
Preface

More than 20 years ago, we started to investigate the role of expertise in environmental regulation and policymaking, and we have been involved in researching this topic ever since. With backgrounds as sociologists, we have worked in multidisciplinary settings in which linkages among science, technology, and the environment are studied. This experience gradually led us to bring various streams of research closer together in order to gain more nuanced and deeper insight into the role of science, policy, and citizens in environmental governance.

A decade ago we were involved in the multidisciplinary program International and National Abatement Strategies for Transboundary Air Pollution (ASTA). This program aimed to produce scientific knowledge in support of international measures to control transboundary air pollution in Europe. An important task of the program was to develop policy-relevant science and to increase policymakers' understanding of this environmental problem. Through this program, we had the opportunity to study the interface between science and policymaking in greater detail.

As part of the ASTA program, in 2005 we arranged the international workshop "Toward Robust European Air Pollution Policies: Constraints and Prospects for a Wider Dialogue between Scientists, Experts, Decision Makers, and Citizens." The lively discussions among policymakers, negotiators, natural scientists, and social scientists became the starting point for this book, considering how better to understand the shaping of international environmental governance. The workshop inspired us to continue this discussion from a social science perspective. To that end, we invited scholars from international relations and science and technology studies to contribute their perspectives to forging a better understanding of science–policy–citizen dynamics in international environmental governance. This book is the result of that invitation.

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