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9th Responsible Management Education
Research Conference

SOCIETAL IMPACT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

CLIMATE ACTION SIMULATION

AWARD-WINNING SIMULATION-BASED ROLE-PLAY WITH EN-ROADS



Picture: Florian Kapmeier, ESB Business School

The atmosphere in the lecture hall is heated. Planting more trees? Phasing out coal? More subsidies for renewables? Less meat consumption? Sixty students discuss loudly, gesticulate wildly, and negotiate intently as they try to limit global warming to well-below 2 °C by 2100 - while keeping their delegations' interests in mind.

This is the [Climate Action Simulation](#), an award-winning simulation-based role-play of the "UN Climate Action Summit", using the climate-energy simulator [En-ROADS](#), co-developed by [Climate Interactive](#) and the [MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative](#).

BACKGROUND OF THE GAME

The climate and energy infrastructures are tightly coupled complex dynamical systems driven by multiple feedback processes, accumulations, time delays, and nonlinearities. However, research shows poor understanding of these processes is widespread, even among highly educated people with technical backgrounds. The *Climate Action Simulation* helps a wide range of people try out and explore the policies and investment scenarios that allow them to reach their goals on climate change. With a focus on the mix of solutions that will lead to a more stable climate, this simulation can inspire hope that is grounded in our best understanding of the dynamics of the energy and climate system.

In a [study](#) we were able to show that taking part in the *Climate Action Simulation* improves participants' knowledge of the actions needed to address climate change, boosts both personal and emotional engagement with climate issues, and leaves participants feeling empowered to address climate change.

THE WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed to provide an interactive experience to participants and is open to educators, students, and other conference participants alike. Following the *Climate Action Simulation* itself is a training of participants in how to lead the simulation effectively and a discussion about its use in teaching.

YOUR FACILITATOR

Dr. Florian Kapmeier is Professor for Strategy at the ESB Business School of Reutlingen University, Germany. He is Partner of Climate Interactive and Research Affiliate of the [MIT Climate Pathways Project](#). He is a co-developer of the *Climate Action Simulation*. In 2021, AACSB recognized his engagement with the Climate Action Simulation as "[Innovation that inspires](#)" and the Academy of Management AoM awarded his workshop "Preparing the Manager for Climate Change: From Awareness to Action" as "[Best Professional Development Workshop](#)" in "Management Education and Development."