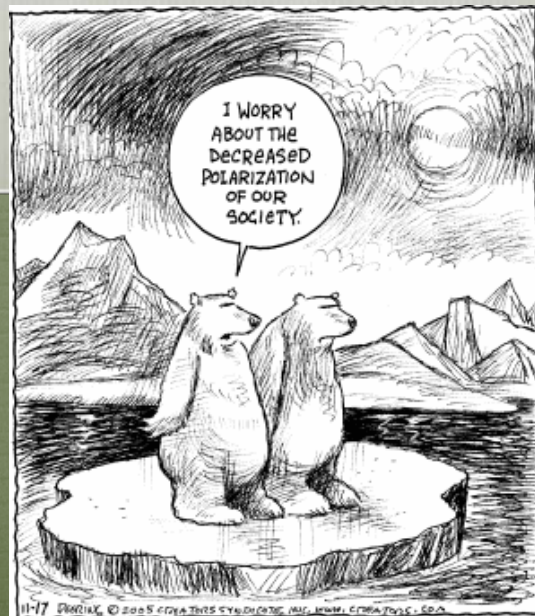


The Psychological & Political Polarization of Climate Change Within the U.S.

By: Abigail Hoelzer

Class of 2016

The Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College



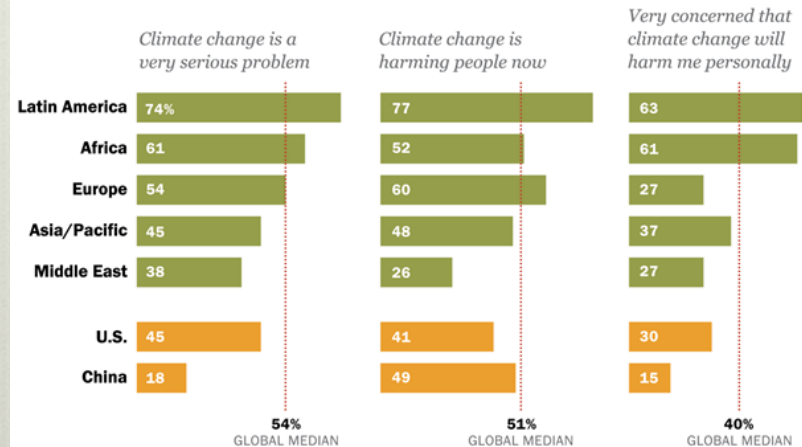
THE EISENHOWER
INSTITUTE



Climate Change Psychology

Latin America, Africa More Concerned about Climate Change Compared with Other Regions

Regional medians



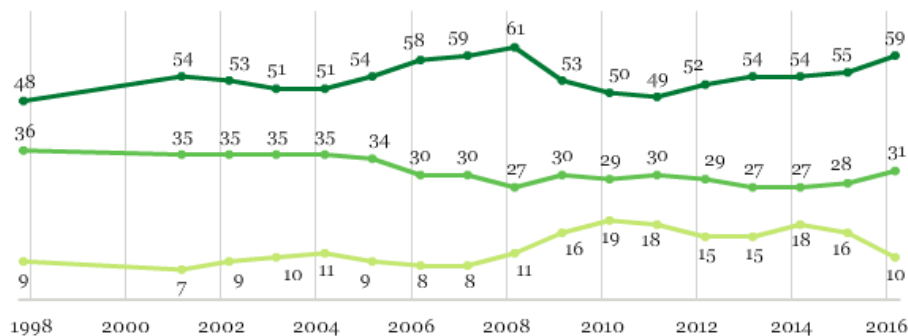
Note: Russia and Ukraine not included in Europe median. Asia-Pacific median includes China.
Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q32, Q41 & Q42.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- The Climate Paradox
- Catastrophe Framing
- Transition to Opportunity Framing
- Skewed Social Networks & Personal Paradigms

U.S. Views About When Effects of Global Warming Will Occur

■ % Already begun ■ % Will happen ■ % Will never happen



% "Will happen" includes those who think effects will happen in their lifetime, or not in their lifetime but in the future

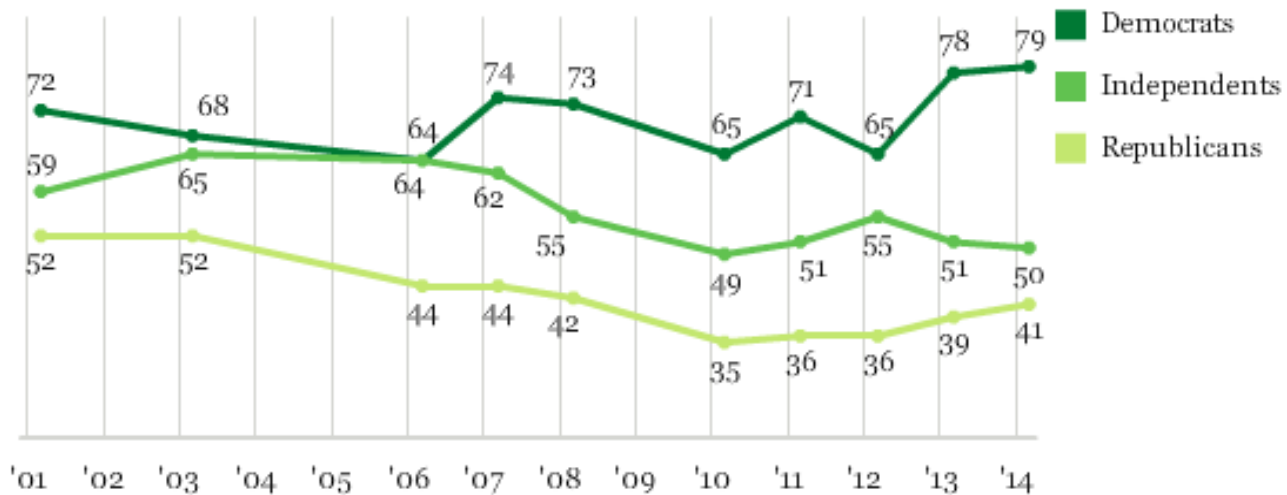
GALLUP

Political Polarization

- Majority of Americans do believe in the threat of Climate Change
- Clear divide between parties
- Economics & Opposition

Believe Rise in Earth's Temperature in Last Century Due Mainly to Human Activities

Trend by party ID



Environmental Community

Top Contributors, 2015-2016

(Move your cursor over the chart to see dollar amounts.)

Contributor	Amount
Environment America	\$2,637,831
League of Conservation Voters	\$669,771
NextGen Climate Action	\$234,566
Global Green USA	\$102,220
Ocean Champions	\$55,928
Natural Resources Defense Council	\$48,018
Trust for Public Land	\$38,030
Center for Coastal Conservation	\$28,250
Nature Conservancy	\$22,636
Environmental Defense Fund	\$21,883
Volunteer Environmental Activist	\$21,750
Wilderness Society	\$21,246
NRDC Action Fund	\$17,036
Sierra Club	\$16,514
Cool Globes Inc	\$15,200

Top Contributors, 2015-2016

(Move your cursor over the chart to see dollar amounts.)

Contributor	Amount
Quantum Energy Partners	\$10,093,050
Koch Industries	\$4,381,714
Stewart & Stevenson	\$3,025,600
Hunt Companies	\$2,627,100
Chief Oil & Gas	\$2,445,493
Nextera Energy	\$1,893,802
Western Refining	\$1,875,760
Chevron Corp	\$1,792,075
Energy Transfer Equity	\$1,637,300
Edison Chouest Offshore	\$1,615,515
Devon Energy	\$1,327,001
National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn	\$1,219,050
Cumberland Development	\$1,121,100
Exelon Corp	\$1,115,700
Boich Companies	\$1,074,100

NRDC (2015)

\$152M
REVENUE FOR
THE 2015
FISCAL YEAR

Sierra Club (2014)

Total Revenues, Gains & Other Support
\$ 62,701,524

Environmental Community:
Big Revenue
Small Political Spending

Wrap-Up

What Can We Do?

Psychologically

- Transition the discussion surrounding Climate Change to one full of optimism and potential
- Accurately report scientific data

Politically

- Get America's POV on Climate Change reflected in political campaigns
- Enable candidates to discuss policy as it reflects true beliefs and scientific data (decreasing impact of big energy lobbying)

Environmentally

- Better engage the environmental community in elections via political spending and candidate support

We [should] tell new stories of the dream, not the nightmares. We must describe where we want to go, such as smarter green growth, happier lives, and better cities.

Referenced Articles

- ❖ THE POLARIZATION OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, Dunlap (2013)
<http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/brief/polarization-us-public-opinion-climate-change>
- ❖ A Psychologist Explains Why People Don't Give a Shit About Climate Change, Kilby (2015) <http://www.vice.com/read/a-psychologist-explains-why-people-dont-really-give-a-shit-about-climate-change-608>