

- **Dr Giulio Mattioli (TU Dortmund University)**
- **Flight dependence: between carbon lock-in and social inequalities in air travel**
- **27.11.202, 11:30-13:00**
- **Budynek Starego BUW, sala 107, Kampus Główny UW**

Reducing climate emissions is a key social challenge in the 21st century, and transport is a hard-to-abate sector. The problem is often one of “car dependence”, whereby for some social groups a high level of car use is necessary to participate in society. This creates a “carbon lock-in” effect whereby climate policies (such as pricing) tend to raise issues of social inequality and a political backlash. An emerging but less explored issue is “flight dependence”. Air travel activity has increased rapidly in the last few decades and, while participation remains very unequal, it has become a taken-for-granted activity for some social groups. This presentation reports on the findings of a recent research project on the association between air travel and migration, social network dispersion, socialisation, and airports accessibility. Each of these factors is a pathway through which air travel could increasingly become “locked-in” and perceived as a need. A political economy perspective on the role of the state in propping up the aviation sector will be presented as well. To conclude, I will sketch an agenda for future research on “flight dependence”, building on an analogy with similar issues of car dependence in the road transport sector.

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