

Book CCC - Endorsements

“The French Citizens’ Convention for Climate was a true landmark in the history of citizen deliberation. Featuring contributors with intimate knowledge of the Convention and the capacity to bring to bear broader insights, this book is the perfect guide to how the Convention happened and worked, what went right, what went wrong, how it affected climate policy outcomes, and how it compares with other important deliberative processes.”

John S. Dryzek, Distinguished Professor, University of Canberra

“A magisterial overview of a unique national experiment –the French Citizens Convention on Climate Change. This is indispensable reading for anyone trying to understand the context and the complexities of this important initiative.”

James Fishkin, Janet M. Peck Professor of International Communication, Stanford University

“The edited volume by Dimitri Courant and Bernard Reber on the French Citizens’ Convention for Climate is not only one of the most comprehensive case studies I ever read, but it derives convincingly general conclusions. Applying a variety of methods, scholars cover the complete process, look at a variety of involved actors, and address crucial topics such as justice, accountability, and legitimacy. The book is highly recommended for everybody working on mini-publics.”

Brigitte Geißel, Professor for Comparative Politics, Goethe-University Frankfurt a.M.

“At a time when democracies are under siege around the globe, it is crucial to understand new ways to involve citizens more directly in constructive solutions to societal problems. Courant and Reber and their colleagues’ multidisciplinary and nuanced analysis of the 2019/20 French Citizens’ Convention for Climate provides important and actionable insights about the role of deliberative democracy in the ecological transition.”

Elke U. Weber, Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment, Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs, Princeton University

“This book provides a reflective account of La Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat, drawing on rigorous research and critical analysis to unpack its complexities. Moving beyond celebratory narratives and simplistic critiques, it offers a nuanced examination of one of the most ambitious and contested experiments in deliberative democracy. Essential reading for supporters, sceptics, and the undecided alike, this work sheds light on the role of citizens’ assemblies in shaping climate action.”

Nicole Curato, Professor of Democratic Governance, University of Birmingham

"Citizens' assemblies on climate change are an exciting democratic innovation that promise to move political debate and policy on climate forward and in the right direction. Courant and Reber's edited volume is a painstakingly researched detailed account of the French Citizens' Climate Convention, arguably the most significant such democratic experiment to date. Bringing together democratic innovation theory with climate policy science, this book is a must-read for all of us interested in how democracies can and should deal with climate insecurity."

Simone Chambers, Professor of Political Science, University of California Irvine

"Taking on an absolutely urgent problem, France's ambitious Citizens Convention for Climate was a study in political complexity, embedded in political ecology comprised of the president, parliament, experts, advocacy groups, industry, and the broader public. As a result of an extensive study by a multidisciplinary collective of 20, the book addresses the challenges of citizens' assemblies as no other study has done. Essential reading for anyone interested in innovative democratic approaches to wicked problems."

Mark E. Warren, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Emeritus Merilees Chair for the Study of Democracy, University of British Columbia

"The French Citizens' Convention for the Climate achieved a level of political and public recognition that is rare for a citizens' assembly. However, its significance and impact remain widely contested. Dimitri Courant and Bernard Reber's wide-ranging collection offers us a clearer understanding of the context, organization, and impact of the Convention. The scope and sensitivity of the analyses are particularly impressive because many of the authors were present at the Convention itself, so they draw on first-hand experience and knowledge. *Deliberative Democracy and the Ecological Transition* sets the terms for a more sophisticated and nuanced debate".

Graham Smith, Professor of Politics, Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster - Chair of Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies