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Communicating the climate change: Narratives, images and affective imagination

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National and international communities are facing more and more challenges, related with the environment. The impacts of man-made global warming are distributed and felt (though not equally) across the international system, transcending traditional boundaries of the states of the international political system. The inherent complexities of climate change make it wicked problem – a multidimensional puzzle that is difficult to resolve due to interrelation with other issues and differing views on the nature and potential solutions of the problem. This panel concentrates on the communication of climate change. Namely, we are interested in narratives, frames and images that various political actors use for forging the strategic meanings related with the environment. That kind of communication often blends the arguments of climate science with affectively loaded stories about the victims of global warming and the selfish motivations of the antagonists. Besides suggesting how to address climate change now, those messages frequently focus on envisioning potential future consequences and unprecedented threats. A noteworthy tendency is also the articulation of climate skeptic arguments and strategic spreading of misinformation.

Track Classification: Environment Working Group