

# Zennström Visiting Professor in Climate Change Leadership 2022-2023

Professor Sverker C. Jagers



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This report gives an overview over the activities during the eighteen months that Sverker C. Jagers was the holder of the Zennström Visiting Professorship in Climate Change Leadership at Uppsala University. The 10-year professorship is funded by a generous donation from Niklas and Catherine Zennström and Zennström Philanthropies.

There are four key outcomes of Professor Jager's activities.

- 1) A strong integration of the question of public acceptability into research projects and scientific publications related to policies for climate and biodiversity.
- 2) Received funding of a larger research program on climate and biodiversity strategies
- 3) A more robust anchorage of climate leadership questions at Uppsala University.
- 4) Increased awareness of factors driving acceptable climate policies among officials and the public.

The report concludes with an outlook on the plans of the current Zennström Professor 2023/2024, Professor Stacy VanDeveer.



*From left to right: Mikael Karlsson senior lecturer and leading scientist at the Climate Change Leadership unit, Johan Tysk vice-rector of the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology until June 2023., Niklas Zennström, Sverker C. Jagers. Photo taken at Ångström's laboratory during the visit of N. Zennström to Uppsala University for Jagers' inaugural lecture in November 2022. Photo: Johan Wahlgren*

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## Introduction

Sverker C. Jagers was Uppsala University's fifth Zennström visiting professor in Climate Change Leadership from September 2022 to December 2023. He spent 50% of his monthly time working with the unit for Climate Change Leadership (CCL) at Uppsala University and 50% for Gothenburg University.

Sverker C. Jagers is professor in political sciences at Gothenburg university and director of the Centre for Collective Action Research. Professor Jagers has long standing experience working in environmental politics and environmental governance. His research area concerns psychology, sociology, national economy and political science. His work is led by his deep interest in interdisciplinary science. The question that is of particular interest to him is how effective and socially accepted environmental and climate policy instruments can be conceived.

Scepticism towards climate politics is increasing and raises the risk that climate goals will not be met, which entails enormous costs for society as a consequence. Climate Change Leadership is an essential field of research and action to address this challenge. Professor Jagers' research investigates the factors that make climate policies acceptable by the public and how countries with different political systems are

successful in handling environmental questions. Jagers visit to CCL was timely and added the component of policy acceptability to other research questions related to climate governance and policy resulting in synergistic effects related to research, research funding, teaching and outreach.

As a Zennström guest professor at Uppsala university, professor Jagers aimed at establishing collaboration with research groups that have a solutions-oriented focus to build on and expand his research. Mikael Karlsson, research leader at CCL, and the advisory group for the Zennström professorship selected Professor Jagers due to his complementary research area and his experience of forming and leading a research centre to enrich similar initiatives within CCL and University wide.



*Sverker C. Jagers outside Geocentrum, Uppsala University. Photo: J. Lundberg-Felten*

## Integration of the question of acceptability into projects and funding applications related to sufficiency and policies for climate and biodiversity

Professor Jagers brought his expertise and interest in climate policy acceptability to CCL as well as his methodological competence related to working with surveys and survey experiments. In a very fruitful collaboration, Professor Jagers became co-supervisor of PhD student Oskar Lindgren who started his PhD project in spring 2023. The PhD project centers around the question of sufficiency (reducing emissions by reducing consumption) as a climate governance tool. Fusion of the interests of Jagers and Lindgren have merged in a study in five different countries addressing the acceptability of tax versus rationing to limit greenhouse gas emissions (article submitted). Even after his stay at Uppsala University the collaboration is continuing with both Oskar Lindgren and CCL researchers Mikael Karlsson and Daniel Lindvall involved in studies with Sverker C. Jagers on public attitude towards different policies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sverker C. Jagers furthermore co-supervised the PhD project of Frida Öhman related to governance towards multifunctional landscapes.



*PhD students Frida Öhman and Oskar Lindgren with Sverker C. Jagers. Photo J. Lundberg-Felten*

During his visiting professorship professor Jagers published eight articles in peer-reviewed journals. Publications resulting from his activities at Uppsala University are expected to come out during 2024 and the years to come.

Professor Jagers' stay at Uppsala has also led to two new research projects, of which the research programme "Navigating the political landscape: barriers and synergies in climate and biodiversity strategies", started in 2023, funded by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency. The program involves four people from CCL and researchers from two other departments at Uppsala University (Law and Economics), partners at the Technical University in Luleå and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and Linköping University together with Sverker C. Jagers at Gothenburg University. Funding has been granted for 2.5 years with a possible

continuation of 2.5 years, which will enable continuous collaboration between Professor Jagers and the CCL team.



*First meeting in the newly funded research programme "Navigating the policy landscape: barriers and synergies in climate and biodiversity policies" with Sverker C. Jagers participating via Zoom. Left side of the table from front to back: David Langlet (UU), Anna Berg-Grimstad (UU), Simon Matti (LTU). Right side of the table from front to back: David Lindvall (UU), Naghmeh Nasiritousi (UI/LU), Christine Holmström Lind (UU), Mikael Karlsson (UU). Photo: J. Lundberg-Felten.*

Furthermore, Timothy Daw, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sverker C. Jagers and further colleagues successfully attracted funding from the Swedish Research Council Formas for their project "Do SYStem-dynamics models in Climate Assemblies (SYSCA) enhance deliberation and support transformative change?" that is running from January 2024 to December 2025. Jagers moreover participated at workshops and other activities linked to the MISTRA-funded research programme FAIRTRANS, to which among others Timothy Daw and five CCL researchers belong.

*Sverker C. Jagers (front row to the right) participated in a meeting with all FAIRTRANS researchers, among which five CCL members, on 16 February 2022. Photo: Minda Holm, Stockholm Resilience Centre.*



## Anchorage of sustainability and climate leadership questions at Uppsala University

Jagers experience as a director for the Centre for Collective Action Research (CeCAR) at Gothenburg University and of creating research centers was sought after during his time as a Zennström visiting professor. The Uppsala University Sustainability Initiative (UUSI) was a wide-reaching research initiative running since years until 2022 with the goal to seek research funding, develop tools to facilitate transdisciplinary research collaboration and to develop research areas concerned with sustainable development. Before Jagers arrival, UUSI coordinated, through Mikael Karlsson and Malgorzata Blicharska (main applicant) and others, an application to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, resulting in the large research program LANDPATHS to which three persons at CCL are linked. The UUSI initiative ended during Jagers' Zennström visiting professorship at UU, and developed into discussions to create a new UU Sustainability Centre. Jagers was invited to such discussion to share his experience from CeCAR and to communicate key points to consider when building such a centre. In prolongation, Jagers was recruited to the strategic group at Uppsala University, commissioned to develop a complete strategy for the intended Sustainability Center and to recruit the director aimed to start it up.

In parallel, CCL has been planning for the continuation and development of the Zennström visiting professorships beyond 2026, when the present grant contract with Zennström Philanthropies ends. Sverker C. Jagers input on discussing and developing a concept for a strong CCL research environment beyond this funding period was instrumental. The idea was summarized under the title Zennström Centre for Climate Leadership and has been presented to Zennström Philanthropies.



## Increased awareness of factors driving acceptable climate policies among officials and the public

Sverker C. Jagers has through his Zennström visiting professorship contributed to raise awareness about climate policy and policy acceptance among a wide audience, ranging from society at large, to officials in administrations, and to politicians active in the government, through local and international events as well as through participation on e.g. Swedish TV. A selection of events is highlighted below.

His inaugural lecture on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 attracted researchers, officials and representatives of civil society organisations. In his lecture, Jagers explored climate change as a vast, long-term coordination problem akin to other societal dilemmas. He emphasized the need for active guidance to address this collective action issue, suggesting leaders from diverse sectors like scientists, businesses, religious communities, and civil society. Jagers contended that, due to the challenging scales involved, actors are unlikely to change behavior voluntarily. Thus, the achievement of climate goals demands proactive leadership to showcase alternative routes and facilitate necessary coordination. Jagers suggested that for policymakers to show climate leadership, they should consider key factors for accepted climate policies, such as public beliefs, perceived fairness, and effectiveness of designed measures, as a means to increase policy support and legitimacy. The inaugural lecture closed with a panel discussion with representatives from academy, religious organizations, industry and politics focusing on the challenges and opportunities in the respective sectors and how leadership can promote collective action towards transformation.



*Sverker C. Jagers comments on topics raised by the panel discussion that followed his inaugural lecture on 2022-11-21. From left to right: Mikael Karlsson, Sverker C. Jagers, Naghmeh Nasiritousi, Associate Professor in political sciences at Stockholm university, Annika Gottberg, environmental specialist at Church of Sweden, Mattias Johansson Head of Public Affairs at Volvo Cars and former chief of staff at*



the Ministry of the Environment and Eva Svedling, CEO Global Challenge (Global Utmaning) and former secretary of state at the Ministry of the Environment. Photo: J. Lundberg-Felten

During 2022 and 2023, CCL together with Jagers initiated digital lunch-lectures in open courses with attendants from politics, industry, state agencies and society, where awareness was created about the importance of taking acceptance of climate policy into account. In various instances, Jagers has also given empirical examples from his research projects where other attempts to increase the public acceptance for climate policy instruments have been increased by using various types of compensation schemes.

The professorship moreover created local awareness and led to e.g. an invitation of professor Jagers to a public talk at Uppsala City library organized by *Klimataktion* around the subject "What is needed for successful climate politics?". Both politicians and the public were present and appreciated Jagers' summary of important key aspects for accepted climate policies such as trust in politicians and institutions and the aforementioned perceived fairness and effectiveness of climate policies.

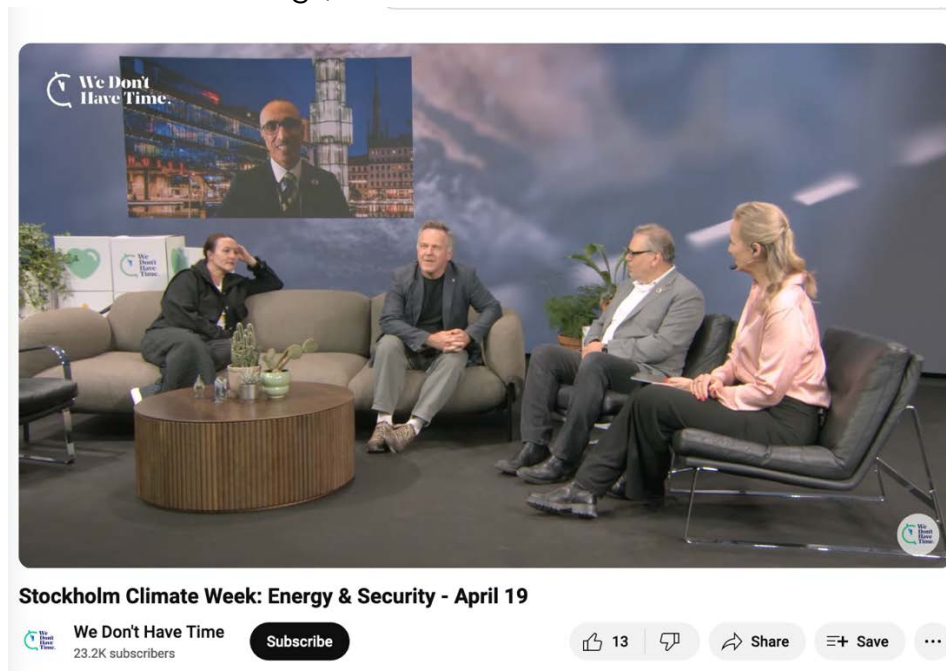


Left: Sverker C. Jagers during his invited presentation at Uppsala City library. Right: Jagers with local politicians Klara Ellström to the left and Rafael Waters to the right. Photos: Frida Öhman

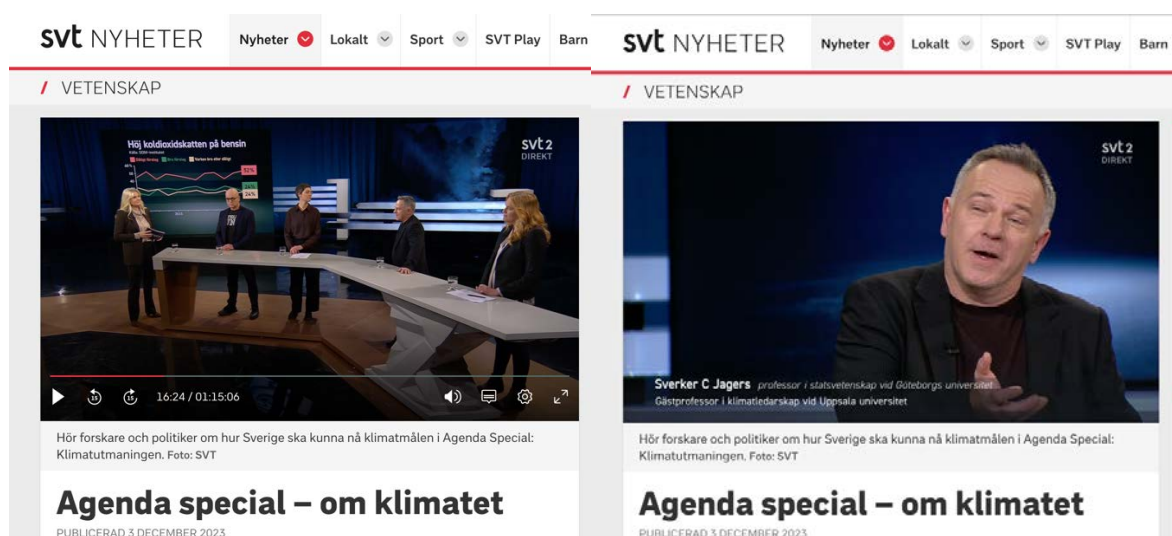
Jagers was also invited to the USA to give presentations at UNDP in New York about fossil fuel subsidies, presentation about fuel subsidies as well as to IADB in Washington D.C. , where he informed about the concept of ecological citizenship.

Jagers contributed to diverse panels in media. For example, during Stockholm Climate Week 2023 he was part of a panel discussing energy and security. In December 2023 he appeared on the public Swedish television (SVT) programme "Agenda" in a discussion about Swedish climate politics. This has allowed him to spread wider knowledge to consider acceptance factors when climate policies are designed.

In total, Professor Jagers was invited to six academic presentations in Sweden and Scandinavia during his Zennström visiting professorship as well as more than 20 presentations in other settings, of which one on Swedish television.



Sverker C. Jagers as part of a panel discussing fuel subsidies during Stockholm Climate Week. Hosted by We Don't Have Time. Screenshot from the We Don't Have Time youtube channel.



Sverker C. Jagers was part of Swedish TV programme "Agenda" that hosted a party leader debate on Swedish climate politics. Screenshots from the SVT homepage.

## Looking ahead

During fall 2023, professor Jagers had four months overlap with the Zennström visiting professor 2023/2024, Stacy VanDeveer, which had been planned for and turned out to generate a very fruitful and new collaboration.



*CCL including Zennström professors Sverker C. Jagers (front row) and Stacy VanDeveer (back row) in front of Uppsala castle in autumn 2023.*

Stacy VanDeveer is Uppsala university's sixth Zennström visiting professor in climate change leadership. Stacy VanDeveer is a professor at the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security & Global Governance at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston and interim director for the Centre for Governance & Sustainability at UMass Boston. He works 50% at the Department of Earth Sciences, Uppsala University within the unit for Climate Change Leadership from September 2023 to

August 2024. He wants to connect his work on US, European and global climate change politics, policy and leadership to Sweden. VanDeveer is interested both in Sweden's important role in making and improving EU environmental and energy policies, as well as in Sweden's acceptance and implementation of European policies. Among other activities, VanDeveer's appointment has recently attracted faculty funding for a national transdisciplinary PhD course that will run at Uppsala University during spring 2024 with PhD students from UU, Stockholm and Gävle, as well as guest speakers from VanDeveer's network in Sweden and abroad.



*Zennström professor in Climate Change Leadership 2023/2024 Stacy VanDeveer. Photo J. Lundberg-Felten*

## Appendix 1 - List of activities Sverker C. Jagers September 2022 -December 2023

### Publications

- Harring, N., Jönsson, E., Matti, S. Mundaca, G. & **Jagers, S.C.** (2023) Cross-national analysis of attitudes towards fossil fuel subsidy removal. *Nature Climate Change*. 13, pages 244–249. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-023-01597-5>
- Harring, N., Jönsson, E., Matti, S. Mundaca, G. & **Jagers, S.C.** (2023) Public acceptance of fossil fuel subsidy removal can be reinforced with revenue recycling. *Nature Climate Change* 13, pages 214–215
- Andrea F.M. Martinangeli, Marina Povitkina, **Sverker C. Jagers**, Bo Rothstein (2023) Institutional Quality Causes Generalized Trust: Experimental Evidence on Trusting under the Shadow of Doubt. *American journal of Political Science*, Online publication April 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12780>
- Coleman, E., Harring, N. & **Jagers, S.C.** (2023) Policy attributes shape climate policy support. *Policy Studies Journal*. DOI:[10.1111/psj.12493](https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12493)
- Sjöstedt, M., Sundström, A., **Jagers, S.C.** & Ntuli, H. (2022) Governance through community policing: What makes citizens report poaching of wildlife to state officials? *World Development*, Volume 160, 2022, 106065, ISSN 0305-750X
- Källman, S., **Jagers, S.C.** & Martinsson, J. (2023) Consensus or Conflict? Niche Party Behaviors and Their Electoral Success. *International Social Science and Humanities Studies*. Vol 3 (1) ISSN(Online): 2768-105X
- Sprey, F, **Jagers, S.C.**, Bergstad, C., Hellsmark, H., Johnsson, F., Nilsson, A. Ahlbäck, A. (2023) Västra Götalands klimatomställning. Industrin i Fokus. Rapport 3. *VGR Analys*, 2023:65
- Sprey, F, **Jagers, S.C.**, Bradley, K., Sandén, B., Johnsson, F., Nilsson, A. Ahlbäck, A. (2022) Västra Götalands klimatomställning. Transporter i Fokus. Rapport 2. *VGR Analys*, 2022:51

### Invited presentations in academic settings

#### 2022

- Bergens university, Norway, Fossil fuel subsidies (4/10)
- Bergens university, Norway, Policy innovation (5/10)
- Keynote speaker, Fishingforum (Fiskeforum) arranged by the Swedish Agricultural Agency and the Sea and Water Authority (19/10)
- Sea & Society, researchworkshop, Gothenburg University (16/12)

#### 2023

- Uppsala university, Institute for construction research, talk about policy acceptance (25/4)
- Mistra Carbon Exit, keynote-presentation om justice and policy acceptance, Lidingö, (18-19/9)

### Other presentations



## 2022

- UNDP-arrangement with Natural History Museum Gothenburg (29/9)
- Senior university, Stockholm, presentation (20/10)
- Dialog with Emmanuel K, Fässbergskyrkan, Mölndal (25/10)
- Västra Götaland's regional yearly conference (1/12)

## 2023

- Presentation and dialogue "About wetlands, words & pictures" (Om våtmarker, Ord & Bild), author talk (1/3)
- Uppsala city library, presentation about policy acceptance, Uppsala (23/3)
- Main speaker for Västra Götaland's regional steering group, Borås (27/3)
- Participation in citizen dialogue about environmental permits and land-based fish farming, Hunnebostrand (4/4)
- Stockholm Climate Week, presentation about games as a pedagogical tool, joint with UNDP (18/4)
- Stockholm Climate Week, dialog about fuel subsidies, joint with UNDP (19/4)
- Reväst, 40-years jubilee (26/9), presentation about the need of applied social science
- Volvos (AB) sustainability departments, presentation about the need of measuring soft values during green transition, Global webinar (27/9)
- UNDP, presentation about fuel subsidies, New York (11/4)
- IADB, presentation about ecological citizenship, Washington D.C. (12/4)
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, two presentation about policy acceptance (8/5)
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, presentation about fuel subsidies (9/5)
- Jonsereds akademi 29/11
- Main speaker at Västra Götalands Future (yearly conference) 30/11 2023
- Presentation for the city of Stockholm 1/12
- Participation in Swedish TV programme "Agenda" party leaders' debate on Swedish climate policy (3/12)
- "Afterwork with researchers", Pustervik 6/12

## **Chair/member of the preparatory group for a major research council**

- Member of Velux-fonden, Danmark
- Member of Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

## **Conference responsibility**

- Chair for panel on Environmental politics and Policy at Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA), April 2023
- Chair for working group at SWEPSA Gothenburg, 4-6/10

## **Other initiatives for the profession**

- Expert for Uppsala University's sustainability initiative (2022-2023)

- Member of the Scientific Council of the Norwegian Citizens' Panel, Bergen.
- Member of the steering committee for the national infrastructure DEMSCORE
- Business Sweden academic reference group
- Västra Götalands region climate research council (2021-)
- Member of Forskraftstiftelsen's board (2014-)

### **Research applications**

- Applicant and work package leader in research programme 'Navigating the policy landscape: barriers and synergies in climate and biodiversity policies' for a call by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency together with colleagues at Uppsala University, Linköping University, Luleå Technical university. 2023-2025 Granted
- Swedish research council Formas, co-applicant with Tim Daw, Stockholm Resilience Centre. Nov 2023

### **Mission**

- Steering group for the national infrastructure Demscore, funded by the Swedish Research Council VR.
- Steering group for the Citizens' Panel at the University of Bergen.
- Vice chairman of Västra Götaland's Region research council
- Member of the President's steering group for Uppsala University's sustainability initiative (name to be determined)
- Expert for the Inter-American Development Bank (development and design of a survey to be sent to all schools in Latin America).
- Asked to write an ESO report, for the Ministry of Finance (contract established Dec 2023).

### **Review assignments**

Reviewer for articles in 12 journals, including Nature, Nature Climate Change, Nature Sustainability, Climate Policy, Environmental Politics, and Ambio.

## Appendix 2 - Economic report

<b>September 2021 - January 2024</b>			
		<b>SEK</b>	<b>EUR</b>
<b>Incoming Balance</b>		518 731	46 034,95
<b>Revenue</b>	No installments made from Zennström Philantropies Grant during this time period	0	0
<b>Costs</b>	Personnel Costs Jagers Sep 2022 - Dec 2023 Vandeveer Sep 2023 - Jan 2024 Assistant 20% Sep 2021 - Jan 2024	-1 898 847	-168 513,72
	Administrative Costs	-752 548	-66 785,15
<b>Balance January 2024</b>		-2 132 664	-189 263,94
<b>Estimation Feb 2024 - Aug 2024</b>			
<b>Incoming balance</b>		-2 132 664	-189 263,94
<b>Revenue</b>	Expected installment from Zennström Philanthropies grant	<b>3 180 774</b>	<b>282 278,80</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Personnel Vandeveer Feb 2024 - Aug 2024 Assistant 20% Feb - Aug 2024	-748 650	-66 439,18
	Administrative costs	-299 460	- 26 575,67
<b>Expected Balance by 2024-08-31</b>		0	0

Euro exchange rate by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2024: 11,2682