

# Vegard H. Tørstad

[vhtorstad@fni.no](mailto:vhtorstad@fni.no)  
[www.vegardtorstad.com](http://www.vegardtorstad.com)

## 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 <i>Cambridge University Press</i> .
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### JOURNAL ARTICLES

2026	Sprinz, Detlef and Vegard Tørstad: <i>The Enduring Credibility Challenge of Long-Term Global Environmental Policy</i> . <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 1-25.
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2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi and H. Sælen: <i>Does distributive conflict explain variation in green stimulus spending? Evidence from 40 major economies during the Global Financial Crisis and the Covid-19 recession</i> . <i>Regulation &amp; Governance</i> 1-13.
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2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, T. Stankovic, J. Nahm and J. Urpelainen: <i>Macroeconomic crises and green recovery spending: Introducing the CLIMREC dataset</i> . <i>npj Climate Action</i> 4 (18).
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2025	Tørstad, Vegard, J. Hovi, M. Milkoreit, H. Sælen and A.K. Tveit: <i>The Ambition Trap: Why Overpromising on Climate Action Could Undermine the Paris Agreement</i> . <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 25 (2): 27–54.
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- Coverage in *Science* and *Morgenbladet*

2024	Tørstad, Vegard and Vegard Wiborg: <i>Commitment Ambiguity and Ambition in Climate Pledges</i> . <i>The Review of International Organizations</i> 20, 1181–1208.
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- 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](#). *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 vettorett 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). 'Trepiditssamarbeidet 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

- 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. Nedregård 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 **Norwegian Municipalities' Experience with Wind Power**  
Commissioned project funded by the Norwegian Center for Wind Power. Role: Project Leader
- 2025-26 **FME HyValue - Norwegian Center for Hydrogen Value Chain Research**  
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