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## **Science and Policy: What do we need to know in order to act? Lessons from Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Change**

I will examine the paradox that although the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has reached a broad consensus, various governments pursue different, if not opposing policies. In contrast, in another high profile case of global governance, the Montreal Protocol, there was political agreement without a comprehensive scientific consensus. The Montreal Protocol has become the paradigm case for a successful global environmental treaty. This puzzle not only challenges the traditional belief that scientific knowledge is objective and can be more or less directly translated into political action, but also calls for a better understanding of the relation between science and public policy in modern society. Based on the conceptual framework of knowledge politics the use of expert knowledge in public discourse and in political decisions will be analysed. In order to do so, one needs to assess and revisit various claims made about the two cases. For example, it has been argued that the differences between both cases can be explained by the greater size of the climate change issue compared to the ozone layer case, or by the absence of a dramatic event like the ozone hole, or by the greater scientific uncertainty in the climate case. I will show that these claims need to be critically examined and that we need an alternative explanation.