

From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: Checking in about Michael Shellenberger article review
Date: July 21, 2020 at 5:56 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the update. I was aware HEATED was putting together a story on this and was contacted by them beforehand for comment. The Daily Wire aspect of this is concerning but not all that surprising given their audience. As I

On Jul 21, 2020, at 9:24 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Dear Dr. Sriver,

Thank you again for analyzing Michael Shellenberger's article, which was flagged as "Partly False" for numerous media outlets on Facebook. I wanted to reach out about a decision to remove a flag from the article published by The Daily Wire to see if this is a topic you would like to discuss. This decision was recently covered in an [article](#) published by HEATED and Popular Info, which discusses aspects of Facebook's fact-checking policies.

After our fact-check was published, The Daily Wire amended their article to state that the article was "reviewed by fact-checkers, some of whom have pushed back on some of its claims and conclusions." In addition, the article included a link to the fact-check at the bottom of the article. Because the article is behind a paywall, only users that pay for a premium account can access the link. The decision to remove the flag was made by Science Feedback based on the inclusion of this statement and link to the fact-check, although we acknowledge this is barely sufficient to inform readers about reality.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this decision in more detail.

Sincerely,
Nikki

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: **Striver, Ryan** rstriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 13, 2019 at 8:07 AM
To: Emmanuel Vincent emvincent@climatefeedback.org

Hi Emmanuel.
 I would give the commentary a rating of -1.
 Best
 Ryan

On Jun 13, 2019, at 2:31 AM, Emmanuel Vincent <emvincent@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hi Ryan-

One quick thing--would you mind selecting a rating for the article's overall credibility?

Thanks!
 Emmanuel

+2 = Very High: No inaccuracies, fairly represents the state of scientific knowledge, well argued and documented, references are provided for key elements. The article provides insights to the reader about climate change mechanisms and implications.

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0 = Neutral: No major inaccuracies, but no important insight to better explain implications of the science.

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n/a = Not Applicable: The article does not build on scientifically verifiable information (e.g. it is mostly about politics or opinions).

On 10 Jun 2019, at 22:53, Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback <feedback@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

- "Globally there's no clear evidence of trends and patterns in extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and floods. Some regions experience more, some less and some no trend. Limitations of data and inconsistencies in patterns prevent confident claims about global trends one way or another. There's no trend in U.S. hurricane landfall frequency or intensity. If anything, the past 50 years has been relatively quiet. There's no trend in hurricane-related flooding in the U.S. Nor is there evidence of an increase in floods globally. Since 1965, more parts of the U.S. have seen a decrease in flooding than have seen an increase."
- "And on it goes. There's no trend in U.S. tornado damage (in fact, 2012 to 2017 was below average). There's no trend in global droughts. Cold snaps in the U.S. are down but, unexpectedly, so are heatwaves."
- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

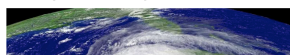
Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

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1. Annotate

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-

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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Breitbart article on study that “disputes that Earth is in a ‘climate emergency’”
Date: February 11, 2021 at 2:31 PM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

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Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for your help! I really appreciate it. Your comments and references make a great contribution to our review.

Best,
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On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 12:39 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

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Please let me know if you would like more info.

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On Feb 9, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello
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- “Nitrogen fertilisers and carbon dioxide fertilisation have together increased global food production by 111 per cent”
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Forrester

Science

Editor, Climate Feedback

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Science Editor, Climate and Ecology

Science Feedback

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Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Breitbart article on study that “disputes that Earth is in a ‘climate emergency’”
Date: February 12, 2021 at 2:01 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.
Great, thanks! FYI: My title is Associate professor, but it shows Assistant professor in my climate feedback bio.
Best,
Ryan

On Feb 12, 2021, at 1:25 PM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Ryan,

Thanks again for your feedback! We are pleased to inform you that the claim review has been [published](#) and that we have reported our findings to Facebook. Any user that interacted with the article will be [notified](#). Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

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Science Feedback

From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 5, 2020 at 12:37 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.

A couple quick points about the shellenberger piece. First off, it is largely an opinion piece and many of the claims are unverifiable or written in a way that is misleading, such as: • "Fires have declined 25% around the world since 2003". What exactly does this mean, the number of fires, duration, area burned, etc.?

Another such misleading claim is:

"Climate change is not making natural disasters worse". Again, what natural disasters is the author referring to with this blanket statement, and what time frame.. the last 5 years, 20 years, 100 years? The claim is vague and misleading in particular for climate and weather extremes. Temperature and precipitation extremes are getting worse with global warming leading to more severe and widespread heatwaves and drought. This is well documented in the community assessments and observations. In addition, oceans are getting warmer and the atmosphere is wetter which, combined with global sea-level rise, is making the flooding and precipitation damages from tropical cyclones and hurricanes more severe.

Finally, there is essentially no mention of arguably the biggest risk of climate change: sea-level rise! The only statement I see is the claim:

"Adapting to life below sea level made the Netherlands rich not poor"

This statement acknowledges that sea-level rise is indeed happening and that adaption will make nations better off economically. Statements such as these are dangerous and misleading. Sea-level rise poses a major threat to coastal communities with global socio-economic implications, and we are already seeing the negative impacts in more frequency and severe flood events in the US. These damages will only worsen as the polar ice sheets continue to melt, with potentially catastrophic effects on coastal cities and ecosystems, real estate markets, insurance industries, human migration, and national security.

Hope this feedback is useful. Let me know if you would like any other info.

Best,
Ryan

On Jul 4, 2020, at 10:35 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Ryan,

Great! Thank you so much for your help.

Best,
Nikki

On Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 1:26 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the email and apologies for missing the first one! I Am happy to provide comments... will try to get to this later today.

Best
Ryan

On Jul 3, 2020, at 11:00 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Dear Dr. Sriver,

Hope you're doing well. I just wanted to follow up to see if you would be willing to comment on the scientific accuracy of this article by noon PT on Monday.

Thanks so much,
Nikki

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 1:51 PM Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello
Dr. Sriver,

Various

media outlets including [Zero Hedge](#), Breitbart, PJ Media, The Australian, Quillette and Forbes published an article by Michael Shellenberger who is promoting a new book, which have been shared widely on Facebook. Forbes has since unpublished the article. In the article, Schellenberger apologizes for the "climate scare" and outlines a series of claims about climate change. We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

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From: Emmanuel Vincent emvincent@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Re: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 13, 2019 at 4:10 PM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

Thanks!

The review has been published: <https://climatefeedback.org/evaluation/financial-post-commentary-misrepresents-scientific-understanding-of-weather-extremes-ross-mckitrick/>

On 13 Jun 2019, at 15:07, Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

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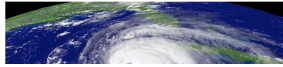


Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 6, 2020 at 8:23 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for your feedback. We really appreciate your help! If possible, would you mind giving the article an overall rating via this form: <https://airtable.com/shr15lu2lWXJ2ELO1> Also, do you happen to have a few references you could provide to support your comments?

Thanks again!
Nikki

On Sun, Jul 5, 2020 at 1:37 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:
Hi Nikki.

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- "Fires have declined 25% around the world since 2003". What exactly does this mean, the number of fires, duration, area burned, etc.?

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The article also includes a lot of opinionated assertions, so we should strive to stick to the verifiable parts. If you have time by the **end of the day on Friday, July 3** and would like to contribute, you can rate the article's overall credibility [via this form](#). Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant to your expertise. You can annotate the article at [this link](#), or by adding the Hypothesis [Chrome extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks for looking!
Nikki

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 7, 2020 at 11:55 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Thanks again for your feedback! We are pleased to inform you that the article review has been [published](#). Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Best,
Nikki

On Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 1:28 PM Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Ryan,

Thank you so so much! Your feedback and rating is extremely helpful. I'll let you know if anything else pops up.

Thanks again!
Nikki

On Mon, Jul 6, 2020 at 1:26 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

I completed the form you sent with a rating. I inserted my review from below and added a reference to the 4th national climate assessment:
<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov>

Hope this is helpful. Let me know if you would like any other info.
Best,
Ryan

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Hi Nikki.

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- "Fires have declined 25% around the world since 2003". What exactly does this mean, the number of fires, duration, area burned, etc.?

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Finally, there is essentially no mention of arguably the biggest risk of climate change: sea-level rise! The only statement I see is the claim:

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This statement acknowledges that sea-level rise is indeed happening and that adaption will make nations better off economically. Statements such as these are dangerous and misleading. Sea-level rise poses a major threat to coastal communities with global socio-economic implications, and we are already seeing the negative impacts in more frequency and severe flood events in the US. These damages will only worsen as the polar ice sheets continue to melt, with potentially catastrophic effects on coastal cities and ecosystems, real estate markets, insurance industries, human migration, and national security.

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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 6, 2020 at 12:29 PM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

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From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
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Date: July 6, 2020 at 12:26 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

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Dear Dr. Sriver,

Hope you're doing well. I just wanted to follow up to see if you would be willing to comment on the scientific accuracy of this article by noon PT on Monday.

Thanks so much,

Nikki

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 1:51 PM Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello

Dr. Sriver,

Various

media outlets including [Zero](#)

[Hedge](#), Breitbart, PJ Media, The Australian, Quillette and Forbes

published an article by Michael Shellenberger who is promoting a new book, which have been shared widely on

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end of the day on Friday, July 3

and would like to contribute, you can rate the article's overall credibility [via](#)

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to your expertise. You can annotate the article at [this](#)

[link](#) and have a discussion with the author.

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Thanks
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Science Feedback

From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Breitbart article on study that “disputes that Earth is in a ‘climate emergency’”
Date: February 11, 2021 at 11:39 AM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.
Thanks for the email. I added a few annotations to the article and completed the form.
Please let me know if you would like more info.
Best,
Ryan

On Feb 9, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello Dr. Sriver,

Breitbart recently published [an article](#) claiming “there is no ‘climate emergency’”, which is being widely shared on social media. This news has also been published by several blogs, including [Climate Change Dispatch](#). It is based on a “report” by the GWPF. We’d like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims below and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

- “Most extreme weather phenomena have not become more extreme, more deadly, or more destructive”
- “Almost everywhere you look, climate change is having only small, and often benign, impacts. The impact of extreme weather events — hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and droughts — are, if anything, declining.”
- “Sea-level rise — predicted to be the most damaging impact of global warming — seems to be much less of a problem than thought”
- “Nitrogen fertilisers and carbon dioxide fertilisation have together increased global food production by 111 per cent”
- Climate change is **not**:
 - Making hurricanes, flood, or droughts more intense or frequent
 - Increasing the area burned by wildfires
 - Shrinking land area and beaches or submerging coral islands

If you have time by **Thursday, February 11** and would like to contribute, you can **rate the article’s overall credibility [via this form](#)**. Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant to your expertise. You can annotate the article by using the link in the evaluation form or by adding the Hypothesis [Chrome extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks for looking!

Nikki Forrester
Science Editor, Climate Feedback

* We’re working with Facebook to identify and counter misinformation - evaluations by scientists are essential to this process. When content is identified as false or misleading, your contribution will provide feedback to all users who have interacted with it. You can see an example of inaccurate content flagged by us [here](#).

From: **Sliver, Ryan** rsliver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 3, 2020 at 12:26 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.
Thanks for the email and apologies for missing the first one! I Am happy to provide comments... will try to get to this later today.
Best
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On Jul 3, 2020, at 11:00 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

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Thanks so much,
Nikki

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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Response from GWPF on Breitbart/GWPF article review
Date: February 18, 2021 at 7:39 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for providing additional feedback. We really appreciate it!

Best,
Nikki

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 1:19 AM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the update. A couple quick responses below:

* Climate Feedback says

it is "misleading to call the GWPF post...a 'study', as it does not include any original research nor was it peer-reviewed or published by a reputable scientific organization". The suggestion that 'studies' can only include original research would rule out thousands of review papers and indeed the IPCC assessment reports themselves.

Review papers and assessments can certainly be considered "studies". However a review/assessment of the broad range of topics covered in the Goklany paper would typically include dozens of authors from multiple different disciplines, and include hundreds to thousands of references from the peer reviewed literature. This paper contains neither. It is a single-author perspective on climate change with just over 100 references, even though it touches on everything from extreme events, sea-level rise, wildfires, terrestrial biology, human health, etc. Again the lack of depth points to the one-sided nature of the piece.

* Ryan Sriver, Assistant

Professor at the University of Illinois, claims it was misleading to refer to the observed global expansion of beachy areas, because this was 'mainly due to human intervention and coastal management, not climate change.' But Goklany never claimed that climate change was causing these changes. In fact, these arguments only serve to vindicate his core thesis that climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development.

Nowhere in the paper does the author claim that "climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development". He clearly downplays physical climate trends throughout the paper. For example in the abstract he states:

From section 1:

"This paper" ... "examines empirical trends in extreme events, wildfires, water availability, vector-borne diseases, and some indicators of human and environmental wellbeing, such as economic development, poverty rates, life expectancy, biological productivity, and cropland per capita."

And:

"Moreover, because climate change should not be confused with fluctuations in the weather, the focus will be on long-term trends. Ideally, the temporal record examined should be long enough to, firstly, capture a change in climate. Climate is often defined in terms of 30-year averages. Thus, it should be long enough to define at least two non-overlapping 30-year periods."

There is no mention of human interventions or development in the abstract, yet this is his "core thesis" of the paper??? At what point do the climate change impacts overwhelm our ability to adapt? Do we want to take that risk?

Best,
Ryan

On Feb 16, 2021, at 10:15 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

11

Dr. Sriver,

Thanks

again for providing feedback. I wanted to let you know that the GWPF sent the following response. We're curious to hear what you think about their arguments, notably when it relates to your comments or claims you commented. We don't plan on responding to them at this stage, but do want to make any necessary updates to strengthen our arguments or be prepared to answer.

If

the GWPF reaches out directly to you for comment, we suggest that it's best to not respond for the time being so we can centralize our responses. We also recommend this based on a previous experience where John Stossel reached out to reviewers and used small bits of their responses in a misleading way to suggest his video was accurate.

Please

let us know if you have any questions or would like any additional info. Thanks so much for your help and consideration.

Fact

checking Climate Feedback

Date:

16/02/21, Global Warming Policy Foundation

The

Climate Feedback website has published an erroneous 'factcheck' of a recent Global Warming Policy Foundation report that fails to identify any factual inaccuracies and makes misleading claims of its own. Here, the GWPF responds to some of the misleading claims:

The

report in question was written by former US IPCC delegation member, Dr Indur Goklany, (Impacts of Climate Change: Perception and Reality). It compares claims about the impact of climate change to real-world observations from leading scientific authorities and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Climate

Feedback wields enormous influence through its role as an official 'independent' fact checker on the Facebook social media platform. This means that any article it deems 'false information' has its audience restricted, and any organisations sharing that article can also be penalised in a similar way.

*

Climate Feedback claims that GWPF is a political advocacy organisation. This is untrue. GWPF is an educational charity and is non-partisan.

*

Climate Feedback claims that Goklany's study is a 'blog post.' This is untrue. It is a report which runs to 40 pages and includes more than 100 references to the scientific literature.

*

Climate Feedback failed to provide a link to the GWPF report. It meant that readers were unable to verify the claims made for themselves. This was unprofessional and a serious breach of its own code of principles.

*

Climate Feedback says it is "misleading to call the GWPF post...a 'study', as it does not include any original research nor was it peer-reviewed or published by a reputable scientific organization". The suggestion that 'studies' can only include original research would rule out thousands of review papers and indeed the IPCC assessment reports themselves.

*

Climate Feedback claim that the report was not peer reviewed. This is untrue. All GWPF reports are peer-reviewed by members of our Academic Advisory Council and external experts. Our invitation to the UK Met Office to review the draft of Goklany's report was declined.

*

Professor Emanuel Kerry, Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT, claims that since the early 1970s there has been a 380% increase in global weather-related damage normalized each year by world domestic product. He seems to have misinterpreted an increase in reporting as an increase in damage in proportion to global GDP. In fact, there is a strong scientific consensus that since 1990 weather and climate-related losses have decreased as proportion of global GDP.

*

Professor Jennifer Francis asked for a citation of a paper that showed that land area in coastal areas has been increasing. If she had taken the trouble to look at Goklany's report, she would have found it.

*

Ana Bastos, scientific researcher at Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, argues that it is misleading to say fewer people are dying from heat and climate-sensitive diseases like malaria and diarrhoea — not because these facts aren't actually true, but because these trends 'have multiple confounding factors (e.g. technological, health and economical development) so that these changes cannot be directly linked to CO2.' This is, however, exactly the point Goklany is making, i.e. economic and technological development means that risks from climate impacts are reduced.

*

Ryan Sriver, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, claims it was misleading to refer to the observed global expansion of beachy areas, because this was 'mainly due to human intervention and coastal management, not climate change.' But Goklany never claimed that climate change was causing these changes. In fact, these arguments only serve to vindicate his core thesis that climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development.

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Science Feedback

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From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: Checking in about Michael Shellenberger article review
Date: July 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the update. I was aware HEATED was putting together a story on this and was contacted by them beforehand for comment. The Daily Wire aspect of all this is concerning but not all that surprising given their audience... and since the article is mainly a opinion piece with broad unsubstantiated claims. Are you interested in discussing more or would you like any other feedback?

Best,
Ryan

On Jul 21, 2020, at 9:24 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Dear Dr. Sriver,

Thank you again for analyzing Michael Shellenberger's article, which was flagged as "Partly False" for numerous media outlets on Facebook. I wanted to reach out about a decision to remove a flag from the article published by The Daily Wire to see if this is a topic you would like to discuss. This decision was recently covered in an [article](#) published by HEATED and Popular Info, which discusses aspects of Facebook's fact-checking policies.

After our fact-check was published, The Daily Wire amended their article to state that the article was "reviewed by fact-checkers, some of whom have pushed back on some of its claims and conclusions." In addition, the article included a link to the fact-check at the bottom of the article. Because the article is behind a paywall, only users that pay for a premium account can access the link. The decision to remove the flag was made by Science Feedback based on the inclusion of this statement and link to the fact-check, although we acknowledge this is barely sufficient to inform readers about reality.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this decision in more detail.

Sincerely,
Nikki

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 11, 2019 at 1:17 AM
To: Scott Johnson johnson@climatefeedback.org

Hi Scott.

I took a quick look and the article seems to be mostly an opinion piece with some quotes from a Pielke Jr lecture on his experiences in the climate arena. I don't really see anything wrong with the quotes in general, except that they are either too vague or too specific, for example focusing on hurricane-induced flooding rather than coastal flooding overall. TCs are extreme and rare events thus statistically significant changes are difficult to detect especially given the limitations in historical observations before satellite coverage, but overall coastal flooding is becoming much more of a problem under global warming as sea levels rise. This will only get worse in the future. Similarly the temperature claims are a bit misleading. We experience more and more record breaking warm temperatures over time due to global warming. These changes are damaging for many reasons beyond drought.

Finally the title is misleading:

"This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

He didn't prove anything. He's simply claiming there are not yet definitive links between climate change and some extreme events. I would refer the readers to the most recent National Climate Assessment for a broader and longer list of salient impacts of climate change beyond the short and narrow selection quoted.

Best,
 Ryan

On Jun 10, 2019, at 11:36 PM, Scott Johnson <johnson@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hi Ryan-

I just wanted to flag this one for you in case you have time to take a look.

Thanks!
 Scott

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback" <feedback@climatefeedback.org>

To: "Scott Johnson" <johnson@climatefeedback.org>

Sent: 6/10/2019 1:53:17 PM

Subject: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

- "Globally there's no clear evidence of trends and patterns in extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and floods. Some regions experience more, some less and some no trend. Limitations of data and inconsistencies in patterns prevent confident claims about global trends one way or another. There's no trend in U.S. hurricane landfall frequency or intensity. If anything, the past 50 years has been relatively quiet. There's no trend in hurricane-related flooding in the U.S. Nor is there evidence of an increase in floods globally. Since 1965, more parts of the U.S. have seen a decrease in flooding than have seen an increase."
- "And on it goes. There's no trend in U.S. tornado damage (in fact, 2012 to 2017 was below average). There's no trend in global droughts. Cold snaps in the U.S. are down but, unexpectedly, so are heatwaves."
- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

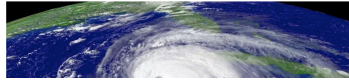
Thank you!

Scott Johnson



Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

And so, many scientists who have the facts and know the truth remain silent



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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Checking in about Michael Shellenberger article review
Date: July 21, 2020 at 9:24 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Dear Dr. Sriver,

Thank you again for analyzing Michael Shellenberger's article, which was flagged as "Partly False" for numerous media outlets on Facebook. I wanted to reach out about a decision to remove a flag from the article published by The Daily Wire to see if this is a topic you would like to discuss. This decision was recently covered in an [article](#) published by HEATED and Popular Info, which discusses aspects of Facebook's fact-checking policies.

After our fact-check was published, The Daily Wire amended their article to state that the article was "reviewed by fact-checkers, some of whom have pushed back on some of its claims and conclusions." In addition, the article included a link to the fact-check at the bottom of the article. Because the article is behind a paywall, only users that pay for a premium account can access the link. The decision to remove the flag was made by Science Feedback based on the inclusion of this statement and link to the fact-check, although we acknowledge this is barely sufficient to inform readers about reality.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this decision in more detail.

Sincerely,
Nikki

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Breitbart article on study that “disputes that Earth is in a ‘climate emergency’”
Date: February 9, 2021 at 10:56 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hello Dr. Sriver,

Breitbart recently published [an article](#) claiming “there is no ‘climate emergency’”, which is being widely shared on social media. This news has also been published by several blogs, including [Climate Change Dispatch](#). It is based on a “report” by the GWPF. We’d like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims below and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

- “Most extreme weather phenomena have not become more extreme, more deadly, or more destructive”
- “Almost everywhere you look, climate change is having only small, and often benign, impacts. The impact of extreme weather events — hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and droughts — are, if anything, declining.”
- “Sea-level rise — predicted to be the most damaging impact of global warming — seems to be much less of a problem than thought”
- “Nitrogen fertilisers and carbon dioxide fertilisation have together increased global food production by 111 per cent”
- Climate change is **not**:
 - Making hurricanes, flood, or droughts more intense or frequent
 - Increasing the area burned by wildfires
 - Shrinking land area and beaches or submerging coral islands

If you have time by **Thursday, February 11** and would like to contribute, you can **rate the article’s overall credibility** [via this form](#). Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant to your expertise. You can annotate the article by using the link in the evaluation form or by adding the Hypothesis [Chrome extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks for looking!

Nikki Forrester
Science Editor, Climate Feedback

* We’re working with Facebook to identify and counter misinformation - evaluations by scientists are essential to this process. When content is identified as false or misleading, your contribution will provide feedback to all users who have interacted with it. You can see an example of inaccurate content flagged by us [here](#).

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 1, 2020 at 12:51 PM
To: rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hello Dr. Sriver,

Various media outlets including [Zero Hedge](#), Breitbart, PJ Media, The Australian, Quillette and Forbes published an article by Michael Shellenberger who is promoting a new book, which have been shared widely on Facebook. Forbes has since unpublished the article. In the article, Schellenberger apologizes for the "climate scare" and outlines a series of claims about climate change. We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

- "Humans are not causing a "sixth mass extinction""
- "Climate change is not making natural disasters worse"
- "Fires have declined 25% around the world since 2003"
- "Carbon emissions are declining in most rich nations and have been declining in Britain, Germany, and France since the mid-1970s"
- "Wood fuel is far worse for people and wildlife than fossil fuels"
- "The build-up of wood fuel and more houses near forests, not climate change, explain why there are more, and more dangerous, fires in Australia and California"
- "The most important thing for reducing air pollution and carbon emissions is moving from wood to coal to petroleum to natural gas to uranium."

The article also includes a lot of opinionated assertions, so we should strive to stick to the verifiable parts. If you have time by the **end of the day on Friday, July 3** and would like to contribute, you can rate the article's overall credibility [via this form](#). Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant to your expertise. You can annotate the article at [this link](#), or by adding the Hypothesis [Chrome extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks for looking!
Nikki

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: [Climate Feedback] Response from GWPF on Breitbart/GWPF article review
Date: February 16, 2021 at 10:16 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Dr. Sriver,

Thanks again for providing feedback. I wanted to let you know that the GWPF sent the following response. We're curious to hear what you think about their arguments, notably when it relates to your comments or claims you commented. We don't plan on responding to them at this stage, but do want to make any necessary updates to strengthen our arguments or be prepared to answer.

If the GWPF reaches out directly to you for comment, we suggest that it's best to not respond for the time being so we can centralize our responses. We also recommend this based on a previous experience where John Stossel reached out to reviewers and used small bits of their responses in a misleading way to suggest his video was accurate.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like any additional info. Thanks so much for your help and consideration.

Fact checking Climate Feedback

Date: 16/02/21, Global Warming Policy Foundation

The Climate Feedback website has published an erroneous 'factcheck' of a recent Global Warming Policy Foundation report that fails to identify any factual inaccuracies and makes misleading claims of its own. Here, the GWPF responds to some of the misleading claims:

The report in question was written by former US IPCC delegation member, Dr Indur Goklany, (Impacts of Climate Change: Perception and Reality). It compares claims about the impact of climate change to real-world observations from leading scientific authorities and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Climate Feedback wields enormous influence through its role as an official 'independent' fact checker on the Facebook social media platform. This means that any article it deems 'false information' has its audience restricted, and any organisations sharing that article can also be penalised in a similar way.

* Climate Feedback claims that GWPF is a political advocacy organisation. This is untrue. GWPF is an educational charity and is non-partisan.

* Climate Feedback claims that Goklany's study is a 'blog post.' This is untrue. It is a report which runs to 40 pages and includes more than 100 references to the scientific literature.

* Climate Feedback failed to provide a link to the GWPF report. It meant that readers were unable to verify the claims made for themselves. This was unprofessional and a serious breach of its own code of principles.

* Climate Feedback says it is "misleading to call the GWPF post...a 'study', as it does not include any original research nor was it peer-reviewed or published by a reputable scientific organization". The suggestion that 'studies' can only include original research would rule out thousands of review papers and indeed the IPCC assessment reports themselves.

* Climate Feedback claim that the report was not peer reviewed. This is untrue. All GWPF reports are peer-reviewed by members of our Academic Advisory Council and external experts. Our invitation to the UK Met Office to review the draft of Goklany's report was declined.

* Professor Emanuel Kerry, Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT, claims that since the early 1970s there has been a 380% increase in global weather-related damage normalized each year by world domestic product. He seems to have misinterpreted an increase in reporting as an increase in damage in proportion to global GDP. In fact, there is a strong scientific consensus that since 1990 weather and climate-related losses have decreased as proportion of global GDP.

* Professor Jennifer Francis asked for a citation of a paper that showed that land area in coastal areas has been increasing. If she had taken the trouble to look at Goklany's report, she would have found it.

* Ana Bastos, scientific researcher at Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, argues that it is misleading to say fewer people are dying from heat and climate-sensitive diseases like malaria and diarrhoea — not because these facts aren't actually true, but because these trends 'have multiple confounding factors (e.g. technological, health and economical development) so that these changes cannot be directly linked to CO2.' This is, however, exactly the point Goklany is making, i.e. economic and technological development means that risks from climate impacts are reduced.

* Ryan Sriver, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, claims it was misleading to refer to the observed global expansion of beachy areas, because this was 'mainly due to human intervention and coastal management, not climate change.' But Goklany never claimed that climate change was causing these changes. In fact, these arguments only serve to vindicate his core thesis that climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development.

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Feedback on article "High Likelihood Of Human Civilization Coming To An End Within 30 Years"
Date: June 6, 2019 at 2:40 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

An 11 page [report](#) from an Australian think tank group called the National Centre for Climate Restoration or Breakthrough has made many striking headlines in the last week. The story most shared on social media has been IFLScience's, which is titled "[New Report Warns 'High Likelihood Of Human Civilization Coming To An End' Within 30 Years](#)". We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this news article.

The report focuses on a 2050 scenario it describes as "possible" rather than "most probable". Comments should indicate whether readers of this article, specifically, receive an accurate representation of climate science and the projected impacts of climate change as a part of this scenario description. Sample statements include:

- "By 2050 there's a scientific consensus that we reached the tipping point for ice sheets in Greenland and the West Antarctic well before 2°C (3.6°F) of warming, and for widespread permafrost at 2.5°C (4.5°F). A "Hothouse Earth" scenario plays out that sees Earth's temperatures doomed to rise by a further 1°C (1.8°F) even if we stopped emissions immediately."
- "In the worst case scenario, a scale of destruction the authors say is beyond their capacity to model, there is a 'high likelihood of human civilization coming to an end'."

We will aim to gather comments before the weekend, so by the end of the day on Friday (June 7). If you have time by then and would like to contribute, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



New Report Warns "High Likelihood Of Human Civilization Coming To An End" Within 30 Years

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 10, 2019 at 3:53 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

- "Globally there's no clear evidence of trends and patterns in extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and floods. Some regions experience more, some less and some no trend. Limitations of data and inconsistencies in patterns prevent confident claims about global trends one way or another. There's no trend in U.S. hurricane landfall frequency or intensity. If anything, the past 50 years has been relatively quiet. There's no trend in hurricane-related flooding in the U.S. Nor is there evidence of an increase in floods globally. Since 1965, more parts of the U.S. have seen a decrease in flooding than have seen an increase."
- "And on it goes. There's no trend in U.S. tornado damage (in fact, 2012 to 2017 was below average). There's no trend in global droughts. Cold snaps in the U.S. are down but, unexpectedly, so are heatwaves."
- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback

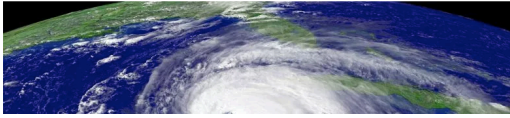


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Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

And so, many scientists who have the facts and know the truth remain silent



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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Feedback on Independent article "June was hottest ever recorded on Earth"
Date: July 3, 2019 at 10:29 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hi all-

The Independent published an [article](#) yesterday titled "June was hottest ever recorded on Earth, European satellite agency announces" that has proved extremely popular, with almost 250,000 engagements on Facebook alone at this point. We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this article. Some key statements include:

- "The [Copernicus] data showed European average temperatures were more than 2C above normal and temperatures were 6-10C above normal over most of France, Germany and northern Spain during the final days of the month, according to C3S. The global average temperature was about 0.1C higher than during the previous warmest June in 2016."
- "Experts have said climate change made last week's record-breaking European heatwave at least five times as likely to happen, according to recent analysis."
- "'Heatwaves occur in any climate, but we know that heatwaves are becoming much more likely due to climate change.'"

If you have time by the **end of the day on Thursday (July 4)** and would like to help, please **rate the article** [using our form](#). You can also annotate the article [at this link](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



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From: Emmanuel Vincent - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Feedback on NBC article "Climate scientists drive stake through heart of skeptics' argument"
Date: July 25, 2019 at 5:58 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hi all-

A couple of studies published this week have received wide media coverage. One of the most shared articles has been published by [NBC News](#). We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this article. Some key statements include:

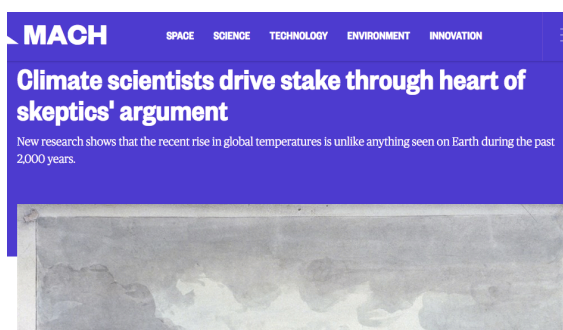
- "the rise in global temperatures over the past 150 years has been far more rapid and widespread than any warming period in the past 2,000 years — a finding that undercuts claims that today's global warming isn't necessarily the result of human activity."
- "the Little Ice Age didn't affect the whole world at once. Temperatures bottomed out in the Pacific Ocean around 1500, the scientists found; Europe and North America didn't fully chill out for another two centuries. The same pattern was observed for the higher temperatures seen during the Medieval Warm Period. The researchers found that less than half of the planet felt the heat at once."
- "...the main cause of temperature fluctuations changed over time. Prior to 1850, fluctuations were mainly linked to volcanic eruptions, which cooled the planet by spewing sun-blocking ash into the stratosphere"

If you have time by the **end of the day on Friday (July 26)** and would like to help, please rate the article [using our form](#). You can also annotate the article [at this link](#) or reply to this email with your comments.

Thank you!

Emmanuel Vincent

Director, Science Feedback



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From: Scott Johnson johnson@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Fw: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 10, 2019 at 11:37 PM
To: rsriver@illinois.edu

SJ

Hi Ryan-

I just wanted to flag this one for you in case you have time to take a look.

Thanks!

Scott

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback" <feedback@climatefeedback.org>

To: "Scott Johnson" <johnson@climatefeedback.org>

Sent: 6/10/2019 1:53:17 PM

Subject: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

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- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

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Thank you!

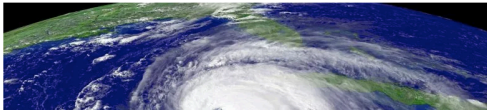
Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review claim of "starvation of 6 billion people this century" in BBC HardTalk
Date: August 20, 2019 at 3:51 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

We have received several requests about quotes made by members of the **Extinction Rebellion** movement, including in this **BBC News** interview with Roger Hallam. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of a prominent statement made during the interview (see below). This may be a difficult statement to evaluate, but we ask that you try to explain what published research can or cannot say on the subject (e.g. about likelihood, timeframe).

- "I am talking about the slaughter, death, and starvation of 6 billion people this century—that's what the science predicts." ([Jump to this section of the video.](#))

If you feel comfortable commenting on the topic and would like to help, please email me your comment by the end of the day **on Thursday (August 22)**, which we will use to put together a [claim review](#). To aid our rating, you can indicate whether you believe the statement would be best characterized as correct, incorrect, or unratable.

Thank you!
Scott Johnson
Science Editor, Climate Feedback



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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review claim on 2C threshold at the New Yorker
Date: September 12, 2019 at 3:54 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

As you may be aware, the New Yorker recently published [an essay](#) by Jonathan Franzen titled "What If We Stopped Pretending? The climate apocalypse is coming. To prepare for it, we need to admit that we can't prevent it."

The article contains a couple statements about the science of climate change, one of which we would like to focus on for a claim review. As this is a statement that may appear again in the future, it would be useful for us to have it covered. Franzen wrote:

- "Our atmosphere and oceans can absorb only so much heat before climate change, intensified by various feedback loops, spins completely out of control. The consensus among scientists and policy-makers is that we'll pass this point of no return if the global mean temperature rises by more than two degrees Celsius (maybe a little more, but also maybe a little less)."

And:

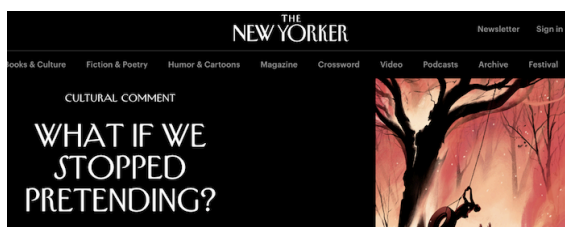
- "In the long run, it probably makes no difference how badly we overshoot two degrees; once the point of no return is passed, the world will become self-transforming."

We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this claim. If you have time and would like you help, you can email me your comment by the **end of the day on Monday**.

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

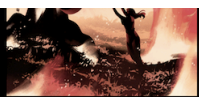
Science Editor, Climate Feedback



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*The climate apocalypse is coming. To
prepare for it, we need to admit that we
can't prevent it.*

By Jonathan Franzen September 8, 2019



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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review "Climate change: fake news or global threat?"
Date: October 16, 2019 at 3:25 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

The Telegraph recently published [a lengthy article](#) titled "**Climate change: fake news or global threat? This is the science**". We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this article. Examples of verifiable statements include:

- The planet's average ground temperature has risen by around 1.62F (0.9C) [since around the 1850s], with most of the warming occurring in the past 35 years. Since 1990, global temperatures have risen between 0.23F (0.13C) and 0.34F (0.19C) per decade, depending on which official data set is used.
- "However the warming trend is slower than most climate models have forecast. In 1990 the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted that temperatures would rise by 0.54F (0.3C) per decade."
- "In its 5th assessment report in 2013, the IPCC estimated that human emissions are probably responsible for more than half of the observed increase in global average temperature from 1951 to 2010. But it means a chunk of the rise is coming from elsewhere.
- Dr Willie Soon: "the only thing CO2 does in the system is make the planet greener. Carbon Dioxide is playing a minor role in the total greenhouse effect."
- "The MWP lasted from about 950 to 1250AD, and temperature records appear to show it was even hotter than today" ... "But the period has caused a headache for climate scientists because clearly there was no upswell in carbon dioxide that could account for such swift warming."
- "Four years later a paper appeared in the journal Nature showing the famous 'Hockey stick' graph of temperature data for 1,000 years, in which both the MWP and the Little Ice Age had been smoothed away." ... "The IPCC no longer includes the 'Hockey stick' chart in its reports."
- "the Northern Hemisphere experienced 'The Little Ice Age' where crops failed and plague wiped out tens of millions of people showing a clear correlation between solar activity and temperature on Earth."
- "Glaciers are also retreating almost everywhere around the world including in the Alps, Himalayas, Andes, Rockies, Alaska and Africa. The melting ice has led to global sea level rise of around eight inches since reliable record keeping began in 1880. It is projected to rise another one to four by 2100."

If you would like to help and have time **by the end of Thursday Oct 17**, you can read and annotate the article using [our private working page](#), and submit a rating and overall

comment [via our form](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



[1. Annotate](#)

This link will bring you to the article with Hypothesis auto-loaded, so you can start annotating right away: just select a piece of text. Your annotations can confirm, challenge or provide additional information on any claim.

[2. Evaluate](#)

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review "how global warming has changed the world since your childhood" at ABC News
Date: December 6, 2019 at 10:19 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hi all-

ABC has published a trending article titled "[See how global warming has changed the world since your childhood](#)" that uses some graphics to describe climate trends and projections in a practical way. We would like to be able to provide feedback on the scientific credibility of the information it provides. Statements include:

- "Small increases in average temperature translate to big increases in the number of extremely hot days, and those hot days have a big impact. High temperatures are part and parcel of living in Australia, but there's a point where humans struggle to survive."
- "So just in your lifetime you can already see a change in how the weather in Australia works. This is the reality of climate change — all the ingredients that are required for natural disasters start to collide with increasing regularity."
- "That would mean that by the time a child born today is 20, the 2018-19 summer we sweltered through would be considered a mild Australian summer. By their 30th, the entire Barrier Reef will likely be facing bleaching events every year. This is far more frequent than the five to 10 years it needs to recover from one event."

If you have time by the end of the day on Monday and would like to contribute, you can provide a rating for the article [here](#). If you would like to annotate any specific statements in the article, you may do so [through this link](#), but please note this may load slowly and will display the page in a different format with the interactive graphics disabled.

Thank you!
Scott Johnson
Science Editor, Climate Feedback

See how global warming has changed the world since your childhood

By [Tim Leslie](#), [Joshua Byrd](#), and Nathan Hoad

[Story Lab](#)

Updated 6 Dec 2019, 5:05am

[1. Annotate](#)

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on any claim.

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review letter to the UN "There is no climate emergency"
Date: October 2, 2019 at 12:20 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

A group recently sent a letter to the UN co-signed by "more than 500 knowledgeable and experienced scientists and professionals in climate and related fields" that argues for its title claim: "There is no climate emergency."

As this letter is being shared by many outlets—including a [trending video on YouTube](#)—we would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the main verifiable claims presented in the letter, which include:

- "Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming[...] Only very few peer-reviewed papers even go so far as to say that recent warming is chiefly anthropogenic"
- "The world has warmed at less than half the originally-predicted rate, and at less than half the rate to be expected on the basis of net anthropogenic forcing and radiative imbalance."
- "[climate models] most likely exaggerate the effect of greenhouse gases such as CO2. In addition, they ignore the fact that enriching the atmosphere with CO2 is beneficial."
- "More CO2 is beneficial for nature, greening the Earth: additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also good for agriculture, increasing the yields of crops worldwide"
- "There is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and suchlike natural disasters, or making them more frequent."

If you have time and would like to contribute, we're aiming to gather comments **by the end of Thursday (October 3)**. You can [read the letter here](#) and either annotate it using Hypothesis ([direct link here](#)) or email us comments on any of the claims in the letter. Additionally, please provide a score for the overall credibility of the letter [via our form](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



[1. Annotate](#)



This link will bring you to the article with Hypothesis auto-loaded, so you can start annotating right away: just select a piece of text. Your annotations can confirm, challenge or provide additional information on any claim.

2. Evaluate

Use this short online form to provide your overall assessment of the article.

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review NYT article "How Scientists Got Climate Change So Wrong"
Date: November 12, 2019 at 9:28 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hi all-

The New York Times has published an op-ed by author Eugene Linden under the title "[How Scientists Got Climate Change So Wrong](#)". We think it would be useful to gather a number of comments on the scientific credibility of this piece. Parts of it relate to recent politics, but the bulk of the article lays out a timeline of climate science, noting instances the author believes show that scientists have underestimated climate change. One question, therefore, is whether this accurately describes the evolving understanding in the scientific community/literature. Examples of notable statements include:

- "In 1990, the [IPCC] said in its first report that climate change would arrive at a stately pace, that the methane-laden Arctic permafrost was not in danger of thawing, and that the Antarctic ice sheets were stable[...] As we now know, all of those predictions turned out to be completely wrong."
- "The climate change panel seems finally to have caught up with the gravity of the climate crisis. Last year, the organization detailed the extraordinary difficulty of limiting warming to [1.5C], over the next 80 years, and the grim consequences that will result even if that goal is met."
- "In the years since, data has shown that both Greenland and Antarctica have been shedding ice far more rapidly than anticipated."
- "As the seas rise, they are also warming at a pace unanticipated as recently as five years ago."
- "And there are new findings unforeseen by early studies, such as the extremely rapid intensification of storms, as on Sept. 1, when Hurricane Dorian's sustained winds intensified from 150 to 185 miles per hour in just nine hours"

If you'd like to contribute to this evaluation and have time by the end of the day Friday, you can rate the article [using this form](#) and annotate the article [on this private working page](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback

Opinion

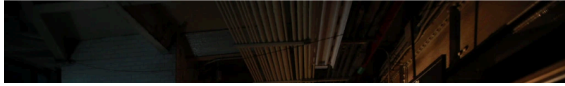
How Scientists Got Climate Change So Wrong

Few thought it would arrive so quickly. Now we're facing consequences once viewed as fringe scenarios.

By Eugene Linden

Mr. Linden has written widely about climate change.

Nov. 8, 2019



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From: Nikki Forrester - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Invitation to review PragerU video with Richard Lindzen
Date: May 14, 2020 at 4:46 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

PragerU recently posted [a video](#) titled "Climate Change: What Do Scientists Say" that is trending on Facebook*. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the main verifiable claims presented in the video, which include:

1. The climate is always changing
2. CO2 is a greenhouse gas without which life on earth is not possible, but adding it to the atmosphere should lead to some warming.
3. Atmospheric levels of CO2 have been increasing since the end of the Little Ice Age in the 19th century.
4. Over this period (the past two centuries), the global mean temperature has increased slightly and erratically by about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit or one degree Celsius; but only since the 1960's have man's greenhouse emissions been sufficient to play a role.
5. Given the complexity of climate, no confident prediction about future global mean temperature or its impact can be made.

If you have time and would like to contribute, we're aiming to gather comments by the **end of Monday (May 18)**. You can either annotate the video transcript using Hypothesis ([direct link here](#)) or email us comments on any of the claims in the letter. Additionally, please provide a score for the overall credibility of the video [via our form](#).

Thank you!

Nikki Forrester

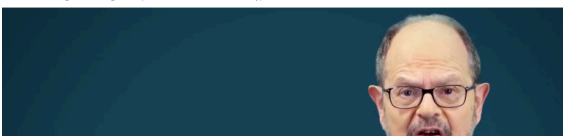
Science editor, Climate Feedback

* We are working with Facebook to identify and counter misinformation - scientists' contributions are essential to this process. When content is identified as false or misleading, our reviews are used to provide feedback to all users who have shared it (see [an example](#)).



Climate Change: What Do Scientists Say?

Climate change is an urgent topic of discussion in society, but what do scientists sa... See More



1. Annotate

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From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: Checking in about Michael Shellenberger article review
Date: July 22, 2020 at 9:23 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for sharing your perspective. We are doing our best in our conversations with Facebook to explain that climate science and health science should be treated with the same standards and degree of urgency when it comes to misinformation. I'm not sure there's much more to discuss on our end and no need to provide additional feedback, we just wanted to let you know we're always open to discussing this situation if that's of interest to you. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Best,
Nikki

On Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 7:09 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the update. I was aware HEATED was putting together a story on this and was contacted by them beforehand for comment. The Daily Wire aspect of all this is concerning but not all that surprising given their audience... and since the article is mainly a opinion piece with broad unsubstantiated claims. Are you interested in discussing more or would you like any other feedback?

Best,
Ryan

On Jul 21, 2020, at 9:24 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Dear
Dr. Sriver,

Thank
you again for analyzing Michael Shellenberger's article, which was flagged as "Partly False" for numerous media outlets on Facebook. I wanted to reach out about a decision to remove a flag from the article published by The Daily Wire to see if this is a topic
you would like to discuss. This decision was recently covered in an [article](#)
published by HEATED and Popular Info, which discusses aspects of Facebook's fact-checking policies.

After
our fact-check was published, The Daily Wire amended their article to state that the article was "reviewed by fact-checkers, some of whom have pushed back on some of its claims and conclusions." In addition, the article included a link to the fact-check at the bottom of the article. Because the article is behind a paywall, only users that pay for a premium account can access the link. The decision to remove the flag was made by Science Feedback based on the inclusion of this statement and link to the fact-check,
although we acknowledge this is barely sufficient to inform readers about reality.

Please
let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this decision in more detail.

Sincerely,
Nikki

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Breitbart article on study that “disputes that Earth is in a ‘climate emergency’”
Date: February 14, 2021 at 10:07 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for letting me know. I'll fix that now.

Best,
Nikki

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 3:01 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Great, thanks! FYI: My title is Associate professor, but it shows Assistant professor in my climate feedback bio.

Best,
Ryan

On Feb 12, 2021, at 1:25 PM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Ryan,

Thanks again for your feedback! We are pleased to inform you that the claim review has been [published](#) and that we have reported our findings to Facebook. Any user that interacted with the article will be [notified](#). Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Best,
Nikki

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 3:30 PM Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Ryan,

Thanks so much for your help! I really appreciate it. Your comments and references make a great contribution to our review.

Best,
Nikki

On Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 12:39 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the email. I added a few annotations to the article and completed the form.
Please let me know if you would like more info.

Best,
Ryan

On Feb 9, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello Dr. Sriver,

Breitbart recently published [an article](#) claiming “there is no ‘climate emergency’”, which is being widely shared on social media. This news has also been published by several blogs, including [Climate Change Dispatch](#). It is based on a “report” by the GWPF. We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims below and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

- “Most extreme weather phenomena have not become more extreme, more deadly, or more destructive”
- “Almost everywhere you look, climate change is having

only small, and often benign, impacts. The impact of extreme weather events — hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and droughts — are, if anything, declining.”

- “Sea-level rise — predicted to be the most damaging impact of global warming — seems to be much less of a problem than thought”
- “Nitrogen fertilisers and carbon dioxide fertilisation have together increased global food production by 111 per cent”
- Climate change is **not**:
 - Making hurricanes, flood, or droughts more intense or frequent
 - Increasing the area burned by wildfires
 - Shrinking land area and beaches or submerging coral islands

If you have time by **Thursday, February 11** and would like to contribute, you can **rate the article's overall credibility via [this form](#)**. Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant to your expertise. You can annotate the article by using the link in the evaluation form or by adding the Hypothesis [Chrome extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks for looking!

Nikki Forrester
Science Editor,
Climate Feedback

* We're working with Facebook to identify and counter misinformation - evaluations by scientists are essential to this process. When content is identified as false or misleading, your contribution will provide feedback to all users who have interacted with it. You can see an example of inaccurate content flagged by us [here](#).

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology

From: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Evaluating Michael Shellenberger's article on Climate Change Apology
Date: July 4, 2020 at 10:35 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

NF

Hi Ryan,

Great! Thank you so much for your help.

Best,
Nikki

On Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 1:26 PM Sriver, Ryan <rsriver@illinois.edu> wrote:

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the email and apologies for missing the first one! I Am happy to provide comments... will try to get to this later today.

Best
Ryan

On Jul 3, 2020, at 11:00 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Dear Dr. Sriver,

Hope you're doing well. I just wanted to follow up to see if you would be willing to comment on the scientific accuracy of this article by noon PT on Monday.

Thanks so much,
Nikki

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 1:51 PM Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hello

Dr. Sriver,

Various

media outlets including [Zero](#)

[Hedge](#), Breitbart, PJ Media, The Australian, Quillette and Forbes

published an article by Michael Shellenberger who is promoting a new book, which have been shared widely on Facebook.

Forbes has since unpublished the article. In the article, Schellenberger apologizes for the "climate scare" and outlines a series of claims

about climate change. We'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of the claims and the overall article. A few of the primary statements are:

- "Humans are not causing a "sixth mass extinction""
- "Climate change is not making natural disasters worse"
- "Fires have declined 25% around the world since 2003"
- "Carbon emissions are declining in most rich nations and have been declining in Britain, Germany, and France since the mid-1970s"
- "Wood fuel is far worse for people and wildlife than fossil fuels"
- "The build-up of wood fuel and more houses near forests, not climate change, explain why there are more, and more dangerous, fires in Australia and California"
- "The most important thing for reducing air pollution and carbon emissions is moving from wood to coal to petroleum to natural gas to uranium."

The

article also includes a lot of opinionated assertions, so we should strive to stick to the verifiable parts.

If you have time by the

end of the day on Friday, July 3

and would like to contribute, you can rate the article's overall credibility [via this form](#). Please feel free to address any or all claims relevant

to your expertise. You can annotate the article at [this](#)

[link](#), or by adding the Hypothesis

[Chrome](#)

[extension here](#). (Or you can always just email me comments related to specific statements in the article.)

Thanks

for looking!

Nikki

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

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Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: [Climate Feedback] Response from GWPF on Breitbart/GWPF article review
Date: February 17, 2021 at 12:19 AM
To: Nikki Forrester nikki@sciencefeedback.co

RS

Hi Nikki.

Thanks for the update. A couple quick responses below:

* Climate Feedback says it is "misleading to call the GWPF post...a 'study', as it does not include any original research nor was it peer-reviewed or published by a reputable scientific organization". The suggestion that 'studies' can only include original research would rule out thousands of review papers and indeed the IPCC assessment reports themselves.

Review papers and assessments can certainly be considered "studies". However a review/assessment of the broad range of topics covered in the Goklany paper would typically include dozens of authors from multiple different disciplines, and include hundreds to thousands of references from the peer reviewed literature. This paper contains neither. It is a single-author perspective on climate change with just over 100 references, even though it touches on everything from extreme events, sea-level rise, wildfires, terrestrial biology, human health, etc. Again the lack of depth points to the one-sided nature of the piece.

* Ryan Sriver, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, claims it was misleading to refer to the observed global expansion of beachy areas, because this was 'mainly due to human intervention and coastal management, not climate change.' But Goklany never claimed that climate change was causing these changes. In fact, these arguments only serve to vindicate his core thesis that climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development.

Nowhere in the paper does the author claim that "climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development". He clearly downplays physical climate trends throughout the paper. For example in the abstract he states:

From section 1:

"This paper" ... "examines empirical trends in extreme events, wildfires, water availability, vector-borne diseases, and some indicators of human and environmental wellbeing, such as economic development, poverty rates, life expectancy, biological productivity, and cropland per capita."

And:

"Moreover, because climate change should not be confused with fluctuations in the weather, the focus will be on long-term trends. Ideally, the temporal record examined should be long enough to, firstly, capture a change in climate. Climate is often defined in terms of 30-year averages. Thus, it should be long enough to define at least two non-overlapping 30-year periods."

There is no mention of human interventions or development in the abstract, yet this is his "core thesis" of the paper??? At what point do the climate change impacts overwhelm our ability to adapt? Do we want to take that risk?

Best,
Ryan

On Feb 16, 2021, at 10:15 AM, Nikki Forrester <nikki@sciencefeedback.co> wrote:

Hi Dr. Sriver,

Thanks again for providing feedback. I wanted to let you know that the GWPF sent the following response. We're curious to hear what you think about their arguments, notably when it relates to your comments or claims you commented. We don't plan on responding to them at this stage, but do want to make any necessary updates to strengthen our arguments or be prepared to answer.

If the GWPF reaches out directly to you for comment, we suggest that it's best to not respond for the time being so we can centralize our responses. We also recommend this based on a previous experience where John Stossel reached out to reviewers and used small bits of their responses in a misleading way to suggest his video was accurate.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like any additional info. Thanks so much for your help and consideration.

Fact checking Climate Feedback

Date: 16/02/21, Global Warming Policy Foundation

The Climate Feedback website has published an erroneous 'factcheck' of a recent Global Warming Policy Foundation report that fails to identify any factual inaccuracies and makes misleading claims of its own. Here, the GWPF responds to

some of the misleading claims:

The report in question was written by former US IPCC delegation member, Dr Indur Goklany, (Impacts of Climate Change: Perception and Reality). It compares claims about the impact of climate change to real-world observations from leading scientific authorities and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Climate Feedback wields enormous influence through its role as an official 'independent' fact checker on the Facebook social media platform. This means that any article it deems 'false information' has its audience restricted, and any organisations sharing that article can also be penalised in a similar way.

* Climate Feedback claims that GWPF is a political advocacy organisation. This is untrue. GWPF is an educational charity and is non-partisan.

* Climate Feedback claims that Goklany's study is a 'blog post.' This is untrue. It is a report which runs to 40 pages and includes more than 100 references to the scientific literature.

* Climate Feedback failed to provide a link to the GWPF report. It meant that readers were unable to verify the claims made for themselves. This was unprofessional and a serious breach of its own code of principles.

* Climate Feedback says it is "misleading to call the GWPF post...a 'study', as it does not include any original research nor was it peer-reviewed or published by a reputable scientific organization". The suggestion that 'studies' can only include original research would rule out thousands of review papers and indeed the IPCC assessment reports themselves.

* Climate Feedback claim that the report was not peer reviewed. This is untrue. All GWPF reports are peer-reviewed by members of our Academic Advisory Council and external experts. Our invitation to the UK Met Office to review the draft of Goklany's report was declined.

* Professor Emanuel Kerry, Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT, claims that since the early 1970s there has been a 380% increase in global weather-related damage normalized each year by world domestic product. He seems to have misinterpreted an increase in reporting as an increase in damage in proportion to global GDP. In fact, there is a strong scientific consensus that since 1990 weather and climate-related losses have decreased as proportion of global GDP.

* Professor Jennifer Francis asked for a citation of a paper that showed that land area in coastal areas has been increasing. If she had taken the trouble to look at Goklany's report, she would have found it.

* Ana Bastos, scientific researcher at Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, argues that it is misleading to say fewer people are dying from heat and climate-sensitive diseases like malaria and diarrhoea — not because these facts aren't actually true, but because these trends 'have multiple confounding factors (e.g. technological, health and economical development) so that these changes cannot be directly linked to CO2.' This is, however, exactly the point Goklany is making, i.e. economic and technological development means that risks from climate impacts are reduced.

* Ryan Sriver, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, claims it was misleading to refer to the observed global expansion of beachy areas, because this was 'mainly due to human intervention and coastal management, not climate change.' But Goklany never claimed that climate change was causing these changes. In fact, these arguments only serve to vindicate his core thesis that climate impacts have been moderated by human interventions and development.

--

Nikki Forrester, PhD
Science Editor, Climate and Ecology
Science Feedback

From: Emmanuel Vincent emvincent@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Re: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 13, 2019 at 2:31 AM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

Hi Ryan-

One quick thing--would you mind selecting a rating for the article's overall credibility?

Thanks!
 Emmanuel

+2 = Very High: No inaccuracies, fairly represents the state of scientific knowledge, well argued and documented, references are provided for key elements. The article provides insights to the reader about climate change mechanisms and implications.

+1 = High: The article does not contain scientific inaccuracies and its conclusion follows from the evidence provided.

0 = Neutral: No major inaccuracies, but no important insight to better explain implications of the science.

-1 = Low: The article contains significant scientific inaccuracies or misleading statements.

-2 = Very Low: The article contains major scientific inaccuracies for key facts supporting argumentation, and/or omits important information, and/or presents logical flaws in using information to reach conclusions.

n/a = Not Applicable: The article does not build on scientifically verifiable information (e.g. it is mostly about politics or opinions).

On 10 Jun 2019, at 22:53, Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback <feedback@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

- "Globally there's no clear evidence of trends and patterns in extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and floods. Some regions experience more, some less and some no trend. Limitations of data and inconsistencies in patterns prevent confident claims about global trends one way or another. There's no trend in U.S. hurricane landfall frequency or intensity. If anything, the past 50 years has been relatively quiet. There's no trend in hurricane-related flooding in the U.S. Nor is there evidence of an increase in floods globally. Since 1965, more parts of the U.S. have seen a decrease in flooding than have seen an increase."
- "And on it goes. There's no trend in U.S. tornado damage (in fact, 2012 to 2017 was below average). There's no trend in global droughts. Cold snaps in the U.S. are down but, unexpectedly, so are heatwaves."
- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



1. Annotate

This link will bring you to the article with Hypothesis auto-loaded, so you can start annotating right away: just select a piece of text. Your annotations can confirm, challenge or provide additional information on any claim.

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Instructions

- How to [get started](#) with web-annotation
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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Re: Invitation to review NYT article "How Scientists Got Climate Change So Wrong"
Date: November 15, 2019 at 3:39 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



As we tried a longer deadline than usual, we thought we would send a quick reminder this morning—we're trying to gather comments by the end of the day today (Friday). We'll need several more in order to publish, so if you are interested in contributing, please take a look today or get in touch.

Thanks!



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From: **Striver, Ryan** rstriver@illinois.edu
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 11, 2019 at 1:22 PM
To: Scott Johnson johnson@climatefeedback.org

Hi Scott.
 Feel free to split up and/or use the comments however you'd like.
 Hope this is helpful to the discussion.
 Best
 Ryan

On Jun 11, 2019, at 12:07 PM, Scott Johnson <johnson@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hi Ryan-

Thanks for taking a look. Is it alright if I split up what you've written here into two or three pieces (starting with "TCs are extreme and rare events...") and attach to relevant quotes from the story? (Or alternatively, you could drop this into an overall comment on the [rating form](#)?)

Scott

----- Original Message -----

From: "Striver, Ryan" <rstriver@illinois.edu>
 To: "Scott Johnson" <johnson@climatefeedback.org>
 Sent: 6/10/2019 11:17:27 PM
 Subject: Re: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

Hi Scott.

I took a quick look and the article seems to be mostly an opinion piece with some quotes from a Pielke Jr lecture on his experiences in the climate arena. I don't really see anything wrong with the quotes in general, except that they are either too vague or too specific, for example focusing on hurricane-induced flooding rather than coastal flooding overall. TCs are extreme and rare events thus statistically significant changes are difficult to detect especially given the limitations in historical observations before satellite coverage, but overall coastal flooding is becoming much more of a problem under global warming as sea levels rise. This will only get worse in the future. Similarly the temperature claims are a bit misleading. We experience more and more record breaking warm temperatures over time due to global warming. These changes are damaging for many reasons beyond drought.

Finally the title is misleading:

"This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

He didn't prove anything. He's simply claiming there are not yet definitive links between climate change and some extreme events. I would refer the readers to the most recent National Climate Assessment for a broader and longer list of salient impacts of climate change beyond the short and narrow selection quoted.

Best,
 Ryan

On Jun 10, 2019, at 11:36 PM, Scott Johnson <johnson@climatefeedback.org> wrote:

Hi Ryan-

I just wanted to flag this one for you in case you have time to take a look.

Thanks!
 Scott

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback" <feedback@climatefeedback.org>
 To: "Scott Johnson" <johnson@climatefeedback.org>
 Sent: 6/10/2019 1:53:17 PM
 Subject: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"

Hello all-

The Financial Post has published an opinion piece by Ross McKittrick titled "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked", written about Prof. Roger Pielke, Jr. We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this story. Please note the story includes a number of political and subjective statements about Pielke's perceived mistreatment, but we will need to focus the evaluation on statements about the science of extreme events. Besides the headline, those statements include:

- "Globally there's no clear evidence of trends and patterns in extreme events such as droughts, hurricanes and floods. Some regions experience more, some less and some no trend. Limitations of data and inconsistencies in patterns prevent confident claims about global trends one way or another. There's no trend in U.S. hurricane landfall frequency or intensity. If anything, the past 50 years has been relatively quiet. There's no trend in hurricane-related flooding in the U.S. Nor is there evidence of an increase in floods globally. Since 1965, more parts of the U.S. have seen a decrease in flooding than have seen an increase."

- “And on it goes. There’s no trend in U.S. tornado damage (in fact, 2012 to 2017 was below average). There’s no trend in global droughts. Cold snaps in the U.S. are down but, unexpectedly, so are heatwaves.”
- “The bottom line is there’s no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau’s claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes.”

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

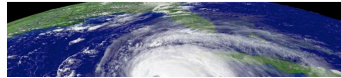
Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



Ross McKittrick: This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather — so politicians attacked

And so, many scientists who have the facts and know the truth remain silent



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From: Scott Johnson johnson@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Re[2]: Feedback on article "This scientist proved climate change isn't causing extreme weather"
Date: June 11, 2019 at 12:07 PM
To: Sriver, Ryan rsriver@illinois.edu

SJ

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- "The bottom line is there's no solid connection between climate change and the major indicators of extreme weather, despite Trudeau's claims to the contrary. The continual claim of such a link is misinformation employed for political and rhetorical purposes."

If you have time by the end of the day on **Wednesday (June 12)** and would like to help, you can rate the article via our form [here](#) and annotate the article [here](#).

Thank you!

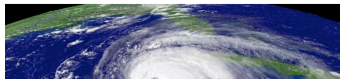
Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Review of article "The great failure of the climate models"
Date: August 29, 2019 at 12:13 PM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hello all-

The Washington Examiner has [published an opinion piece](#) by Patrick Michaels and Caleb Stewart Rossiter titled, "The great failure of the climate models". We would like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this article. In addition, we're aiming to produce a standalone claim review of the article's central claim using the comments provided by reviewers, as it is commonly repeated. Key statements (with that central one listed first) include:

- "In the upper levels of the lower [tropical] atmosphere, the models predicted seven times as much warming as has been observed."
- "According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, there has been no systematic increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, and the ongoing rise in sea level that began with the end of the ice age continues with no great increase in magnitude."
- "The second big adjustment was over the Arctic Ocean, where there aren't any weather stations. In this revision, temperatures were estimated from nearby land stations. This runs afoul of basic physics."

If you have time by the **end of the day on Friday (August 30)** and would like to help, you can rate the article [using our form](#) and [annotate the text here](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback

OPINION

The great failure of the climate models

by Patrick Michaels and Caleb Stewart Rossiter | August 25, 2019 12:00 AM

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From: Scott Johnson - Climate Feedback feedback@climatefeedback.org
Subject: Review of The Australian article "Let's not pollute minds with carbon fears"
Date: November 22, 2019 at 10:44 AM
To: Ryan Sriver rsriver@illinois.edu



Hi all-

On Friday morning, the Australian published another [commentary](#) by Ian Plimer titled "Let's not pollute minds with carbon fears". As it has already generated thousands of Facebook interactions and discussion on other social media, we'd like to evaluate the scientific credibility of this article so we can provide feedback to The Australian's editors. Notable statements include:

- "There are no carbon emissions. If there were, we could not see because most carbon is black."
- "Reef material is calcium carbonate, which contains 44 per cent carbon dioxide. Reefs need carbon dioxide; it's their basic food."
- "It has never been shown that human emissions of carbon dioxide drive global warming."
- "Climate models have been around 30 years. They have all failed."
- "Modellers assume carbon dioxide drives climate change. It does not. The role of the sun and clouds was not considered important by modellers."
- "In our lifetime, there has been no correlation between carbon dioxide emissions and temperature."
- "Plants need almost three times today's carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere to thrive."
- "In the past, warming has never been a threat to life on Earth."

As some of these claims may have appeared in previous evaluation, you should feel free to save time by pointing us to earlier comments of yours that could be recycled. For example, evaluations of other Plimer articles can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

If you have time by the end of Monday and would like to contribute, please provide your rating [using our form](#). Additionally, you can annotate the article on our private working page [here](#).

Thank you!

Scott Johnson

Science Editor, Climate Feedback



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