

Annotated Bibliography for ASTU 400H

Resources on climate change communications & writing

Always include: resource type, name, link your name, short description & insights

Podcast: [The Climate Question](#) (Chloë)

“A global programme that reflects the variety of takes on climate change, how best to understand it and the world’s attempts to avert it, temper it or adapt to it.”

This podcast tackles “the climate question” theme by theme in digestible 30-minute episodes. I appreciate that they always include expert and non-expert perspectives, and their compassionate approach to anxiety-provoking topics helps me finish each episode with a feeling of hope. I find that the podcast sometimes lacks a bit of depth, though!

Favs → The climate visuals and how to talk to climate deniers episodes

Multimedia Project: [#NotTooLate](#) (Chloë)

“#NotTooLate is a project to invite newcomers to the climate movement, as well as provide climate facts and encouragement for people who are already engaged but weary. We believe that the truths about the science, the justice-centered solutions, the growing strength of the climate movement and its achievements can help. They can assuage the sorrow and despair, and they can help people see why it’s worth doing the work the climate crisis demands of us.”

This is a website, a book filled with essays (just released in mid-April), and a set of important resources put together by Rebecca Solnit and Thelma Young Lutunatabua. It’s sort of like a hopeful, beginner-friendly guide to the climate question.

Book: [The World As We Knew It: Dispatches From A Changing Climate](#) (Chloë)

“Nineteen leading literary writers from around the globe offer timely, haunting first-person reflections on how climate change has altered their lives.”

This is a collection of cool essays about home, love, and loss from celebrated authors around the world. They talk about the everyday of climate change that they can see in their backyards with vibrant voices. It made me feel real and seen.

Website: [In-depth Q&A: What is 'climate justice'?](#) (Mackenzie)

This website is a great resource from multiple authors that answers various questions about climate justice, such as the barriers to climate science in the Global South, an Indigenous peoples' approach to climate justice, and which countries are historically responsible for climate change?

When we write about climate change I believe that climate justice should be at the center. This resource is accessible and rich with information.

Article: [The unbearable heaviness of climate coloniality](#) (Luiza)

By Farhana Sultana (2022.)

The extremely uneven and inequitable impacts of climate change mean that differently-located people experience, respond to, and cope with the climate crisis and related vulnerabilities in radically different ways. The coloniality of climate seeps through everyday life across space and time, weighing down and curtailing opportunities and possibilities through global racial capitalism, colonial dispossessions, and climate debts. Decolonizing climate needs to address the complexities of colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, international development, and geopolitics that contribute to the reproduction of ongoing colonialism through existing global governance structures, discursive framings, imagined solutions, and interventions. This requires addressing both epistemic violences and material outcomes. By weaving through such mediations, I offer an understanding of climate coloniality that is theorized and grounded in lived experiences.

Hospicing Modernity: Facing Humanity's Wrongs and the Implications for Social Activism <https://decolonialfutures.net/hospicingmodernity/> (Luiza)

Study: [Achieving Zero Emissions with More Mobility and Less Mining](#) (Luiza)

A remarkable study out today from the Climate and Community project in the U.S. (they're a terrific climate justice policy centre, behind many of the Green New Deal bills in the U.S.)

demonstrates that "the United States can achieve zero emissions transportation while limiting the amount of lithium mining necessary by reducing the car dependence of the transportation system, decreasing the size of electric vehicle batteries, and maximizing lithium recycling."

Translation: if the world switches from fossil fuelled cars to EVs, the impacts of Lithium mining on people and land will be catastrophic. On the other hand, a huge expansion of public transportation and scaling up an industry in lithium recycling can achieve the needed emissions reductions in transportation on principles of climate justice.

Article: [Indigenous Peoples Must be Central to Tackling the Climate Crisis](#) (Winston)

This article provides a fresh perspective on tackling the climate crisis. Not only it brings a unique solution to the problem of climate change where the author suggests that there is a positive relationship between the role of Indigenous people and environmental preservation (in addition to the ‘conventional’ pursue for scientific discovery and innovation that most people believe is the only way to solve the climate change problem), but in relation to Mackenzie’s resource about climate justice, it connects the issue of climate change with normative issues in the realm of politics.

Beyond that, implicitly I think that the most insightful takeaway from this article is that sometimes the most effective solution to climate change can be the simplest one. It might be necessary for us to look back on traditional methods in which our ancestors knew best how to live hand-in-hand with nature. There is no guarantee that modern, scientific and technological approaches are always the best.

Podcast: [The Outlaw Ocean](#) (Pauline)

This podcast by ex New York Times author Ian Urbina is about the oceanic space and the wrongs happening there. The podcast explores themes like modern slavery, overfishing (legal and illegal), poaching, etc. as well as some positive stories such as making use of the international “Law-less” space to provide abortions to the ones that need it but cannot get it in their home countries.

The podcast has come together in over 7 years of research where Ian Urbina was on board a sea shepherd and various other grassroots’ vessels. Thus, in my opinion a very in-depth knowledge and insight in all topics presented. On top of that, the podcast doubles as a non-profit for all things ocean.

Trigger Warning: The storytelling is very visual!! (very effective in my opinion tho)

Article: [The Wisdom Gap](#) (Radical Creasy)

This article from the [Center for Human Technology](#) discusses the idea of a newfound “wisdom gap” – the gap that’s left as technology makes ideas and discourses increasingly more complex, all while decreasing our capacity to engage meaningfully in those discourses. This goes to show the importance of the in-depth

analysis we're doing in this course, specifically with regards to the information we use in writing, how we present it, and the tools we use to fact-check and enhance our writing.

They write,

“Technology that takes advantage of human vulnerabilities — like cognitive limits, how our dopamine systems work, or our need for social validation — negatively affects us and those around us...Amplification theory states that technology is not neutral and that technology's impact depends on the context in which it is placed (read more [here](#) and [here](#)). Technology will amplify the forces at play within a given context, such as bias and human vulnerabilities” (The Catalyst).

I find this incredibly interesting and relevant to our ethical considerations surrounding truth-telling, accuracy and presentation in climate writing! Enjoy :)

Video: [Katharine Hayhoe: Climate Change, Christianity, and Evangelicals](#) (Mackenzie)

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe describes evangelicals as "those who take the Bible's teachings seriously." Those teachings include caring for those who are less fortunate and for our planet.

Hayhoe is a Texas Tech Professor and recipient of the 2018 Stephen Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Science Communication.

Katharine is really inspiring when we consider our audiences and how to mobilize groups of society that we normally see as not easy to mobilize.

Article: [The Promethean Gap](#) (Mackenzie)

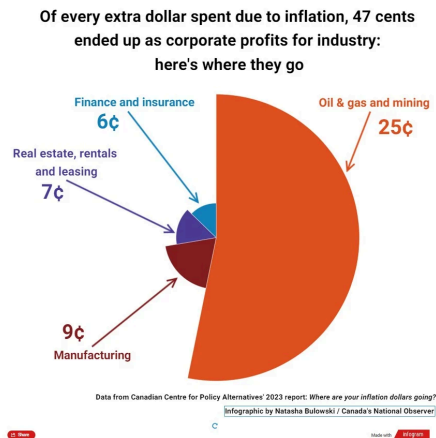
Critical theory of technology. Connects to our discussions of processing trauma of catastrophic events.

“Our emotional response to catastrophic events has become that of an android or of a computer or smartphone that is fed the detailed information on the catastrophe and does nothing but process it as an algorithm of catastrophe. That is the response. Process and repetition. The process *is* repetition in a machine world. The punishment of **Prometheus** is a metaphor for dehumanization.

And we have become identical to a machine.”

Most price increases are going to corporate profits in mining, oil and gas extraction (Luiza)

[An article](#) about a [new report](#) on where inflation dollars are going, with a bombshell stat: “Of every additional dollar that you're spending, on average, a quarter of it is just being declared as profits in oil and gas and mining.”



Report: [The impact of climate change on mental health and emotional wellbeing: current evidence and implications for policy and practice](#) (Nina Sky Robertson)

Really interesting look at the intersections between the climate crisis and mental health crisis'. As someone with mental illness I have noticed the emotional impacts of climate change and the prevalence of folks with mental illness in the activist community. This report really gets into the data about that cross over. I found it validating.

Book: [All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis](#)

A selection of essays about the climate crisis. It is a series of diverse perspectives on how to live and continue in such intense times. I really like the diversity of perspectives that are shown in this piece. I think it re-frames the crisis as an opportunity for positive political and social change.

Book: [Rehearsals for Living](#) by **Leanne Betasamosake Simpson and Robyn Maynard** (Nina Sky Robertson)

This is an utterly incredible book. It is a series of letters between two female POC academics. Not only does it subvert the format which has long been a tradition between mostly white, mostly male academics. It also subverts the story of the anthropocene as the results of global forces, rather it recasts our crisis as

the result of specific cultural forces stemming from within the matrix of capitalism, imperialism and colonialism.

Book: Psychological Roots of the Climate Crisis: Neoliberal exceptionalism and the culture of uncared by Sally Weintrobe (Nina Sky Robertson)

A compelling book which traces the relationship between neo-liberal capitalism (reganism) and its ties to our psyches and the underlying systemic and individual processes which allow for our global inaction on climate change.

Article: [Emotional healing as part of environmental and climate justice processes: Frameworks and community-based experiences in times of environmental suffering](#) (Nina Sky Robertson)

Healing cultural trauma as a way of supporting climate change action. This is the one I mentioned in class. Would definitely recommend a read!

Book: Pollution is colonialism by Max Liboiron (Nina Sky Robertson)

I haven't read this one yet, but it comes at the recommendation of an old prof from Concordia who is absolutely amazing and works a lot on decolonizing and water rights.

Book: *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology after the End of the World (Posthumanities)* by Timothy Morton (Nina Sky Robertson)

This is the seminal text on *hyperobjects*, a term Timothy Morton coined to indicate entities which are 'massively distributed across time and space' (2013, pg. 1) for example climate change, mars, or the sum total of all plastic bags ever produced. These objects, Morton argues, are entities in their own right (and not a constellation of parts, or a figurative thought); they confound human comprehension and operate on a more-than-human timescale. The book is infused with whimsy, humour, and intellectual precision. It is grounded in post anthropocentrism and object oriented ontology (a declarative commitment to existence outside human perception). The book rests on the uncanny supposition that the end of the world, or our idea of it, has already occurred (hark the Anthropocene), and that we must accept that in order to turn to our eras' attendant problems. Morton is aghast and the rampant normalizing of

disaster; he rejects epistemology in favor of ontology. Braiding philosophy and physics, he asks the question what would it mean to live decentered?

I really like this concept because it allows us to talk about the incomprehensible. Additionally, his critical interrogation of liberal catastrophizing within the environmental movement.

Article: [From Anger to Action: Differential impacts of eco-anxiety, eco-depression, and eco-anger on climate action and wellbeing](#) (Nina Sky Robertson)

This is the article I was talking about in class that maps the effectiveness of various climate related emotions on peoples likeness to engage. Essentially emotions which are globally activating, (eg primarily activate our sympathetic nervous system) have a greater likelihood of causing engagement with climate action of whatever stripe. This engagement is critical to fighting climate doomerism and anxiety.

Website: [Home | Climate Action Tracker](#) (Rachel)

This website tracks global climate action taken in countries since 2009 and ranks them according to how likely the country is to meet Paris Agreement targets with current climate action. Super interesting to be able to look at climate action being taken in many different countries. Mentions policies & action, climate finance, fair share target, internationally supported target, net zero target, and much more.

Article: [Children in Malawi and Zambia Push to Change School Calendar in Response to Climate Change](#) (Radical)

This piece talks about the impacts of climate change on children with disabilities in South African countries. Very interesting and poignant read, since it focuses on children who are taking action because climate change is already affecting them.

Article: [What is Greenwashing? How to Spot it and Stop it?](#) (Winston)

Greenwashing refers to the practice of making exaggerated or misleading environmental claims about a product, service, or company, with the intention of misleading consumers into believing that it is more environmentally friendly than it actually is. This can be done through advertising, packaging, or other marketing materials.

Video: [What is the RISKIEST Region in the US as the Climate Changes?](#) (Radical Creasy)

This video dives into climate risks across the United States, but specifically touches on reasons people are leaving some of the safest places (cost of living) for places at the most risk (cheaper living and economic opportunity). Some of the safest places come mid-century will be Seattle, Portland, and other major northern cities, while California, Florida and Arizona pose serious risks to residents due to floods, storms,

and heat waves. Unfortunately, the overwhelming reason for people leaving the safest climate areas is economically driven (i.e. the safest places to live as the climate changes are becoming unaffordable for the masses). How might climate change drive us closer to a different economic system? How does this message impact your choices about where you live? I found this climate communication video effective, as the visuals of disasters and maps rating safety/risk levels over the country in which I grew up made the next 30 years of climate change very real.

Article: [Revealed: the 20 firms behind a third of all carbon emissions](#) (Sanchita Sannigrahi)

Twenty firms are responsible for more than one-third of the carbon emissions produced worldwide, according to a recent research. These businesses, which mostly operate in the oil, gas, and coal sectors, include significant multinational enterprises. According to the study's findings, a small number of corporations significantly influence the global carbon footprint, and reducing these corporations' emissions could have a big impact on minimising the effects of climate change. This emphasises how crucial it is to concentrate efforts on lowering emissions from big businesses in order to successfully tackle the global threat of climate change.

Article: [Carbon footprints are hard to understand — here's what you need to know](#) (Sanchita Sannigrahi)

The total amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere as a result of a person's or a business's actions is measured as a carbon footprint. It is used to assess an individual or group's environmental effect, particularly their role in driving climate change. As emissions come from numerous sources, including transportation, energy usage, and the creation of products and services, understanding carbon footprints can be challenging. You can alter your everyday routines, such as taking public transportation, consuming less energy, and selecting goods with a lower carbon impact, to reduce your carbon footprint. On a larger scale, changing energy production and consumption systems will be necessary to reduce carbon footprints.

Article: [Solar geoengineering: Science fiction – or saviour?](#) (Sanchita Sannigrahi)

Solar geoengineering refers to the deliberate manipulation of the Earth's environment to counteract the effects of climate change. It involves reflecting sunlight back into space to cool the planet. While the idea of solar geoengineering may sound like science fiction, some experts argue that it could be a potential solution to address the devastating impacts of global warming. However, others are concerned about the potential unintended consequences and ethical implications of such large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems. The effectiveness and safety of solar geoengineering remain unproven and controversial, and more research is needed to determine its viability as a solution to the climate crisis.

Three Related Articles: [Culture Jamming: Subversion as Protest](#), [Culture Jamming](#), and [Brandalism](#) (Radical Creasy)

Harvard Politics writes about the concept of “culture jamming” as a form of protest by using images, branding and memes to mock companies and satirize their messages. An example is the Coca-Cola font and logo, edited to read “Enjoy Capitalism” instead of “Enjoy Coca-Cola.” Climate activists have made use of subversion as protest, such as this example of an airline ad, edited to read “Low fares to plastic island: world trashing prices from \$66.6.” The ad is supposedly sponsored by “RuinAir,” with a hashtag at the bottom that reads “#BanFossilAds.” This is also called “brandalism.”

I thought this was interesting with regards to our conversations about media, communications and the climate crisis. During my time in high school, someone mentioned that someday, memes will be in history books. How can we use advertisements, memes and other adapted media to subvert their messages?

(Note: while the first article describes culture jamming as a concept, the second dives more deeply into culture jamming as a political act!)



YouTube: https://saskintercultural.org/cultural_resources/etuaptmumk-two-eyed-seeing/ (Winston)

Etuaptmumk can be easily translated as “two-eyed seeing,” meaning that for a single entity, two perspectives can hold simultaneously. One perspective does not reign over the another, and we do not try to achieve a unity, a combination of both perspectives.

In regard to climate change, there is a strong battle between Western/modern and Indigenous/traditional perspectives and narratives, where one would think that either of one should reign over the another. However, Etuaptmumk philosophy believes that both perspectives, rather than battling each other, can instead complement what's missing from each side. For example, Western-based science can complement Indigenous worldview about nature.

Academic Book: “Will Big Business Destroy our Planet?”; Peter Dauvergne (Sherry)

In his article, Dauvergne challenges the claim that big businesses are providing solutions to the ever mounting issue of climate change. He instead argues that corporations are still doing far more to destroy than protect our planet. Trusting big business to lead sustainability is, he cautions, unwise -- perhaps even catastrophic. Planetary sustainability will require reining in the power of big business, starting now.

Peter Dauvergne, professor for environmental politics at UBC for over 20 years, has done extensive research on the viability of CSR models, as discussed on February 13th. His research includes the aforementioned case studies on Walmart , as well as diving into the Corporate Social Responsibility in Depth. This is a great resource for those who are really critical about the benefits of CSR!

Academic Book: Theft is Property!; Robert Nichols (Sherry)

Nichols' research focuses on reconstructing the concept of dispossession as a means of explaining how institutions of law, property, race, and rights have functioned as modes of governance, both in the past and present. Exploring how “systematic theft is the mechanism by which property relations are generated,” he does a deep dive of this through a tracing of Indigenous scholars starting from the late 1800s to present.

This conception of Indigenous scholarship is incredible and has formed the basis of my understanding of Indigenous dispossession, repatriation, and what it means to have colonial remnants left and exploited upon by the West today. It's not a super long read for a book (a bit over 100 pages) but is so so good. Its intersectional discourse also draws on other theories of racial capitalism, including black radical, feminist, marxist, etc. The environment is at the forefront of his discussion which is awesome.

Podcast: Planet: Critical (Sherry)

This podcast is hosted by journalist Rachel Donald who does intersectional interviews with experts from various fields to apply a critical/theoretical lens on climate change and exacerbating/fixing the climate crisis. Some intersections she explores are from ecological (agrarian), economic, energy, feminist and racial lenses.

This podcast is a great background listen and offers various perspectives, which I think is its strength. It's generally very politically left leaning yet intersectional. It lacks a liberal arts perspective/intersection. The experts she brings on are super informative and have generally helped shape my understanding of the climate crisis.

Blog Post: [HOPE IS AN EMBRACE OF THE UNKNOWN](#) (Pauline)

The blog is a reflection of the author on one other previously published books about hope that was written during the starting times of the war against terrorism. She reflects on how the concept has hold up and how it can be transferred to the dynamics of the climate emergency. She uses many different methapohors and images to describe her interpretation of how hope came to be in precedent times. The main plot follows the idea of how many small victories have changed the status quo over time and how we can learn from that.

I encourage reading this little blog post mostly on its twist of bringingt hope into the climate conversation and the variety of writing imagery that is present. In other words, it is a beautiful peace to draw climate writing inspiration from.

CNF Book: (Pauline)

Soundings: Journeys in the Company of Whales – A Memoir by Doreen Cunningham

Doreen Cunningham is a climate scientist who turned journalist. In this book she tells the story of how she took her 3 year old son on the journey from Baja Califronia up to Alaska, following the trail of grey whales. She beautifully intertwines the story of how grey whales take care of their youngs, and how they are affected by climate change, with her personal connection to her son. It is an emotional peace, drawing on the connction between the mother-child relationship as well as the human-nature relationship. She talks about her struggle living in social housing as a single mom, as the system has failed her and how she has lost connection to her surroundings. She uses this journey to reconnect with her roots as climate scientist and the environment and takes us along it.

Book: Fresh Banana Leaves by Jessica Hernandez (Lyndsey)

Fresh Banana Leaves gives Hernandez' story and ideas as an Indigenous woman on multiple topics related to the environmental sciences. I haven't finished the book yet, but one connection to this course was her deep dive into problematizing the Western view of conservation and the practice of creating national parks. Hernandez also goes into the idea of climate grief for

Indigenous people specifically and how this has manifested in her own life. Incredibly well written, and I've been learning a lot as a read. Highly recommend!

Book: The Right to be Cold by Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Lyndsey)

I discussed this book briefly in my facilitated class when going over some notable achievements in the climate sphere by Inuit activist Sheila Watt-Cloutier. This book is partly autobiographical, but also delves into the idea of climate change as a human rights violation. It details the process of getting POP's banned internationally (a significant climate justice win in the 2000s) and what Watt-Cloutier's involvement in that process looked like, especially her interactions with and as part of international governance structures.

Podcast: Matriarch Movement by Shayla Oulette-Stonechild (Lyndsey)

This podcast, hosted by Shayla Oulette-Stonechild covers a very diverse range of topics through interviews with Indigenous women and two-spirit peoples. There are lots of episodes, but many, such as "Asia Youngman: Telling Authentic Stories" delve deeper into a lot to the ideas of media and storytelling that we've touched on in class. There are almost a year's worth of episodes and it's definitely worth it to give some of them a listen!

Journal Article: "We Don't Really Want to Know": Environmental Justice and Socially Organized Denial in Norway (Matt)

This article explores a unique softer form of climate denialism in Norway, one of the last countries we would usually associate with denialism. The softer yet still dangerous form of denialism explored in the paper is different from the blatant Fox News style of denialism we're more familiar with. Instead, climate change isn't outrightly denied by wealthy Norwegians who benefit directly from Norway's fossil fuel extraction, but buried and ignored. An interesting read that I would definitely recommend!

CNF Short Story: "Surrendering" by Ocean Vuong (Matt)

This short CNF piece about Vuong writing a poem as a child and new immigrant, only for his teacher to scrutinize him and accuse him of plagiarism, hits hard. Vuong's amazing writing skills and variety of deep themes he explored make this an especially memorable read, as evident by the fact that I still distinctly remember this piece even a year later. The ending line, "I have plagiarized my life to give you the best of me" is definitely my favourite line in any CNF piece that I've read.

Documentary: 2040 (Matt)

This climate change documentary explores what the future could possibly look like in 2040, with a great deal of insight from climate experts adding to the validity of the documentary. My favourite aspect of it though is the uniquely optimistic viewpoint on the climate, which I didn't

expect going into it. Therefore, I would definitely give 2040 a watch if you or someone you know is experiencing feelings of climate doom.