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# **Minding the Gap?**

## **CE, CO<sub>2</sub> abatement and the Governance of the Global Climate**

Workshop "Geoengineering the Climate – an issue for  
Peace and Security Studies?" Panel E: Geoengineering:  
a global governance issue?

Hamburg, November 11, 2011

# Research Questions

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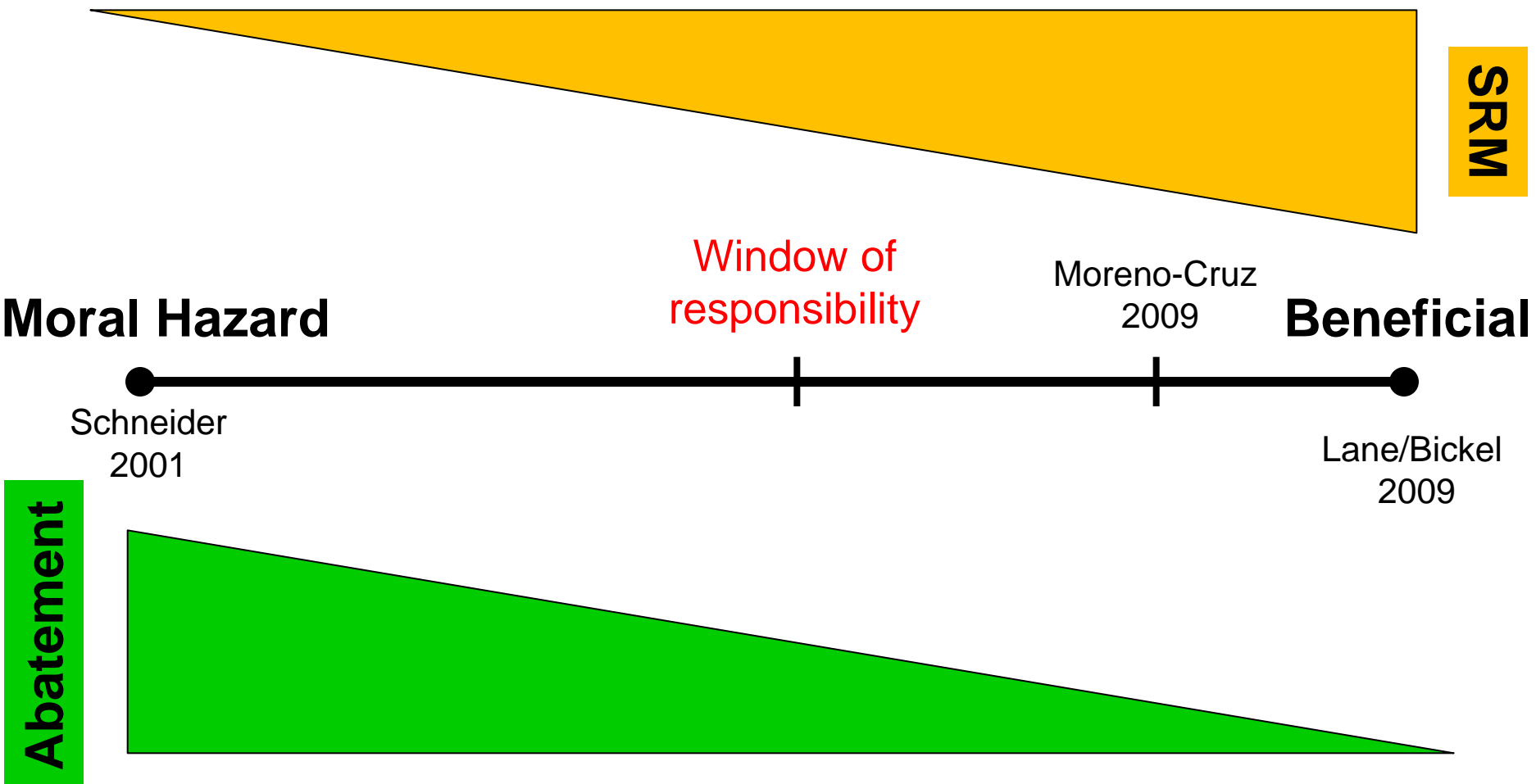
1. Can you imagine a world that is either devoid of further efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and full of CE or in which current abatement picks up speed so that no CE would be needed?
2. What realistic policy mix of these two and adaptative behaviour can we expect?
3. What policy mix should we aim for?

# Propositions on (plausible) CE governance patterns

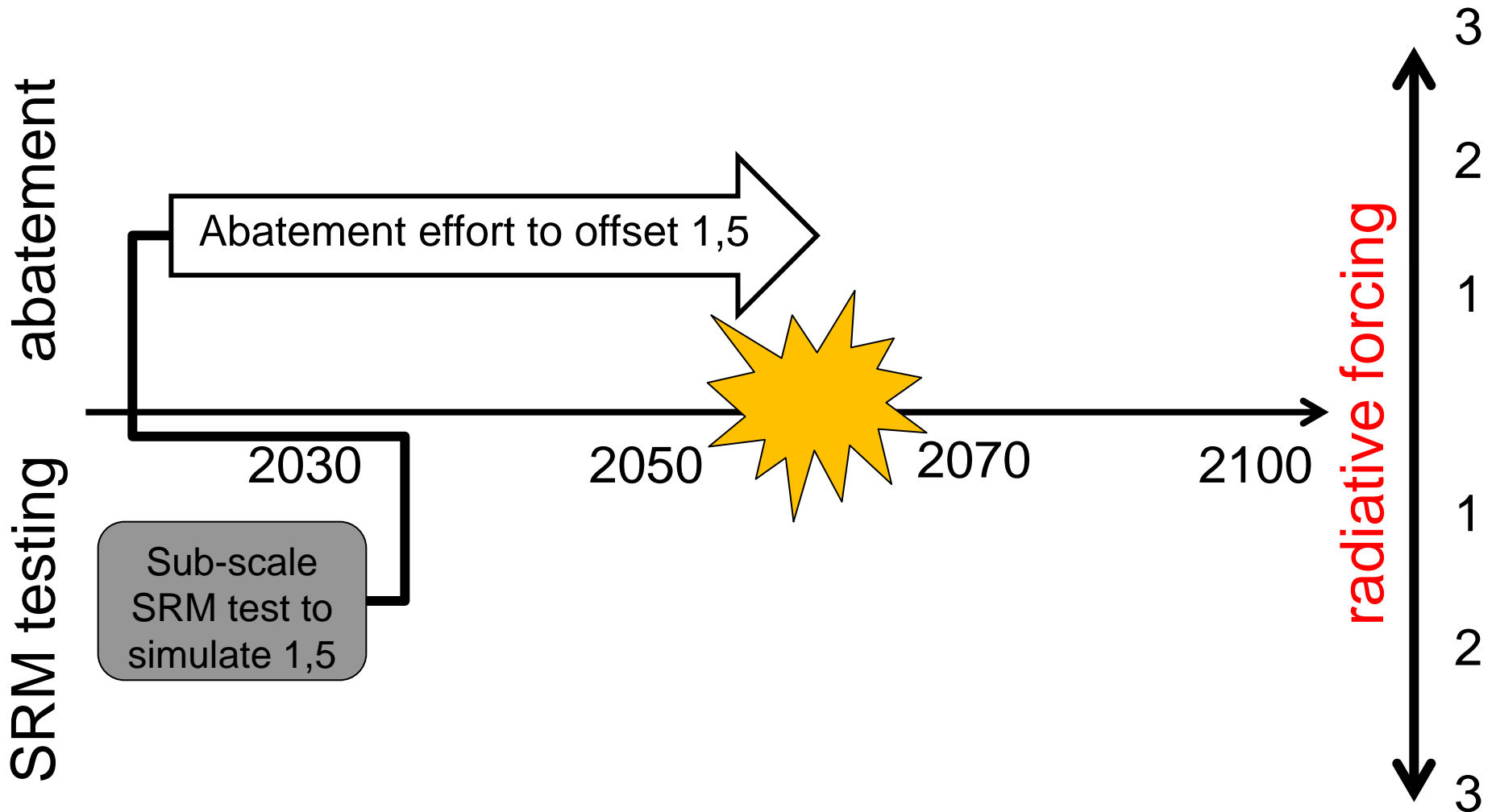
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1. Institutions of the current climate change regime will address CE where the costs of establishing new CE specific agreements outweigh their benefits (path dependence).
2. As the current CE-discourse spills over from scientific deliberation to the public and policy sphere, the focus of the debate on regulating CE research, testing and application will shift accordingly (authority).
3. Unilateral application of SRM technologies is (highly) unlikely (Scope).
4. A mix of abatement, adaptation and CE measures is the most probable strategy in the future.

# CE and abatement: a brief digest of their interaction



# Opening the 'window of responsibility': a new approach to SRM testing



# Conclusion

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1. Climate engineering research does involve a lot of uncertainties, i.e. ignorance about the effects on given preferences, and risks, i.e. potential negative effects on given identities under current behavioral dispositions.
2. Despite some recent advances, social science research still is very far from perfect when it comes to the assessment of the interaction between CE and abatement strategies.
3. By linking the scale of a potential SRM test with the alternative strategy to achieve an equivalent radiative forcing through conventional (proven) instruments of abatement, I hope a guiding principle has been set for responsible policy making.