

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Climate related deaths on the French policy agenda: does cold deserve less attention than heat?

- **Format:**

In-person presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

Ute Dubois – Caroline De Paoli

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

ISG Institut Supérieur de Gestion, Paris, France (both authors)

- **Abstract (300 words):**

The paper analyses to what extent and how climate-related deaths have emerged on the French policy agenda. The relations between variations of temperatures and mortality are a well-documented fact (Laaidi et al., 2006): when temperatures fall below – or rise above – certain levels, the health risks for the population increase and the impacts in terms of mortality are clearly visible.

There is however an asymmetry between deaths caused by cold climate on the one hand, and deaths caused by heat waves on the other hand. Whereas heat waves have emerged on the government's agenda immediately after the heat wave of 2003 – the heatwave of August 2003 has caused over 15,000 deaths – mortality caused by cold climate has failed to veritably emerge as an issue for French policy makers. Even if it has been shown that cold

temperatures during the winter period are responsible, each year, for equally high or even higher excess mortality figures (Le Roy Ladurie and Rousseau, 2009).

We discuss the emergence of climate-related mortality on French policy makers' agenda combining a multiple streams approach (Kingdon, 2003, Cairney and Jones, 2016) and a causal stories approach (Stone, 1989). We explain why heat waves have received high consideration in the policy process, whereas the impacts of cold climate are still viewed as a problem mainly affecting homeless people.

The French approach is in stark contrast with the UK, where the focus has been on excess winter mortality for several decades. The weak attention given to winter mortality in France has probably influenced the development and design of policies of prevention of health impacts of temperature variations. The focus is on emergency situations and prevention measures mainly focus on social care and on health policy actions, whereas other levers like improvements of the built environment are viewed as a separate issue.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Ute Dubois is an associate professor in economics at ISG Business School (Paris). After her PhD in economics in 2007, at University Paris Sud, Ute worked three years at Université Paris Sud as a post-doc researcher. Since 2010, she is Associate Professor at ISG Business School and researcher at ISG Lab. Her main areas of expertise lie in the fields of energy economics, institutional dynamics of reforms in network industries, and public policy analysis. She has worked on competitive reforms in network industries, with a focus on electricity market liberalisation, competition policy in electricity markets and organisational changes in electricity distribution and supply. For the past ten years, she has conducted research on energy poverty, with a focus on national and local policymaking and on the analysis of the local implementation of policies.

Caroline De Paoli is an associate professor in economics at ISG (Paris) business school since 2009 and a researcher at ISG Lab. She holds a PhD from Bocconi university (Milan, Italy). Her research interest is mainly focused on microeconomics and the public sector. She has worked on pension system reforms and on wealth accumulation of the self-employed, using French public large data sets. She is currently working on issues related to fuel poverty and excess winter deaths.