

Climate Actions

“The climate movement is now old and robust enough to be studied—which in and of itself is good news. And the results of those inquiries are of great use in the task ahead, which is building this movement big enough and fast enough to catch up with the physics of global warming. This book will help make our labors more effective!”

—Bill McKibben, *founder, 350.org, and Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies, Middlebury College, USA*

“Addressing climate change will not be achieved through business as usual. Citizen action is absolutely vital to prod, push and directly institute changes. To learn how citizen action might be improved, Laurence Delina brings to bear insights from social theory combined with reports from numerous action groups. His classification of mechanisms for change provides a convenient entry to a careful exposition and analysis. *Climate Actions* offers a wealth of ideas and information for anyone seeking to make actions as effective as possible.”

—Brian Martin, *Emeritus Professor, University of Wollongong, Australia*

“Rooted in social movement scholarship, and based on an original new survey of climate groups, *Climate Actions* offers an up-to-date, comprehensive analysis. Highly recommended for anyone interested in expanding and deepening the climate movement.”

—Juliet Schor, *Professor of Sociology, Boston College, USA*

Laurence L. Delina

Climate Actions

Transformative Mechanisms for Social Mobilisation

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To Matheo Rain, Michaela Marie, Sophia Lucylle, Ian Gabriel and Michelle Lorraine, you, most likely, will inherit an altered future Earth, but you should know that some of us fought hard for it to be just, fair, and sustainable as much as possible.

PREFACE

Keeping fossil fuels in the ground and accelerating just transitions to sustainable energy systems remain essential in addressing our collective climate challenge. Despite the common aspirational goals agreed in the Paris Agreement on climate change, climate change remains a challenge that must be addressed at its core, which means the rapid reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The need for rapid GHG reduction continues to underscore climate activism, which now must become even stronger. This book provides strategies for making and doing climate actions, based on insights from 2014 and 2017 international surveys of contemporary social action groups. These distilled approaches vary across respondents, groups, and places, and some activist groups have already adopted them. But these strategies still offer opportunities for stocktaking and acquiring a foothold, so that activism can be more effective and the common good can prevail. Climate actions can be designed around relationships (relating), moral and value-based messages (messaging), alternatives (visioning), diversity (webbing), and communication (interacting). This book synthesises these critical mechanisms in strengthening the diverse, plural, multi-scale, and heterogeneous, yet inextricably linked climate action movement.

The many lectures, seminars, workshops, and courses I've attended, as well as the chats and conversations on benches and at dining tables, cafes, beaches, and in hallways in many places—from Sydney to Boston to Munich to Bangkok to Manila and elsewhere—have been key in shaping my understanding of climate actions. Throughout my travels, I

learned from many fine people. I will attempt to mention them all here, but I hope that those I may neglect to acknowledge can forgive my poor memory.

This book had its beginning in Sydney, Australia, where I wrote my Ph.D. thesis. This book is the second part of that work and a response to a basket of climate mitigation strategies produced from a *Gedankenexperiment* of what can be learned from rapid wartime mobilisation. That work has been published as a book in 2016. For the second part of my Ph.D. thesis, I worked on the research question: how to produce democratic climate actions. I'm grateful to my Ph.D. supervisor and mentor Mark Diesendorf, who was the first to suggest I look at climate activism. That research focused at two opportunities—one on lessons to be learned from select moments of large-scale social movements (published in *Carbon Management*—see Delina, L, Diesendorf, M & Merson, J, 2014, vol. 5, pp. 397–409), and another on lessons to be learned from contemporary social action groups (published in *Interface: A Journal for and about Social Movements*—see Delina, L & Diesendorf, M, 2016, vol. 8, pp. 117–141). The International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) supported this work through a predoctoral fellowship award. I thank ICNC for its generosity, particularly, Maciej Bartkowski for his comments on my writing.

This book expands on my *Interface* article and includes updates in the rapidly changing landscape of the climate action movement with insights drawn from a new survey data. This book benefited so much from these surveys. These data would not be available if not for the time of my generous respondents from around the world. The insights they shared form the core of this work and this book could not have been written without them.

From Sydney, I took this work to Harvard University, particularly at the Program on Science, Technology and Society at the Kennedy School, where I refined my arguments as a Visiting Fellow in the Spring of 2013 and Spring of 2016. I was very fortunate to learn from Sheila Jasanoff during these visits. Subsequently, a Carson Fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich gave me uninterrupted time to complete this research. I am grateful for the opportunity to be in such a vibrant intellectual community as I finished this work and also completed another book, *Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transitions*. I thank Christof Mauch, Helmuth Trishler, Arielle Helmick, and Carmen Dines for making it happen. My academic home

since 2015, the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University, has always been supportive of my work. I thank my postdoc supervisor, Center Director and Prof. Anthony Janetos, for his unwavering support. I'm also particularly grateful to Cynthia Barakatt, who for the nth time, read, edited, and commented on my work. I also thank my commissioning editor at Palgrave Macmillan, Rachael Ballard, and two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments.

My friends and colleagues also deserve my gratitude: Franziska Mey, Vipra Kumar, Alicia Bergonia, Nahid Sultana, Long Seng To, John Connors, Matthew Burke, Jennie Stephens, Peachie Ann Aquino, George Manzano, Sheila Siar, Angeline Rodriguez-Burling, Bobby Wengronowitz, Joanna Bahian, Rima Alfafara, Ever Simonsson, Roditt Cruz-Delfino, Rufa Cagoco-Guam, Remedios Pineda, Ma. Rudette Dardo-Palomar, Eden Joy Alperto, Beverly Valdez, Merlyn Jarrell, Ricardo Samanion, Jose Tenecio Jr., Mary Ann Frugalidad-Latumbo, Rhea Venus-Dela Cruz, Alma Dolot, Allan Lao, Aynee Triunfante, and Charmae Kacir. I also thank my family; it is them I cherish the most. I dedicate this work to my nephews—Matheo Rain and Ian Gabriel—and nieces—Michaela Marie, Sophia Lucylle, and Michelle Lorraine.

San Isidro, Sto. Niño,
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28 March 2018

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