researcher**, CICERO Center for Climate Research, Oslo

Career breaks

Paternity leaves in 2019 (3 months) and 2021 (3 months).

Teaching experience

2024	STV4214B - International Environmental Governance (course convenor)
2024, 2023	STV2547 - Political Science Approaches to Climate Action (course design and lectures)
2024, 2023	STV4227 - International Politics: Key Debates (lectures)
2023	STV4911 - Master Thesis - Research Design and Project Management (seminars)
2023	STV3090 - BA Thesis in Political Science (seminars)
2023	Coffee & Coding (R programming instructor)
2023, 2022	STV4214B - International Environmental Governance (lectures and teaching assistant)
2022	STV4341 - Comparative Environmental Politics (teaching assistant)
2020, 2018	STV2250 - International Environmental & Resource Politics (seminars)
2018, 2015	STV2230 - International Security Policy (seminars)

Publications & talks

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, T. Stankovic, J. Nahm and J. Urpelainen: Macroeconomic crises: no turning points for green investments. Forthcoming at <i>npj Climate Action</i> .
2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, M. Milkoreit, H. Sælen and A.K. Tveit: The Ambition Trap: Why Overpromising on Climate Action Could Undermine the Paris Agreement. Forthcoming at <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> .
2024	Tørstad, Vegard and Vegard Wiborg: Commitment Ambiguity and Ambition in Climate Pledges . <i>The Review of International Organizations</i> . OnlineFirst. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Featured as a UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Working Paper
2024	Tørstad, Vegard, Jonas Nahm, Jon Hovi, Tora Skodvin and Gard Olav Dietrichson: Economic Recessions and Decarbonization: Analyzing Green Stimulus Spending in Canada and the US . <i>New Political Economy</i> 29 (4): 513-531.
2024	Tveit, Andreas K. and Vegard Tørstad: The Relative Effectiveness of Overlapping International Institutions: European Union versus United Nations Regulations of Air Pollution . <i>International Political Science Review</i> 45(4): 441-583.
2024	Tørstad, Vegard: Can Transparency Strengthen the Legitimacy of International Institutions? Evidence from the UN Security Council . <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 61(2): 228-245.
2023	Kuyper, Jonathan W. and Vegard Tørstad: Mobilizing Non-State Actors for Climate Action through the Global Stocktake . <i>Nature Climate Change</i> 13 (10): 1000-1001.

- 2020 Tørstad, Vegard: [Participation, ambition and compliance: can the Paris Agreement solve the effectiveness trilemma?](#) *Environmental Politics* 29(5): 761-780.
- 2020 Tørstad, Vegard, Håkon Sælen and Live S. Bøyum: [The domestic politics of international climate commitments: which factors explain cross-country variation in NDC ambition?](#) *Environmental Research Letters* 15(2): 024021.
- 2019 Sælen, Håkon, Vegard Tørstad, Christian Holz and Tobias D. Nielsen: [Fairness conceptions and self-determined mitigation ambition under the Paris Agreement – is there a relationship?](#) *Environmental Science and Policy* 101: 245-254.
- 2018 Tørstad, Vegard and Håkon Sælen: [Fairness in the Climate Negotiations: What Explains Variation in Parties' Expressed Conceptions?](#) *Climate Policy* 18(5): 642-654.
- 2018 Tørstad, Vegard: [Håndhevelse og Legitimitet: En Integrativ Vurdering av Parisavtalens Effektivitet.](#) *Internasjonal Politikk* 76 (1): 47-72.

DATASETS

- 2024 Tørstad, Vegard, Gard Olav Dietrichson, Tatjana Stankovic, Jonas Nahm, Nils Kupzok, Scot Miller, Johannes Urpelainen, Jon Hovi. [The CLIMREC Dataset on Green Economic Recovery Spending.](#)

REVISE & RESUBMIT

Tørstad, Vegard: *After Reform: Procedural Fairness and the Legitimacy of International Institutions*. Book project. Revise and Resubmit at *Cambridge University Press*.

- Selected as [EUI's thesis of the month](#), based on academic excellence and relevance to a broad audience.

Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi and H. Sælen: Does distributive conflict explain variation in green stimulus spending? Evidence from 40 major economies during the Global Financial Crisis and the Covid-19 recession. Revise and Resubmit at *Regulation & Governance* (revisions submitted).

UNDER REVIEW

Tørstad, Vegard: Impartiality and Legitimacy in International Courts: The case of GATT/WTO dispute settlement reform.

Sprinz, Detlef and Vegard Tørstad: Time Inconsistency and Credibility in Long-Term Climate Policy.

Kupzok, Nils, Vegard Tørstad, Jonas Nahm and Johannes Urpelainen: Macroeconomic Path-Dependence: Why Economic Crises Won't Save the Climate.

Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, Detlef Sprinz, Tatjana Stankovic and Vegard Tørstad: Why the Western Sanctions Failed to Stop the War in Ukraine.

WORKING PAPERS

Kupzok, Nils, RyuGyung Park, Vegard Tørstad, Jose Maria Valenzuela, and Jon Hovi: On "Satellites" and "Standalones": How International Economic Hierarchies Shape Green Industrial Policy Strategy.

Wiborg, Vegard and Vegard Tørstad: The Effects of Mitigation Uncertainty under Pledge-and-Review: Evidence from the Lab.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Vegard Tørstad: How to Reform the UN Security Council.

Sprinz, Detlef and Vegard Tørstad: The Enduring Challenge of Long-Term Global Environmental Policy.

Kuyper, Jonathan and Vegard Tørstad: Non-State Actors, Nationally Determined Contributions, and the Compliance-Ambition Gap.

RESEARCH REPORTS

2016 Tørstad, Vegard (2016): 'What's Fair – and Why? An Empirical Analysis of Distributive Fairness in the Climate Negotiations', *CICERO report* (4). [Link](#)

2014 Kallbekken et al. (2014): 'Norges Klimaansvar 2030' ('Norway's Climate Responsibility 2030'), *Research report to the Norwegian Parliament* (Co-author). [Link](#)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES/MEDIA

- 2024 Tørstad, Vegard and Jon Hovi (March 8). 'Kommer ingen vei om alle som taper får veto rett på klimatiltak.' ('No progress if every losing actor can veto climate policy'). *Dagens Næringsliv*. Print edition and online. [Link](#)
- 2024 Tørstad, Vegard and Jon Hovi (March 1). 'Trepattssamarbeidet bremser det grønne skiftet.' ('Tripartism impedes the green shift'). *Dagens Næringsliv*. Print edition and online. [Link](#)
- 2023 Interview on climate politics at *Radio Nova*. (Oct 4)
- 2021 Interview on climate negotiations and the Paris Agreement in *Energi & Klima* (Sep 21). [Link](#)
- 2021 Interview on the Paris Agreement at the podcast *I'm Not A Scientist* (March 22).
- 2018 Tørstad, Vegard (December 4): 'COP24: Nå skal reglene til Parisavtalen skrives' ('COP24: Writing the rules for the Paris Agreement'), *Klassekampen*. Print edition.
- 2017 Tørstad, Vegard (November 17): 'COP23: I en kano i Bonn' ('COP23: In a canoe in Bonn'), *Klassekampen*. Print edition.
- 2017 Tørstad, Vegard and Håkon Sælen (August 3): 'Fairness in the Eyes of Parties to the Paris Agreement: What Explains Divergences?' *Climate Strategies blog*. [Link](#)
- 2016 Tørstad, Vegard (September 29): 'Obama-doktrinen' ('The Obama doctrine'), *Klassekampen*. [Link](#)
- 2016 Bøyum, Live and Vegard Tørstad (June 8): 'Eit klima for endring' ('A climate for change'), *Klassekampen*. [Link](#)
- 2016 Tørstad, Vegard (March 22): 'En global klimaavtale – hvorfor nå?' ('A global climate agreement – why now?'), *Dagsavisen*. [Link](#)
- 2015 Tørstad, Vegard (June 6): 'Klimabløff' ('Climate Deception'), *Dagsavisen*. Print edition.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- APSA Annual Meeting, 2023 (paper), 2021 (poster)
- ECPR General Conference, 2023 (paper), 2021 (roundtable), 2020 (paper), 2017 (paper)
- Environmental Politics and Governance (EPG), 2021 (paper), 2020 (paper)

- International Studies Association, 2023 (poster)
- Junior IO Scholars Workshop, 2022 (paper)
- MPSA Annual Meeting, 2022 (paper & discussant), 2021 (paper & discussant)
- Norwegian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2022 (paper)
- NYU Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, 2021 (poster)
- Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (PECE), 2023 (paper)
- Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO), 2021 (poster)
- Political Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2021 (paper)
- TILEC Economic Governance and Legitimacy workshop, Tilburg University, 2022 (paper)

OTHER INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Environmental problems and policies workshop, Department of Economics, University of Oslo, 12 June.
- 2022 CICERO Center for Climate research, 3 November.
- 2021 British International Studies Association's Climate Diplomacy event, 4 June.
- 2020 Maastricht University, 2 December.
- 2020 CICERO Center for Climate research, 17 June.
- 2014 Norwegian Parliament. Oslo, December 2014.
- 2015 Socialist Youth Party. Oslo, March 2015.

Fieldwork experience

- 2022 8 in-depth interviews (virtual) with politicians, political advisors, lobbyists, and policy experts from Canada and the US.
- 2019 Two months fieldwork at United Nations HQ, New York. I conducted 20 in-depth interviews with international diplomats (incl. UN Ambassadors), UN officials, and UN Security Council experts.

2017-18 Participatory observation at two international climate negotiation conferences (COP23 and SB48) at the UN Campus in Bonn. I conducted 21 in-depth interviews with international climate negotiators and observers.

Grants

2024 Research grant (77 000 NOK) from the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, for the project 'Global Stocktake – Ambition and Compliance' (w/ J. Kuyper, O. Nedregard and F.Koliev)

2024 Seed funding (100 000 NOK) from UiO:Energy and Environment for the Network for Social Science Climate Research in Oslo (w/ E.L. Boasson)

2020 Mobility grant (192 000 NOK) from the Norwegian Research Council

2020 Doctoral research grant (16 200 EUR) from the European University Institute

2019 Research grant (50 000 NOK) from the Department of Economics, University of Oslo, for the project 'Mitigation uncertainty and collaboration in a repeated coordination game' (w/Vegard Wiborg)

2019 Research grant (86 000 NOK) from CICEP for the project 'Mitigation uncertainty and collaboration in a repeated coordination game' (w/Vegard Wiborg)

2016 Mobility grant (192 000 NOK) from the Norwegian Research Council

2016-2019 Doctoral grant (1 300 000 NOK) from the Norwegian Research Council

Supervision & Mentorship

2022-24 Supervisor, four MA theses in political science

2022-24 Co-supervisor, two MA theses in political science

2023-24 Mentor, three honours students in political science

Professional service

Reviewer: *Climate Policy, Environmental Politics, Environmental Research Letters, European Journal of Legal Studies, Global Environmental Politics, International Environmental*

Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of Peace Research, npj Climate Action

Co-organizer: Network for Social Science Climate Research in Oslo (2023-); Departmental Seminars, Dep. of Political Science, University of Oslo (2022-24)

Selection/grant committee: The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (2024); Fritt Ord Foundation's Student Stipend (2022)

Languages

Norwegian (native), English (fluent), French (C₁), Italian (B₁), Spanish (A₂).

References

Available upon request

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