







Part 2: What are people saying about global warming and climate change?

Heather Dinon Aldridge
PINEMAP webinar series
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Some people say...

“Global warming is the same as climate change”

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
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Question 1:
Have you ever heard someone say this phrase?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) not sure

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Some people say...

“Global warming is the same as climate change”

Reality: they have different scientific definitions

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







Definitions

- Global warming describes an average temperature increase of the Earth over time
- Climate change describes how weather patterns will be affected around the globe
 - *Statistically significant changes* in climate averages or in extremes of temperature and precipitation over long time periods
 - Location specific

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






Definitions

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- Climate variability is considered to be any deviation(s) from typical climate conditions at a single location
 - E.g. droughts contribute to climate variability

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SOME PEOPLE SAY...

“There is no consensus!”

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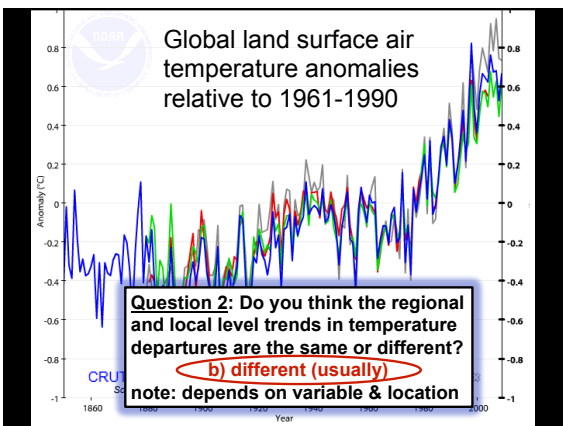
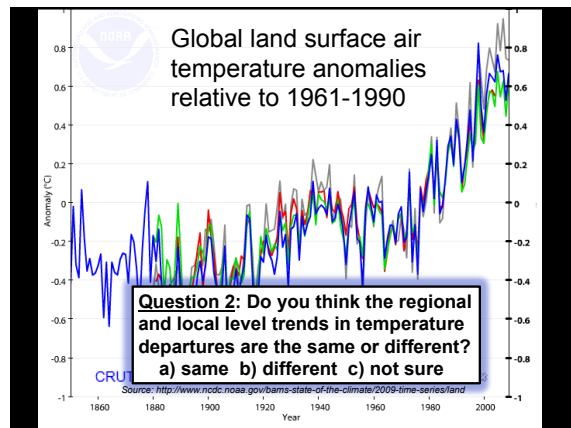
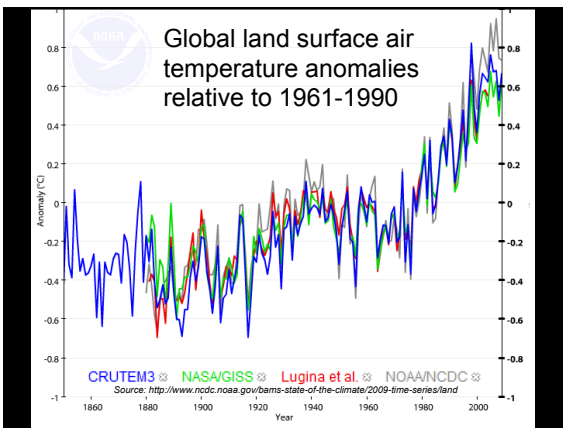
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Reality: peer-reviewed literature is in consensus on the increase in global average temperatures and relative causes

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SOME PEOPLE SAY...

“Only natural processes are contributing to the warming, not humans!” OR
 “Only humans are contributing to the warming, not natural processes!”

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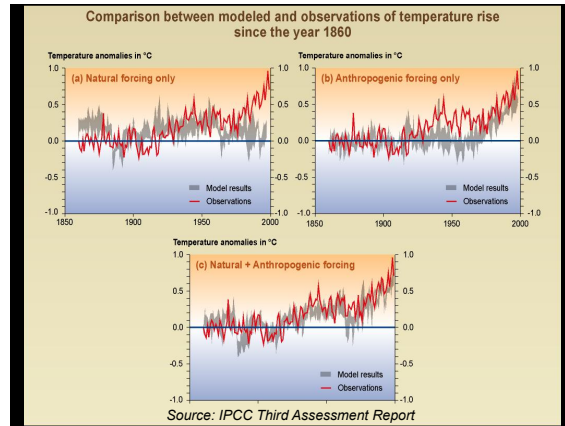
Some people say...

“Only natural processes are contributing to the warming, not humans!” **OR**
 “Only humans are contributing to the warming, not natural processes!”

Reality: both are driving warming trend!



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“Human influence is only due to increased GHG concentrations”




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Reality: also due to land use / land cover changes e.g., urbanization-- converting forests to housing developments, from cropland to forests in SE US, etc.
 → Local scale attribution is difficult!




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Some people say...

“_____ is proof that global warming does not exist!”



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Some people say...


“_____ is proof that global warming does not exist!”

Question 3: How would you fill in this blank?

- a) The 2011 tornado in Raleigh
- b) The extremely cold winter
- c) Al Gore
- d) None of the above



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Some people say...

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Question 4: How would you fill in this blank?

- a) The 2011 tornado in Raleigh
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- c) Rush Limbaugh
- d) None of the above

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"The 2011 tornado in Raleigh is proof of global warming!"

Reality: no single event can be attributed to global warming; could say % of certain events attributed

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Some people say...

"What if there is no climate change?"

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Some people say...


"What if there is no climate change?"

Reality: Southern US still experiences disasters!


- Droughts, tornadoes, ice storms, hurricanes...

→ vulnerability due to increasing populations

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Overall, are people missing the point?

- Need to shift focus to Earth's response to warming, or impacts
 - For example...
average global temperature is 3°warmer in 2100
 - vs.
coastal areas facing SLR, pine species shifts, frequency of SPB outbreaks, etc.

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