

**RIO DE JANEIRO STATE UNIVERSITY (UERJ)**  
**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES (IESP)**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL, DEMOCRATIC CRISIS AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**  
Online on Tuesdays (9-12.30 am)  
Professor: Carlos R. S. Milani

**Abstract:**

In the late 1980s, scientists gathered under the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) produced a wide-range consensus on the high probability of anthropogenic contributions to the phenomenon of climate change. Since then, climate conventions and protocols have been signed, national policies have been defined, policy commitments have been made, energy transition scenarios have been outlined, civil society organizations and climate activism networks have spread across national and transnational public spheres; however, obstruction politics dynamics and networks against the recognition of climate change as a social, economic and political problem have grown stronger from the local to the global levels. Politics of obstruction takes on several forms of expressions: denialism, skepticism, postponement (“politics of delay”), dissemination of fake news, obscurantism and policies to delegitimize scientific methods, etc. In this course, the different expressions of this politics of obstruction will be studied, with an emphasis on the USA, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Brazil and some countries in the South (India, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey). The course will focus on relationships between politics of obstruction and the crisis of democracy, on the relevance of the climate debate in emerging authoritarianisms, the tensions between climate science and public policies, as well as the *modus operandi* and the capabilities of such climate obstruction actors in foreign policy agendas of some states and in multilateral climate negotiations. Finally, this course will discuss how the Anthropocene and Capitalocene crises are related to the current critical conjuncture that affects liberal democracies and the hegemonic dispute between the USA and China in the reconstruction of the global order.

Classes will be organized around 7 major themes, namely:

- Theme 1: History of climate change, anthropocene and capitalocene;
- Theme 2: Scientific action in the field of climate change and the interdisciplinary challenge;
- Theme 3: Relations between science and public policies in the climate field;
- Theme 4: Climate obstruction politics, actors and *modus operandi*;
- Theme 5: Climate denial and crises of/in democracy;
- Theme 6: Climate denial, “negative externalities” and regulatory policies;

- Theme 7: Climate politics of obstruction and the crisis of multilateralism.

Whenever possible, international experts in the field will be invited to introduce a topic, especially those who are members of the Climate Social Science Network, coordinated by Brown University (USA). Confirmed presence: Ruth McKie (United Kingdom) and Timmons Robert (USA).

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