

Plenary Presentation

Stimulating climate action: scenarios versus responsibility

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I followed the typical path of an engaged researcher: the first concern is good research, to publish in good academic journals, to describe and analyze. We use scenarios to inform the public and policy makers about actions and consequences. The message is familiar: business as usual likely leads to a warmer and unknown world. Many ecosystems, already under pressure, will vanish. Yet the scenarios' messages are countered by the fossil fuel lobby: climate action will destroy jobs. I realized this to be an unequal battle. The fossil fuel lobby lies; they actively destroy climate science; they spend billions of euros. Meanwhile academics remain polite and write new scenarios. We academics are too polite. I decided to join Extinction Rebellion. I am no born activist, but I've learned to respect my activist-colleagues. I now cause inconvenience and upset my co-citizen. To get through the message that we need to care for planet Earth.



After a PhD in Amsterdam, I visited Oslo, went to Manchester, and came to Tilburg. I'm Professor of Economics and was Coordinating Lead Author of the [fifth assessment report](#) of the [IPCC](#), [WGIII](#). I believe we need to take responsibility. I was Head of the Economics Department and I'm now Vice Dean Research of TiSEM. I have published mostly in economic journals on climate policies and in 2023 decided to join the Extinction Rebellion protests against fossil fuel subsidies. I hope to contribute positively to the energy transition, in the Netherlands, in Europe, in the World. We need it for a better future.