

A systematic literature review on mental models of climate change

Department: Sustainable Development

Research group: Innovation studies

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Project description

An increasing amount of literature in environmental psychology deals with people's reactions to climate change – pursuing questions such as public understanding and knowledge about climate change, risk perceptions, attitudes, and behavioral engagement, or lack thereof, towards climate change. This project deals with people's understanding of climate change, conceptualized as mental models about climate change. Through a systematic literature review, we will explore to what extent there is evidence that climate change mental models shape pro-environmental behaviour.

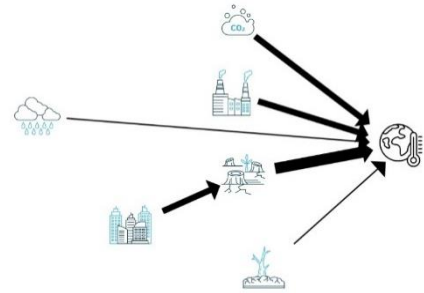


Figure 1: example of a mental model of climate change

In this project, you will assist on a systematic literature review on the topic of mental models of climate change, in an international team with renowned mental model experts. The main tasks will be literature searches in different data bases and coding of the references with respect to various dimensions.

Job requirements

We are looking for a motivated student who wants to gain experience in conducting a literature review in the field of environmental psychology. The applicant does not need prior experience or knowledge in this research field. Experience with systematic literature searches and knowledge of the command languages of data bases such as PsycInfo, WoS, Pub Med will be an advantage. Willingness to acquire these skills is a prerequisite.

Relevant literature

Bostrom, A., O'Connor, R. E., Böhm, G., Hanss, D., Bodi, O., Ekström, F., ... & Sælensminde, I. (2012). Causal thinking and support for climate change policies: International survey findings. *Global Environmental Change*, 22(1), 210-222.

Findlater, K. M., Donner, S. D., Satterfield, T., & Kandlikar, M. (2018). Integration anxiety: The cognitive isolation of climate change. *Global Environmental Change*, 50, 178-189.

Goldberg, M. H., Gustafson, A., & Van Der Linden, S. (2020). Leveraging social science to generate lasting engagement with climate change solutions. *One Earth*, 3(3), 314-324.