

# Give the Climate a Break

Niklas Beisert, ETH Zürich, 2019 HS, Thursdays 9:30–9:45

## Series of Events

- And now for something completely different!
- would like to announce (slide):
- Thursday breaks will be devoted to questions regarding global heating / climate crisis / sustainability
- NOT a part of the QFT course
- attendance, listening, own contributions are voluntary
- QFT-related questions can be asked before/after lecture;  
I will be available from 8:30 for questions and remarks

## Motivation

- Global Week of Climate Action: 20–27 September 2019;  
surrounding UN Climate Summit on 23 September
- various actions around the world;  
this is my contribution; it will merely last a little longer  
than just one week
- idea: attribute the topic the attention it needs
- topic relates to most aspects of life;  
the longer we remain passive, the more severely it will
- on the one hand: topic far away from QFT;  
on the other hand: in a world of a few degrees hotter,  
you will hardly find the opportunity to engage in QFT or  
anything based on it
- eventually: personally interested (not so much because I  
want to, but because it's necessary)
- will now allow for a minute or two for anyone who wants  
to (or has to) spend their break otherwise;  
will continue with QFT lecture in around 10 minutes

## Disclaimer

- not a scientific expert on topic, just informed individual
- normally in science, would leave it to the experts;  
has proved to have limited impact in this case;  
not because scientific experts did not deliver, but because politics / society does not react appropriately (there are several contributing reasons);  
we are part of society
- question: who has attended / is attending a course at ETHZ with topic related to climate / sustainability?
- may use 10 minute opportunity during the break to discuss various aspects of this topic;  
would like to see where this will get us

## Goals

- reinforce awareness;  
question: do you know your own annual CO<sub>2</sub> footprint?  
question: have you changed something significant about your lifestyle in view of climate crisis? (not avoid Säckli)  
(asked similar question to colleagues: not encouraging)
- basic understanding of mechanisms;  
question: do you know the physical process underlying global heating?  
question: would you feel confident to explain the greenhouse mechanism to others?
- encourage discussions in everyday context
- meet other people interested in topic
- ETHZ / academia has a significant climate impact;  
need to understand our own actions in order to adjust
- your potential future in other institutions, education, business, industry will benefit from your expertise

## Potential Topics

- micro-presentations:
  - physics of global heating
  - contributing sectors
  - reduction paths, implementations
  - measuring footprint
  - mechanisms in society
  - pitfalls
- discussions / your contributions
- what can we do? in our immediate environment?
- issues of current interest
- ask questions / find answers
- up to you ...; let me know; use 10 min/week wisely

## Current Opportunities

- explore interdisciplinary courses/events on this topic
- can show support and voice own demands at marches:
  - Zurich Fri 27 Sep
  - Bern Sat 28 Sep(encourage society to act on scientific results)
- understand how far programmes of political parties are compatible with reaching goals of Paris agreement; recall that Paris agreement is compromise in itself, and thus compromise with Paris agreement amounts to inaction
- your suggestions? questions? remarks?

## Thanks

- Thanks for your attention!
- Looking forward to continuation next week