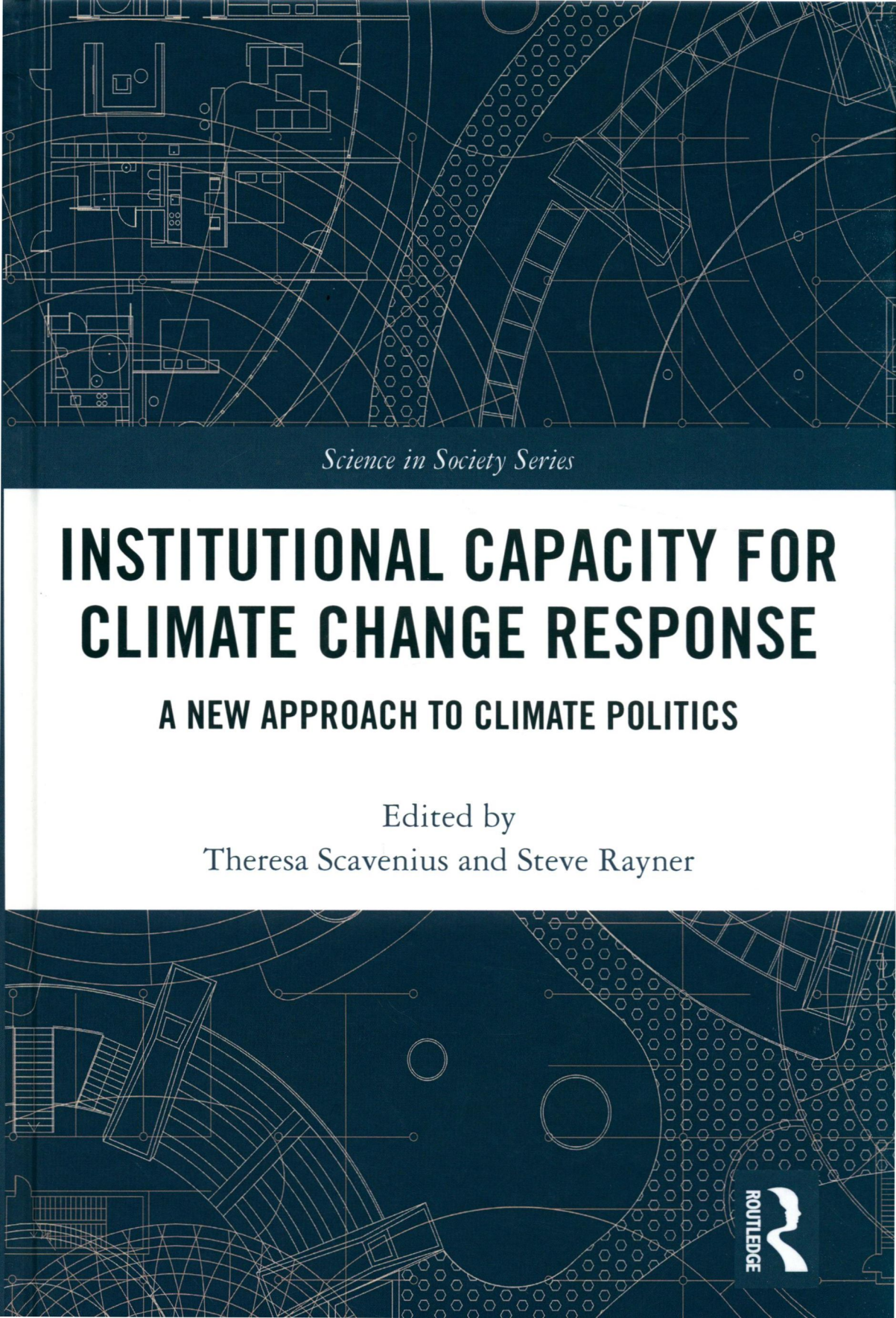




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INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

A NEW APPROACH TO CLIMATE POLITICS

Edited by
Theresa Scavenius and Steve Rayner

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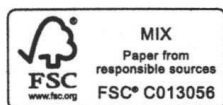
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This valuable volume exposes the failure of current institutional arrangements, in the form of cultural outlooks, governance arrangements, democratic consensus, purposeful regulation, and even innovation in technology and human behaviour, to come to terms with the overwhelming barriers to achieving the ambition of the Paris Agreement to remove the planet of dangerous climate change within three preciously short generations. It should be read with care and attention as it sets the marker for the scale of institutional reform that surely will be required in our lifetimes.

Tim O’Riordan, *Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia*

The Paris Climate Agreement signals a fundamental change in policy architecture. This book offers much needed ammunition against too easy attribution of catastrophic events to global warming – overlooking the importance of institutional and political contexts – and too easy confinement of ‘solutions’ to individual actions or markets – overlooking the role of multi-level, polycentric responses.

Arthur C. Petersen, *Professor of Science, Technology and Public Policy, University College London*

Anthropogenic climate change is a global challenge that also needs to be tackled through decisions made at the local/national level. To date, little knowledge has accumulated on how and when different local/national institutional frameworks are mobilized to address global challenges. *Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Response* thought-provokingly addresses this knowledge gap.

Katherine Richardson, *Professor and Leader of the Sustainability Science Centre, University of Copenhagen*

For decades, Steve Rayner was part of a band of academics and practitioners who – heretically, at the time – argued that the Kyoto Protocol would not be fully implemented or renewed, as attempting to do so would far exceed the capacities of local, national and international institutions. Now that this one-time heresy has quietly become dogma in recent years, we should pay close attention to what he and his colleagues have to say on how to strengthen the institutions responsible for climate change adaptation and mitigation. That is the theme of this excellent volume. Importantly, the book punctures the myth that authoritarian regimes are necessarily ‘better’ at combating climate change, while it also provides valuable insights into how democratic institutions can be strengthened and utilised better. I strongly recommend this book to all those interested in effectively addressing climate change now that the Kyoto Protocol has collapsed.

Marco Verweij, *Professor of Political Science, Jacobs University Bremen*

Institutional Capacity for Climate Change Response

In a period of rapid climate change and climate governance failures, it is crucial to understand and address how effectively different political institutions can and should react to climate change.

The term 'institutional response capacity' can be defined as a measurement for how effective political institutions may respond to threats and challenges such as climate change. This book sets out to provide a venue for the discussion of how to conduct climate politics by offering new perspectives on how social and political institutions are capable of responding to climate change. In doing so, the book explores how democracy, institutional design and polycentric governance influence social and political entities' capacity to mitigate, adapt, address and transform climate change. The book offers building blocks for a new agenda of climate studies by focusing on institutional response capacity and by offering a new approach to climate governance at a time when many political initiatives have failed.

This interdisciplinary volume is a valuable resource for academics, researchers and policy-makers in the areas of anthropology, political science, geography and environmental studies.

Theresa Scavenius is an associate professor at the Department of Planning, University of Aalborg, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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