

# Abstract

Research on public responses to climate change mitigation policies is proliferating. Therefore, a need to critically review the existing research practice arises. Studies published over the last 15 years ( $n=164$ ) and focusing on public attitudes and responses to climate policies are reviewed in this thesis with respect to *a)* measures and operational definitions of policy support, acceptability, acceptance, and other types of responses and *b)* factors related to such responses. A great diversity of measures and measured constructs, frequent lack of theoretical embedding, and conceptual vagueness are currently pervasive in the field. Such state leads to uncertainty of what is being measured, ambiguity, and greater diversity and lower comparability of results. In response to this state, the thesis proposes a construct of policy attitudes and responses as an overarching concept comprising the diversity of measures and constructs already in use, and a theoretical framework, based on the Value-Belief-Norm theory, as a heuristic tool for measurement, analysis, and interpretation of survey results. Additionally, the thesis discusses the interlinkage of public opinion on climate policies and policy-making process to argue the relevance and the role of the reviewed research.

Three original studies are part of the thesis to empirically support the presented arguments and propositions: study 1 on differences between measures of policy attitudes; study 2 on interactions between policy characteristics and political orientation; and study 3 on factors related to perceived characteristics of different policy instruments.

**Keywords:** *public opinion; climate change; mitigation; policy; attitudes; public responses to policies*