China's Global Environmental Engagement: Transforming Identity through Governance

INTRODUCTION

China wants to be more active in global governance to have a greater international influence. Since Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, China has been expanding a more assertive foreign policy by being more engaged in global environmental governance. China has been exposed to environmental issues due to its rapid economic growth. This has entailed a shift in China's climate diplomacy which, at the same time, serves the primordial purpose of becoming a major power with responsibilities

RESEARCH QUESTION

How China's evolving identity as an international actor determines its growing role in the global governance of climate change?

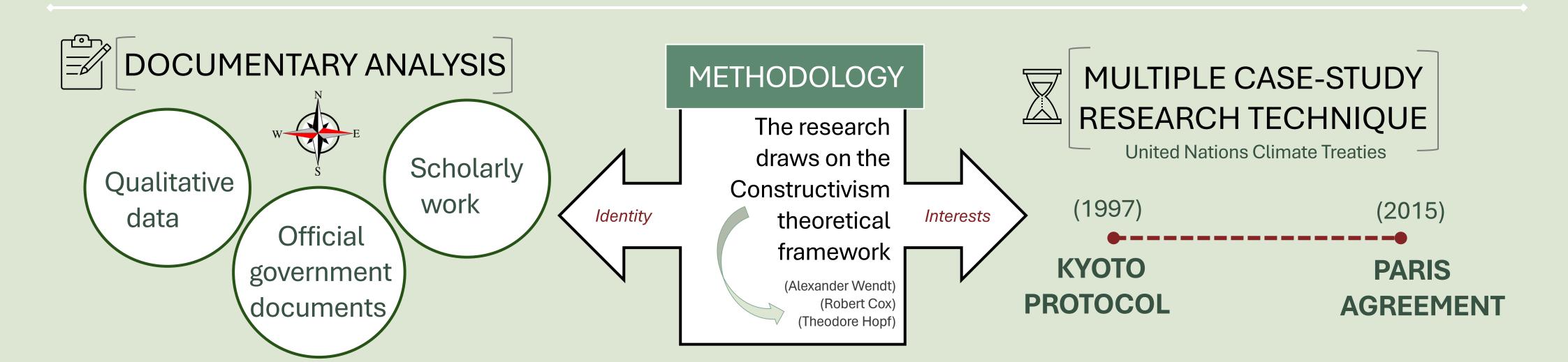
OBJECTIVES

Comprehend the evolution of China's identity as an international actor and its stance towards climate governance within the context of the so-called 'China Dream'

ARGUMENT



The change in China's identity, and thus in its interests, has meant a different foreign policy action towards deeper global environmental governance



KYOTO PROTOCOL

ANALYSIS

PARIS AGREEMENT

IDENTITY

Developing country identity / Non-revisionist, non-disruptive, and non-hegemonic actor

Major power with responsibilities

CHANGE

From 'keeping the low profile' to 'striving for achievement' foreign policy strategy

POSITION

'Common but differentiated responsibilities'

Refusal of binding GHG reduction targets

Skeptical to the Three Flexible Mechanisms

Reservations on international scrutiny of its emissions data and reporting practices

Developed countries have to assist financially and technologically developing countries with climate mitigation and adaptation

Not any more historical responsibility nor differentiation

Voluntarily pledged GHG reduction targets, as part of NDC

Supportive of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes and cooperative approaches

Agreed to participate in transparency mechanisms

Developed countries have to assist financially and technologically developing countries with climate mitigation and adaptation

KEY FINDINGS



China's evolving identity determines its stance at climate negotiations from a 'norm taker' to a 'rule shaper'

China's shift in identity to a great power with responsibilities has entailed a different foreign policy strategy toward becoming a leader in global climate action

Engaging in the collective-action problem of climate change has been an instrument to advance China's aspirations of becoming a major power with responsibilities aligned with the pursuit of national rejuvenation objectives

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References

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