

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

## Abstract

This poster discusses the debate on climate change policy, and on the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15), in Chinese online media. Based on the results of a discourse analysis of Chinese language weblogs, it argues that at the time of COP15 there was a dominant single discourse coalition, but also identifies 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.

## Method

Discourse Analysis, Discourse Coalitions (Ernesto Laclau, Chantal Mouffe, Martin Nonhoff)

## Results

### 1. Hegemonic discourse coalition

- 'Developed states' vs. 'developing states'
- US held accountable for the failure of the negotiations
- US and developed states should take their responsibilities
- Environmental protection, local action, sustainable dev.

### 2. Alternative Discourse Coalitions

#### 2.1 China vs. US

- Obama administration: efforts to combat climate change
- Influence of foreign sources

#### 2.2 Noah's Arch discourse coalition

- Climate changes as God's way to test and punish men
- Countries: unite, use technologies to oppose global warming
- Believers vs. unbelievers
- Fundamentalistic, solated discourse position

#### 2.3 Climate change scepticism

- Only one text
- Against aggressions by Tuvalu against industrial countries
- No significance to verify the existence of a discourse coalition

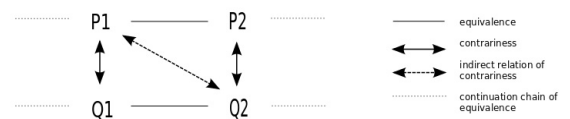


Fig. 1 Mapping of discourses. Source: Nonhoff 2006: 341, cf. Nonhoff 2005: 19

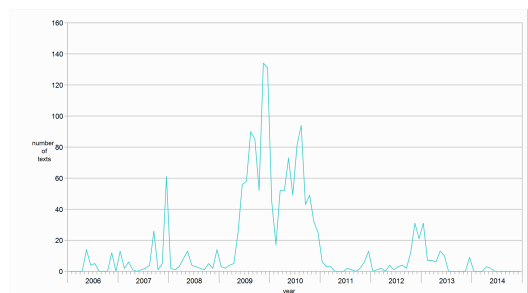
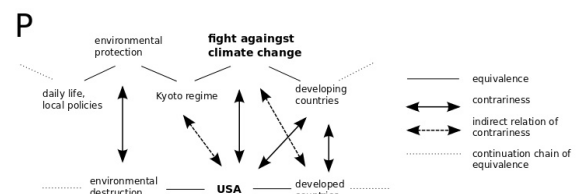


Fig. 2 Number of texts on climate change and climate change policy collected for this study



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Fig. 3 The hegemonic discourse coalition



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Fig. 4 The Noah's Arch discourse coalition

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## Sources:

Nonhoff, Martin. Politischer Diskurs und Hegemonie: Das Projekt „Soziale Marktwirtschaft.“ Bielefeld: transcript, 2006  
 Nonhoff, Martin. "Soziale Marktwirtschaft als hegemoniales Projekt: Eine Übung in funktionalistischer Diskursanalyse/Social Market Economy as a Hegemonic Project: An Exercise in Functionalist Discourse Analysis." Lecture, 1 July 2005, Paris XII, Créteil, <http://www.johannes-angermueller.de/deutsch/ADFA/nonhoff.pdf>, accessed March 2011