

Call for Papers: Populism and Denial

Despite the overwhelming consensus within climate science that global warming is occurring, with potentially catastrophic consequences, and that human actions are a prime contributor, little progress has been made in developing effective policies to reduce carbon emissions. Since 2009 climate denial has increased around the world, not least in the USA, where the current president is one of several leading politicians who consistently expresses doubts over human-caused climate change. At the same time, we have seen a growing support for populist, nationalist politics in not only Europe and North America, but also in big democracies such as Brazil and India. This Thematic Section of *Culture Unbound* will explore if, how and where these two developments align and merge, and where they might diverge? In essence: How does the rise of populism effect climate politics?

The thematic section aims to bring together researchers who have analysed the social and cultural complexities and paradoxes of climate change and climate change denial to share experiences from different continents and cultures, and to formulate an effective, comparative research agenda on this issue.

We are looking for standard research articles but also welcome other types of contributions such as shorter pieces, essays, commentaries, visual and audio material.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- How does the rise of populism effect climate politics?
- The methodological challenges of understanding populism and denial.
- Connected conspiracies: The links between climate change denialism, New World Order and other conspiracies theories
- Anti-establishment, nationalism, authoritarianism – what are the drivers of climate change denial?
- Cultures of Denial: Local/regional/national politics and climate change inaction or conflicts
- How is climate policy perceived among populist voters?
- Difference between right wing and left wing populism in dealing with climate change?
- Climate policy and popular protests?
- Social media and climate change denialism?

We especially welcome contributions with an interdisciplinary take or which reflects new collaborations.

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Full papers: 1 December 2019

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Abstracts (or questions) are to be sent to: cu@isak.liu.se

Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research is an open-access peer-reviewed journal that publishes interdisciplinary cultural research. The journal challenges existing models of traditional scholarly publishing through its strong commitment to open access publishing and the encouragement of innovative and experimental publishing methods. This allows *Culture Unbound* to stand as a truly accessible home for cutting-edge cultural research.

This thematic section emanates from the workshop *Interdisciplinarity, Publishing and New Models of Collectivity* held at Linköping University in January 2019 as part of the Seed Box funded project *A Topology of Conceptual Climate Change*; a collaboration between the editors of *Culture Unbound* and Open Humanities Press to address the cultural impacts of climate change. In discussing the demands that major environmental changes are placing on existing forms of knowledge and dissemination, the connection between denial, populism and increasingly authoritarian regimes appeared as a key issue.

Guest editors are Johanna Dahlin (Linköping University), Kristoffer Ekberg (Chalmers University) and Kjell Vowles (Chalmers University).