

Résumé Keynote B. Bensaude-Vincent & G. Dorthe

Between climate denialists and climate activists: Shall we deplore the public distrust in science?

Abstract:

Climate skepticism seems to gain traction in Western societies and trigger heated controversies. Against the odds made of exponential curves, data, sensors, wild fires, heat waves and hurricanes, people stand still. Activists and climate scientists lose patience and charge lobbies, technological fixes and other forms of denialism, while their adversaries mock misplaced catastrophism. Distrust in science and conspiracy theories take center stage in this confrontation, where both sides accuse each other of dishonesty. We will (a) show that this standoff relies on a simplistic understanding of science and expertise, and (b) suggest ways of rebooting the debate through a refreshed and more realistic set of practices for science and democracy.