Climate Change Policy in Chinese Online Media Discourse: The Case of the Debate on the Copenhagen Climate Summit 2009

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Abstract

This paper discusses the debate in Chinese online media on both climate change policy and the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15). Based on the results of a discourse analysis of Chinese language weblogs, the paper argues that at the time of COP15 there was a dominant single discourse coalition, while also identifying alternative discourse formations. The main reasons for this discursive structure seem to be the ways in which actors are participating in the political process, the sensitivity of the topic of climate change in the Chinese discussion, and the influence of foreign debates.

Keywords: climate change policy, Copenhagen Climate Summit, policy-making in China, online discourse



Immervoll, Thomas. "Climate Change Policy in Chinese Online Media Discourse: The Case of the Debate on the Copenhagen Climate Summit 2009." In *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies*, Volume 8, eds. Rudiger Frank, Ina Hein, Lukas Pokorny, and Agnes Schick-Chen. Vienna: Praesens Verlag, 2016, pp. 65–88

Parts of this paper have been presented at the XX Biennial Conference of the European Association of Chinese Studies, 22–26 July 2014, Braga and Coimbra. I am very grateful to Anja Senz, Eva Sternfeld, and Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik for their comments on an earlier version of this paper. I am extending my thanks to my colleagues at the University of Vienna, Josef Falko Loher, Julia Ritirc, and Prudence Willats for supporting my work on this paper.