

# The Political Economy of Sustainable Development

Workshop on Integrated Approaches to SD Planning and Implementation. Session 6: Fostering an Enabling Environment  
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# Key Points

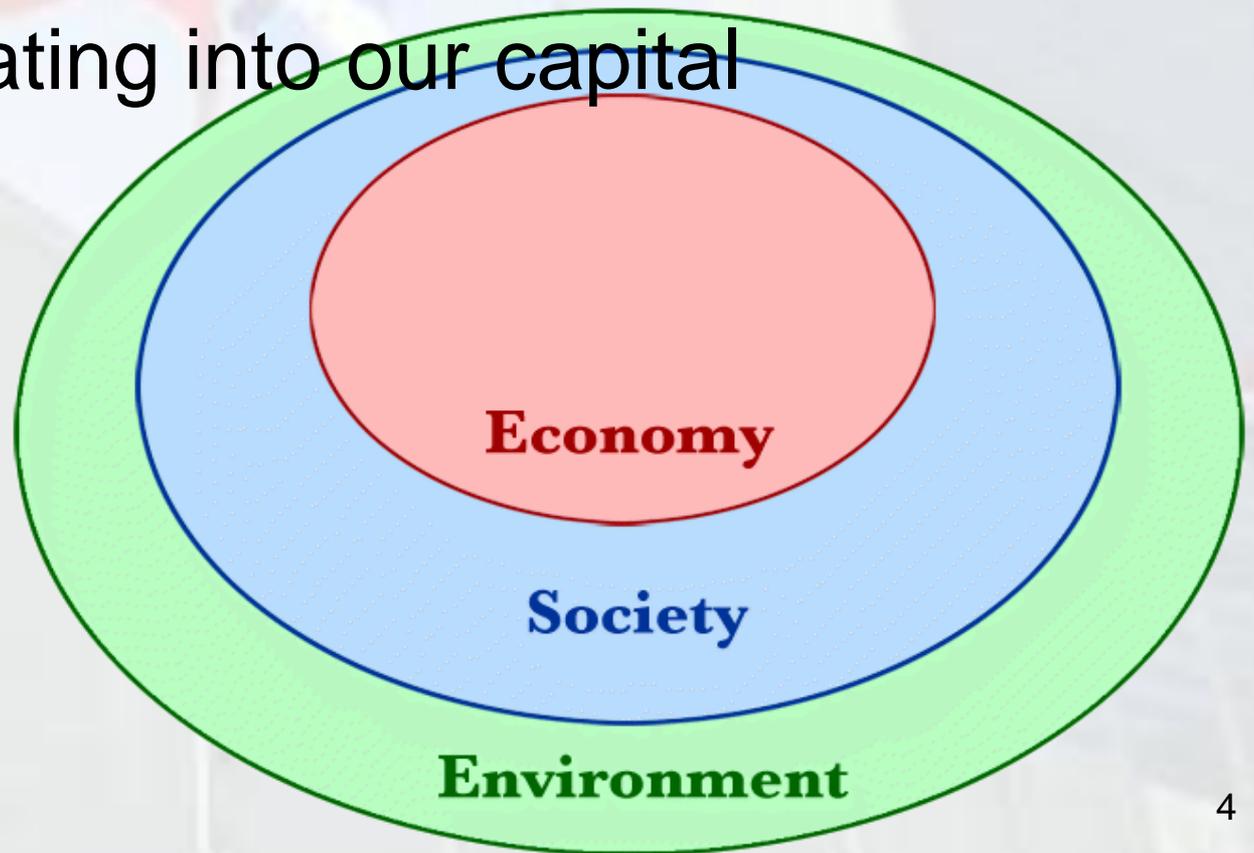
- Challenges to Sustainable Development
- A view from Political Economy
  - What is it
  - What it offers
  - Its limits
- Can PE help the Post-2015 Agenda?

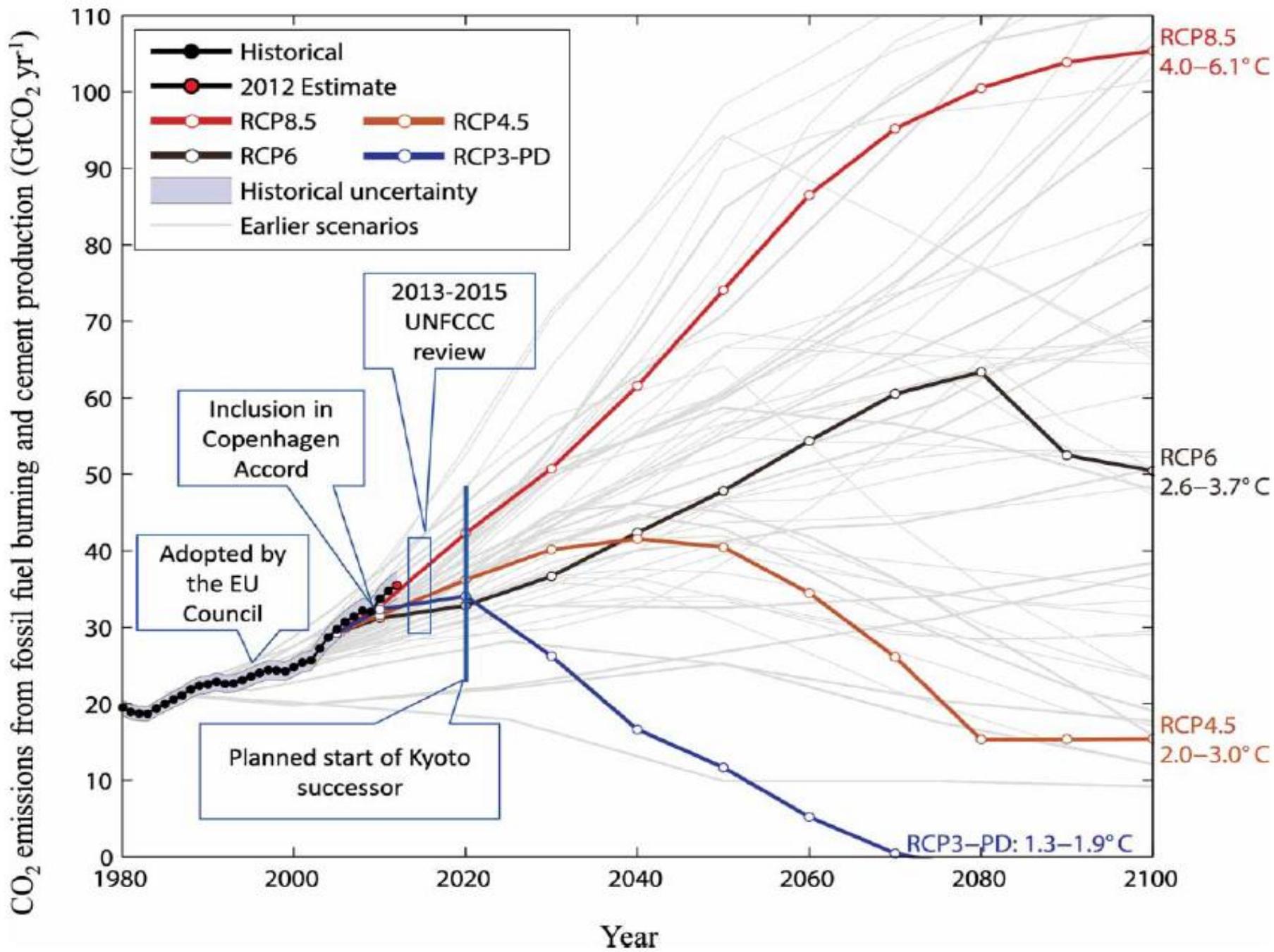
The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of several flags on tall poles in front of a large, modern building. The flags are in various colors, including red, green, yellow, and blue. The building has a glass facade and a prominent vertical structure. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

# 1. The State of Sustainable Development

# The Challenges of SD

- Producing the wealth we need
- For a prosperous society
- Without eating into our capital





# the safe and just space for humanity

## planetary boundaries

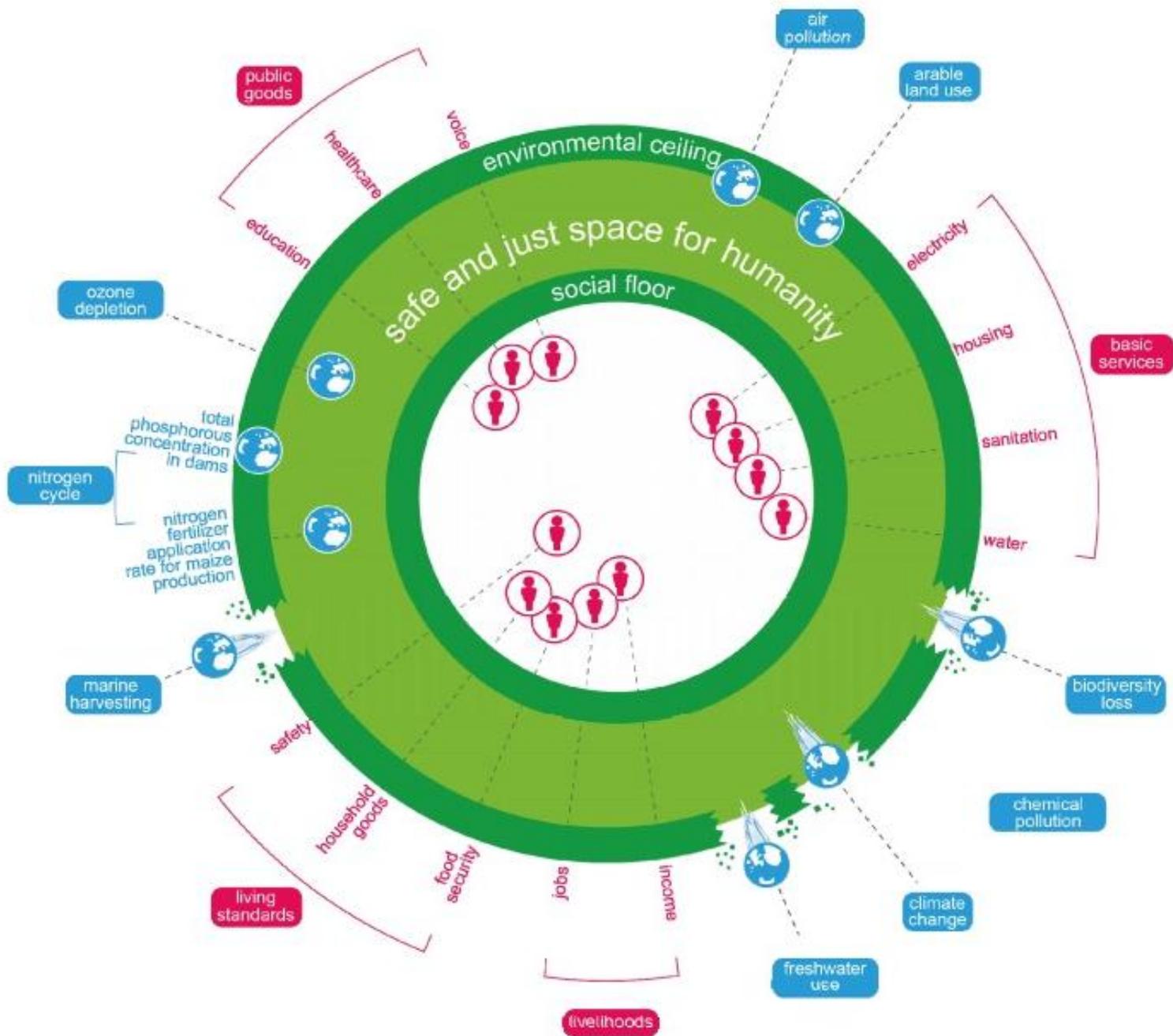
- climate change
- freshwater use
- phosphorus and nitrogen cycles
- ocean acidification
- chemical pollution
- aerosol loading
- ozone depletion
- biodiversity loss
- land use change

## social foundation

- water
- income
- education
- resilience
- voice
- jobs
- energy
- social equity
- gender equality
- health
- food

## economy

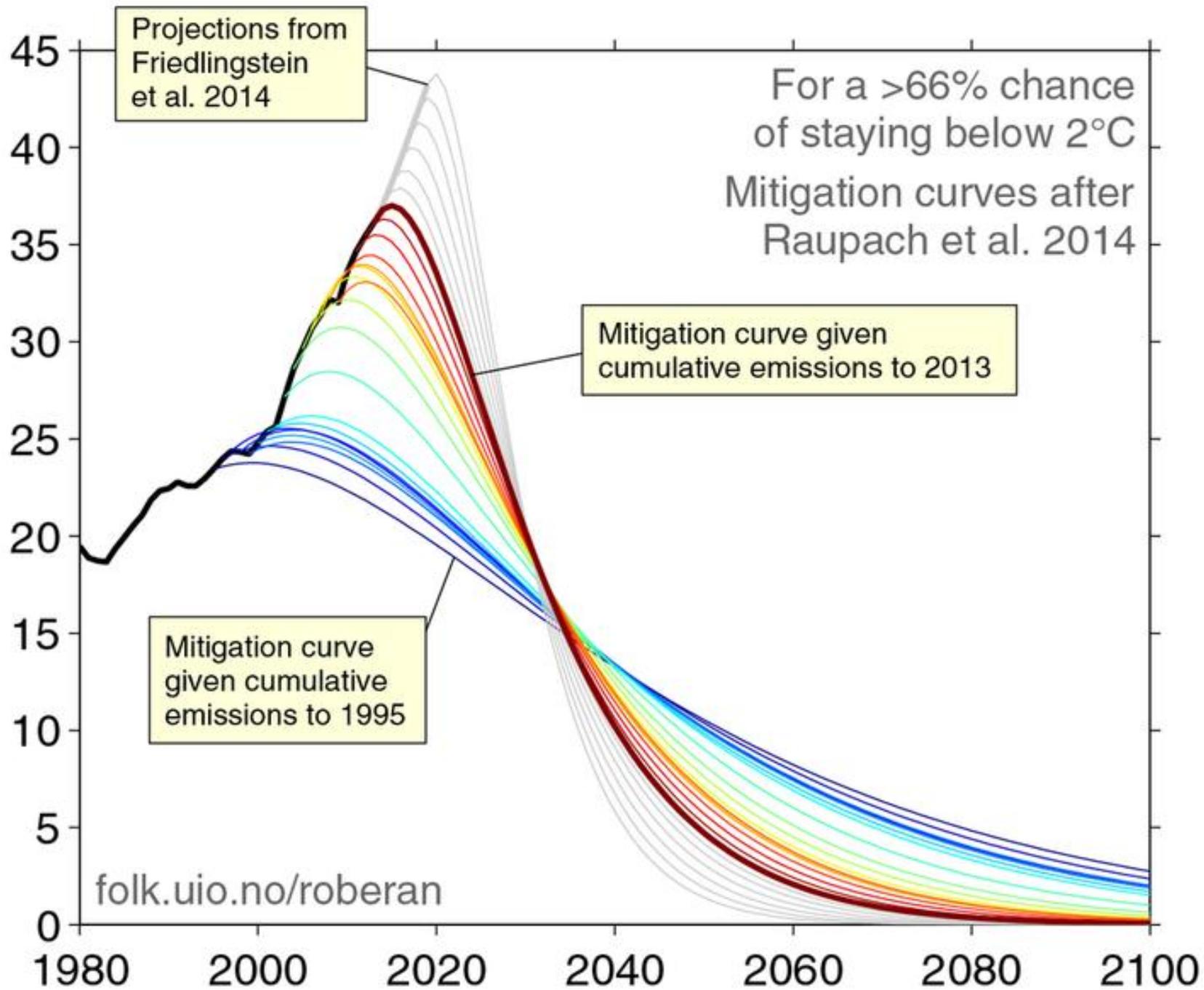
power



# Why Such Challenges?

- Technological knowledge

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (GtCO<sub>2</sub>)



# Why Such Challenges?

- Technological knowledge
- Policy knowledge
- Don't we know already?
  - Rapid energy transition
  - Sustainable production and consumption
  - Land-use, food systems, urban set-ups...

# The Stubborn Know-Do Gap

- Difficulty of acting
  - Need to address poverty
  - Reluctance to change lifestyles
- Not facing power
  - Beyond « political will »
  - Need to unpack what this means

Technologies will do the trick!

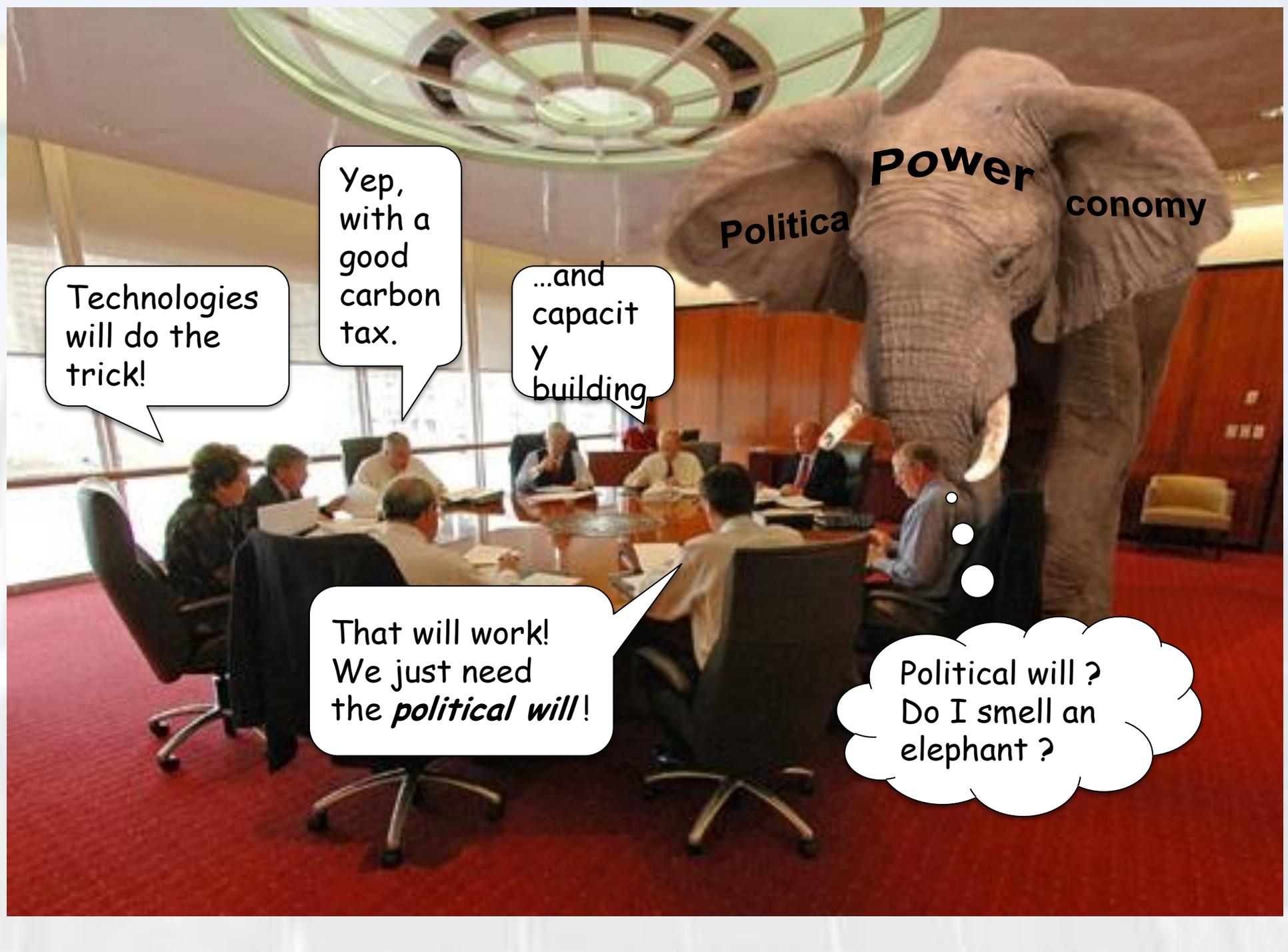
Yep, with a good carbon tax.

...and capacity building

That will work!  
We just need the *political will*!

Political will ?  
Do I smell an elephant ?

Political Power economy



The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of several national flags flying on tall poles in front of a large, modern building with a glass facade. The flags are out of focus, showing various colors like red, green, yellow, and blue. The building is also blurred, showing a grid of windows.

## 2. The View from Political Economy

# (Re)Emerging PE

- Analysis of power over the production and distribution of wealth
  - Maps-out actors, their interests, strategies, discourses, alliances and conflicts
  - In production and reproduction
- Flags *vested interests*
  - To avoid hot spots
  - And mobilise “drivers of change”

# Are We there Yet?

- Not quite
  - Still have capacity issues
  - Institutional barriers
  - Threatening to many
- But, with recent advances
  - Need for “development effectiveness”
  - New space for politics and PE
  - Build alliances



# 3. So What?

# Can PE Enable SD?

- PE of SD is even more challenging
  - Large-scale
  - Powerful opponents
  - Need broad alliances
- Opportunities
  - Build PE capacity
  - Policy tools
  - Scale-up successes

# Discussion Questions

- Does this all resonate to your own experience?
- Do you see PE as a useful and realistic tool?
- Should we work on building PE capacity as part of an enabling tool kit?

# Comments and Questions?

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