

In this piece, Koerth is raising the essential concern that the language we use to talk about accurate science loses out to the straight-talk rhetoric of unscientific denialism. This point is valid because we see it work again and again on fox news, when complicated ideas are easily cast into doubt, and the assertive and simplistic messages are those that get repeated. We see this with the quick popularity of hydroxychloroquine, which was aggressively pushed by right-wing media as a cure for covid because rallying behind a magical cure is easier than tolerating and trying to explain to concerned scientifically illiterate viewers the uncertainty and complexity in the science at this time.

Another good point is that “a person’s ideological affiliation seems to determine whether they believe in climate change (rather than the other way around).” In my observation, we of the public who don’t have the scientific experience to understand complex data and studies often turn to a source we think is intelligent and truthful to summarize how we should feel about the

Giving a colloquium when you should be giving a TED talk, by which I mean that the public talks should be a pretty brief over view, and not a detailed explanation, easily makes your audience feel stupid, making it much easier for them to disregard your argument.

12:47

Scientists predict climate change will displace more than 180 million people by 2100 -- a crisis of "climate migration" the world isn't ready for, says disaster recovery lawyer and Louisiana native Colette Pichon Battle. In this passionate, lyrical talk, she urges us to radically restructure the economic and social systems that are driving climate migration -- and caused it in the first place -- and shares how we can cultivate collective resilience, better prepare before disaster strikes and advance human rights for all.

This talk was presented at an official TED conference, and was featured by our editors on the home page.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Colette Pichon Battle · Climate justice and human rights lawyer

A Louisiana native with a deep connection to things that burrow in the mud, Colette Pichon Battle fights to advance human rights for communities on the frontline of the struggle against climate change.

Scientists rely on logical appeals, because they assume that US society has the common sense and future thinking skills to see evidence and act in the best interest of society, which just is not the case in modern America. It is the climate deniers that rely on America's convenience oriented, instant gratification minded, and highly passionate and faith driven nature to keep real environmental change from occurring.

One of the main points in this article is that scientists are unable (or unwilling) to employ allegory and political rhetoric in their discussion of climate change. This inability hinders the effective dissemination of knowledge and allows climate change deniers to further spread misinformation as they have no qualms about forgoing accuracy and/or truth in service of a sticky message.

Second, this lack of scientific literacy also allows for the "doubt seeding" mentioned in the article where political opponents exhaustively nitpick scientific statements in bad faith because they know the public won't see it as nitpicking the same way a scientist would.

The issue of climate changes certainly a risk (Munich Re shows this well) and if it is understood as such public responses to it should be rather productive. Unfortunately, climate change is often dissociated from experience. It is a concept rather than a reality and scientists reports of it are masked with their scientific nuancings. Media politicians interpret the nuance as uncertainty

Trump and Aristotle

The article talks about how those who speak more simply and with more confidence are often viewed as correct, even if what they are saying is not correct.

Long term climate change vs short term extreme weather volatility events

Wildfires Increase (American West)

Hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones



Glaciers melting and rising sea levels, higher temperatures and new weather patterns, and the increase of high damage natural disasters (Munich RE billion-dollar metric).

But the most relevant seems to be their establishment of the monetary risk due to climate change.

Munich Re emphasizes the risk climate change imposes and this an angle should be better articulated to policy makers. 'Global warming' is a phrase intended to mitigate the negative affect associated with climate change. Articulating that climate change is a crisis forces policy makers to attend to the issue. Communicate that cities and businesses are at risk of storm, cyclone, rising water levels, etc. and policymakers will have to look more deeply at solutions.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Global increase in major tropical cyclone exceedance probability over the past four decades

James P. Kossin,  Kenneth R. Knapp, Timothy L. Olander, and  Christopher S. Velden

PNAS first published May 10, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1920049117>
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Though wildfires can happen naturally, there have been a distinct increase of wildfires at the beginning of this century that are caused by human activity and longer dry spells due to climate change. Additionally, flooding and severe storms are easier to draw a connection to climate change, while also being costly if not addressed.

Public Health Risks

world is getting more tropical and mosquitoes love that

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

