

# Vegard H. Tørstad

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## Current position

2025-( ) **Senior Researcher**, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, 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 **Researcher** (20%), Department of Political Science, University of Oslo  
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/seminar leader**, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo  
2015 **Lecturer**, Norwegian Environmental Agency, Oslo  
2015 **Research consultant**, DNV 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)
2025, 24, 23	STV2547 - Political Science Approaches to Climate Action (course design and lectures)
2024, 23	STV4227 - International Politics: Key Debates (lectures)
2023	STV4911 - Master Thesis - Research Design and Project Management (seminar leader)
2023	STV3090 - BA Thesis in Political Science (seminar leader)
2023	Coffee & Coding (R programming instructor)
2023, 22	STV4214B - International Environmental Governance (lectures and teaching assistant)
2022	STV4341 - Comparative Environmental Politics (teaching assistant)
2020, 18	STV2250 - International Environmental & Resource Politics (seminar leader)
2018, 15	STV2230 - International Security Policy (seminar leader)
2015	STV4250 - Global Environmental and Climate Politics (teaching assistant)

## Publications & talks

### Book

2026	Tørstad, Vegard: <i>After Reform: Procedural Fairness and the Legitimacy of International Institutions</i> . Under contract with Cambridge University Press.
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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

2026	Sprinz, Detlef and Vegard Tørstad: <a href="#">The Enduring Credibility Challenge of Long-Term Global Environmental Policy</a> . <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 1-25.
2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi and H. Sælen: <a href="#">Does distributive conflict explain variation in green stimulus spending? Evidence from 40 major economies during the Global Financial Crisis and the Covid-19 recession</a> . <i>Regulation &amp; Governance</i> 1-13.
2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, T. Stankovic, J. Nahm and J. Urpelainen: <a href="#">Macroeconomic crises and green recovery spending: Introducing the CLIMREC dataset</a> . <i>npj Climate Action</i> 4 (18).
2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, M. Milkoreit, H. Sælen and A.K. Tveit: <a href="#">The Ambition Trap: Why Overpromising on Climate Action Could Undermine the Paris Agreement</a> . <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 25 (2): 27-54. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coverage in <a href="#">Science</a> and <a href="#">Morgenbladet</a></li></ul>
2024	Tørstad, Vegard and Vegard Wiborg: <a href="#">Commitment Ambiguity and Ambition in Climate Pledges</a> . <i>The Review of International Organizations</i> 20, 1181-1208. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Featured as a <a href="#">UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Working Paper</a></li></ul>

- 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](#). *New Political Economy* 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](#). *International Political Science Review* 45(4): 441-583.
- 2024 Tørstad, Vegard: [Can Transparency Strengthen the Legitimacy of International Institutions? Evidence from the UN Security Council](#). *Journal of Peace Research* 61(2): 228-245.
- 2023 Kuyper, Jonathan W. and Vegard Tørstad: [Mobilizing Non-State Actors for Climate Action through the Global Stocktake](#). *Nature Climate Change* 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 and Jon Hovi. [The CLIMREC Dataset on Green Economic Recovery Spending](#).

#### UNDER REVIEW

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

Stankovic, Tatjana, Jon Hovi, Guri Bang and Vegard Tørstad. A Window of Adversity? Explaining Norway's Generous Support for its Fossil Fuels Industry During COVID-19.

#### WORKING PAPERS

Aldal, Malin Øren and Vegard Tørstad: The Distributive Turn in International Climate Governance: How Governments Dismiss Mitigation as a Free-Riding Problem.

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

Hovi, Jon, Nils Kupzok, RyuGyung Park, Vegard Tørstad, and Jose Maria Valenzuela: Green Race or Follower's Pace? Export Regimes and the Divergence of Green Industrial Policies.

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

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

#### COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

- 2026 'Survey on Norwegian Municipalities' Experience with Wind Power', *Research report to the Norwegian Center for Wind Power* (Project leader).
- 2015 'Impact: Transforming Business, Changing the World', *Research report to the UN Secretary General* (Co-author). [Link](#)
- 2014 Kallbekken et al.: 'Norges Klimaansvar 2030' ('Norway's Climate Responsibility 2030'), *Research report to the Norwegian Parliament* (Co-author). [Link](#)

#### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES/MEDIA

- 2025 Interview on the UN by *ABC Nyheter*. (December 30) [Link](#)
- 2025 Interview on COP30 at *NRK P3 Pønsj*. (November 24)
- 2025 Interview on COP30 at *NRK Nyhetsmorgen*. (November 20)
- 2025 Interview on COP30 and the Paris Agreement at *Klimafrokost*. (October 14) [Link](#)

- 2025 Interview on Norway's compliance with the Paris Agreement in *Morgenbladet*. (May 27) [Link](#)
- 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). 'Trepartssamarbeidet 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)
- 2023 Interviewed at *Forskernatt* (28 Sep). [Link](#)
- 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.

#### PRESENTATIONS AT 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)
- EPSA Annual Conference, 2025 (paper & discussant)
- 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)

#### SELECTED TALKS

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| 2025 | ‘Compliance Mechanisms and The Paris Agreement.’ Guest lecture, University of Potsdam, 15 May                                  |
| 2025 | ‘What happens to Climate Policy During Economic Crises?’, Policy Seminar, University of Oslo, 25 February.                     |
| 2023 | ‘The Ambition Trap’, Environmental problems and policies workshop, Department of Economics, University of Oslo, 12 June.       |
| 2022 | ‘Green Spending in Economic Crises’, CICERO Center for Climate research, 3 November.   |
| 2021 | ‘How to Organize UN Climate Negotiations’, British International Studies Association’s Climate Diplomacy event, 4 June.        |
| 2020 | ‘Can Transparency Strengthen the Legitimacy of International Institutions?’, Guest lecture, Maastricht University, 2 December. |

## 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, 4 MA theses in political science, University of Oslo
2022-24	Co-supervisor, 1 MA thesis in political science, University of Oslo
2023-24	Academic mentor, 3 honors students in political science, University of Oslo

## Project management experience

2025-26	<b>Norwegian Municipalities' Experience with Wind Power</b> Commissioned project funded by the Norwegian Center for Wind Power. Role: Project Leader
2025-26	<b>FME HyValue - Norwegian Center for Hydrogen Value Chain Research</b> Centre for Environment-friendly Energy Research, funded by the Norwegian Research Council. Role: Deputy Project Leader

**CLIMREC: Climate Policy During Recessions**

FRIPRO project funded by the Norwegian Research Council. Role: Deputy Project Leader

## Professional service

**Reviewer:** *Climate Policy, Environmental Politics, Environmental Research Letters, European Journal of Legal Studies, Global Environmental Politics, Global Policy, International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of International Political Theory, Journal of Peace Research, Nature Communications, npj Climate Action, Review of International Organizations*

**Co-organizer:**

- Network for Social Science Climate Research in Oslo (2023-)
- Departmental Seminars, Dep. of Political Science, University of Oslo (2022-24)
- Global Governance Theory Seminar, Fridtjof Nansen Institute (2025-)

**Selection/grant committee:**

- The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research - MISTRA (2024)
- Fritt Ord Foundation's Student Stipend (2022)

## Languages

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

## References

- Jon Hovi, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
- Jonathan Kuyper, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo
- Håkon Sælen, Research Professor, CICERO Center for Climate Research, Oslo
- Irja Vormedal, Research Director, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Oslo
- Jennifer Welsh, Professor, McGill University, Montréal (doctoral supervisor)

Last updated: January 31, 2026