

## Climate Policy Reading Group

Offshoot of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* UChicago Student Program

### Winter-Spring 2019 Reading List

**Time:** 3:30-4:30 pm, alternating Fridays

**Location:** Harper Memorial, Room 104

**Contact:** Talia Weiss ([teweiss@uchicago.edu](mailto:teweiss@uchicago.edu)), Erik Thiede ([ehthiede@gmail.com](mailto:ehthiede@gmail.com)), Sam Greene ([sgreene@uchicago.edu](mailto:sgreene@uchicago.edu)). **Please email us to join our listserv and receive future updates.**

The Climate Policy Reading Group is intended for UChicago community members who wish to become better educated regarding the climate-related research findings that are most relevant to crafting energy policy.

We will read papers and reports by physical and social scientists. In this way, we aim to illuminate some sources of research controversies in the climate and energy fields. We hope that the Climate Policy Reading Group will thus help equip us to bridge entrenched divisions among experts.

Readings will be sent out to the group approximately a week before each meeting. Participants are welcome to attend some or all of the group's meetings.

For Winter and Spring 2019, readings will focus primarily on the nature of the climate and energy-related problems we face.

### Winter Quarter 2019

March 1      What Do Our Government Agencies Say About Climate Change?  
Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018), Chapters 1 (Overview) and 2 ("Our Changing Climate"): <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>.

March 15    The Controversy Over Uncertainty in Climate Modeling  
• American Physical Society's "Climate Statement" (2015): [https://www.aps.org/policy/statements/15\\_3.cfm](https://www.aps.org/policy/statements/15_3.cfm).  
• Responses: Steve Koonin, "Climate Science is Not Settled," *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 2014; Raymond T. Pierrehumbert, "Climate Science is Settled Enough," *Slate*, Oct. 2014.  
• Tebaldi *et al.*, "The uncertainty in climate modeling," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, April 2008.

**Spring Quarter 2019: meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> weeks of the quarter.** We may add a session during the 10<sup>th</sup> week.

April 12      Signs of Climate Change and Public Perceptions

- Hansen *et al.*, “Perception of climate change,” *Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences*, Sept. 2012.
- Roser-Renouf *et al.*, “Global Warming’s Six Americas and the Election, 2016”: <http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/six-americas-2016-election/>.

April 19 Potential meeting for new CPRG members to discuss readings from March 15, based on schedules and level of interest. *Time TBD*.

April 26 **Presentation by Samuel Greene:**  
Why do small temperature changes have dramatic effects?  
The mechanisms behind climate change impacts.  
 • **Optional:** Hansen *et al.*, “Assessing ‘Dangerous Climate Change’: Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature,” *PLOS One*, Dec. 2013.

May 10 How Big is the Threat?  
 • UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, Summary for Policymakers: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>. (Please feel free to skim other chapters).  
 • Molina *et al.*, “Climate Report Understates Threat,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Oct. 2018.

May 24 Which Economic Method(s) Can Reduce Carbon Emissions?  
 • Michael Maiello and Natasha Gura, “The Tax that Could Save the World,” *Chicago Booth Review*, 2019: <http://review.chicagobooth.edu/economics/2019/article/tax-could-save-world>.

June 7 Influencing Public Understanding of Climate Change  
 • Union of Concerned Scientists and ERB Institute, “Increasing Public Understanding of Climate Risks and Choices: Report of the Workshop on Climate Communication,” 2012 (**pages 3-4 and 8-20**): <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2018/01/gw-Increasing-Public-Understanding-of-Climate-Risks-and-Choices.pdf>  
 • Visschers *et al.*, “Knowledge as a driver of public perceptions about climate change reassessed,” *Nature Climate Change*, 2016.