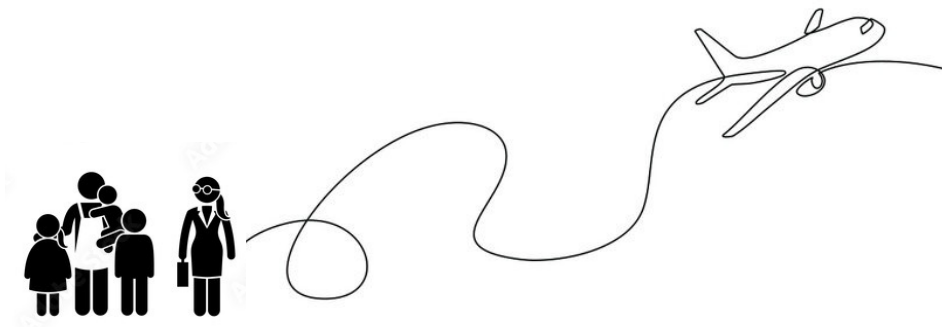


MSc Thesis

WHO GETS TO FLY IN THE FUTURE?

Applying justice principles to a constrained aviation budget



Why?

To meet ambitious climate targets, changes in flying behaviour will likely be unavoidable. The decision of who gets to fly is, however, very non-trivial. Any such decision will inherently come with distributional implications, with some groups winning and others losing. One way to approach this decision-making is to apply different justice principles (equality, priority, proportionality, etc.) to obtain different patterns of how the remaining flying budget is divided.

What?

In this Master thesis, you will investigate the implications of different justice principles on the acceptance of different mitigation measures for the aviation sector. You will conduct a survey experiment to test whether mitigation measures are more acceptable if they correspond to a specific justice principle. With this, we aim to determine guiding principles to enhance the feasibility of aviation policies and thus bring flying one step closer to being climate-aligned.

How?

The specific steps of your MSc research could look like the following:

- Systematising different socio-economic groups and motives for flying
- Applying justice principles to the distribution of aviation emissions among these groups
- Designing and conducting a survey experiment to test preference of these distributions

Who?

We are looking for a MSc student in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Social Sciences (anyone from the ISTP and GESS department), or any related discipline with a passion for tackling a real-world policy issue in sustainable aviation. The ideal candidate would bring in some prior knowledge of social justice and survey methods, although we are confident that any motivated individual will be able to learn these along the way.

Interested? Please send your CV and a very brief motivational letter outlining your interest and relevant experience to Nicoletta Brazzola (nicoletta.brazzola@usys.ethz.ch) and Kristiina Joon (kristiina.joon@usys.ethz.ch). The Master thesis will be co-supervised under Prof. Anthony Patt from the Climate Policy Lab, with potential collaborations with researchers at IASA in Vienna.