

Beacon Hill Seminars – Spring 2018

Climate Vulnerability:

Responding to the Physical, Economic & Social
Challenges of Earth's Changing Climate

Session 9

How to Keep Track of the Coming Trends +
+ Some Thoughts about the concept of a
“**Boston Climate Institute**”

2 May 2018

Tim Weiskel

Cambridge Climate Research Associates
Spring Semester 2018

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF... There are Eight Reasons for Our Collective Myopia

- 1) Scientists have not always been the best communicators.
- 2) There has been a deliberate “smog machine” at work.
- 3) The “culture of consumption” does not want to listen.
- 4) The corporatization of media communications has muffled the message + current struggle for the internet.
- 5) Universities have become corporatized and are often of little help. (Focused on data manipulation + “techno-scientific salvationism” & grants than simple truths).
- 6) The apparatus of government has been “captured.”
- 7) There is an institutional core contradiction at work.
- 8) *“I’m not a climate scientist...”*

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Reasons mentioned 25 April

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF... There are Eight Reasons for Our Collective Myopia

Reasons to come on 2 May

- 4) The corporatization of media communications has muffled the message + current struggle for the internet.
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Reason 3

The “culture of consumption”
does not want to listen and
will not hear or see
what is obvious.

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The “culture of consumption”
does not want to listen and
will not hear or see
what is obvious.

[We don't see it because we are
“fish in water.”]

Why is there such public ignorance in America about such a massively important topic -- climate change?



Why haven't we been told the story of Earth's changing climate ever since scientists began to discover it in the 18th century?



We may not like the story but there is no getting around the fact that “...advertising is the dominant story-telling force of our time.”

Sut Jhally







"Its like a fish in the water. We don't know who discovered water, but we know it wasn't a fish.



"Its like a fish in the water. We don't know who discovered water, but we know it wasn't a fish. *A pervasive medium, a pervasive environment is always beyond perception.*"

Marshall McLuhan

Reason 4

The corporatization of media communications has muffled the message + current struggle for the internet.





<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2016/05/05/manufacturing-consent-noam-chomsky-and-the-media-1992-4/>



NEWS WAR

FEBRUARY 13 and MAY 1, 2018



FRONTLINE
FEBRUARY 13, 2007

FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 27, 2007

Reason 4

The corporatization of media communications has muffled the message + current struggle for the internet.

COMCAST

**Walt
Disney**

**21st Century
Fox**

Time Warner

CBS

Viacom

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/04/30/who-owns-the-media-5/>



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/04/27/who-owns-the-media-3/>



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/10/26/fcc-enables-faster-media-consolidation-as-pro-trump-sinclair-group-seizes-even-more-local-stations/>

Special interests may have captured the press BUT we always have the internet will save us..., right?

Public Law 104–104
104th Congress

An Act

Feb. 8, 1996
[S. 652]

To promote competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality services for American telecommunications consumers and encourage the rapid deployment of new telecommunications technologies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Telecommuni-
cations Act of
1996.
Intergovern-
mental relations.
47 USC 609 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Telecommuni-
cations Act of 1996”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references.

Why is it important to have non-corporate media?

Reason 4

The corporatization of media communications has muffled the message + current struggle for the internet.

Reason 4

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[What has happened to the flow of “news” in our culture?]

Reason 5

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[What happened to the “liberal arts”?]

Education Is a System of Indoctrination of the Young – Noam Chomsky

Posted on [July 15, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



US scientists launch world's biggest solar geoengineering study | Environment | The Guardian

Posted on [March 25, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



Scientists say the planet could be covered with a solar shield for as little as \$10bn a year. Photograph: ISS/Nasa

The Plan To Spray The Skies | Spraying Event Announced

Posted on [March 25, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



[Suspiciousobservers](#)

Harvard Scientists Moving Ahead on Plans for Atmospheric Geoengineering Experiments – MIT Technology Review

Posted on [March 24, 2017](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2017/03/24/harvard-scientists-moving-ahead-on-plans-for-atmospheric-geoengineering-experiments-mit-technology-review/>



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David Keith, Shaking the Establishment

June 3, 2015
By Josh Burek

Environmental hero. Techno-optimist. Madman. **David Keith**, professor of public policy, has been called many things, but “unoriginal thinker” isn’t one of them. Ever since he won acclaim for his dissertation experiment, which demonstrated that atoms travel as quantum waves, Keith has been shaking the establishment.

On any given day, you might find this scientist and policy analyst:

- Teaching at Harvard’s School of Engineering.
- Advising Bill Gates on climate issues.
- Helping his company, Carbon Engineering, scale up technology to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere.
- Writing academic papers about solar geoengineering in leading journals.
- Making the moral and policy case for greater R&D investment in



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2015/06/11/david-keith-shaking-the-establishment/>

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- Giving speeches about environmental progress, and helping develop the "Ecomodernist Manifesto," (ecomodernism.org) which is generating lots of press.
- Planning his next Arctic wilderness trip.

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School of Engineering
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Largest gift in
Harvard's
History



David Keith

› **Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and
Professor of Public Policy (HKS)**

David Keith has worked near the interface between climate science, energy technology and public policy for twenty years. He took first prize in Canada's national physics prize exam, won MIT's prize for excellence in experimental physics, and was listed as one of TIME magazine's Heroes of the Environment 2009 (article). David's academic appointments are at Harvard where he serves as the Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics at the Harvard Paulson School and Professor of Public Policy at the

Harvard Kennedy School. David divides his time between Boston and Calgary where he serves as President of Carbon Engineering a start-up company developing industrial scale technologies for capture of CO₂ from ambient air.

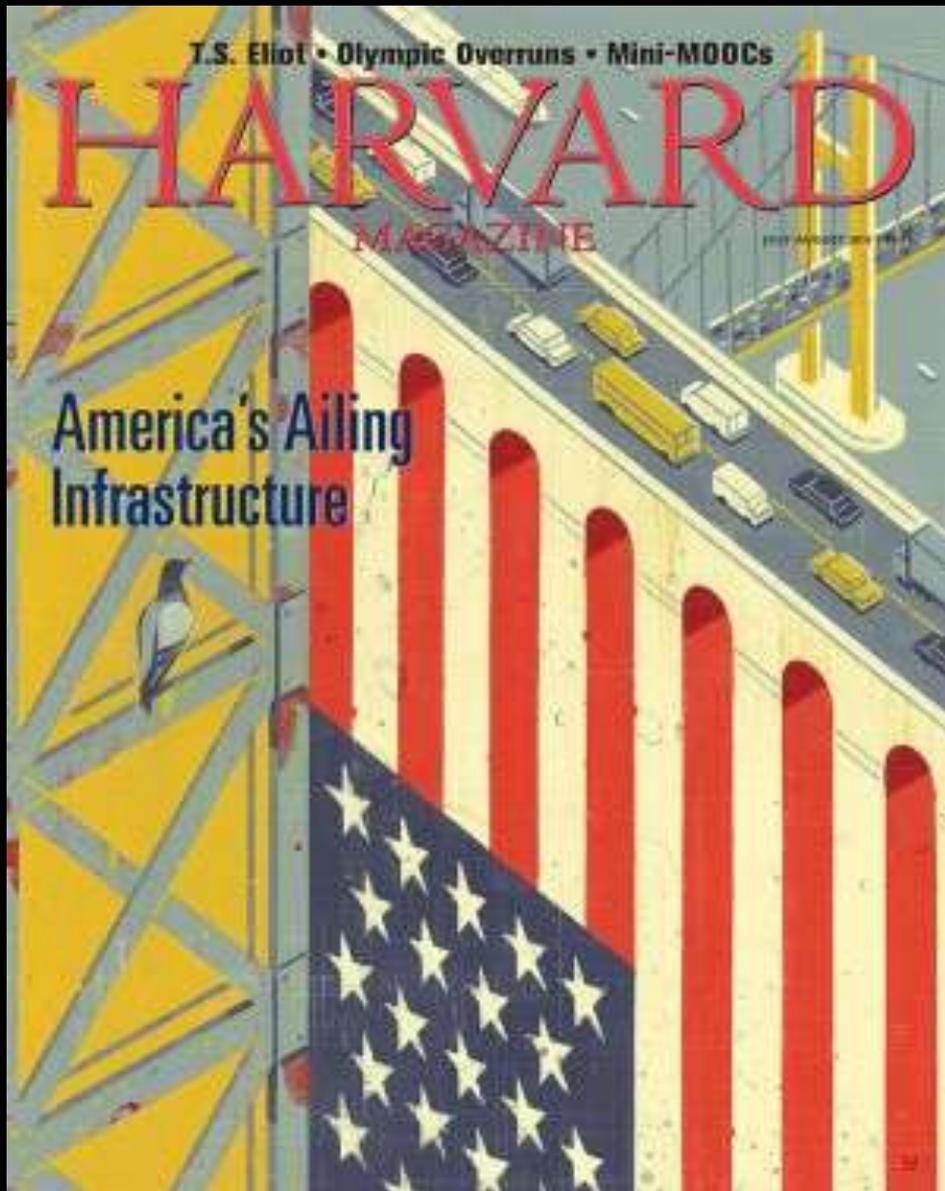
T.S. Eliot • Olympic Overruns • Mini-MOOCs

HARVARD

MAGAZINE

FIFTY-ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

America's Ailing
Infrastructure

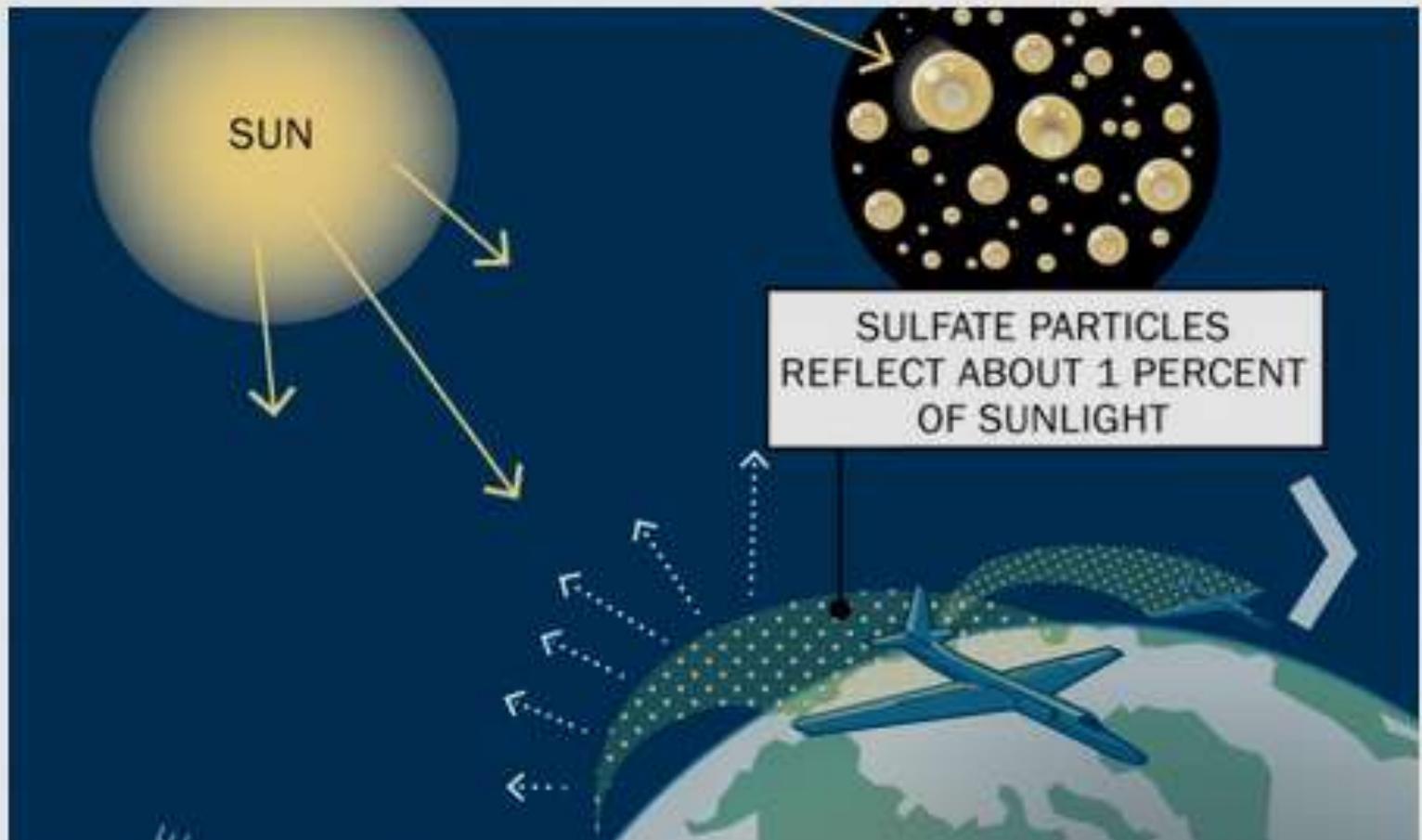


Buffering the Sun

David Keith and the question of climate engineering

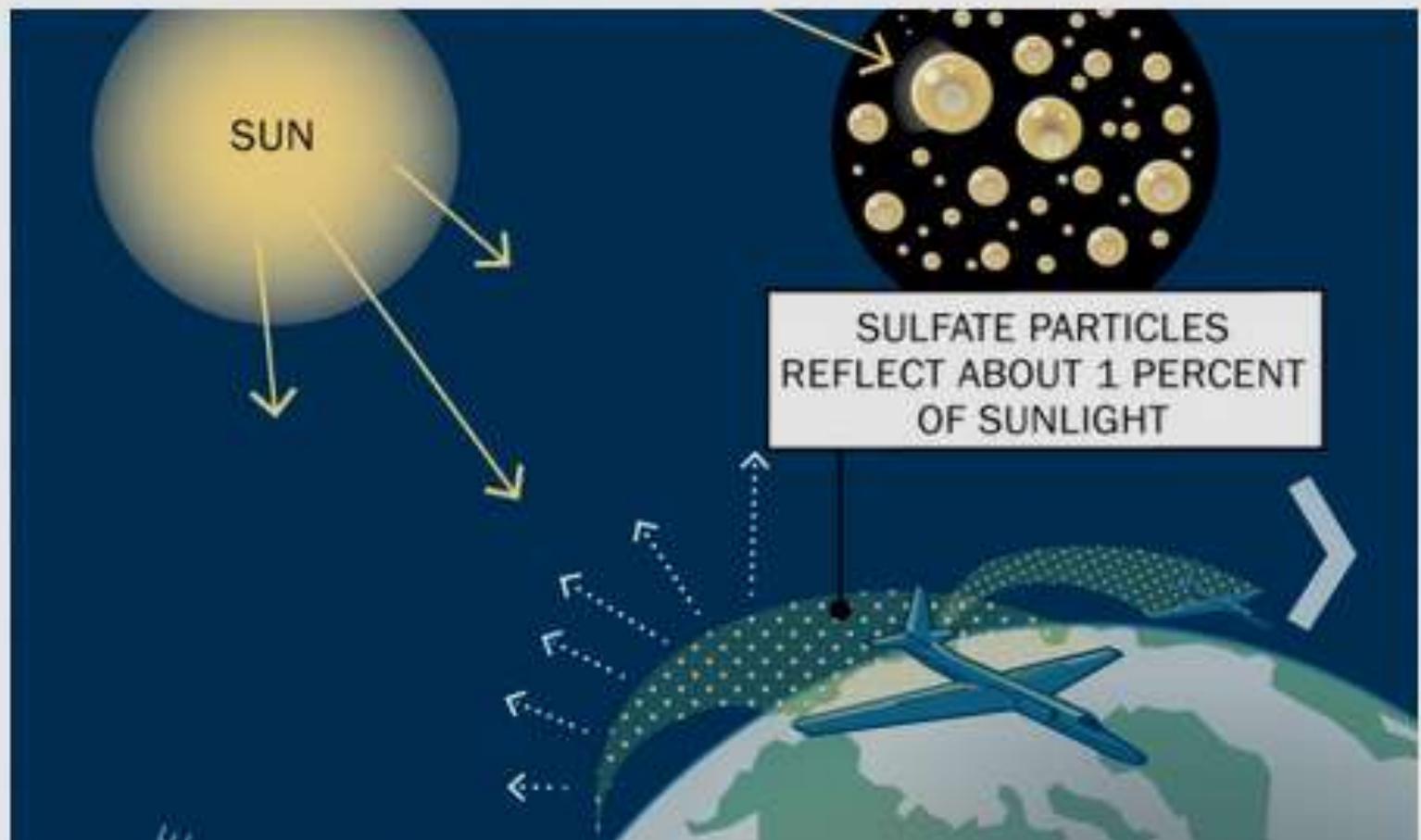
by ERIN O'DONNELL

JULY-AUGUST 2013



Buffering the Sun

David Keith and the question of climate engineering



**If we use this technology with
wisdom and humility...
then it will almost certainly be
a benefit to the world**

**DAVID KEITH, AUTHOR
A CASE FOR CLIMATE ENGINEERING**

**DOWN
TO EARTH**

FORMER PRESIDENT ALI ABDULLAH SALEH AND FAMILY SAFE AFTER AIR

FRANCE24.COM





“
**Insane, utterly mad and
delusional in the extreme**
”

AL GORE,
NORDEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE

**DOWN
TO EARTH**

FAMILY SAFE AFTER AIRSTRIKES ON RESIDENCE (YEMEN NEWS AGENCY)



FRANCE24.COM

Noam Chomsky (July, 2013) "The Corporatization of the University"

Posted on [August 5, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



[TheChomskyVideos](#)

<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/08/05/noam-chomsky-july-2013-the-corporatization-of-the-university/>

Meet the Man with a Cheap and Easy Plan to Stop Global Warming | MIT Technology Review

Posted on [April 24, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

<http://www.technologyreview.com/featuredstory/511016/a-cheap-and-easy-plan-to-stop-global-warming/>

Intentionally engineering Earth's atmosphere to offset rising temperatures could be far more doable than you imagine, says David Keith. But is it a good idea?

▪ By [David Rotman](#) on February 8, 2013

Here is the plan. Customize several Gulfstream business jets with military engines and with equipment to produce and disperse fine droplets of sulfuric acid. Fly the jets up around 20 kilometers—significantly higher than the cruising altitude for a commercial jetliner but still well within their range. At that altitude in the tropics, the aircraft are in the lower stratosphere. The planes spray the sulfuric acid, carefully controlling the rate of its release. The sulfur combines with water vapor to form sulfate aerosols, fine particles less than a micrometer in diameter. These get swept upward by natural wind patterns and are dispersed over the globe, including the poles. Once spread across the stratosphere, the aerosols will reflect about 1 percent of the sunlight hitting Earth back into space. Increasing what scientists call the planet's albedo, or reflective power, will partially offset the warming effects caused by rising levels of greenhouse gases.



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David Keith-Geoengineering

Posted on [December 5, 2012](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Published on Jul 2, 2012 by [SacklerColloquia](#)

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David Keith Introduction by Daniel Schrag

Posted on [December 10, 2012](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2012/12/10/david-keith-introduction-by-daniel-schrag/>

Can Hacking The Stratosphere Solve Climate Change?

by NPR/ITD STAFF

August 29, 2013 10:01 AM ET



Listen to the Story

TED Radio Hour



8 min 28 sec

- Playlist
- Download
- Transcript



Part 3 of the TED Radio Hour episode *The Hackers*.

<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2014/08/05/can-hacking-the-stratosphere-solve-climate-change-npr/>

Rogue geoengineering could 'hijack' world's climate

Posted on January 9, 2013 | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Techniques aimed at averting global warming could lead to an unpredictable international crisis, a report has warned

[John Vidal](#) [guardian.co.uk](#), Tuesday 8 January 2013 16:15 GMT

The deployment of independent, large-scale "geoengineering" techniques aimed at averting dangerous warming warrants more research, says the WEF. Photograph: Graham Turner for the Guardian

<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/rogue-geoengineering-could-hijack-worlds-climate/>

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Posted on January 9, 2013 | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

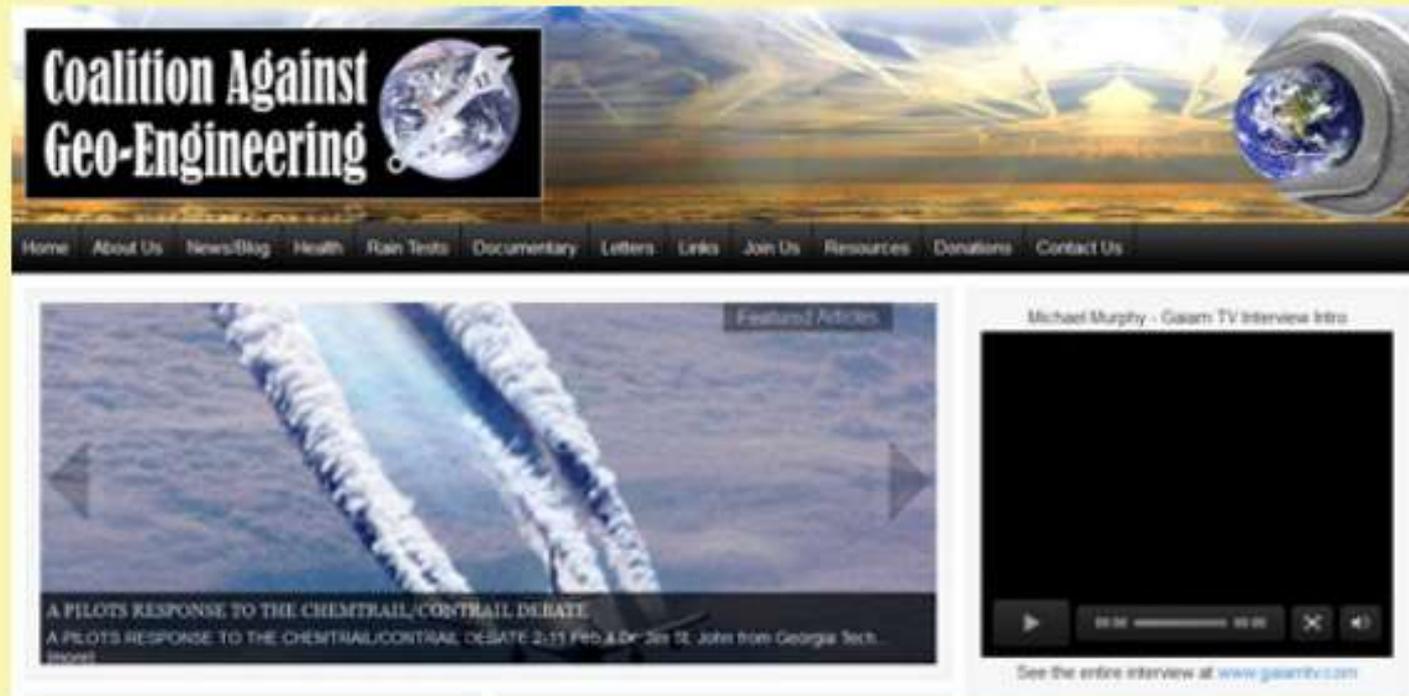


The world's climate could be hijacked by a rogue country or wealthy individual firing small particles into the stratosphere, claims a warning that comes not from a new Hollywood movie trailer but a sober report from the World Economic Forum (WEF).

<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/rogue-geoengineering-could-hijack-worlds-climate/>

Coalition Against Geoengineering

Posted on [May 15, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Coalition Against Geo-Engineering

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A PILOTS RESPONSE TO THE CHEMTRAIL/COSMTRAIL DEBATE
A PILOTS RESPONSE TO THE CHEMTRAIL/COSMTRAIL DEBATE 2:11 Feb 4 Dr. Jim St. John from Georgia Tech
www

Michael Murphy - GEARM TV Interview Intro

See the entire interview at www.gearm.com

To protect our planet from famine and disease inflicted by insane scientists, monopolistic corporations, and rogue governments.

All geo-engineering programs must be stopped; not monitored; not limited; not put under UN control; but stopped – now.

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Science » The Ethics of Geoengineering

First of a Two-Part Series

The Ethics of Geoengineering

David Appell — December 13, 2012



Options for engineering the climate system, some long-dismissed by many as a vestige of Buck Rogers, are getting additional attention as near-term prospects for an effective political remedy remain bleak. But with research into the subject come increasing numbers of ethical questions yet to be resolved.

Is geoengineering an ethical response to the problem of climate change? What moral issues are raised by any deliberate manipulation of the climate system? Should research into its science and engineering proceed, or does that step create a moral hazard by making emissions cutbacks seem less urgent?

<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2012/12/20/the-ethics-of-geoengineering-1/>

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<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2012/12/20/the-ethics-of-geoengineering-1/>

From Bill Gates to Oil Giants, Who Stands to Profit From Geoengineering Nature?

Posted on [May 24, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



[http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/05/24/
/from-bill-gates-to-oil-giants-who-stands-to-profit-from-
geoengineering-nature-2/](http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/05/24/from-bill-gates-to-oil-giants-who-stands-to-profit-from-geoengineering-nature-2/)

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Bill Gates backs climate scientists lobbying for large-scale geoengineering

Posted on [August 4, 2015](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



Friday, 12 June 2015

Billionaire: \$25M Prize to Solve Global Warming by Geoengineering

Written by [Warren Mass](#)

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font size  [Print](#) [Email](#)

Richard Branson (shown), chairman of Virgin Group Ltd., has offered a \$25-million prize for the best solution for ending so-called global warming using geoengineering (also called climate engineering), which is the deliberate and large-scale intervention in the Earth's climatic system.

The goal is to "find true breakthroughs and hopefully create new ways of attacking the climate change problem," Branson said in an interview.

Sir Richard Branson, who was knighted by Prince Charles in 2000 for his "services to entrepreneurship," founded such firms as Virgin Atlantic Airways and Virgin Mobile, and with an estimated net worth of \$4.9 billion is the seventh-richest citizen of the United Kingdom.



*“Had we but world enough and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime.
We would sit down, and think which way
To walk, and pass our long love’s day. ...”*

Andrew Marvell, 1621-1678

Harvard's Solar Geoengineering Research Program Launches Spring 2017

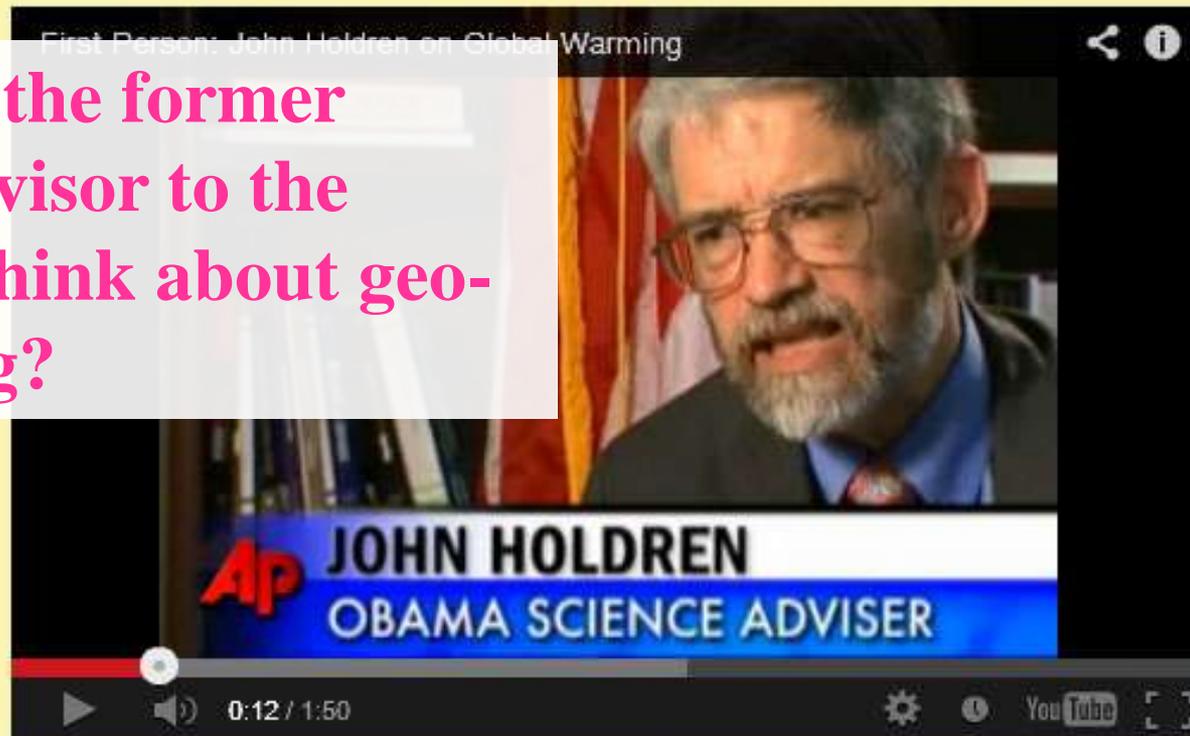
*BUT, do we now have
“world enough and time”...?*



First Person: John Holdren on Global Warming

Posted on [August 5, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

What does the former Science Advisor to the President think about geo-engineering?



<http://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/08/05/first-person-john-holdren-on-global-warming/>

Who is “we”?

First Person: John Holdren on Global Warming

Posted on [August 5, 2013](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)

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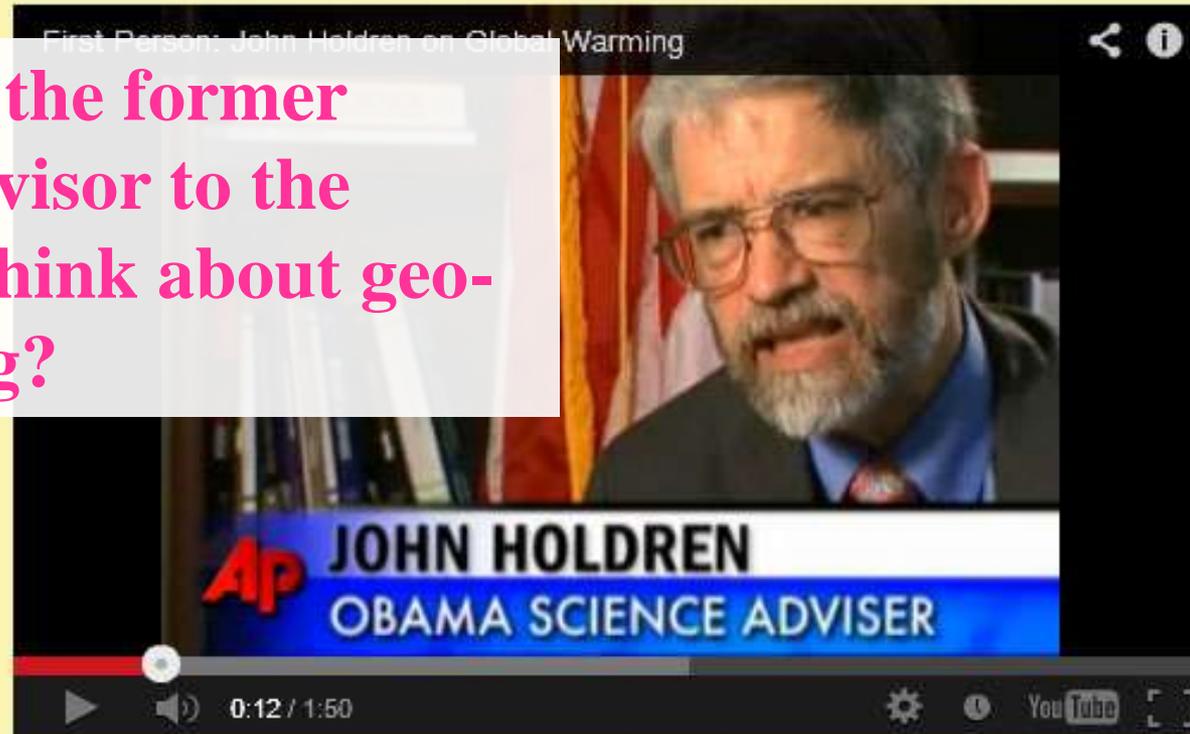
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Who is “we”? Where’s the “table?”

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Who needs “the liberal arts” (any more) in higher education?



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Watches Issued: Widespread Severe Thunderstorms, Including Some Tornadoes, Will Plague the Plains, Midwest Through Thursday

“Had we but world enough and time...”

Who needs “the liberal arts” (any more) in higher education?



Watches Issued: Widespread
Thunderstorms, Including Some
Plague the Plains, Midwest T

Bill McKibben: Caution – The link between climate change and the Joplin Tornadoes? Never! (2011)

Posted on [March 22, 2016](#) | [Leave a comment](#) | [Edit](#)



<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2016/03/22/bill-mckibben-caution-the-link-between-climate-change-and-the-joplin-tornadoes-never-2011/>

Climate Change + Elections = ?

What Happens in a Country Where Scientists Are Persecuted and Citizens Are Repeatedly Lied to and then Arrested for Speaking Truth to Power?



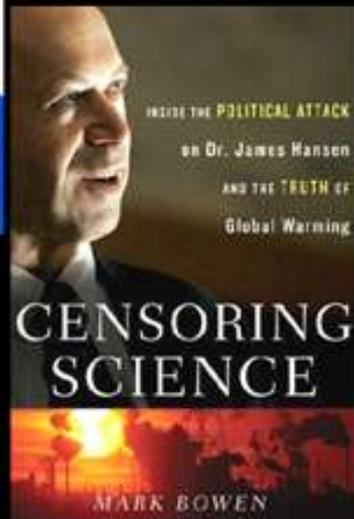
Presumptive Candidate

Presumptive Candidate

VS



James Hansen censored



Bill McKibben arrested

Basic understandings of *science* have been abandoned...



Basic understandings of *science* have been abandoned...

NOW – more than ever -- Americans must demand a sober and accurate “cost-benefit” analysis of carbon combustion....

https://youtu.be/if0_0ee1CY0?t=17m47s

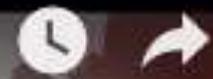


Reason 6

The apparatus of government
has been “captured” by wealthy
special interests
(within this country or from abroad).

May 01, 2018

Top U.S. & World Headlines – May 1, 2018



CARL ICAHN



DEMOCRACY
NOW!



4:22 / 11:00



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<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/?s=pruitt>

How the “War on the EPA” Was Waged | FRONTLINE

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THE STATE *of the* UNION

JANUARY 27, 2010

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/05/01/obama-criticizes-supreme-court-in-state-of-the-union-address-justice-alito-shakes-his-head-in/>

Reason 6

The apparatus of government
has been “captured” by wealthy
special interests
(within this country or from abroad).

[“Citizen’s United” has changed the nature of
“voice” in American politics]





Reason 7

There is a fundamental contradiction
at the core of the institutions that
dominate our society.



Peak Oil and a
Changing Climate

NOAM CHOMSKY

Political Activist

MIT Professor

Author: numerous best
-selling political works

chomsky.info

<https://environmentaljustice.tv.wordpress.com/2012/10/24/noam-chomsky-how-climate-change-became-a-liberal-hoax/>

**Chomsky Interview, *The Nation*,
January 2011**

Effort from big oil lobbyist to “Manufacture
Consent” has been successful.

Why have we not learned how
to count past 2?
What is the ‘third side?’



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World Has Underestimated Climate-Change Effects, Expert Argues

Mar. 23, 2010 — The world's policymakers have underestimated the potential dangerous impacts that man-made climate change will have on society, said Charles H. Greene, Cornell professor of earth and atmospheric sciences.

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As one of the authors of "A Very Inconvenient Truth," published in the peer-reviewed journal *Oceanography* (March 2010), Greene said that he and his co-authors conclude that the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 4th assessment report underestimates the potential dangerous effects that man-made climate change will have on society.

"Even if all man-made greenhouse

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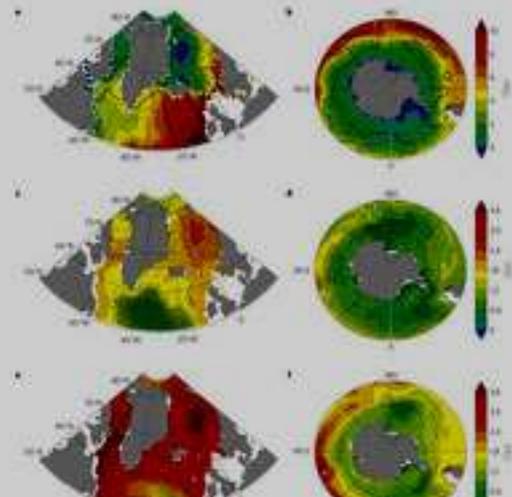
← Antarctic krill promotes CO2 uptake by plankton through iron fertilisation

Ongoing paleo study may help tune CO2 climate sensitivity →

Ocean warming speeds up ice sheet melting Greenland and Antarctica

Posted on July 6, 2011 by Rolf Schuttenhelm

In March we learned [ice sheet formation is two-sided](#). On Sunday, sipping coffee whilst reading the latest *Nature Geoscience*, we learned the same might go for ice sheet *melting*. If so, melting would likely accelerate over this century and sea levels would rise faster than previously projected.

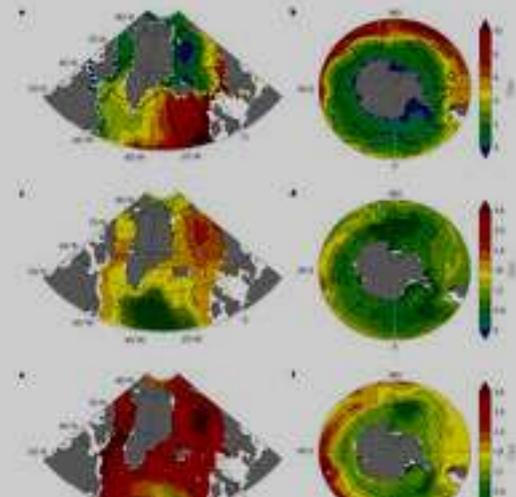




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Sea-level rise from polar ice melt finally quantified



By David Shukman
Science editor, BBC News

uncertainties.

But sea-level rise is now among the most pressing questions of our time.

Polar ice has a tremendous capacity to cause massive rises - with huge potential impacts on



Channels like this one can feed water down through hundreds of metres of ice

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JAN BOUGHIN

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Noam Chomsky: How Climate Change Became a
'Liberal Hoax'



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BHS ben con hill
seminar

Noam Chomsky: How Climate Change Became a
'Liberal Hoax'

Professor Chomsky has alerted us to the ecological vulnerability and dominant myths at the core of our industrial civilization for decades.



The NRA's Top 10 Enemies

According to the NRA, Maya Angelou, Hallmark and the Kansas City Chiefs all hate American freedom.

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By Noam Chomsky, Truthout | Op-Ed

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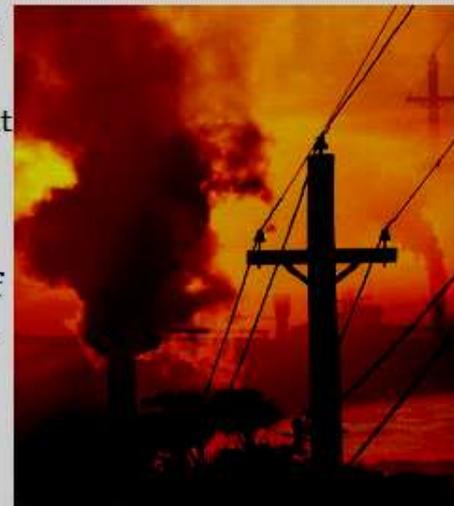
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A task of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, now under way in Durban, South Africa, is to extend earlier policy decisions that were limited in scope and only partially implemented.

These decisions trace back to the U.N. Convention of 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which the U.S. refused to join. The Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends in 2012. A fairly general pre-conference mood was captured by a New York Times headline: "Urgent Issues but Low Expectations."



(Image: JR / TO; Adapted: Mikael Miettinen, Bob Jagendorf)



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The NRA's Top 10 Enemies

According to the NRA, Maya Angelou, Hallmark and the Kansas City Chiefs all hate American freedom.

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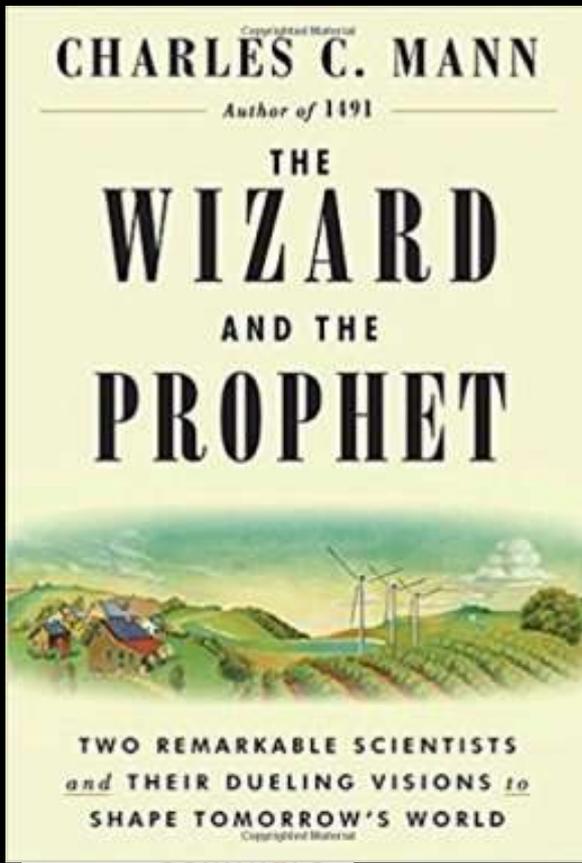
There is a further contradiction
in our “metrics of success.”

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We are looking for technological breakthroughs in
efficiency, *not* a change in direction

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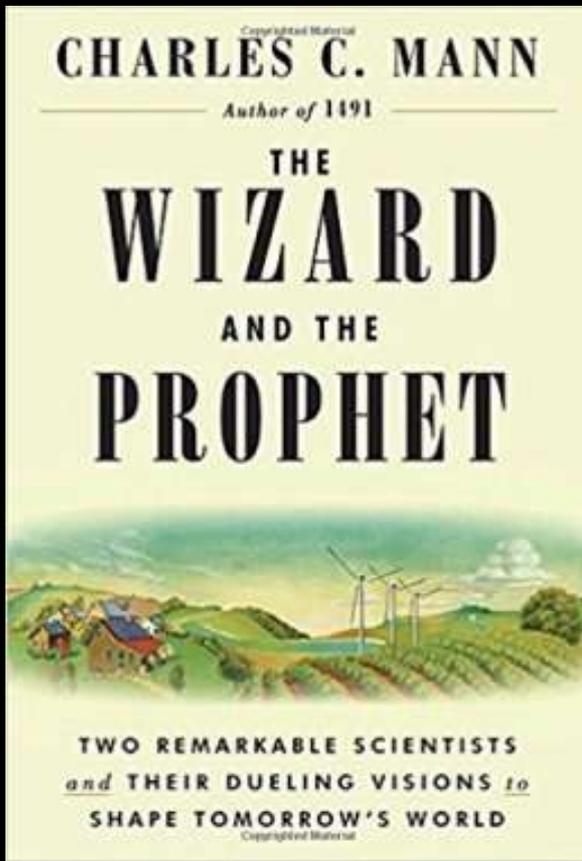


In short....

.... We are looking for – and
our culture is rewarding – the
wrong thing.

There is a further contradiction
in our “metrics of success.”

We are looking for technological breakthroughs in
efficiency, *not* a change in direction



In short....

.... We are looking for – and
our culture is rewarding – the
wrong thing.

It is no wonder, really, that we
cannot help but be disappointed.

RHODES IN DIALOGUE

'A NEW PARADIGM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY'

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2013/10/24/a-new-paradigm-for-environmental-protection-for-the-21st-century/>



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Reason 7

There is a fundamental contradiction
at the core of the institutions that
dominate our society.

[All corporations and virtually all other
institutions are built upon the
expectation of continuous
growth and expansion]

Reason 8

*“I’m not a climate scientist ...
– neither are you, so...”*

[...shut up!]

Now...
Where can we go from here?



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Transition Studies

Exploring Transitions to a Just and Sustainable Future on a Finite Planet

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EPA's Scott Pruitt Faces New Scandals over Ties to Lobbyists, Spending, Foreign Trips

Posted on May 2, 2015 | [Leave a comment](#)



WELCOME...

Welcome to [Transition Studies](#). To prosper for very much longer on the changing Earth humankind will need to move beyond its current fossil-fueled civilization toward one that is sustained on recycled materials and renewable energy. This is not a trivial shift. It will require a major transition in all aspects of our lives.

This weblog explores the transition to a sustainable future on our finite planet. It provides links to current news, key documents from government sources and non-governmental organizations, as well as video documentaries about climate change, environmental ethics and environmental justice concerns.

The links are listed here to be used in whatever manner they may be helpful in public information campaigns, course preparation, teaching, letter-writing, lectures, class presentations, policy discussions, article writing, civic or Congressional hearings and citizen action campaigns, etc. For further information on this blog see:

[About this weblog](#), and [How to use this weblog](#).

CALENDAR - CLICK ON DATE FOR LINKS ENTERED ON THAT DAY

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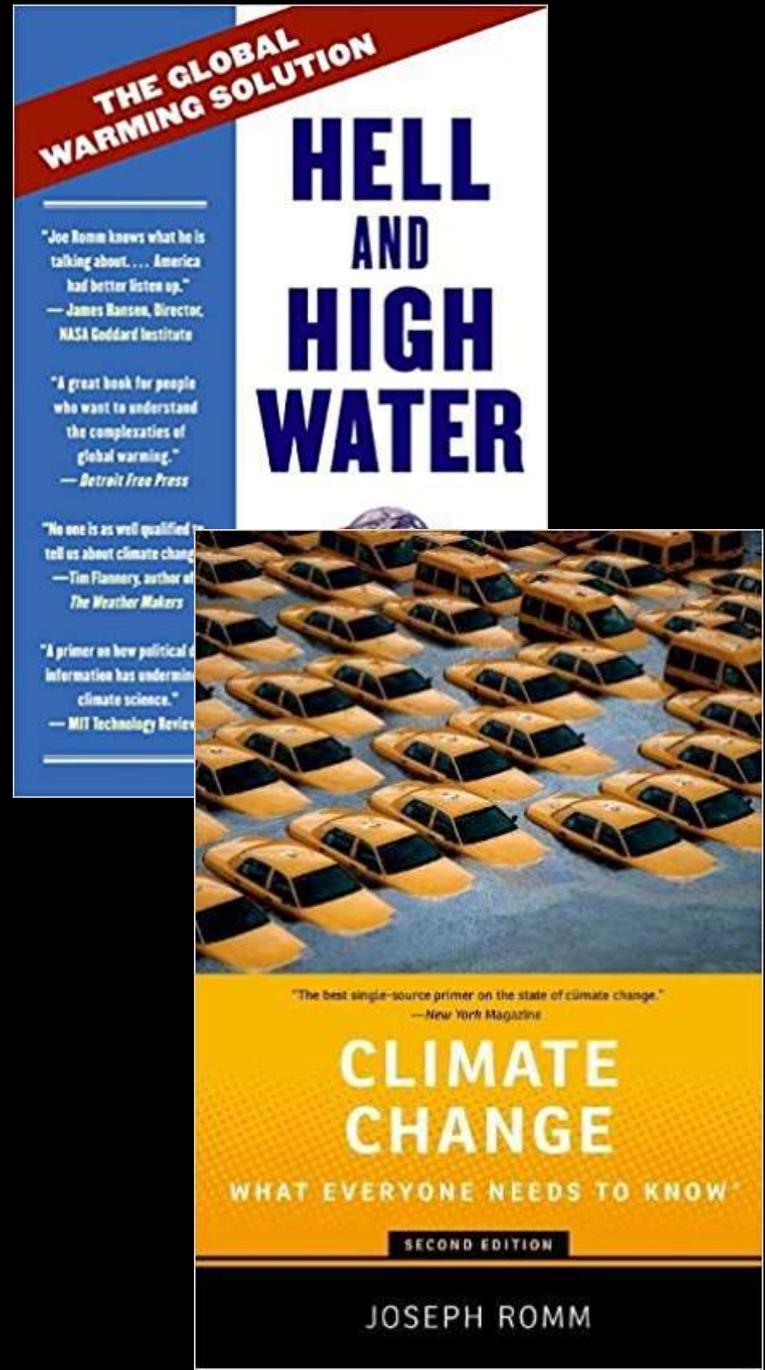
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Climate Boston

Possible course for next year...

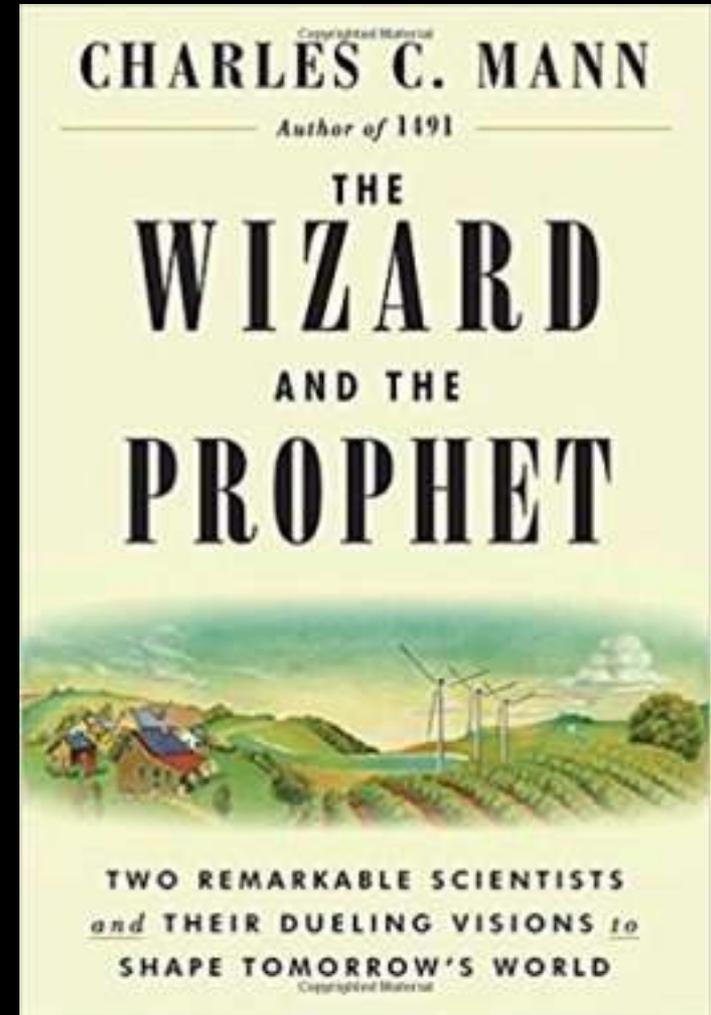
The Coming Climate Challenges for the Post-Columbian World



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The Prophet, the Wizard
and the Human

Prospect:
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in the 21st Century



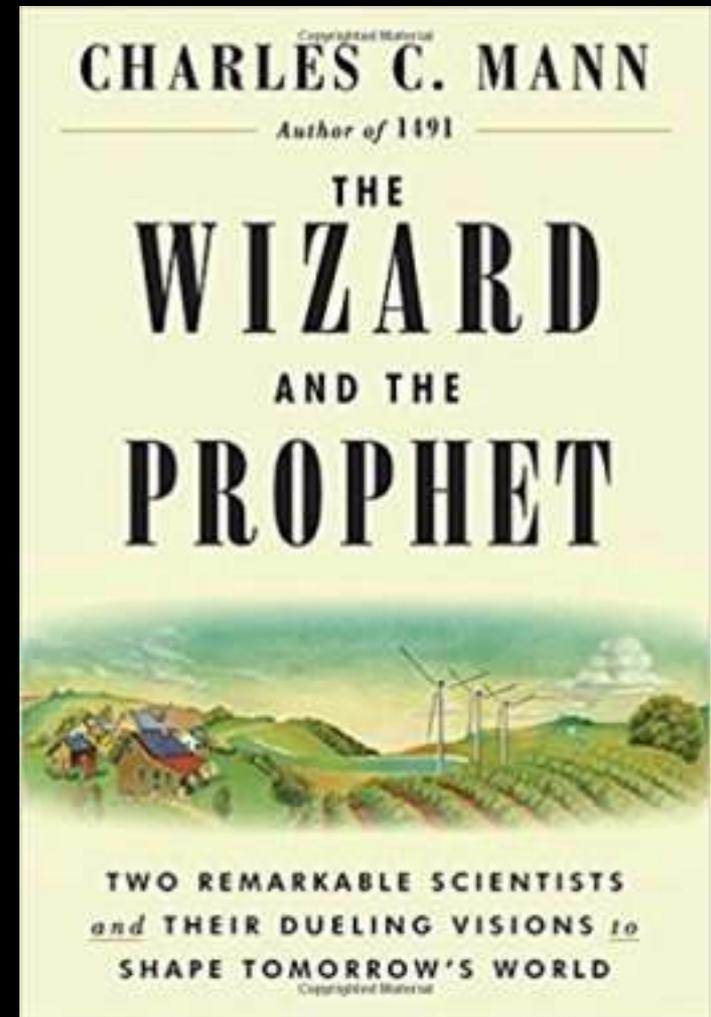
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possible course for
next year...

Or *both*

The Prophet, the Wizard
and the Human

Prospect:

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Challenges of Earth's Changing Climate

Session 9

How to Keep Track of the Coming Trends +
+ Some Thoughts about the concept of a
“**Boston Climate Institute**”

2 May 2018

Tim Weiskel

Cambridge Climate Research Associates
Spring Semester 2018