

Mary Sanford

Postdoctoral Researcher, RFF-CMCC European Institute on Economics and the Environment
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Current Position

RFF-CMCC EUROPEAN INSTITUTE ON ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, MILAN, IT

Postdoctoral Researcher

SINCE SEPT 2023

Education

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, OXFORD, UK

Doctor of Philosophy, Social Data Science

2019-2023

Master of Science, Computational Social Science (*Distinction*)

2017-2018

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science

2013-2017

(GPA 3.91/4.00, *summa cum laude*, Benjamin Franklin Scholar)

RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY, AACHEN, GERMANY

Visiting Student/Research Intern

MAY-JULY 2016

Non-Academic Positions

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD), PARIS, FR

2021-2022

Consultant for the Science, Technology, and Innovation Directorate

MESAIC TECHNOLOGY GMBH, HAMBURG, DE

2018-2019

Product Manager for Artificial Intelligence

Publications

1. **Sanford, M.**, Pianta, S., Schmid, N., & Musto, G. (2025). [Policlim: A Dataset of Climate Change Discourse in the Political Manifestos of 45 Countries from 1990-2022](#). *Forthcoming, British Journal of Political Science*.
2. Wetts, R., Morris, H., Boykoff, M., McNally, B., Painter, J., **Sanford, M.**, et al. (2025). [Climate media amidst technopolitical change: challenges, transformations, and new directions for research](#). *Climatic Change*. 178(115).
3. **Sanford, M.** & Painter, J. (2024). [Divergences between mainstream and social media discourses after COP26, and why they matter](#). *Oxford Open Climate Change*, 4(1). 10.1093/oxfclm/kgae006

4. Ettinger, J., **Sanford, M.**, Painter, J., Walton, P., Holmes, D., & Otto, F. (2023). [Social media messaging by climate action NGOs: A case study of the 2019–2020 Australian Black Summer bushfires](#). *Oxford Open Climate Change*, 3(1). 10.1093/oxfclm/kgad011
5. **Sanford, M.**, Witkowska, M., Gifford, R., & Formanowicz, M. (2023). [Emotional framing in online environmental activism: Pairing a Twitter study with an offline experiment](#). *Frontiers Environmental Psychology*. 13(1099331).
6. **Sanford, M.** & Lorimer, J. (2022). [Veganuary and the vegan sausage \(t\)rolls: Conflict and commercial engagement in online climate-diet discourse](#). *Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. 9(455), 2022.
7. Lalanne, G., **Sanford, M.**, Kessler, M., & Youcefi, D. (2021). ‘What can we learn from sustainability reports?’ OECD Science, Technology, and Industry Working Papers. Paris: OECD Publishing.
8. **Sanford, M.**, Painter, J., Yasseri, T., & Lorimer, J. (2021) [Controversy around climate change reports: a case study of Twitter responses to the 2019 IPCC report on land](#). *Climatic Change*. 167(3), 59.
9. **Sanford, M.**, Hohlfeld, O., and Henze, M. (2017). [Veiled in Clouds? Assessing the Prevalence of Cloud Computing in the Email Landscape](#). 2017 IEEE/IFIP TMA Network Traffic Measurement and Analysis Conference.

Under review & Working papers

1. Ejaz, W. & **Sanford, M.** News Media, Climate Anxiety, and Media Trust: Unlocking the Keys to Pro-Environment Behaviour Across Eight Countries. *R&R International Journal of Press/Politics*.
2. Smith, E. K., Mlakar, Z., Levis, A., **Sanford, M.**, et al. Six Faces of Climate Policy Support in the EU. *R&R Nature Climate Change*.
3. Berger, L., Richard, T., Emmerling, J., Epper, T., Eddai, N., **Sanford, M.**, et al. Who Believes What on EU 2030 Climate Commitments?
4. Turmunkh, U., Savin, I., Callaghan, M., **Sanford, M.**, et al. Systematic Review of Literature on Determinants of Climate Policy Support.
5. Pianta, S. & **Sanford, M.** How accurately do Members of the European Parliament estimate public opinion on climate change mitigation policies?
6. **Sanford, M.**, Cann, T., & Westwood, N. Climate change in the social media campaigns of European political parties, 2019-2024.
7. **Sanford, M.**, Tallent, T., & Picard, J. Do super emitters (de)motivate climate support?
8. Pianta, S., **Sanford, M.**, & Valentim, A. Elite Cues and Climate Policy Support.

Grants

1. Grand Union DTP ESRC Advanced Quantitative Methods Studentship (~£150k)
2. Rosemary D. Mazzatenta Award (\$1000)
3. Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Scholarship, Dr. Carl-Arthur Pastor Foundation (€1200)
4. MAKI Female Mentoring and Network Programme Grant (~€300)

Conference Presentations (* coauthor presented)

Environmental Politics & Governance	2025
EPSA	2024*, 2025*
APSA	2024
ICA	2024, 2025*
What Climate Works Solutions Summit	2024
Comptext	2024, 2025*
International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)	2023
General Online Research Conference (GOR)	2022
International Conference on Language and Social Psychology (ICLASP)	2022
International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)	2021
NetSci	2020, 2021
IEEE/IFIP TMA Network Traffic Measurement and Analysis Conference	2017

Invited Talks

IIASA Workshop on Social Media Data & Digital Platforms in Climate & Sustainability Research	2024
EPG Online Seminar	2024
University of Bocconi, NLP Lab	2024
Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) Seminar series	2023
World Economic Forum Global Shapers Munich	2023
Annual Livestock, Environment and People Conference	2020

Teaching

Advanced Statistics for Internet Research (University of Oxford)	2023
Introduction to Python Programming (University of Oxford)	2019
Advanced Decision Systems (University of Pennsylvania)	2017
Introduction to Cognitive Science (University of Pennsylvania)	2015, 2016
Networked Systems and Social Engineering (University of Pennsylvania)	2015, 2016

Languages

English (native), French (advanced), German (advanced), Italian (intermediate)

Last updated: June 2025