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**Arguing about climate change : judging the handling of climate risk to future generations by comparison to the general standards of conduct in the case of risk to contemporaries**

Davidson, M.D.

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## UvA Dissertation

*Faculty of Humanities*

The present thesis is based on research carried out by Marc Davidson at the University of Amsterdam. Marc currently works as a senior consultant at CE Delft, Solutions for environment, economy and technology, and teaches bioethics at the University of Amsterdam.

Intergenerational justice requires that climate risks to future generations be handled with the same reasonable care deemed acceptable by society in the case of risks to contemporaries. Such general standards of conduct are laid down in tort law, for example. Consequently, the validity of arguments for or against more stringent climate policy can be judged by comparison to the general standards of conduct applying in the case of risk to contemporaries. That this consistency test is able to disqualify certain arguments in the climate debate is illustrated by a further investigation of the debate on the social discount rate, used in cost-benefit analysis of climate policy.



## Arguing about climate change

*Judging the handling  
of climate risk to future generations  
by comparison to the general  
standards of conduct in the case  
of risk to contemporaries*

MARC D. DAVIDSON



Arguing about climate change

Marc D. Davidson