

companies' lack of transparency about energy use and attempts to 'greenwash', and governments acting at odds with environmental practices.

The final section of the book begins with responses to objections the authors have heard as they have presented their work to various audiences. These objections include whether the effects can be large enough to matter, whether they are unduly burdensome on the economically disadvantaged, and whether private governance is inherently flawed because it is embedded in a capitalist system that encourages consumption. Vandenberg and Gilligan counter that the relevant question is not whether a private governance approach is a panacea, but whether it will move us in a better direction than where we are currently heading. They also argue that private governance can address major barriers to government regulatory approaches.

Throughout the book, Vandenberg and Gilligan provide several creative ideas that push us toward realizing the potential of private governance. For example, in the final section of the book they argue for a Private Climate Prediction Market and a legacy registry that would make salient our accountability to future generations. They also provide an agenda for moving forward with private governance activities and touch on possibilities for private organizations that they spent less time discussing, such as religious organizations, insurance companies, hospitals, and small businesses. For example, religious organizations could reduce their carbon footprints through building efficiency and investment decisions and insurance companies could pressure corporations to reduce emissions by charging higher rates to high emitters.

Although we found the book generally compelling, we have lingering concerns with the private governance approach. As the authors predicted, as psychologists we are apprehensive about relying on self-interest and extrinsic motivators (both those driven by monetary gains and those driven by a desire to look good to others) to create necessary change, and think the limits and risks of self-interest as a motivator are understated. Additionally, while the authors adequately addressed concerns about 'negative spillover' (when supporting one measure leads to lesser support for another measure with the same goal) between private governance actions and individuals' support for climate policies, we found the possible risk of negative spillover among other private entities to be unaddressed

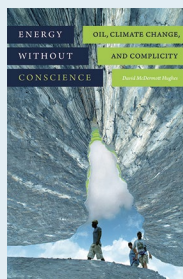
and warranting further discussion. We also believe that the climate science and illustrations of initiative impacts could have been presented in a more easily digestible manner. For example, using communication techniques for discussing science and large numbers would have made it easier to conceptualize and extract meaning from information about large changes in CO<sub>2</sub> or expenses. Furthermore, the authors did not discuss explicit distinctions among individual-level factors (differences among people), group-level factors (differences among households and organizations), and cross-level influences (individual differences influencing and being influenced by corporations or households) that would be necessary to understand how changes can occur at these different levels and for whom. Vandenberg and Gilligan begin the book and restate throughout that any objections

to private governance should be followed by the question: "As compared to what viable alternative?" For people working to address climate change, there is certainly no viable alternative to reading this book. *Beyond Politics* presses readers to think beyond their current conception of climate change solutions and, while laying out a reasoned private governance response accompanied by a realistic assessment of its limitations, provides the groundwork for future research and initiatives to reduce emissions.

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## ON OUR BOOKSHELF



### Energy Without Conscience: Oil, Climate Change, and Complicity

by David McDermott Hughes

DUKE UNIV. PRESS: 2017. 208 PP. \$23.95

In this book, Hughes takes on the ethical implications of fossil fuel development by exploring the history of resource extraction in Trinidad and Tobago, and confronting what he describes as the Trinidadian people's ongoing complicity with climate change.



### A Changing Climate for Science

by Sophie C. Lewis

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN: 2017. 157 PP. \$39.99

Lewis offers a first-hand account and critical examination of contemporary scientific practice that is part philosophy of science, part climate science. Through climate change research, she explores what we know, how we know it and the myriad hurdles confronting young scientists.



### New Carbon Architecture: Building to Cool the Planet

by Bruce King

NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS: 2017. 176 PP. \$29.99

Inspired to think about the embodied carbon of buildings by a Tesla driver whose license plate read ZEROCARB, King brings together a collection of essays by architects, engineers and designers that describe the new practices and new materials needed to design net-zero buildings.

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