



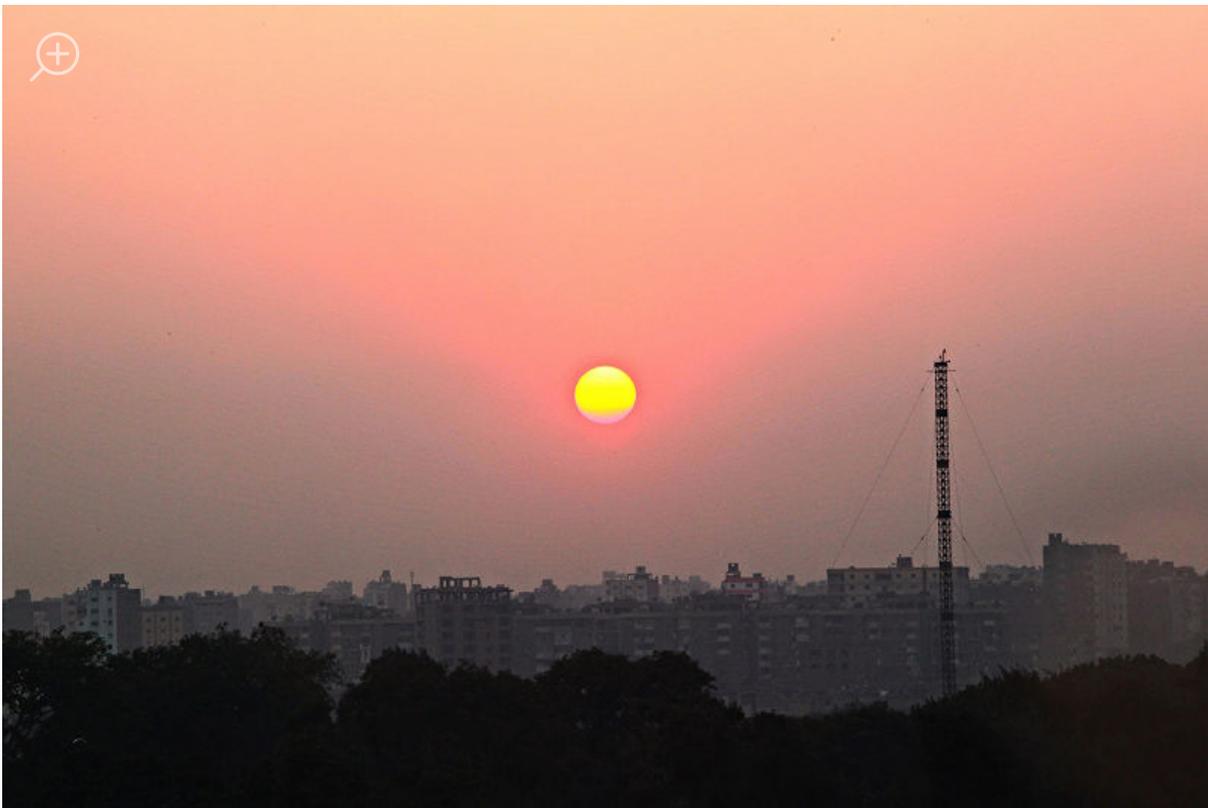
Climate Change Could Destroy the Global Economy in a Most Terrifying Fashion



Hamilton Nolan

Filed to: GLOBAL WARMING 10/21/15 3:05pm





You may be under the impression that you have already been deluged with all of the projections about the bad things climate change will do to the world in the next century. Not so. It could be worse than you think.

A new study from professors at Stanford and UC-Berkeley uses historical data to examine the effect of rising temperatures on the economic performance of countries around the world. They find, in short, that if the projected temperature rise by the end of this century comes true, the results will be economically catastrophic—much worse than formerly thought, especially for people in poorer, warmer countries. Global inequality, in other words, could be exacerbated to an unthinkable degree. From UC-Berkeley:

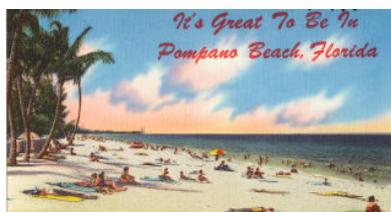
The findings indicate climate change will widen global inequality, perhaps dramatically, because warming is good for cold countries, which tend to be richer, and more harmful for hot countries, which tend to be poorer. In the researchers' benchmark estimate, climate change will reduce average income in the poorest 40 percent of countries by 75 percent in 2100, while the richest 20 percent may experience slight gains.

These projections of the damaging effects of rising temperatures are “five to 10 times as high as in commonly used models” of the past. Also: “The team’s best estimate is that climate change will reduce global economic production by 23 percent in 2100,” meaning that what was formerly thought of as a sort of improbably worse case scenario is, in fact, likely.

The good news is that this sort of economic catastrophe will be headed off by out-of-control wars, terrorism, or global welfare programs of unprecedented scale before we get to 2100. This projection is very bad.

[Photo: Flickr]

More on Global Warming



All replies



helpmeithinkimfallinginloveagain > Hamilton Nolan

10/21/15 3:10pm

So...have kids at this point, or no?



↳ Reply

10



mrblerg > helpmeithinkimfallinginloveagain

10/21/15 3:12pm

Have them, but make them watch Mad Max movies so they understand the world they'll live in.



76

↳ Reply



The_Snark_Knight > helpmeithinkimfallinginloveagain

10/21/15 3:12pm

Yes, but you should make peace with the fact that you'll likely have to eat them.



70

↳ Reply



America's Wang > helpmeithinkimfallinginloveagain

10/21/15 3:13pm

Short answer, "yes" with an "if."



26

Long answer, "no" with a "but."

↳ Reply



CatdogWhisperer > The_Snark_Knight

10/21/15 3:16pm

We're having our first in a few months and I've already got a special station set up for his nightly marinade bath.



18

↳ Reply

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Scranton's Banana Problem > Hamilton Nolan

10/21/15 3:09pm



...climate change will reduce average income in the poorest 40 percent of countries by 75 percent in 2100, while the richest 20 percent may experience slight gains.

36

“We fail to see the problem. . . ”

-Billionaires

↳ Reply



DennisReynoldsGoldenGod > Scranton's Banana Problem

10/21/15 3:14pm

It is in countries, not individuals. If you are commenting from the US, you can thank them for the pay bump.



3

↳ Reply



Scranton's Banana Problem > DennisReynoldsGoldenGod

10/21/15 3:17pm

Where do you think the overwhelming majority of billionaires live? In the slums, next to the child trash pickers?



9

And do you think the people who make billions of dollars annually do it off the backs of those who live in the richest countries?

↳ Reply



benjaminlover > DennisReynoldsGoldenGod

10/21/15 3:20pm

Thank billionaires for a pay bump?



15



↳ Reply



DennisReynoldsGoldenGod > benjaminlover

10/21/15 3:23pm

Sorry, that wasn't clear. You are thanking the poor people who lost wealth that was transferred to your colder, more climate change resilient country.



1

↳ Reply

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Subtitles999 > Hamilton Nolan

10/21/15 3:10pm

What do you think causes colder countries to be richer?



1

↳ Reply



mrblerg > Subtitles999

10/21/15 3:16pm

It's like that old Jack Frost movie. People in colder climates use ice as currency. People from warmer climates accept payment and go home. Ice melts, money gone. It's simple economics based on an old



13

cartoon I haven't seen in years and honestly had no reason to even think of. I'll take my Nobel prize, thank you!

↳ Reply



benjaminlover > Subtitles999

10/21/15 3:28pm

Human settlement patterns initially; cold climates tend to have lower population densities and therefore more resources per capita. Of course that's a gross generalization that has been amplified by the collective and cooperative exploitation of the global south by the global north. Basically, we started with a small difference between rates of poverty and those have been multiplied by rich-get-richer economics of capitalism.



5

↳ Reply



ARP2 > Subtitles999

10/21/15 3:33pm

I would also think it's simply moving the scales (literally and figuratively). Hotter countries will experience some combination of drought and/or hurricanes/typhoons. Colder countries will moderate their temperatures, which can result in longer growing seasons and less impact on food sources/infrastructure.



↳ Reply



WorkBurnerLOL > Subtitles999

10/21/15 3:49pm

Colder temperatures spur innovation and invention, because if you don't adapt (aka winter) you die! As



they say, necessity is the mother of innovation.

↳ Reply

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America's Wang > Hamilton Nolan

10/21/15 3:10pm

What rhymes with Malthus?

↳ Reply



7



Smitros > America's Wang

10/21/15 3:15pm

All of us.

↳ Reply



6



Armando stiletto > America's Wang

10/21/15 3:18pm

Rhymes with Malthus? I'm not sure. But I'm having nightmares about all the climate refugees heading north (or south) from the middle latitudes. Sub Saharan Africa is a huge population center and is not doing so hot (no pun intended) right now for a variety of reasons. When climate change makes agriculture impossible there, the flood of desperate people will make the present immigration of Syrians, Eritreans etc. look quaint. Same with Central and South America - the present wave of immigration is job seeking. When it becomes food seeking it will be truly frightening.

I don't even want to think of the effects in India and China.

↳ Reply



8



the actual bajmahal > America's Wang

10/21/15 3:42pm



Balthus, the artist.



2

Balthuzar, one of the Magi (you could split the word to two lines, ala ee Cummings).

melt us.

salt us.

↳ Reply



Caroline Thompson > the actual bajmahal

10/21/15 4:14pm



Mal-THOOS. Rhymes with goose.



↳ Reply

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ARP2 > Hamilton Nolan

10/21/15 3:14pm



I believe in [Ed: Anthropogenic] climate change and I believe the general prediction to be true (those areas that are dry or drought prone, will be hit hard, given the scarcity of fresh water).



3

However, providing a specific numbers is only setting us up for failure. Deniers will get even more bold about ignoring the whole thing, if they don't hit the mark. It's an absurd, but effective way of getting people to ignore what you don't like.

↳ Reply



Setzer777 > ARP2

10/21/15 3:21pm



Anthropogenic. Anthropomorphic climate change would be some sort Sandman-esque personal incarnation of climate change, with a human body and personality.



19

↳ Reply



benjaminlover > ARP2

10/21/15 3:22pm



That's why it's important in this day and age to completely ignore Deniers. It's 20-fucking-15.



2

↳ Reply



ARP2 > Setzer777

10/21/15 3:26pm



I think that would be much cooler, but you are correct.



6

What should we call him: Doug Drought?

↳ Reply



Nice Teeth > benjaminlover

10/21/15 3:29pm



I always feel like 20, fucking, 15 Deniers are not quite warm enough for winter, and not quite cool enough for spring.



4

↳ Reply

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