

Background on the 97% of all climate scientists....claim

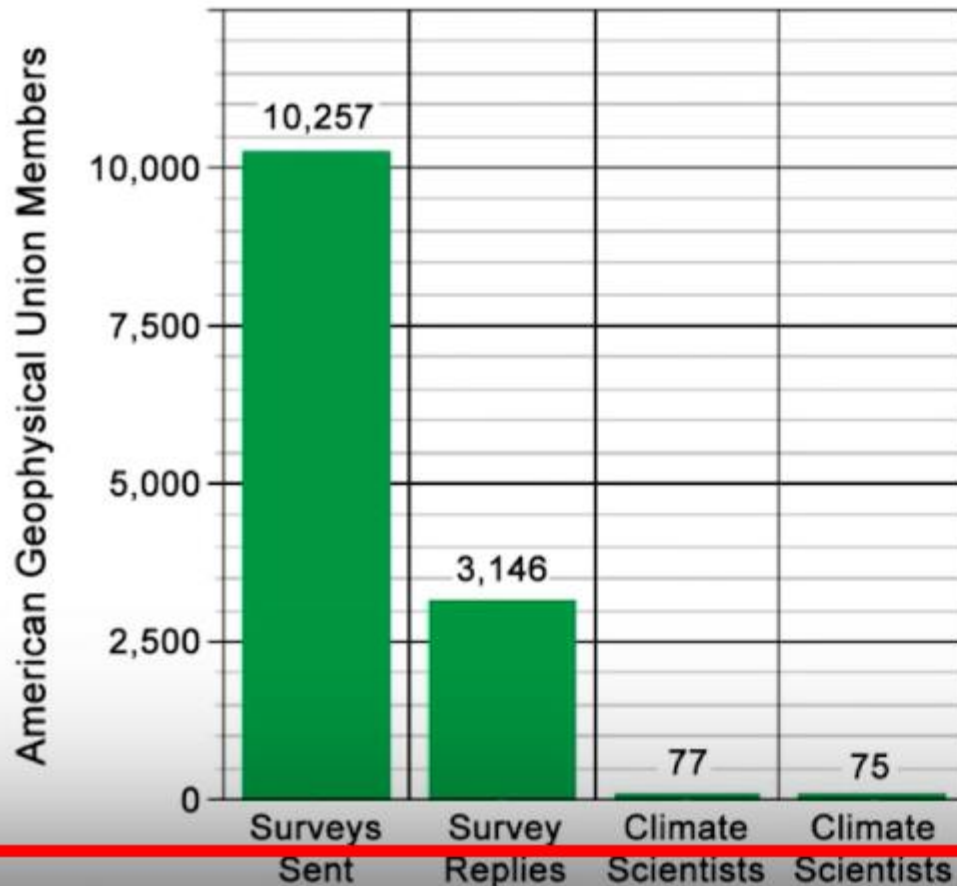
Information on the oft-repeated claim, “97% of climate scientists agree that adding more CO₂ to the air will result in climate catastrophe,” or similar claims.

First, please look at the next slide for a few moments, later we will come back to it.

97% of Scientists Accept Man-Made Warming?

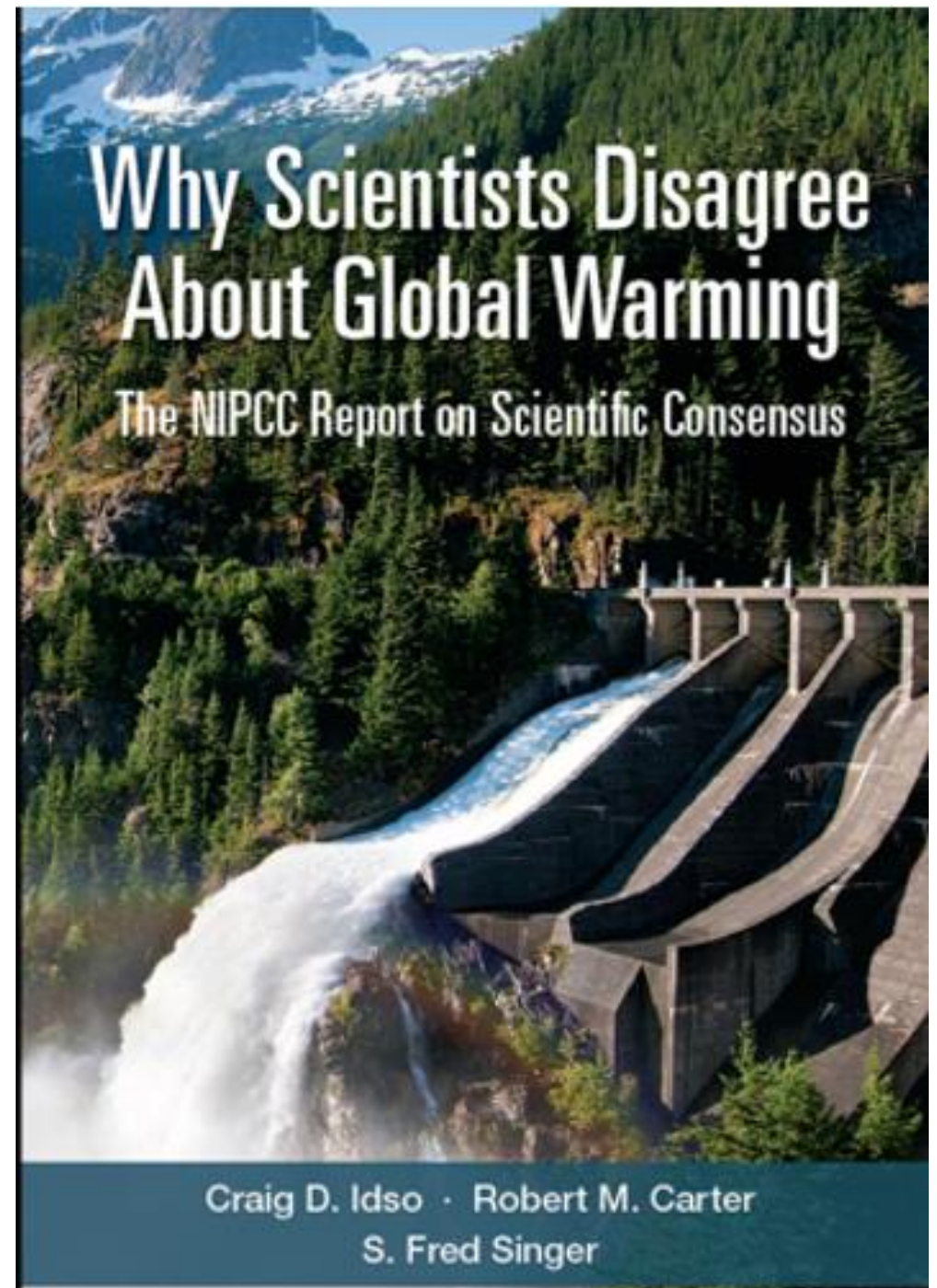
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtHreJbr2WWM>

AGU Climate Science Survey Results



1. When compared with pre-1800 levels, do you think that mean global temperatures have generally risen, fallen, or remained relatively constant?
2. Do you think human activity is a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures?

The information which follows comes from this booklet published by the Heartland Institute



Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

In 2009, a paper by Maggie Kendall Zimmerman, at the time a student at the University of Illinois, and her master's thesis advisor, Peter Doran, was published in *EOS*.

They claimed “97 percent of climate scientists agree” that mean global temperatures have risen since before the 1800s and that humans are a significant contributing factor (Doran and Zimmerman, 2009).

This study has been debunked.

The researchers sent a two-minute online survey to 10,257 Earth scientists working for universities and government research agencies, generating responses from 3,146 people.

Solomon (2010) observed, “The two researchers started by altogether excluding from their survey the thousands of scientists most likely to think that the Sun, or planetary movements, might have something to do with climate on Earth – out were the solar scientists, space scientists, cosmologists, physicists, meteorologists and astronomers.”

Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

That left ... scientists in geology, oceanography, paleontology, and geochemistry that were somehow deemed more worthy of being included in the consensus.

The two researchers also decided that scientific accomplishment should not be a factor in who could answer – those surveyed were determined by their place of employment (an academic or a governmental institution).

Neither was academic qualification a factor – about 1,000 of those surveyed did not have a Ph.D., some didn't even have a master's diploma.”

Only 5 percent of respondents self-identified as climate scientists.

Even worse than the sample size, the bias shown in its selection, and the low response rate, though, is the irrelevance of the questions asked in the survey to the debate taking place about climate change

Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

The survey asked two questions:

“Q1. When compared with pre-1800s levels, do you think that mean global temperatures have generally risen, fallen, or remained relatively constant?”

Q2. Do you think human activity is a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures?”

Overall, 90 percent of respondents answered “risen” to question 1 and 82 percent answered “yes” to question 2.

So, 79 scientists who responded **and** listed climate science as their area of expertise **and** published more than 50 percent of their recent peer-reviewed papers on the subject of climate change were used in this calculation.

Only 77 of the surveys sent out by Maggie Zimmermann were used in determining the “97% consensus.”

So the “97% consensus” referred only to 75 of the 77 scientists who answered yes to question 2.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/lawrence-solomon-75-climate-scientists-think-humans-contribute-to-global-warming>

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Lawrence Solomon: 75 climate scientists think humans contribute to global warming



LAWRENCE SOLOMON | December 30, 2010 2:35 PM ET
[More from Lawrence Solomon](#) | [@LSolomonTweets](#)



The punditry looked for and recently found an alternate number to tout — “97% of the world’s climate scientists” accept the consensus, articles in the Washington Post and elsewhere have begun to claim.

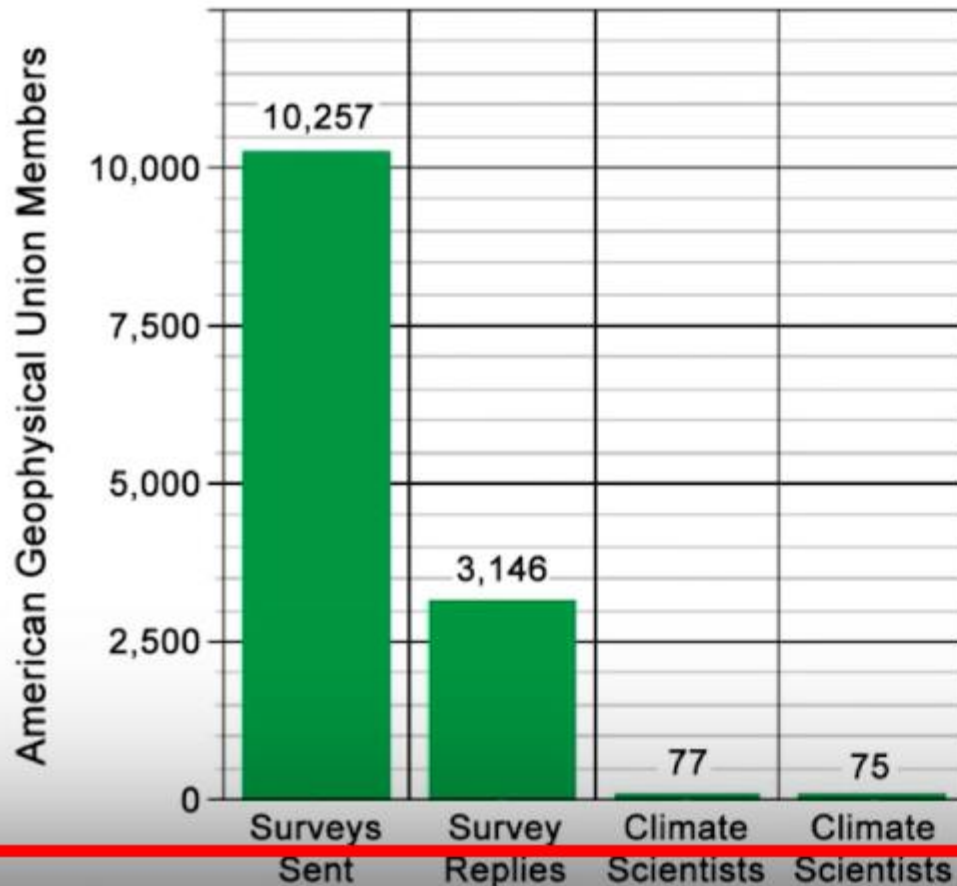
“...in the end, they chose to highlight the views of a subgroup of just 77 scientists, 75 of whom thought humans contributed to climate change.

The ratio 75/77 produces the 97% figure that pundits now tout.”

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Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

Most skeptics of man-made global warming would answer those two questions the same way as alarmists would.

At issue is not whether the climate warmed since the Little Ice Age, or whether there is a human impact on climate, but:

whether the warming is unusual in rate or magnitude

whether the part attributable to human causes is likely to be beneficial or harmful on net, and by how much

and whether the benefits of reducing human carbon dioxide emissions – i.e., reducing the use of fossil fuels – would outweigh the costs, so as to justify public policies aimed at reducing those emissions.

The survey is silent on these questions.

Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

The survey by Doran and Zimmerman fails to produce evidence that would back up claims of a “scientific consensus” about the causes or consequences of climate change.

They asked the wrong people the wrong questions.

The “97 percent” figure so often attributed to their survey refers to the opinions of only 77 climate scientists, hardly a representative sample of scientific opinion.

Again, only 79 of 10,257 surveys sent out were used in this calculation, 7/10ths of 1 percent.

Doran and Zimmerman, 2009

Doran and Zimmermann noted two groups who did NOT fall into the ‘overwhelming consensus’ they found.

“The two areas of expertise in the survey with the smallest percentage of participants answering yes to question 2 were:

**Economic Geology with 47% (48 of 103)
and
Meteorology with 64% (23 of 36)”**

Why Scientists Disagree

Climate is an interdisciplinary subject requiring insights from many fields. Very few scholars have mastery of more than one or two of these disciplines.

Fundamental uncertainties arise from insufficient observational evidence, disagreements over how to interpret data, and how to set the parameters of models

The IPCC, created to find and disseminate research specifically to find human impact on global climate, is not a credible source.

It is agenda-driven, a political rather than scientific body, and some allege it is corrupt.

Climate scientists, like all humans, can be biased. Origins of bias include careerism, grant-seeking, political views, and confirmation bias.