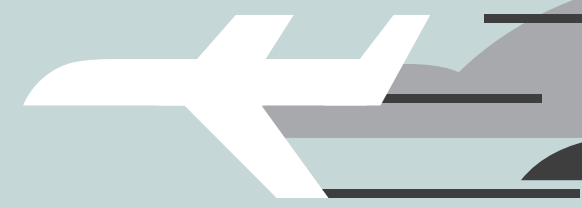


# Not me. Not now. Not like this. Too late.



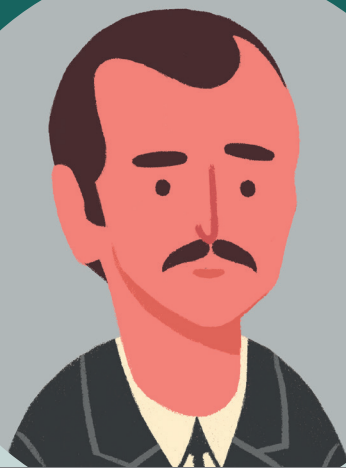
## Which argumentation patterns are used to hinder (or stop) climate protection

Hardly anyone denies anthropogenic climate change any longer. The argument against effective climate protection mostly takes a different twist today.

The MCC research institute has headed an analysis of the debate. This study identifies four core statements typically leading to delay in climate protection, each with subtypes. A tricky aspect: these patterns of argumentation are used by fundamental climate protection opponents as well as by people who point out quite relevant aspects.

This analysis sharpens our understanding, which helps to react adequately to key arguments, and, above all, to keep debates constructive.

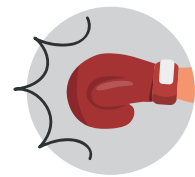
"The others first"



redirect responsibility

### The "free rider" excuse

"If we cut our emissions, it will weaken our economy. The other countries will not join in and so will overtake us."



### Individualism

"Every individual, every consumer, is responsible for doing something for the climate."



### Whataboutism

"Our CO2 emissions are tiny compared to xy. Until s/he acts, there's no point in doing anything."



### Technological optimism

"We should focus on research - future technologies will open up completely new possibilities for climate protection."



### All talk, little action

"We are world champions in climate protection! We have ambitious goals and have even declared a climate emergency."



### Fossil fuel solutionism

"Fossil fuels are a part of the solution. New power stations are highly efficient and provide the bridge to a low-carbon future."



### No sticks, just carrots

"Rules and regulations only frighten people, we should rely on incentives and voluntary commitments."



"Radical change is not necessary"



propagate measures that are too weak

"Change will hurt us"



emphasise the disadvantages

### Hiding behind the poor

"Climate protection is unfair, poorer people are the most burdened. Soon the nurse will no longer be able to afford a flight to Mallorca."



### Policy perfectionism

"We need to find even better solutions that are supported by all, otherwise we risk a revolt against climate protection."



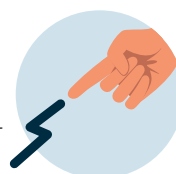
### Appeal to well-being

"Fossil fuels support modern living standards. If we do without them, we deprive poorer countries and people of their prospects."



### Doomism

"No matter what else we do - the climate catastrophe is inevitable. We should adapt as best we can and humbly place our fate in the hands of God or Mother Nature."



### Change is impossible

"Anything that would help fight climate change would be against human nature and against the way of life today. It would therefore not be enforceable by democratic means."



"There is nothing more we can do anyway"



capitulate prematurely

Source: Lamb et al.: Discourses of climate delay, Global Sustainability 3/2020 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/sus.2020.13>

klimafakten.de



**MCC**  
Mercator Research Institute on  
Global Commons and Climate Change