

STRUCTURAL ASYMMETRY IN CLIMATE DISCOURSE : THE MECHANISMS OF STALLED CLIMATE ACTION

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Extended Abstract

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Abstract Summary

Current global climate governance faces a striking paradox: the younger generation's unprecedented climate awareness and innovative drive are failing to translate into substantive systemic action. This innovation bottleneck signifies a fundamental institutional failure, particularly in Low-Latitude Developing Countries (LLDCs), where centralized governance often relegates youth participation to symbolic tokenism. This study investigates the mechanisms behind this stagnation by focusing on the **Structural Asymmetry** between individual psychological demands and the supply of macro-discourse.

The **Structural Asymmetry** identified in this research manifests within a normative vacuum, where national media discourse prioritizes abstract macro-policies over the value-based, injunctive cues required to activate individual responsibility. This discrepancy prevents the potent psychological drivers of the younger generation from being mobilized into actual behavioral intention. Using Lombok, Indonesia, as a structural proxy, this research identifies the specific systemic bottlenecks that relegate youth to the role of passive observers.

Beyond mere diagnosis, the study operationalizes these insights into a durable governance strategies designed to restore and institutionalize climate agency. These strategies provide a replicable model to operationalize youth engagement by translating theoretical intent into specific, actionable administrative pathways. By prioritizing the restoration of normative signals within national discourse, the strategies aim to realign social expectations with individual psychological engines, thereby bridging the Awareness-Behavioral Gap. Ultimately, this research offers an enforceable pathway for climate resilience in regions with severe structural constraints, providing a durable governance model to convert dissipated innovation intentions into measurable policy outcomes.

- **Methods**

To investigate the multi-layered mechanisms of stalled youth agency, this study employs an integrated **mixed-methods approach** that bridges micro-level psychological drivers with macro-level structural constraints. This paper integrates **survey analysis** and **media analysis**.

- **Results**

The empirical analysis identifies a critical structural asymmetry where high psychological demand for climate action is neutralized by discursive gap.

Presenting Author Biography



Huirak Lee is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Technology Management Economics and Policy at Seoul National University(SNU). Her research keywords are environment, sustainability, circular economy, and waste. Before joining Seoul National University, she was the CEO of PUJI, an upcycling brand that makes fashion items from discarded waste.

She holds an MS in Technology Management Economics and Policy from SNU and dual BS in Mechanical Engineering from Hanyang University ERICA. She is currently continuing her research on waste management and the mutual growth of circular economy growth and technological innovation with the support of the Brain Korea 21 program.