

Heavens knows!

On Some Pseudo-Religious Connotations of the Climate Issue

by Claus U. Rieth, M.Div., MBA

“Religious Wording”

By observing the debates between “mainstream” and “realist” climate research and following press publications or “non”-publications, discussions and online contributions we can observe a strange wording of the dominating “CO2-driven-climate fraction”. Not only the massive power to push away differing scientific research and results is astonishing, as experienced by a high percentage of the “climate realist” thinkers, but also the “religious wording” that is used to destroy or question the credibility of honest research trying to understand the very complex and not at all simple and mechanistic climate phenomenon. This is all the more critical as this shows not only an anachronistic reprimand of an overcome inhumane religious “ideology” of a then world-dominating catholic church, but also trespasses the limits of tolerable conduct vis-à-vis differently-thinking persons, destroying their academic credibility, reputation and even aggressing them in criminal ways.

“Salvation Theory”

In the all-to obvious way to reduce a complex interdisciplinary understanding of the climate phenomenon the adepts of the so-called “mainstream” party use the wording of an originally catholic teaching of “de media salutis”. “Mainstream” in this respect is equaled with the “right path” – only that ironically in biblical terms the “right path” is the narrow one and not the broad “main”-road. The doctrine is about the way how to achieve the salvation. The first discrimination is between the “faithful” righteous people and the lost. There is a list on Wikipedia (!) that demarks those who are in deviation of the consensus – Wikipedia List of scientists who disagree with the scientific consensus on global warming) This difference creates the need for the “lost” to find the means to get back on the right track by confessing their sins and repent and for others to do good deeds and to do penance (New York Times 2017) and as a substitute pay for indulgence instead (MyClimate.org 2018).

“Climate Deniers” and the “Majority”-Community

In the climate debate those who do not follow the IPCC and its public statements are “climate deniers” that is the “unfaithful”, the non-believers, the doubting Thomases (Forbes 2018, Irish Times 2018). They are deviating from the “right way” leading to the salvation, means the salvation for the “climate-stricken people”. The “mainstream” is thereby constructed by a fictitious number that was created by counting a certain amount of “pro articles” in disfavoring the “counter articles by the assumption, that all those are “tacitly” approving who did not explicitly tell the contrary (Forbes 2016 , The Fraser Institute 2018) Thus the number “97%” was created to convince the poor sheep who cannot really prove that this is wrong and easily follow the “advice of the fathers” of the holy institution – the IPCC political publications. In this respect the number of the “others” is intently diminished to compare them with the black sheep of the herd. The “Nobel Medal” on the page of IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC 2007) shall

distinguish the institution and give it an “sanctification”. The question is, if one is really on the right track, why all these labels – 97%, Nobel Medal and others - ?

“Climate Sinners”

Now there is another sort of “non-believers” – the “climate sinners” (CBC News 2007). This group of non-believers purposely or not commit evil deeds by opposing the doctrine of salvation to “reduce CO₂” to “save the climate” (IPCC Mitigation of the Climate Change 2007). Climate “sins” are any form of CO₂-emitting actions that “contradict” tacitly the “climate-doctrine”. This may be driving a car with high gasoil consumption, the energy production by burning coal and oil and gas, the vacation trip to Bali or other far away destinations, the careless acting by not saving energy: heating the pool in autumn and spring (or summer), not shutting down the lights in the house or using the Edisonian light bulbs, doing bbq with gas and charcoal, eating beef and other meat and so on. All these are minor or major transgressions of the expected conformity to “climate moral”. The state of California plans to use satellite technology to “detect” Climate Sinners (engadget 2018).

“Save the climate!?”?

The assumption behind this is that “humans” could “save” or protect the climate (Saveourclimate.org 2011). Further it is assumed that “humanity” has the “means” or “media” to “save” the climate. This is a form of “climate-soteriology”, the talk of how to achieve the salvation from the threat of a “hell” on earth by an ever heating-up atmosphere (cf. Clifford 2015 “The road to climate hell”). A “warming scenario” that would destroy the “Paradise” by increasing sea levels, desertification, rising temperatures, droughts, hurricanes and melting poles, disappearing islands and coastal regions, migration of “climate refugees” and the “burning” of the planet. There are in this perspective several “hells” for different people, the islanders, the mainlanders, the Europeans, the Americans, the natives, the “wealthy” and the “poor”. The journey to hell can be long and horrible. All the more the non-believers have to be identified and banned or “converted”.

10 Commandments to Save the Climate

The parallel to the ancient “salvation” ideology is that the then catholic church also propagated that each one has the “means” to achieve the salvation by acting in accordance to the doctrine of the “church”. The wish of the people to “act” and “do” something against a fatal sort is used by the climate-doctrine in offering simple “CO₂—related” recipes to “achieve salvation” for the planet: stop fossil energy consumption, put wind-mills on every hill, photovoltaic panels on your roof, use e-cars, stop eating meat – as cattle emits methane and methane “warms up” the atmosphere as “green-house gas” consequently is forbidden and evil (David Suzuki Foundation 2018) – simple messages, “strong” photos and “what people can do” (NCA in IPCC Expert Meeting on Communication 2016). Following these “rules” is the way to “climate-heaven”, the rest is the way to “hell”. Like the 10 commandments, lists are created to tell “Top 10 things you can do about climate change” (David Suzuki Foundation)

Warming “Doctrine”

All events that “favor” these climate warming assumptions are clearly named and willingly diffused and broadcasted by the “conforming” media, tv, journals and journalists (NYT, BBC, NZZ as some) out to the far-away corners of the countries and corners of the world, heat waves, droughts, Hurricanes, Typhoons, melting of sea-ice (that does not increase sea-levels like a melting ice-cube in a glass of Whiskey).

Whether this is really true, nobody is allowed to ask. Few contest the sole “rule” of CO2 and argue that H2O in the atmosphere is the much more dominant factor. Few deny the human possibility of humans to “save” the climate and the “impossibility” to “contribute action” to this “salvation” (for contributors see “Basic Science of a Changing Climate”, www.portoconference2018.org : presentations of Mörner, Nils A. , Veyres, Camille, Zeller, Karl, and others). Like Martin Luther and the other Reformation guys those are “accused of malignant teaching” and “deviation from Mother-Church”. No one should hear this “new gospel” of the “liberation from the CO2-dogma”, publications are denied, peer-review rendered impossible, press releases ignored, conferences uncovered by important newspapers. The “sheep” are kept “ignorant” and considered “not-of-age”, as they cannot read the “climate-bible”, the real story behind the “climate-papers” of the IPCC.

Liberating the “Liberty of Science”

Now what is the learning of these linguistic and “religious” observations? The learning is that it is high noon for a “liberation” that makes an end to this monopolistic “climate doctrine. There is a need for a “Reformation”, an opposition to the “indoctrination” of the IPCC lobbies and obedient media. Science is only worth being called science if there is freedom of thinking and speech and research. And science is by definition not a majority matter but based on causality and the proving of facts and their repeatable and reproducible relations that lead to “law of nature”. Now the phenomenon we call “climate” there are a lot of assumptions that do not work and there are a lot of models made up on their base that do not work either (Veyres, Happer). But the “public” is willing to follow them nevertheless as they promise “salvation” of an invisible threat like hell. In theology the Reformators contested hell and declared it “non-biblical” and as such non-existing. The “people” understood the “made-up threats” of their “church” and breathed a sigh of relief.

Climate History – Historical. No Hysteria

The scientifically proven facts on CO2 and H2O and the role of the sun and the oceans on climate tell a similar liberation story. Climate in this respect has always changed in earth history and will continue to do that naturally. There are regional alterations, of sea level and temperature, of humidity and weather extremes, yes. And maybe people have to adapt to them like the Eskimo and the people in the Alps and at the coasts adapted also in history. But there are cycles behind these phenomena that can be understood, as the El-Ninõ phenomenon or the North-Atlantic Circulation, the anticyclical rise and fall of sea-level on the northern and southern oceanic sphere that corresponds to solar and planetary cycles. Sea-level difference between west-coast of South America and the Philippines of 60 cm is due to the “Walker-Circulation”. Nothing to be feared. Nothing new (Porto Conference 2018). Nothing to rise a prosecution of scientifically proven “differing” results and “burn witches or wizards of CO2”.

Approaching Intellectuals to Climate Facts

This inquiry into the language of the climate debate is on the one hand the cognition of the recycling of an old story of the working of religious ideology. And on the other hand it is the final speech for freedom of research, speech and publication of sober results. If pseudo-religious ideology dominates once again the quest for truth in the definition by Thomas of Acquin who defined it as ‘adaequatio intellectus ad rem’, the correspondence of the intellect to natural matter, then we will be back in the dark middle-ages very soon. As shows the political landscape nationally and internationally we are in an anti-Enlightenment-age, doubts on scientific results rise and get backed by a majority, like anti-evolution campaigns, anti-

vaccination campaigns, super-food and “health” myths, and so on. The climate debates goes in the same direction. People do not really “understand” the complexity and prefer “simple” models to “maths and complexity that explain chaos” (cf. Masson at Porto Conference 2018). The one who offers “quack recipes” is trendy, the one who asks for a deeper reflection is “out”.

No Climate Moraline

There is no need to reintroduce the “evil” into a present-day issue, from neither side. There is and was a tendency in global politics to divide the world in “good” and “bad” countries, the own country naturally always on the side of the “good”, the same for “God”’s support always accounted for the politics and warfare of one’s own. This is a misleading concept today as in the past. It produces a very unhealthy mix of “religion” – better: pseudo-religion – and politics and in the climate issue also science. The democratic principle of separation of state and church (or religion) is very beneficial also in understanding the climate phenomenon. There is either “right” or “wrong” in the cognition of nature, not “good” and “bad”. And “right” and “wrong” in science is not a majority nor a moral question! Thus either side, the “want-to-be mainstream” and the “realistic” party should refrain to call the other side “bad” or “malignant”. Naturally the perspective on brute data is not neutral as Gadamer (1960 / 1989) teaches us. Everyone (!) has a leading “understanding” or looks through his or her “glasses”. This acknowledged there is no completely “neutral” cognition, not in absolute nor in applied or practical science. This excludes the advertising and praise for one’s own affairs! And knowledge in science is valid only until better understanding! Not morals, but sincere scientific research is the guiding idea!

Nature. No Man-made Ideal Climate

As William Happer (2017) says, we need a liberation of this indoctrination and quacks and look on the facts and the story they tell on climate. No one wants to live in the “dark” ambiance of the middle-ages again, if they were so dark as assumed! The present discussions show that we slip in much darker ages if we continue with this anti-scientific trend and disseminate intolerance and destroy honesty and truth. Human influence on climate is as minimal as on “salvation” by deeds. Trust the earths cycles and adapt reasonably instead of propagating fear and “setting fire” on the climate. As humanity cannot save the climate on earth – and the question would be which one to save – the climate of the Rich and Powerful or the one of the Poor, the European or the African of Sahel zone? – there is a need for stopping defamation and distorting reality. The minimal consensus has to be to exercise oneself in tolerance and stop following pseudo-religious gurus that promise “invisible salvation” and an “ideal climate” or an “ideal world” that never existed.

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Claus U. Rieth
M.Div., MBA
Mulhouse, France

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World

Canada fourth-worst climate sinner, study finds

CBC News · Posted: Dec 07, 2007 1:43 PM ET | Last Updated: December 7, 2007

Canada is near the bottom of the barrel in a study that ranked countries based on their climate-change performances.

The study, released Friday by environmental organizations Germanwatch and Climate Action Network Europe, compared the 56 countries who produce an estimated 90 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

The countries were ranked based on the amount of emissions they produced over the past year, the amount of reductions they made to their emissions levels and the strength of their climate-change policies.

The five lowest ranked countries, starting with the worst, were:

- Saudi Arabia
- The United States
- Australia

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List of scientists who disagree with the scientific consensus on global warming

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by expanding it with reliably sourced entries.

This is a list of scientists who have made statements that conflict with the scientific consensus on global warming as summarized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and endorsed by other scientific bodies. A minority are climatologists. Nearly all publishing climate scientists (97-98%^[1]) support the consensus on anthropogenic climate change,^{[3][4]} hence this list represents a minority viewpoint.

The scientific consensus is that the global average surface temperature has risen over the last century. Scientific opinion on climate change was summarized in the 2001 Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The main conclusions on global warming at that time were as follows:

1. The global average surface temperature has risen 0.6 ± 0.2 °C since the late 19th century, and 0.17 °C per decade in the years 1971-2001.^[5]
2. "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities", in particular emissions of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane.^[6]
3. If greenhouse gas emissions continue the warming will also continue, with temperatures projected to increase by 1.4 °C to 5.8 °C between 1990 and 2100.^[A] Accompanying this temperature increase will be increases in some types of extreme weather and a ...

Group	Significant	Little or none
Published & Unpublished	84%	16%
All - AMS Member Scientists	98%	2%
Published & Unpublished	98%	2%
All - AMS Member Scientists	97%	3%
Published & Unpublished	97%	3%
All - AMS Member Scientists	97%	3%
Published & Unpublished	97%	3%
All - AMS Member Scientists	97%	3%
Published & Unpublished	97%	3%
All - AMS Member Scientists	97%	3%

Nearly all publishing climate scientists (97-98%^[1]) are convinced by the evidence that humans are significantly contributing to global warming.^{[1][2]}

Forbes

128,625 views | Dec 14, 2016, 02:07pm

Fact Checking The Claim Of 97% Consensus On Anthropogenic Climate Change

University of Houston Energy Fellows Contributor
University of Houston Energy Fellows Contributor Group
Energy
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POST WRITTEN BY
Earl J. Ritchie, Lecturer, Department of Construction Management

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The current White House doesn't accept climate science, and California is worried that this may lead to NASA switching off climate probes under pressure from President Trump. The state's solution? Build its own probe. In a speech at the Global Climate Action Summit, Governor Jerry Brown declared that California would launch its "own damn satellite" to detect pollution and address climate change. While he hinted at the possibility in 2016 remarks, it's more than just an allusion this time. The state is working with Planet Labs on the project, and will rely on the California Air Resources Board for further help.

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New Scientist

The screenshot shows a ScienceDirect article page. The article title is "The road to climate hell" by Robert Gifford, published in New Scientist, Volume 227, Issue 3029, 11-17 July 2015, Pages 28-33. The article is a feature. The abstract states: "Even people who have good intentions don't do enough about climate change. There are many reasons why we fail to act. 33 to be precise, says psychologist Robert Gifford". The page includes a navigation bar with "Check Access" and "Export" buttons, a search bar, and a sidebar with "Recommended articles" and "Article Metrics". The metrics show 566 Exports-Saves, 17 Readers, and 3 Citations. The footer includes Elsevier and RELX Group logos.

IPCC

The screenshot shows the IPCC website page for "Climate Change 2007: Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change". The page is titled "12.2.4.6 Mainstreaming climate change into development choices: Setting priorities". The text discusses the operational question of how to harness that potential and how climate change mitigation considerations can be mainstreamed into development policies. It states that mainstreaming means that development policies, programmes and/or individual actions that otherwise would not have taken climate change mitigation into consideration explicitly include these when making development choices. The page also mentions that the ease or difficulty with which mainstreaming is accomplished will depend on both the mitigation technology or practice, and the underlying development path. The page includes a navigation bar with "Contents" and "12.2.4.6" buttons, and a sidebar with "Activities", "Calendar of Meetings", "Meeting Documentation", "News and Events", "Publications and Data", "Reports", "Technical Papers", "Supporting Material", "Figures and Tables", "Glossary", "Presentations and Speeches", "Press Information", "Links", and "Contact". The footer includes the Nobel Foundation logo and contact information for the IPCC.

David Suzuki Foundation

https://david Suzuki.org/what-you-can-do/top-10-ways-can-stop-climate-change/

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workplace or pension fund make do not include fossil fuels. Meet with your bank or investment adviser and/or join a divestment campaign at your university.

Fossil fuels are a sunset industry. They're a risk for investors and the planet. As Arnold Schwarzenegger said, "I don't want to be the last investor in Blockbuster as Netflix emerged."

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Invest in renewables

Even if you can't install solar panels or a wind turbine, you can still be a part of the clean-energy economy. Search online for local renewable energy co-ops to join. By becoming a co-op member you will own a slice of its renewable energy projects and can get a return on your investment.

You can also speak to your financial adviser about clean energy/technology investments.

Eat for a climate-stable planet

"Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." – Michael Pollan

Here are four simple changes you can make to your diet to reduce its climate impact.

- Eat meat-free meals.
- Buy organic and local whenever possible.
- Don't waste food.
- Grow your own.

Get more info on how to eat for the climate and how eating less meat will reduce Earth's heat.

P.S. You can also help save the planet by eating insects!

Vote

All levels of government, from municipal to federal, can have a big effect on our ability to lower emissions, prepare and adapt to climate change and shift to a clean-energy economy.

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Flying Is Bad for the Planet. You Can Help Make It Better.



Allec Doherty for The New York Times

By **Tatiana Schlossberg**

July 27, 2017



Take one round-trip flight between New York and California, and you've generated about 20 percent of the greenhouse gases that [your car emits](#) over an entire year.

scientists in an integrated and iterative manner, in contrast to the traditional sequential approach of producing the science and then handing it over to the editors. In these interactions the scientists always had the final say, but this never became a point of contention because the team worked together for the best outcome.

The NCA made use of simple clear language and strong photos.



"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present."

The science of science communication informed the choice of photos: photos showed people to make them relevant and easier for people to connect with.

Such photos depicted both the impacts of climate change as experienced by real people --



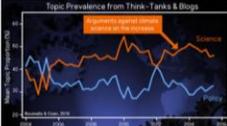
Impacts are apparent in every region, and in health, water, agriculture, energy, and more.

-- and possible solutions. They show people taking action, and they tell stories of people dealing with climate change.



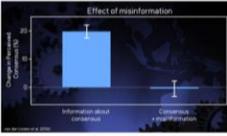
There are many actions we can take to reduce future climate change and its impacts and to prepare for the impacts we can't avoid.

← → 🔍 Not secure | www.ipcc.ch/pdf/supporting-material/EMR_COM_full_report.pdf



Topic Prevalence from Talks - Talks & Blogs

What should be the response of the IPCC? Should it just communicate the science or address the misinformation and misconceptions? Studies show that misinformation affects and undermines the perception of science. Only a few pieces of misinformation can have an effect.



IPCC Expert Meeting on Communication - 22

Plenary Session Discussion Summaries

On the other hand, there is an educational opportunity. Research shows that lessons are more effective when combined with refuting related misconceptions.



James Madison, cited by Happer (2017)

James Madison's view:

"Is it not to the glory of the people of America, that whilst they have paid a decent regard to the opinions of former times and other nations, they have not suffered a blind veneration for antiquity, for custom, or for names, to overrule the suggestions of their own good sense, the knowledge of their own situation, and lessons of their own experience? To this manly spirit, posterity will be indebted for the possession, and the world, for the example, of the numerous innovations displayed on the American theatre, in favor of private rights and public happiness."



The Federalist no. 14