Part IV

Processes

This part deals with some of the most important internal processes by which the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are crafted, drawing attention in particular to some of the practices, norms and principles that guide these processes. Jessica O'Reilly (Chapter 17) evaluates how scientific uncertainties have been treated and managed in IPCC assessments, in particular how uncertainties are understood and operationalised by the different Working Groups (WGs), as well as by government representatives. Mark Vardy (Chapter 18) assesses how integration between disciplines, experts and concepts is handled within and between the WGs and how the integration of knowledge made by the IPCC has come to be supported by orchestration efforts occurring outside the IPCC. Mike Hulme (Chapter 19) examines why and how the IPCC seeks scientific consensus and some of the limits of such consensus-seeking. In similar fashion, Kari De Pryck (Chapter 20) examines the process through which shared ownership of IPCC reports is reached between authors and governments, in particular during the line-by-line approval of the Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs). Finally in this part, Martin Mahony (Chapter 21) carefully interrogates the injunction for IPCC assessments to be policy relevant yet policy neutral, and the practices by which the institution navigates this boundary.

