

Can cinema change how we think and talk about climate change?

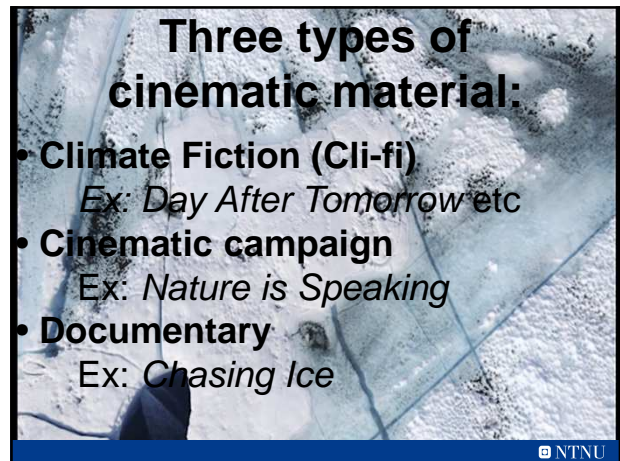
Torr Cumming
(MA Climate Science)
&
Anne Gjelsvik
(PhD Film Studies)
Dep. of Art and Media Studies,
NTNU
anne.gjelsvik@ntnu.no &
torr.cumming@gmail.com



NTNU

Three types of cinematic material:

- **Climate Fiction (Cli-fi)**
Ex: *Day After Tomorrow* etc
- **Cinematic campaign**
Ex: *Nature is Speaking*
- **Documentary**
Ex: *Chasing Ice*



NTNU


Status of Knowledge

- Global atmospheric CO2 levels surpassed 400 parts per million for the first time in human history. (NOAA, 2015)
- Temperatures have risen by more than a degree since the beginning of the 20th century. (Rajaratnam et al., 2015)
- Climate change will result in more frequent extreme weather.
- Those who are already venerable will be most severely affected. (Wheeler and Von Braun, 2013)

NTNU

Status of Knowledge

- Ocean has become 30% more acidic since 1751 (SCOR, 2009)
- Impacts on Coral reefs and other calcifying species already visible (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2007)
- Sea levels have risen by 20cm since 1901 and will continue to rise (IPCC, 2013)
- 187 million people may be displaced by 2100 (Nicholls et al., 2011).

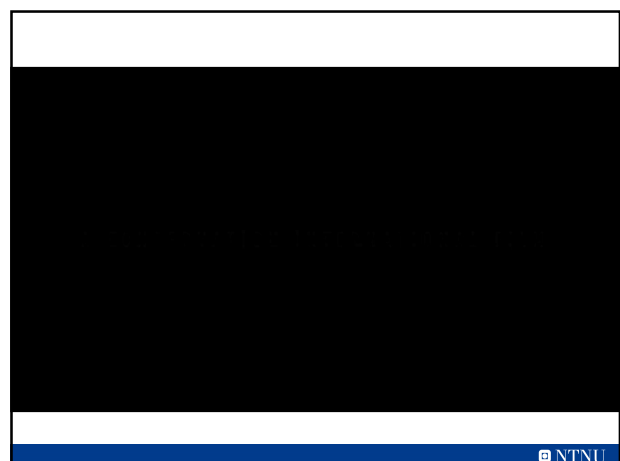


NTNU

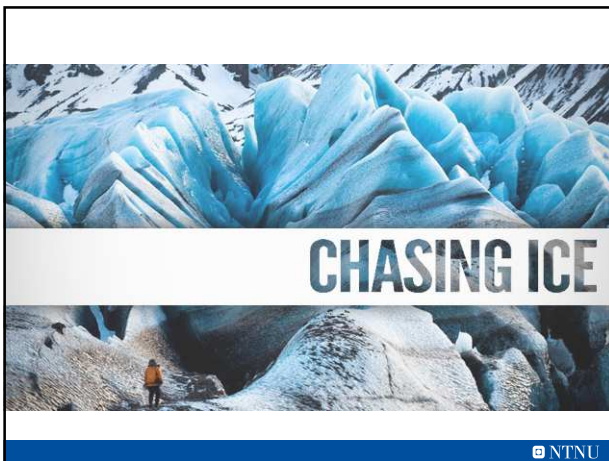
Change the Conversation about Nature



NTNU



NTNU



The story is in the ice

The visual impact of the movie.

- “Pictures are able to provide vivid presence, realism and immediacy in perception” (Kjeldsen, 2013).
- Balog: “The public doesn’t want to hear about more statistical studies, more computer models, more projections..”
- Images of the glacier provide a sense of the situation that words alone could not.

NTNU



Fiction or reality?

NTNU

Thank you for your attention!

NTNU

Main references

- James Balog, «Chasing Ice».
- Kjeldsen, Jens E. "Virtues of visual argumentation: How pictures make the importance and strength of an argument salient." (2013).
- *Ei Dlugokenny and Pieter Tans, NOAA/ESRL (www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/)*
- Rajaratnam, Baia, et al. "Debunking the climate hiatus." *Climatic Change* (2015): 1-12.
- Wheeler, Tim, and Joachim von Braun. "Climate change impacts on global food security." *Science* 341.6145 (2013): 508-513.
- SCOR – Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (2009) [Report of the Ocean Acidification and Oxygen Working Group, International Council for Science's Scientific Committee on Ocean Research \(SCOR\) Biological Observatories Workshop](#).
- Hoegh-Guldberg, Ove, et al. "Coral reefs under rapid climate change and ocean acidification." *science* 318.5857 (2007): 1737-1742.
- Church, J.A., P.U. Clark, A. Cazenave, J.M. Gregory, S. Jevrejeva, A. Levermann, M.A. Merrifield, G.A. Milne, R.S. Nerem, P.D. Nunn, A.J. Payne, W.T. Pfeffer, D. Stammer and A.S. Unnikrishnan, 2013. Sea Level Change. In: *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.
- Nicholls, Robert J., et al. "Sea-level rise and its possible impacts given a 'beyond 4 C world' in the twenty-first century." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences* 369.1934 (2011): 161-181.
- Ron Von Burg "Decades Away or the Day After Tomorrow?", *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 2012.