

Climate Philosophy Newsletter

Volume 2 (2008) January/February

"The suburban living arrangement is an experiment that has entered failure mode."

James Kunstler

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Welcome!

The website climatedynamicsonline.net is now up and running. This is our listserv in the full sense, allowing continuous posting and real-time chatting, but without pummeling you with emails clogging up your inbox. You decide when to come and go. We posted a few things already mailed by you in the trial stage.

You can post at "Discussions," "Reviews," and at "Events".

There are also links; the list is incomplete; please let us know what's missing.

You don't need to be logged in to surf the site. You need to register the first time you wish to leave a post or reply to one. Registration is set up in a userfriendly fashion—here's how:

Click on Climate Dynamics Forums, then click on "register"; enter your name; invent a password; put in your email; confirm registration by typing the letters shown in the box, and in you are. Once we have received and confirmed your registration we will send an email welcoming you to ClimateDynamicsOnline.net.

Please use the email address this Newsletter goes to—that's the email the listserv knows you by.

Chris Kirby and Matt Boksa deserve respect for putting in so much time and effort to design and set up the site—none of this work is funded in any way. None of us receives grants, stipends, fellowships, awards or donations. We are not beholden to any foundation or corporation. All you see is generated by autonomous free labor for rational ends.

It's all very Kantian, and pragmatic to boot.

Enjoy, and have a nice spring, despite Bush v. Bali, and thanks for your participation! See you in the March/April issue...

Best,

-- Martin Schönfeld

PS: [NASA's Record List](#)

1. Hottest year ever: 1998

2. Hottest decade ever: 1998-2007
3. Second hottest year ever (tie): 2005
4. Second hottest year ever (tie): 2007

Errata

The conference on *human flourishing and restoration in the age of global warming* will be at Clemson University, which is located in South Carolina, not in North Carolina.

Events

Teach-In on Global Warming

31 January 2008

Organized by [Focus the Nation](#); kicked off at [Clemson](#)

Teach-ins at campuses nationwide in the United States

The University of South Florida gig is posted in [climatedynamics](#) forum "Events"; if you know of any American colleagues who do teach-ins at their schools, please share & add your post.

Living with Climate Change: Limits to Adaptation?

7-8 February 2008

Congress by the [Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#)

Royal Geographical Society, London

Conference information is [here](#).

Dissension in Science

3-4 March 2008

Workshop conference at University of California San Diego,

Elizabeth Lloyd (Indiana) and **Naomi Oreskes** (UCSD) will speak on climate change.

Energy & Responsibility: A Conference on Ethics and the Environment

10-12 April 2008

Conference hosted by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Registration is now open. Conference information is [here](#).

Heather Douglas (Tennessee) adds that climate change is a substantial part of the program.

Research Notes

Robin Attfield (Cardiff) wrote "Mediated responsibilities, global warming, and the scope of ethics," an early version of which was read at the Climate Philosophy conference at the University of South Florida 2006. The paper is forthcoming in a collection by →**Ruth Irwin**. Attfield's recent *Environmental Ethics: Overview for the Twentieth-First Century* (Cambridge: Polity, 2003/Malden: Blackwell, 2003) has some

bearing on climate change as well. He is now preparing conference talks; one of these compares the approaches of *Contraction and Convergence* (Aubrey Meyer) with *Greenhouse Development Rights* (Baer and Athanasiou). Professor Attfeld encourages comparison of these approaches; others, he notes, may have more time than he has, for a more thorough comparative job.

John Barry (Queens' University Belfast) co-authored, with Geraint Ellis and Clive Robinson, "Cool Rationalities and Hot Air: A Rhetorical Approach to Understanding Debates on Renewable Energy," in press at *Global Environmental Politics*.

I posted an abstract in the [climatedynamics](#) forum "reviews".

Jeremy Bendik-Keymer (Le Moyne College) installed a piece reflecting environmental collapse at the Tate Gallery in London during a public symposium called *Take a Deep Breath*. Jeremy, who just completed a six-month stint writing environmental columns for the Dubai paper *Emirates Today* says that the Tate installation involved video shoots of Dubai, illustrating the thesis that off-cycle civilizations don't breathe. Professor Bendik-Keymer is now writing "Species Extinction and the Vice of Thoughtlessness" for the Clemson climate conference.

Gregor Betz (Berlin) is working on papers about [modal falsificationism](#), a methodological issue in the climate sciences. Modal falsificationism, Gregor explains, is a methodology for scenario range construction and says that a scenario should be considered possible unless it is positively shown to be impossible. It contrasts with modal inductivism, i.e. the view that scenarios ought to be considered possible only if they are shown to be consistent with available knowledge.

Thorsten Botz-Bornstein (Tuskegee) has "From Community to Time-Space Development: Comparing N. S. Trubetzkoy, Nishida Kitaro, and Watsuji Tetsuro" under review at *Culture and Space*.

(Martin's aside: At the risk of pointing out the obvious, [Nishida](#) was one of greatest Japanese thinkers; [Watsuji](#) was the first to conceptualize *Climate* in philosophy; Nishida and Watsuji belonged to the [Kyoto School](#). The school's heuristic nexus to the [Kyoto Protocol](#) has not yet been studied in the West.)

Thom Brooks (Newcastle) completed a collection, *The Global Justice Reader*, with a section on international environmental justice that contains essays by **Peter Singer** (Princeton) and **Simon Caney** (Oxford). *The Global Justice Reader* will be published by Blackwell in February 2008. Professor Brooks is now writing a book, on global justice as well, for Blackwell that will have a chapter on environmental justice as well.

Alex Brown (University College London) is working on *Rawls, Public Reason, and Climate Change*. This project concentrates on the problem of how it is possible to approach mutual understanding and ultimately reach agreement on the issues surrounding climate change given the fact of reasonable pluralism of world views toward such issues. The problems of reasonable disagreement are addressed at both the domestic and international level and it is argued that, though, significant, these problems are far from insurmountable.

Alasdair Cochrane (London School of Economics) published the "Environmental Ethics" in [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).

James Connelly (Hull) is working on *Sustainability and the Virtues of Environmental Citizenship*. An earlier version of this project was "The Virtues of Environmental Citizenship" in *Environmental*

Citizenship, ed. D. Bell and A. Dobsen (Boston: MIT Press, 2005). The monograph (forthcoming by Routledge), addresses the character and virtues citizens will need to have if we are to build a sustainable future, and how best to encourage and develop environmental awareness and action.

Thomas Heyd (Victoria) has “Rapid landscape change, vulnerability, and social responsibility,” in press with *Northern Review*, in a special issue on *Rapid Landscape Change and Human Response*. Professor Heyd published *Encountering Nature: toward an Environmental Culture* (London: Ashgate, 2007). He and **Nick Brooks** (East Anglia) are going to read a paper in the session “The Role of Values and Culture in Adaptation” at the congress *Living with Climate Change*, Tyndall Centre, London, 7-8 Feb 2008

James Garvey (Royal Institute) did a podcast for [philosophy bites](#) on climate ethics, to be posted shortly. Professor Garvey’s *The Ethics of Climate Change* was just published by Continuum. For more information, publisher’s statements, and reviews by Peter Singer, Paul Atfield, Mark Lynas, and Ted Honderich, please see the [climatedynamics](#) forum “reviews”.

Axel Gosseries (Louvain) published “Cosmopolitan luck egalitarianism and the greenhouse effect” in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 31 (2007): 279-309, a final draft is [here](#) (pdf). Professor Gosseries adds that to date his most popular paper is “Historical Emissions and Free-Riding” (pdf), in **Lukas Meyer**, ed. *Justice in Time* (Baden-Baden: Nomos 2004), 355-382

Edgar González Gaudiano (Mexico City) will translate →**Ruth Irwin**’s anthology into Spanish.

Simon Hailwood (Liverpool) published “Landscape, Nature, and Neopragmatism” in *Environmental Ethics* 29 (2007): 130-151. Forthcoming is his “Disowning the Weather” in *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 2008. Professor Hailwood adds that “Disowning the Weather” will also appear in a Routledge collection this year on *Liberalism and Climate Change*.

Nicole Hassoun (Carnegie-Mellon) will present on global justice and climate change at the *Energy and Responsibility* conference at the University of Tennessee (see Events) and at the “Philosophy and Public Affairs” group meeting at the APA Pacific division conference.

Ruth Irwin (Auckland) is preparing *Climate Change and Philosophy* for publication. Authors and short titles are

- **Robin Atfield**, “Mediated responsibilities, global warming, and the scope of ethics”
- **Leo Elshof**, “Transforming world views to cope with a changing climate”
- **Patricia Glazebrook**, “Gender and climate”
- **Edgar González Gaudiano**, “Education against climate change”
- **Ruth Irwin**, “Heidegger, education, and climate change”
- **Heila Lotz-Sisitka & Lesley Le Grange**, “Climate change, adaptation, and abatement”
- **Tim Luke**, “Learning how to cope with climate change”
- **Val Plumwood**, “Nature in the active voice”
- **Martin Schönfeld & Liu Nai-Yu** “Climate change, civil progress, and rational evolution”
- **Murray Sheard**, “Transforming attitudes in environmental law”

Andrew Light (Univ. of Washington), with →**Allen Thompson**, gave a presentation in the context of Clemson University’s *Focus the Nation Climate Change Symposium* on “Policy Options and a Report from the UN Climate Change conference at Bali”. The abstract is in the [climatedynamics](#) forum “events”.

Alex Levine (South Florida) has “Representing the World: Climate and Weltgeist” under review at *Ethics, Place, and Environment*.

Elizabeth Lloyd (Indiana) will present “Climate skeptics and global climate change” at a workshop-conference on climate change at the University of California, San Diego, March 3-4.

Catriona McKinnon (Reading) completed a 12 month Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship dedicated to developing a liberal approach to the politics of climate change. Professor McKinnon is working on *Climate Change and Future Justice* that will be published by Routledge. This monograph has grown out of a few of McKinnon’s papers, such as “Intergenerational corrective justice as an approach to climate change policy in non-ideal circumstances” (forthcoming in *Annual Review of Law and Ethics* 2009); “The precautionary principle and climate change catastrophes”; “The role of shame in motivating the current generation not to hang posterity with respect to climate change” (forthcoming in *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*); “Principles of triage, and the hope for a return to justice, for doomsday climate change scenarios”. With **Gideon Calder** (Wales), she will co-edit an issue of *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* on the topic *Liberal Principles and Climate Change*. She is now seeking funding to set up a center at Reading for the political theory of climate change.

Paul Omofeya (Lesotho) has “The Conflict between Environmental Rights and Human Rights: A Panacea” forthcoming in *International Journal of Development, Management, and Research*, April 2008.

Rupert Read (East Anglia) published *Philosophy for Life* (London: Continuum 2007). Part 1 is on “Environment” and features a non-technical account of dangerous climate change.

Martin Schönfeld (USF) gave a two part talk, “Philosophy of Climate Change: 1. Open Systems; 2. Cultural Evolution” at the Taipei University of Education, Taiwan, in December 2007. His essay “Climate 2007—making sense of the year of records” appeared 1/7/08 at [common dreams](#) (in excellent company—a day after George McGovern posted, “Why I believe Bush must go”). With **Liu Nai-Yu** he is now completing “Climate change, civil progress, and rational evolution,” for →**Ruth Irwin**.

Allen Thompson (Clemson) is selecting papers for the climate conference (see below); he is also making arrangements for the Clemson participation in the [National Teach-In on Global Warming](#) on 31 January. **Eban Godenstein**, director of [Focus the Nation](#), will give a keynote address at the 25 January kick off. The event will be podcast nationally, to serve as a model for events over the country. The Clemson info is [here](#). With →**Andrew Light**, Prof. Thompson will speak on “Policy Options and a Report from the Climate Change Conference at Bali”.

Journal—Climate Philosophy

Thanks for your responses and support. The editorial framework for *Climate Philosophy* is now coming into view. More information soon!

Clemson Conference Update

The conference on “Human Flourishing and Restoration in the Age of Global Warming”, organized by A. Thompson, J. Bendik-Keymer, and B. Holland, received many proposals and will have its selection posted

in the not-too-distant future. Current invited speakers include Phil Cafaro, Gene Eideson, Eric Higgs, Roger Gottlieb, Dale Jamieson, Andrew Light, Bryan Norton, Martha Nussbaum, and Ron Sandler.

APA Baltimore Dec 2007 – A Look Back

Jeff Huggins sent impressions of the annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association that was held in Baltimore, Maryland, a month ago. He writes:

“It seems reasonable to say that there are immense gaps among the public’s understanding of global warming, public discourse about the issue (including its social-moral dimensions), and the extent and nature of environment-oriented discussion in Baltimore. To me, a relative newcomer to the process, these gaps present some very deep concerns and confusions, at least with respect to an issue of such vast moral importance. Given that morality is a vital part of the philosophical quest, the very limited attention garnered by global warming at the APA conference seemed much, much lower than I had hoped. Although I can’t compare Baltimore to last year’s conference, or the year before, nevertheless, the feeling of the conference seemed “business-as-usual.” That said, I was not able to see Kwame Anthony Appiah’s Presidential Address, or later sessions, so perhaps global warming’s pressing moral relevance was highlighted in some of those?”

Jeff Huggins’ “Global Warming and APA Baltimore—What Would Socrates Do?” is posted in the [climatedynamics](#) forum “Discussions”.

Teaching

Has anyone developed syllabi for teaching climate change?
If so, kindly post them at [climatedynamics](#) “Discussions”.