A photograph of a wind turbine with three blades, positioned in front of a bright sun that creates a lens flare effect. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains under a clear sky.

Trade-offs or win-win situations?

Renewable energy programs in fossil fueled middle-income countries

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Energy Research Centre

Outline

1. Research Puzzle: Trade-offs or win-win situations in middle income countries
2. On trade-offs, climate change and political coalitions : what we know from the literature
3. A framework for analysis
4. RE Programs in Mexico, South Africa and Thailand
5. Findings & Conclusions

Research Puzzle

- Assumption of a trade-off build into the climate negotiations since 1992
- Claim for international finance to mitigate
- Fossil fueled middle income countries manage to start renewable energy programs without significant international support
- Why?

Research Questions

- Why do fossil fuel resource rich developing countries implement renewable energy programs in the absence of international support?
- How does the political discourse of the programs relate to the supposed trade-offs between emissions and poverty reductions?

Renewable Energy in Mexico, Thailand and South Africa

	Thailand	South Africa	Mexico
Share of Electricity Production	7,2 % (2 % hydro electric)	5 % (< 1 % hydro electric)	18 % (13 % hydro electric)
Policy	Feed-in tariff	Competitive bidding	Net-metering, self-supply & competitive bidding
Main Domestic Fossil Fuel Resources	Natural Gas	Coal	Oil



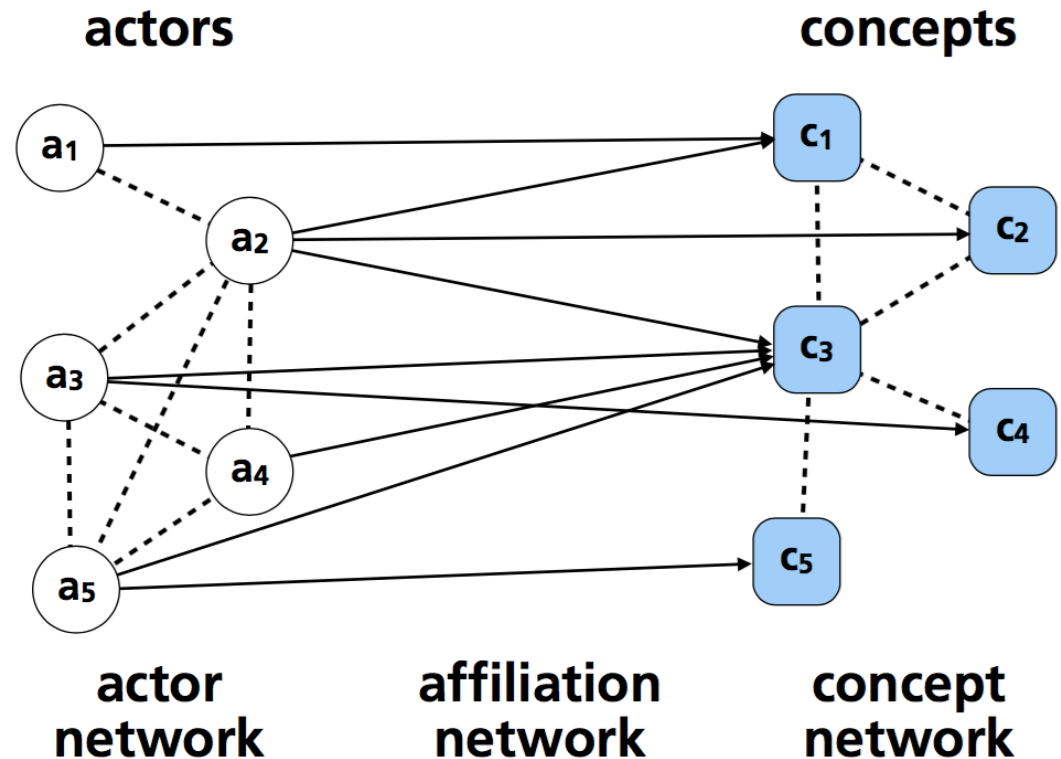
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On trade-offs, climate change and political coalitions

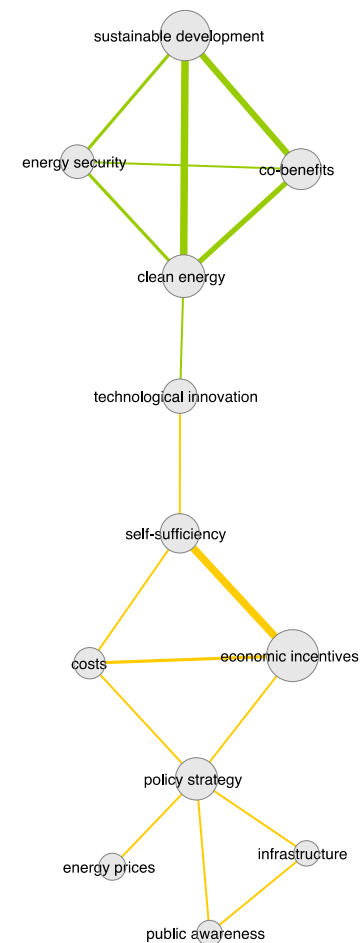
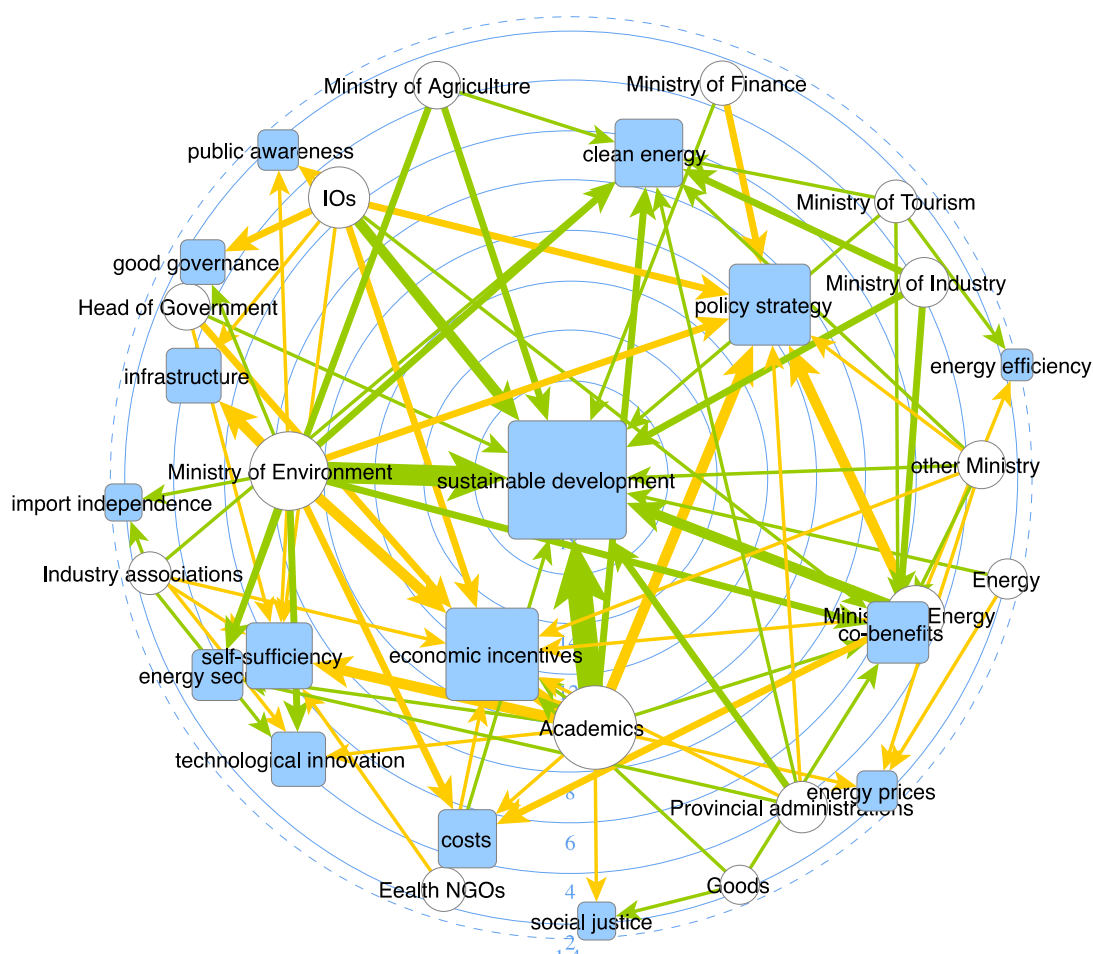
- Literature establishes trade-offs as one of the barriers to the implementation of RE programs
- Barriers emerge from political networks that shape coalitions in opposition of the programs
- Barriers can be overcome once coalitions of support become stronger

Framework for analysis and methodology

- Analysis of relationships between actors and their discourse in the RE programs
- Relational policymaking

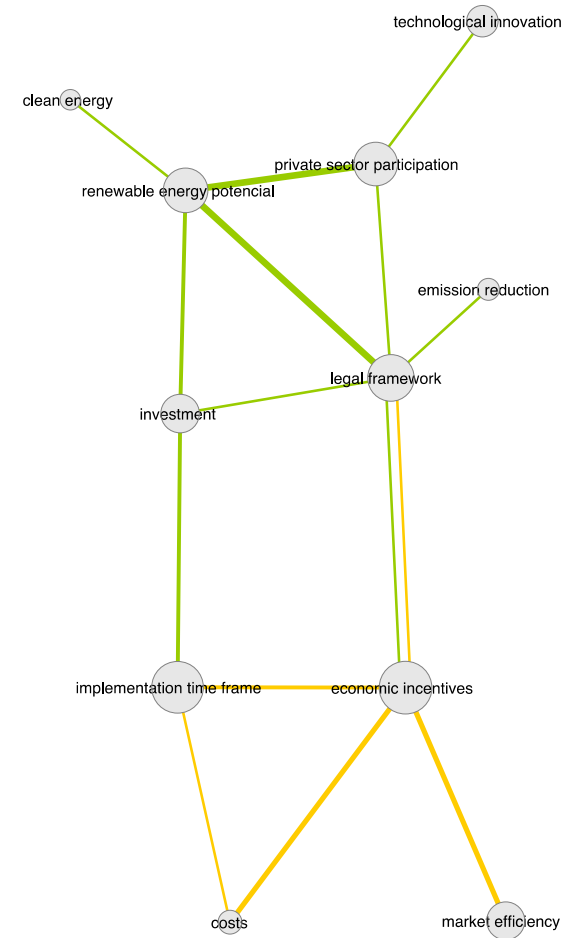
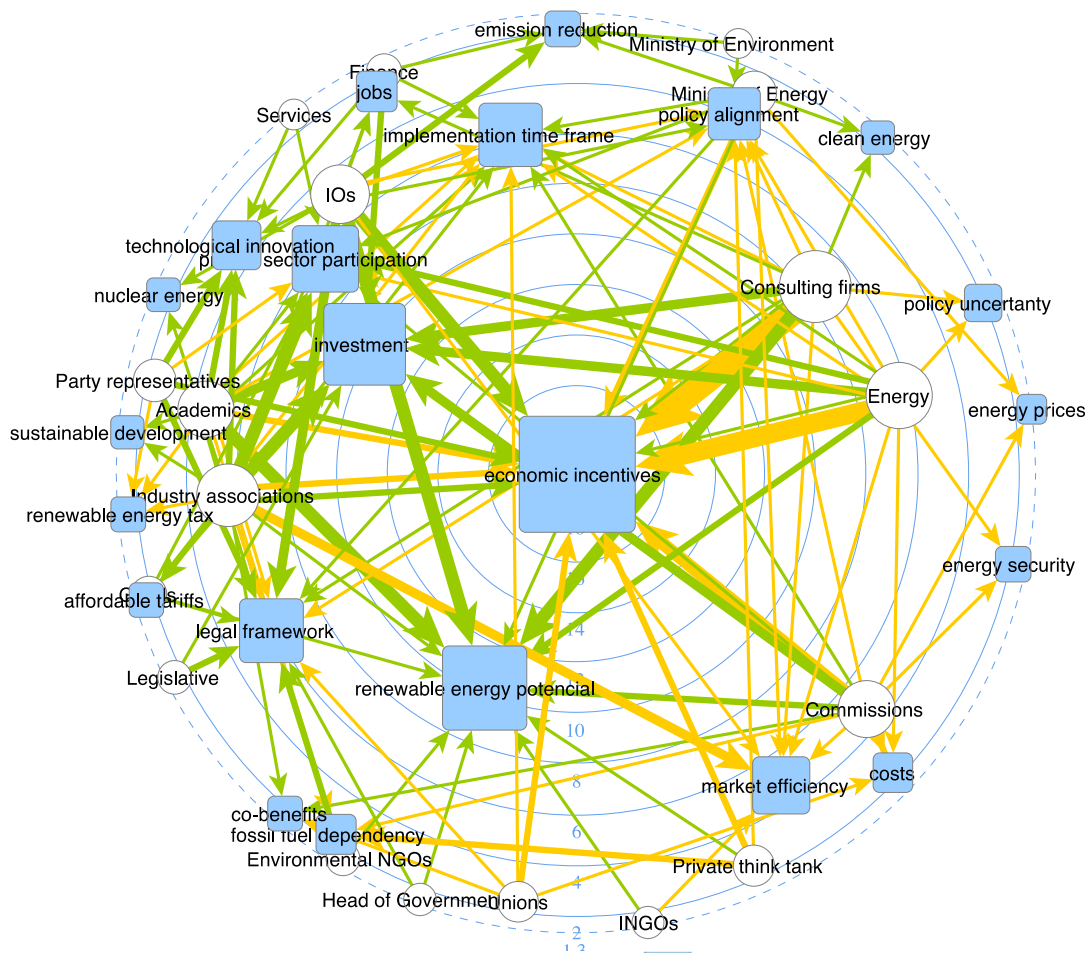


Discourse coalitions on renewable energy in Thailand



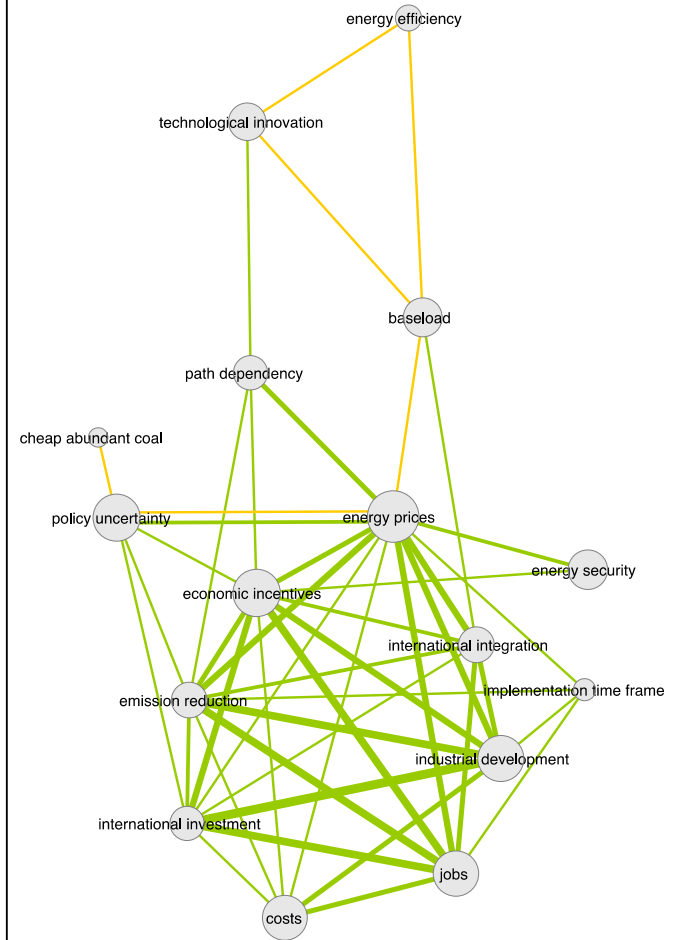
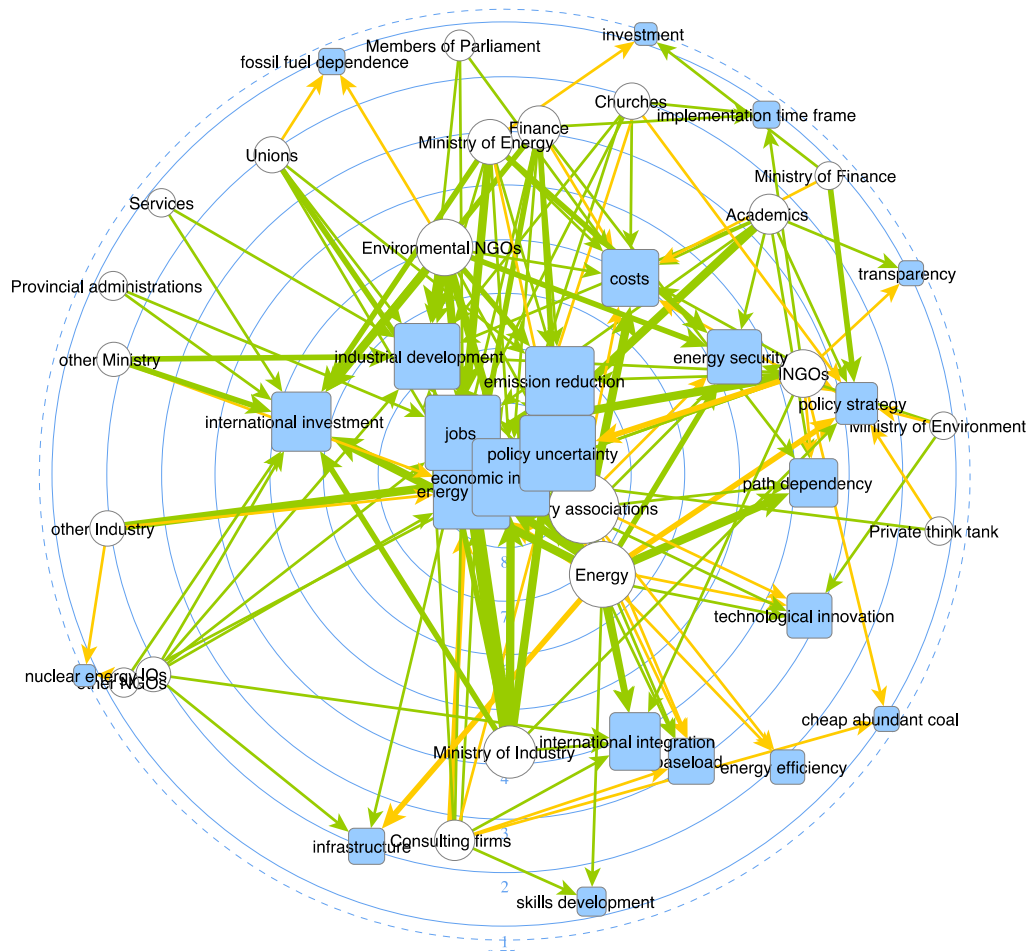
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Discourse coalitions on renewable energy in Mexico



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Discourse coalitions on renewable energy in South Africa



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Findings

	Thailand	South Africa	Mexico
Core Actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries • Academics • IOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry • Energy firms • NGOs • Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting firms • Energy & other industry • Academics • IOs • Ministries
Core Frames	<p>Pro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Sustainable) development • Clean energy <p>Contra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic incentives • Policy strategy 	<p>Pro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prices & incentives • Jobs • Industrial development • International Aspects <p>Contra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prices • Baseload 	<p>Pro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment • RE potential • Private sector participation <p>Contra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic incentives • Market efficiency • Implementation



Conclusions

- Similar actors involved in all countries
- Different discourses, but mainly centered around economic incentives and distribution thereof rather than emissions
- Poverty does not appear explicitly
- No signs of trade-offs or claims for international support in the discourse

Conclusion

Trade-offs or win-win situations?

Win-win situations in renewable energy are possible under conditions of political support, which largely depend on the way the coalitions respond to the design of the incentive structures.



Thanks for your attention

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