

ANOTHER ATTACK ON GLOBAL WARMING'S SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS
A Case Study of Personal Harassment and Amplification of Nonsense by the Denialist PR Machine
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ABSTRACT

Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) - the idea that recent temperature rises are substantially caused by humans – is supported by a very strong scientific consensus. But for ideological or economic reasons some people are absolutely sure that it cannot be true, frequently attack it and are often called *contrarians* or *denialists* as a result. They try to manufacture doubt on the consensus among the public, not by doing good science, but by using PR techniques well-honed in fights over tobacco-disease linkage. These are amplified by widespread use of the Internet, which is at least as good at propagating nonsense as truth.

A recent, well-coordinated transatlantic attempt to attack the consensus included:

- A not-very-good anti-consensus paper written in the UK by an NHS King's College *endocrinologist*, **Mr Klaus-Martin Schulte**, not obviously qualified for this task,
- of which much was posted by **Viscount Christopher Monckton** at a Washington, DC denialist website of **Robert Ferguson**, and publicized by **Marc Morano** of **Senator James Inhofe's** staff.
- The non-story then propagated rapidly and pervasively through the blogosphere.
- This expanded further into personal harassment of a US researcher, **Naomi Oreskes**.

All this generated misleading publicity for a non-story that would astonish most climate scientists:

Google: less than half published scientists endorse global warming

➔ ~700,000 hits, most created within a few days (at one point, was 1 million hits)

It added personal harassment of **UCSD Professor Naomi Oreskes** by **Schulte, Monckton** and **Ferguson** via intimidating demands, threats of lawsuits, and attack-by-press-release:

Google: researcher demands apology professional discourtesy essayist claimed climate consensus

➔ ~300 hits (at one point, was ~400 hits, not so many, but for an even more absurd non-story)

Misrepresentation, academic incompetence, and clear plagiarism generated fodder for the denialist PR machine to propagate, and also manufacture a spurious attack on a well-regarded academic.

All this publicity was generated for a seemingly- flawed paper that was not even publishable (as of this writing) in the poorly-regarded journal to which it was submitted. This is more akin to the political technique often called "oppo research." None of this is science. It is anti-science.

This paper is intended to record the facts of this attempt in one place, for two audiences:

First, some people may be unfamiliar with the workings of the denialist PR machine, and this offers introductory background and a detailed case study to help understand the machine, the participants and the non-obvious relationships involved. This is a good illustration of techniques that have been applied to harass other visible scientists, such as James Hansen and Michael Mann.

Second, some may be familiar with climate science and denialist tactics, but want to learn this particular affair in detail, and they can skip the introductory material.

Sections 1, 2 and 7 together summarize this for the casual reader; the remainder is a detailed analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

2. OVERVIEW OF 2007 ATTEMPT

3. BACKGROUND: ORESKES, 2004

4. BACKGROUND: PEISER, 2005, 2006

5. OVERALL CHRONOLOGY OF BACKGROUND, CURRENT ATTEMPT

6. CHRONOLOGY IN DETAIL

7. SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

*This document tries to be both usable on paper and convenient online, and is easiest to read while having an online copy at hand to follow electronic URLs if desired. Key URLs are given [#] references, and listed under **REFERENCES**. After first reference, people's given names or titles are omitted. This should not be interpreted as discourtesy, just the wish to keep this no lengthier than needed. Wikipedia, SourceWatch and, ExxonSecrets are not assumed as authoritative references, but as convenient starting points. Google hit counts are usually dated, as they can change often, but of course they are only approximate indicators of publicity, as there are often spurious hits. The exact searches are listed so a reader can repeat them. Italics are generally used for the author's opinions/asides/speculations or emphasis.*

The scientific consensus on AGW is supported by the UK's Royal Society, The UK Met Office's Hadley Centre, the US National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and many other scientific groups. It arises, not from any one paper, but from a vast mountain of accumulated, peer-reviewed research and associated evidence. Explicit supporters of the consensus can be found in Jack Sparrow's Logical Science of in Wikipedia:

<http://www.logicalsociety.com/consensus/consensusD1.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change

The following statement by President George H. W. Bush, is a reminder that the scientific consensus on climate change does not have to be a partisan political issue, and was not so in 1989:

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=17765>

Nevertheless, some people deny the consensus and actively try to manufacture doubt about it, not by doing legitimate research, but via other tactics. Such people are usually called contrarians or denialists, to distinguish them from people who are merely skeptical or uninformed. For the reader unfamiliar with such denialism, see **Sharon Begley's** recent Newsweek article, "The Truth about Denial":

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20122975/site/newsweek/

An Illustration of Denialist Tactics.

The current attempt once again tries to confuse public opinion about the consensus. It seems to find inspiration in a famous memo by **Frank Luntz** (US political pollster and consultant):

"Voters believe that there is no consensus about global warming within the scientific community. Should the public come to believe the scientific issues are settled, their views about global warming will change accordingly. Therefore, you need to continue to make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate..."

www.luntzspeak.com/memo.html

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Luntz

Standard tactics include:

- Use web papers, press releases, PR tactics rather than serious scientific discourse.
- Employ classical fallacies and rhetorical nitpicking arguments, attacks on strawmen, etc.
- Fill blogs and forums with endlessly repeated, sometimes "plausibly-deniable" disinformation.
- Try to waste legitimate researchers' time.

The silliness and incompetence of this specific attack is exceeded only by its broad exposure in a network of blogs and forums that replicate unchecked non-facts and misleading headlines almost overnight.

This paper describes the participants, the previous background, and gives detailed chronology and information flows to expose the inner workings of this peculiar transatlantic affair, especially needed as some relationships are (perhaps purposefully) non-obvious.

2. OVERVIEW OF 2007 ATTEMPT

2005 Background

Dr. Benny Peiser, a UK social anthropologist, tried to discredit the scientific consensus by trying to refute a well-known 2004 essay in *Science* by UC San Diego academic **Dr. Naomi Oreskes**[1], a geoscientist & science historian. That attempt, **Peiser**[2], failed and was essentially disavowed in 2006, but much of its flawed material was re-used in the 2007 attempt first by **Monckton** and then by **Schulte**.

2007 Attempt Begins with Monckton, Ferguson, SPPI ... and Schulte

Christopher Monckton, Third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley appears to be the key participant, unsurprising as his passionate anti-AGW views are well-publicized, at least in the UK. Google: viscount monckton consensus. In July 2007, he published **Monckton**[3] reusing **Peiser**[2] and describing or quoting key results of **Mr Klaus-Martin Schulte**'s work in detail. **Monckton**[3] and 8 more of his opinion pieces are hosted at the website of **SPPI**, of which he is the Chief Policy Advisor.

- **The Science and Public Policy Institute (SPPI)**, <http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org>, is a Washington, DC entity whose entire focus is denial of AGW. It was apparently started in June 2007 by **Robert Ferguson**, the only identified employee. He previously worked for **Frontiers of Freedom (FF)**, which has been funded by tobacco and oil companies, among others. He set up **FF**'s **Center for Science and Public Policy (CSPP)** in early 2003, funded by ExxonMobil. **CSPP** hosts earlier work by **Monckton**. **CSPP** and **SPPI** are located in two suites at 209 Pennsylvania Ave SE in Washington, DC.

SPPI resembles many other US contrarian/denialist entities, with an impressive-sounding name, a selection from a cast of well-known denialist advisors, a website, and at most a few employees to do PR and lobbying (not peer-reviewed research). **SPPI** is too new for its funding to be known, but much of **SPPI**'s material is by **Monckton**, with PR, distribution, and other pieces by **Ferguson** or a few other people.

*In Silicon Valley, **SPPI** would be considered a brand-new startup attempting to ship its first products (many imported from the UK), gain wide publicity, and look larger than life. It may be trying to attract more funding from those foundations, companies, and individuals who commonly fund anti-AGW efforts.*

- **Klaus-Martin Schulte (UK)**, NHS Kings' College endocrinologist/surgeon is a puzzling key participant. He has written an article that attacks scientific consensus on AGW, using a methodology somewhat like **Oreskes**, but differing in key ways. The article was said to have been rejected by *Science*, has not yet been and likely may never be formally published (in *Energy and Environment*, "**E&E**"). About 3 pages of **Monckton**[3] seem quoted directly from **Schulte**, labeled as (submitted), a rather odd departure from normal scientific publishing practice.

Denialist PR Machine Starts Spreading a Non-Story

- **Marc Morano** and **Matthew Dempsey (USA)**, staffers for **Senator James Inhofe's Environment and Public Works (EPW)** organization, widely dispersed pointers to the **Monckton** article via blog and email to blogosphere supporters, although some emails went awry to others. One can visit the **Minority EPW** webpage, and find a constant drumbeat of anti-AGW and occasional anti-Oreskes pieces:

epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.WelcomeMessage

Search: morano global warming → 69 blog entries

Search: oreskes → 8 press releases that include attacks on **Oreskes**' results.

Story Explodes into the Blogosphere

- The blogosphere spreads the story at an exceptional rate August 29-30, starting with **Michael Asher**, who writes for **DailyTech**, and whose article was linked to by **Matt Drudge** at the Drudge Report. The most common headline follows **Asher's**:

09/30/07 Google:

Less than half published scientists endorse global warming

→ 700,000+ hits! (the number varies up and down, daily, and headlines vary, so there are more)

This is an absurd leap from the actual details reported in the articles, and would astonish the Royal Society, the National Academy of Science, the AAAS, the AGU, the editors of *Science*, the editors of *The Lancet* or the *BMJ*, and most real climate researchers. It is like saying “less than half of physicists endorse relativity” because they don’t bother to say so explicitly in every physics paper. However, it spread explosively. Either many people read the Drudge Report or **Morano** has a large email list, or almost certainly both. In the process, the connection with **Morano** and **EPW** (and even **Monckton**) somewhat disappeared in favor of references directly to **Schulte** and **E&E**, i.e., the story was that a *researcher* published (or would soon publish) something in a peer-reviewed *journal*.

Many of these hits are bound to be spurious, but the counts are indicative. This nonsense propagated widely in just a few days, illustrating yet again the bizarre behavior of the blogosphere (*blogidiocy* may be a better term), in which unchecked stories spread verbatim like wildfire, with minimal connection to reality.

If millions nationwide catch the flu and die overnight, it is less like a normal epidemic than like well-organized germ warfare, a good analogy to the way PR-oriented political groups can use the Internet.

Response from Oreskes

The **EPW** story was noticed by several people who passed it to **Oreskes**. She wrote a quick response to **Schulte** and shared it with them, of whom **Dr John Lynch** offered to post it on his blog, and did so – copied here in **Appendix I**. Publicity has been minimal, essentially limited to a handful of blogs, compared to the massive, well-orchestrated PR effort described above.

Explicit Harassment by Schulte, Monckton, Ferguson

Schulte then wrote an email letter to **Oreskes** and **UCSD Chancellor Marye Ann Fox**, accusing **Oreskes** of discourtesy, unprofessionalism and misinterpretation, demanding that **Oreskes** apologize or resign, quite reminiscent of a **Monckton** letter to **US Senators Snowe** and **Rockefeller**. Just 2 days later, allowing just one working morning for **Oreskes** and **Fox** to respond, that letter was posted as **Schulte[6]** on the **SPPI** website. **Ferguson** then not only wrote a press release about it, but even sent out a notice on **Business Wire**, a truly strange action for a putative academic dispute.

Meanwhile, **Monckton** posted semi-anonymously on blogs, ordering people to be silent and threatening legal actions against **Oreskes** and people who defended her.

Plagiarism and Incompetence

Dr Tim Lambert dissected **Schulte[6]** and identified substantial, un-attributed cut-and-paste from **Monckton's** paper, which used flawed (and withdrawn) material from **Peiser[2]**. **Schulte[6]** copied the same errors and repeated errors that cast serious doubt on his competence in this domain. **Appendix II** pulls together various analyses of his letter. The letter was published on the same website as the piece from which it was copied, and widely publicized via press release. *This is certainly one of the silliest and most incompetent cases of plagiarism I've ever encountered, and I've seen some pretty foolish cases by undergraduate college students.*

There is clear plagiarism by Schulte, and of material that is clearly erroneous. By the end, the reader may judge what else it might be, and the motivations for such, as non-obvious relationships and chronologies become clearer.

Harassment Continues

Oreskes[10], copied in **Appendix III**, offers an updated response to Schulte, noting that she was working from the published descriptions, and if he thought they misrepresented his work, that she would be glad to review his paper. Although it had been given to several bloggers, he refused to give one to **Oreskes**, writing:

"[m]y manuscript still is under consideration by a peer-reviewed journal and I hence do not consider it appropriate to invite any further review or comment at this point."

About 3 pages of **Monckton[3]** appeared to be direct quotes from the paper, and at least two other bloggers already had claimed to have copies weeks before, so it seems really odd that a copy would be refused to the researcher whose work one was claiming to update. **Schulte** continues:

"Withdraw your unfounded personal allegations against me, with the expression of your apologies. Failure to do so within 14 days will oblige me to take appropriate measures to protect my position without further notice."

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/oreskes_offers_updated_respons.php [10]

Schulte has been discovered in serious plagiarism, but he continues demanding apologies and issuing vague threats. *Astonishing.*

And Not Even Published

According to Monckton, Schulte's paper was supposed to be published in **E&E**, but on 09/20/07, **E&E's** editor explained that she did not intend to publish it, in an email to Richard Littlemore at DeSmogBlog.

www.desmogblog.com/schultes-analysis-not-published-not-going-to-be

Current Status, as of 10/27/07

*The last **Schulte** message was sent around 09/19/07. It has now been longer than 14 days, we'll see if **Schulte** takes action on these threats, or if he follows **Monckton's** lead in making numerous threats, but not acting on them. Although this document changed every few days as new information appeared, the activity seems to have cooled, allowing this document to be frozen for now.*

*Although it seems unlikely that **Schulte's** actual paper would add much beyond that which **Monckton** excerpted, it is still unpublished as of this writing.*

That's the top-level overview of the entire affair.

The next two sections review the previous attempt, followed by a detailed chronology of the events of this affair and their relationships.

3. BACKGROUND: ORESKES, 2004

In 2004, UCSD Professor **Naomi Oreskes** wrote a 1-page essay for *Science*, derived from her George Sarton Award Lecture at February's AAAS meeting. It briefly mentioned a quick experiment to calibrate the scientific consensus or lack thereof on global warming, as seen by sampling scientific abstracts in the peer-reviewed literature:

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/306/5702/1686.pdf Oreskes[1]

The reader **new to this topic** might read that short essay right now. **Oreskes'** background (including B.Sc Imperial College, London; PhD, Stanford University) is highly relevant - she is a well-published and award-winning geoscientist / science historian, one of whose specialties is studying scientific controversies. She found that at least by this sample of peer-reviewed literature, this was not a controversy *within* science, but only outside it. An erratum was published in January 2005 for clarification: the search term was "global climate change," not just "climate change."

historyweb.ucsd.edu/oreskes/pages/profile.html

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi_Oreskes

Google Scholar: n oreskes

Oreskes had done a quick survey of relevant abstracts, via the ISI Web of Knowledge and found that there was little or no serious disagreement with the basic idea of AGW. She did not claim that every author explicitly agreed with AGW, because many didn't bother. They just described new results, just as many biologists waste no words reaffirming the role of evolution, and physicists do not bother reaffirming gravity or relativity. She just did not find any significant disagreement with the overall consensus position.

I note that scientists always argue over details, over levels of certainty about details and for research to help illuminate the uncertainties. They often conclude "More study is needed." All of these can mislead people unfamiliar with a topic into thinking there is serious controversy on some basic premise, especially if they have some external reason to wish that. There is still room for serious argument about mitigation policies, for which economics, engineering, and politics must be involved, along with science. These often generate research on policies, and those can confuse people as well.

Even if people found dozens of peer-reviewed articles that clearly rejected some consensus, the consensus would still be strong, although one would certainly investigate the papers in more detail. Peer review is necessary, but not sufficient for correctness. New hypotheses often get refuted soon thereafter, requiring special care for recent articles whose conclusions contradict an established consensus. Often, data fails to confirm them, or people point out flaws, and they become irrelevant. These studies have examined 1400+ abstracts, of which no more than 3-4 seem to be actual rejections of the consensus, and those appear weak.

When a real scientific controversy is real, it is obvious. Explicit opposing opinions continually appear until a new consensus evolves, which may take decades. A good example is the long-running argument about continental drift, on which **Oreskes** has written. By the time most peer-reviewed papers explicitly affirm or assume one view, with few explicit dissents, consensus is as strong as one ever finds in science.

A few dissenters always persist, even in the face of overpowering data. Occasionally, even fine scientists, towards the ends of their careers, leap into areas outside their expertise, and write embarrassing things, happily referenced by people with agendas. Scientists are human, and sometimes even a world-class expert locks into an increasingly-incorrect position. For example, the great British statistician Sir Ronald Fisher rejected the strong data relating tobacco and disease through the end of his life in 1962. Some people have strong economic or ideological reasons to avoid letting research yield inconvenient scientific answers. Then a few dissenters and much PR may be mobilized to obfuscate real science, as in: creationism-evolution, tobacco-disease, CFCs-ozon depletion, and fossil fuels-global warming.

Scientific consensus does not require unanimity, and denialists often try to attack consensus by disproving unanimity, a classic strawmen argument. A good example is found in **Monckton**[3]:

'The claim of "consensus" rests almost entirely on the inaccurate and now-outdated single-page comment in the journal *Science*....'

Oreskes's study is neither inaccurate nor outdated, as will be seen later in detail, and consensus would certainly exist had she never written that paper. Monckton's statement is nonsense.

Oreskes[4] is a useful longer discussion that spells out issues for the broader audience, impossible to do in a 1-page essay, and unnecessary for the usual readers of *Science*, who know quite well that no one bothers to reaffirm the well-known, especially in prestigious journals where word-count is truly precious.

For people new to this arena, I offer a health analogy. Suppose that you are ill, and hundreds of physicians examine you, agree on the general cause and agree that major operations are needed within 30-40 days to avoid serious unrecoverable damage. You could claim uncertainty and no consensus until all physicians agree on the exact number of days and hours left, and wait until then. Alternatively, suppose a journalist or physicist claims there is no problem, and since you would prefer that to be true, and they are 100% sure, you could take their advice over that of the physicians, who do not completely agree ... but most people would not, at least in dealing with their own health. For some reason, regarding climate change, some people, especially in the USA, prefer the advice of anyone except actual climate scientists.

4. BACKGROUND: PEISER 2005, 2006

In early 2005, **Dr. Benny Peiser**, a UK social anthropologist, attempted a rebuttal to **Oreskes**, in a letter sent to *Science*, but not accepted:

www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/Scienceletter.htm **Peiser[2]**
www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/ his home page
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benny_Peiser a start about him

Strongly AGW-contrarian views can be found in his home page. His peer-reviewed publications generally lie in other areas, as he is not a climate scientist.

Peiser[2] found 1117 abstracts (rather than Oreskes' 928), using a different search that included more non-peer-reviewed articles and articles in different ISI indices. He found:

‘However, 34 abstracts reject or question the view that human activities are the main driving force of "the observed warming over the last 50 years"’

Dr. Tim Lambert got the abstracts from **Peiser** and posted them, with a long series of analyses. Only one really rejected the consensus, and it was an opinion piece, not a peer-reviewed article, and thus not included in **Oreskes'** list. **Peiser** was unable to assess the abstracts correctly, a mistake repeated later by **Schulte**.

timlambert.org/2005/05/peiser/

That blog thread includes many comments, including some by **Peiser**, who should be credited with participating openly in the debate under his own name, and later in withdrawing his objections.

In #62 of that blog thread, May 12, 2005, **Sylvia S. Tognetti** writes eloquently, illustrating the problems encountered by people with insufficient domain knowledge, about **Peiser**, but two years' prescient regarding **Monckton** and **Schulte**:

“Peiser obviously doesn't know the difference between consensus and uncertainty, between different kinds of uncertainty, or between research on climate and research on climate policy.”

She offers a longer useful essay on consensus in:

www.postnormaltimes.net/blog/archives/2005/05/rules_of_the_sc_1.html#more

The resulting process and its endpoint are well detailed by MediaWatch October 2006:

www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s1777013.htm

“And when we pressed him to provide the names of the articles, he eventually conceded - there was only one.

(Ad Hoc Committee on Global Climate Issues: Annual report, by Gerhard LC and Hanson BM, AAPG Bulletin 84 (4): 466-471 Apr 2000)

Peiser says he withdrew his criticism in March this year.”

AAPG is the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, whose historical viewpoint on “global warming” can be assessed by entering that phrase in the searchbox of its website:

www.aapg.org

However, their stated opinion does seem to be changing, albeit reluctantly, as of 2007:

“The AAPG updated its statement in part because the previous statement was "not supported by a significant number of our members and prospective members".”

<http://www.aapg.org/explorer/president/2007/03mar.cfm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_opinion_on_climate_change

Finally, MediaWatch quotes **Peiser**:

“I do not think anyone is questioning that we are in a period of global warming. Neither do I doubt that the overwhelming majority of climatologists is agreed that the current warming period is mostly due to human impact.

— *Email from Benny Peiser to Media Watch, 12th October, 2006*”

Monckton[3] extensively quoted **Peiser**[2], but failed to acknowledge the total discrediting of **Peiser**’s original claims, and **Peiser**’s own admission that of the 34 papers that he thought rejected the consensus, only one did. That one didn’t fit **Oreskes**’ rules anyway.

It is an all-too-common denialist practice to recycle old ideas, ignoring strong refutations that are well-known. On first exposure, they can sound very convincing to the person unfamiliar with this field, but are seen as obviously bogus by anyone who studies this area for a year or two, and sees the same old ideas propagated again and again.

Peiser is on the advisory board of the journal *Energy and Environment* (**E&E**), which has generally not been well-regarded, as summarized in Paul Thacker’s article listed below.

www.multi-science.co.uk/ee.htm E&E description

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/mscp/ene E&E table of contents

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_and_Environment

Paul Thacker, “Skeptics get a Journal”:

pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2005/aug/policy/pt_skeptics.html

This may help to explain some of the negative comments about **E&E** found in the various blog discussions.

*In any scientific discipline, some journals are considered more credible than others, and many people would not consider publication in **E&E** as a positive endorsement. Of course, journals change, so there is always hope.*

5. OVERALL CHRONOLOGY OF BACKGROUND, CURRENT ATTEMPT

This section lists major events of the current attempt. **Figure 1** offers a graph to highlight key relationships of people, organizations, cooperation, and information flows, to help the reader understand the interactions, some of which are obscured, perhaps purposefully. Dates are American-style mm/dd/yy.

Earlier Relevant Background

- Early 2003 Robert Ferguson Starts CSPP for Frontiers of Freedom (FF)
- 12/03/04 Oreskes[1] Published in *Science*
- 01/04/05 Peiser[2] Letter to *Science*
- 06/21/05 Ferguson Posts Peiser Attempted Rebuttal vs Oreskes
- 03/??/06 Peiser Withdraws Objections
- 2Q 2006 Marc Morano Hired by Senator Inhofe at EPW

Current Attempt, Including Relevant 2006 Background

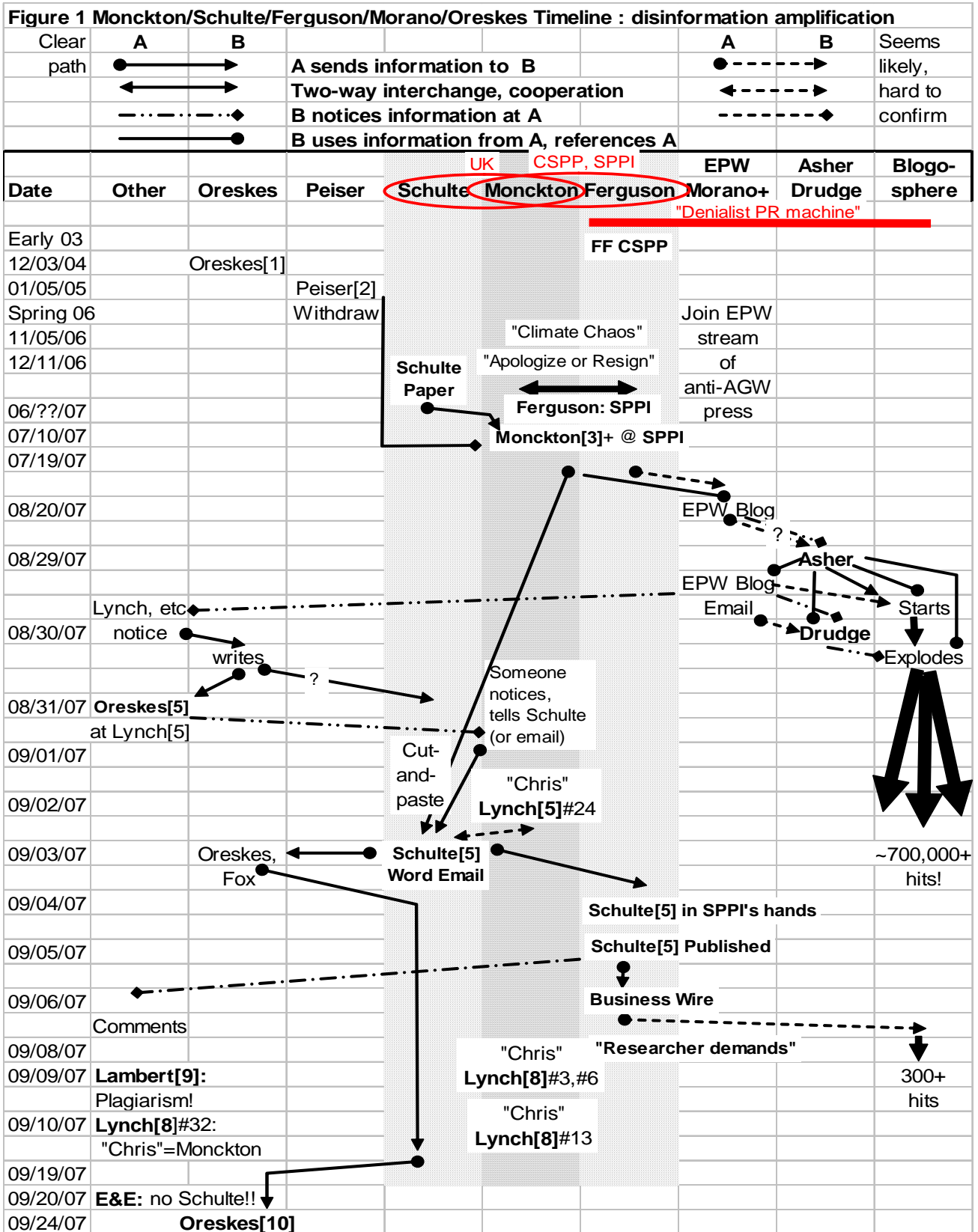
- 10/30/06 Senators Snowe and Rockefeller Write to ExxonMobil
- 11/05/06 Monckton: "Climate Chaos: Don't Believe It"
- 12/11/06 Monckton: Senators: "Apologize to ExxonMobil or Resign"

- 03/19/07 Monckton Challenges Al Gore to Debate
- 04/10/07 Monbiot: "The Real Climate Censorship"
- 05/07/07 Manthorpe : "Monckton Saves the Day"
- 06/19/07 Ferguson Starts SPPI
- 06/22/07 Oreskes speaks on Capitol Hill via AmericanMeteorological Society
- 07/19/07 Monckton[3] and other Monckton Pieces Published on SPPI

- 08/20/07 Morano Briefly Mentions Monckton[3] on EPW Blog
- 08/29/07 Asher: "Less Than Half of All Published Scientists Endorse Global Warming"
- 08/29/07 PM EPW Widely Publicizes Asher DailyTech Article
- 08/30/07 AM Drudge Report Links to Asher; Blogosphere Explodes
- 08/30/07 Others Start Checking
- 08/31/07 Oreskes Responds to Lynch, Who Posts Oreskes[5]
- 09/02/07 9:35PM UK Time: "Chris" Predicts Trouble for Oreskes
- 09/03/07 2:22AM UK Time: Schulte[6] Letter (Word) to Oreskes/Fox
- 09/04/07 SPPI Converts Schulte[6] Letter to PDF
- 09/05/07 SPPI Posts Schulte[6] PDF
- 09/06/07 Ferguson Announces Schulte[6] on Business Wire; Lynch Again
- 09/07/07 Commentary Accumulates in Blogs
- 09/08/07 "Chris" Threatens Lawsuits
- 09/09/07 "Chris" Continues; Lambert Finds Plagiarism by Schulte
- 09/10/07 "Chris" Identified as Monckton
- 09/19/07 Harassment Continues
- 09/20/07 E&E Says Schulte[6] Will Not Be Published!
- 09/24/07 Oreskes offers updated response to Schulte

*Following is my best understanding of the information flow. **Schulte** and **Monckton** clearly cooperate closely, exchanging documents, and some of **Schulte**'s words and tactics are very reminiicent of **Monckton**'s. **Monckton** and **Ferguson** are strongly connected via both **FF** and **SPPI**, and **Ferguson** is plugged into the "Denialist PR Machine" centered around Washington, DC that has generated almost all of the publicity for this affair.*

I'm sorry this is as complicated as it is, but that is because it is complicated, and in some cases, it is impossible to be exactly sure of the participants and information flows.



6. CHRONOLOGY IN DETAIL

Earlier Relevant Background

12/03/04 Oreskes[1] Published in *Science*

01/04/05 Peiser[2] Letter to *Science*

06/21/05 Ferguson Posts Peiser Attempted Rebuttal vs Oreskes

sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/prometheus/archives/climate_change/000461the_good_explanation.html

02/28/06 UK Conservative David Cameron Starts Talking Greener, “Built to Last”

www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=party.builttolast.page

This is not welcomed by all UK conservatives. *Some have speculated that Monckton was especially unhappy with this, and that his 2006 interest in climate change dates from this time.*

03/??/06 Peiser Withdraws Objections

2Q 2006 Marc Morano Hired by Senator Inhofe at EPW

10/30/06 Senators Snowe and Rockefeller Write to ExxonMobil

They call on ExxonMobil to end its funding of a climate change denial campaign.

snowe.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=9ACBA744-802A-23AD-47BE-2683985C724E

11/05/06 Monckton: “Climate Chaos: Don’t Believe It”

Monckton writes:

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/11/05/nosplit/nwarm05.xml

12/11/06 Monckton: Senators: “Apologize to ExxonMobil or Resign”

Monckton writes “Uphold Free Speech About Climate Change or Resign, An Open Letter to Senators Snowe and Rockefeller”, 8 pages, on **Frontiers of Freedom (FF)** website, under Ferguson’s CSPP:

ff.org/centers/csspp/pdf/20061212_monckton.pdf

For those to whom Monckton has been unknown, it is well worth reading in its entirety to calibrate Monckton’s views, style and approach, but a few excerpts follow:

“You must honour the Constitution, withdraw your letter and apologize to ExxonMobil, or resign as Senators.”

“All other imagined consequences of climactic warming are more likely to be beneficial than harmful. Warmer is better than cooler.”

“We need honest science. Therefore we do not need the UN.” (*the IPCC*).

“You commend Britain’s Royal Society, once a learned body and now a mere Left-leaning political pressure-group, for having clumsily attempted to interfere with ExxonMobil’s funding of groups that are sceptical of what you inaccurately call a ‘consensus’ to the effect that climate change is a ‘global problem’.”

“In the circumstances, your comparison of Exxon’s funding of sceptical scientists with the former antics of the tobacco industry is unjustifiable and unworthy of any credible elected representatives. Either withdraw that monstrous comparison forthwith, or resign so as not to pollute the office you hold.”

“Finally, you may wonder why it is that a member of the Upper House of the United Kingdom legislature, wholly unconnected with and unpaid by the corporation that is the victim of your lamentable letter, should take the unusual step of calling upon you as members of the Upper House of the United States legislature either to withdraw what you have written or resign your sinecures.”

As **Lambert** pointed out to me, the last paragraph is simply wrong, because **Monckton** is not, and never was a member of the UK's House of Lords. In 1999, most hereditary Peers (including **Monckton**'s father) were removed, and **Monckton** inherited his title in 2006. He tried to get elected in 2007, but got no votes.

In addition, there is some evidence that Monckton has attempted to supply clearly-false information to Wikipedia, and with associated threats of lawsuits:

www.monbiot.com/archives/2007/10/03/did-lord-monckton-fabricate-a-claim-on-his-wikipedia-page
scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/10/watch_monckton_squirm.php

Monckton has a clear point of view, a bold style (most people do not address US Senators as polluting their offices), and he already despised the consensus in 2006. **Frontiers of Freedom** appears to have been funded, not uncommonly, by both tobacco and oil companies, including ExxonMobil:

www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Frontiers_of_Freedom
www.exxonsecrets.org/html/orgfactsheet.php?id=35

03/19/07 Monckton Challenges Al Gore to Debate

A series of advertisements of this challenge has been run in various newspapers.

04/10/07 Monbiot: "The Real Climate Censorship"

George Monbiot writes:

"The Guardian and I have now received several letters from the climate sceptic Viscount Monckton, threatening us with libel proceedings after I challenged his claims about climate science(16,17,18,19). On two of these occasions he has demanded that articles are removed from the internet."

www.monbiot.com/archives/2007/04/10/the-real-climate-censorship/

05/07/07 Manthorpe : "Monckton Saves the Day"

Rowland Manthorpe writes, describing a long interview with **Monckton** in:

observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,,2073267,00.html

"This confidence is never more apparent than in Monckton's analysis of the subject on which his mind is now engaged pretty much constantly, the science and politics of climate change..."

"When I mention Naomi Oreskes's famous evaluation of 928 articles referencing 'climate change' that 'proved' the consensus of catastrophe among scientists, he announces not only that he has read the 928 articles in question and would argue 'only 1 per cent explicitly predict doom, while 3 per cent are specifically sceptical of apocalyptic ideas', but also that he has sent a further 8,500 related articles to be evaluated by a team of two dozen scientists across the globe."

"No consensus!" efforts usually come from a relatively small group of vocal people, generally not in credible peer-reviewed journals, but in web papers, press releases, letters, interviews, or blogs. Peer-reviewed scientific articles rarely use words like "catastrophe" or "doom," even when analyzing effects that many people might consider widespread disaster.

Given **Monckton**'s strong views, it is unsurprising to find him involved. Many have been puzzled to see established King's College endocrinologist and NHS endocrine surgeon **Schulte** suddenly leap into climate science, and attempt to publish something for which his domain expertise is not at all obvious, and that requires substantial work. If **Schulte** previously published anything on global warming, I have not been able to find it. **Schulte**[6] referenced only papers used by **Peiser**, most of which had been refuted during the earlier episode, and which **Peiser** himself had withdrawn. As it turned out later, **Schulte**[6] directly plagiarized **Monckton**[3], and actually copied erroneous material that neither could identify as such. Finally, **Monckton**[3] quoted examples from **Schulte**'s paper, and of those, half were demonstrably wrong.

Climate science is an interdisciplinary topic requiring breadth of relevant knowledge to assess whether or not each abstract agrees with the consensus, actually disagrees, or is irrelevant, as **Peiser** discovered. Some might be obvious, many are not, but it certainly helps to know something about the field.

Schulte is a published endocrinologist (Google Scholar: km schulte) and a visible NHS endocrine surgeon: Google: endocrine surgeon nhs → **Schulte**'s webpage is on first page of hits:

www.kch.nhs.uk/services/critical-care-surgery/endocrine-surgery, which begins:
"We are one of the largest centres in the UK for endocrine surgery..."

How did **Schulte** get involved? **Monckton**'s strong negative views on AGW are certainly well-known in the UK. **Schulte** claims to have been studying the consensus out of concern for patients' unnecessary fears. Perhaps he did this research and then later approached **Monckton**. **Monckton** spoke of sending articles to a team of scientists, and perhaps he recruited **Schulte**.

On the other hand, Manthorpe writes about **Monckton**:

"suffers from a rare endocrine complaint, which has necessitated a series of operations, the latest of which has left him virtually marooned in this valley for a year or so."

This may be just an interesting coincidence, and of course, doctor-patient confidentiality applies, so we likely will never know. In any case, **Monckton** certainly had **Schulte**'s paper, no later than July 10, 2007, and more likely, sometime in June 2007, given various dates on files. How they came to cooperate is irrelevant, but it is clear that they have cooperated closely.

06/19/07 Ferguson Starts SPPI

At least, June 19 was the creation date for the Website's domain, so that's a good guess.

June 1, Ferguson was still affiliated with **FF**, but is no longer listed on its staff.

www.ewire.com/display.cfm/Wire_ID/3967

ExxonSecrets still lists **Ferguson** at **FF**, (out of date, unless he is still affiliated with **FF** as well), but history is useful:

www.exxonsecrets.org/html/personfactsheet.php?id=1310

“Executive Director, Frontiers of Freedom's Center for Science and Public Policy

Ferguson set up the Center for Science and Public Policy in early 2003, after a \$100,000 grant from ExxonMobil in 2002 - specifically tagged for the center. Exxon has continued to fund the Center each year since then, to the tune of at least \$50,000 a year...

Ferguson spent years working for various Republicans on the Hill, most recently as chief of staff for Congressman John Peterson (R-PA). Peterson is a global warming denier, and is on the board of the National Center for Public Policy Research.”

SPPI has often referenced **Morano**'s press releases, and **Morano** has referenced **SPPI**. Given all that, it would be astonishing if **Morano** and **Ferguson** were not well-acquainted.

06/22/07 Oreskes speaks on Capitol Hill for American Meteorological Society

www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/ESSSummaryPrint06222007.html

This may be a coincidence, or relevant to later events. She gives a public talk in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, which is located **Senator Inhofe**'s EPW (**Morano**). **Ferguson**'s **SPPI** office is about .5 miles away. Both had publicly attacked her results before. *It is plausible that one or more may have attended, and if so, they would not have liked her talk, and perhaps that helped generate impetus for the later harassment, especially by **Ferguson**.*

07/19?/07 Monckton[3] and other Monckton Pieces Published on SPPI

Monckton[3] is published at **SPPI**, although the exact date is unclear.

scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/monckton/consensus.pdf [3]

scienceandpublicpolicy.org the SPPI website

scienceandpublicpolicy.org/monckton_papers has 9 Monckton papers

The Word file from which the PDF was created is partly entitled 6-21-07.

The PDF was created (with **SPPI** logos) 7/10/2007. The cover says July 2007.

Under [Monckton_papers](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/monckton_papers) are posted 9 HTML papers (as of 10/05/07), of which 6 say July 19, including **Monckton[3]**, although the PDF versions have various dates. It seems reasonable to guess that the **SPPI** website was being loaded July 18 – 19.

Morano mentions **Monckton[3]** 08/20/07, so it must have been published earlier, as early as 07/10/07, but presumably no later than 08/19/07. *I use July 19, although exact timing within this range does not matter.*

Monckton[3] attacked the consensus and **Oreskes[2]**, reiterating **Peiser[1]** claims disavowed a year earlier and citing a new study by researcher **Schulte**, submitted to **E&E** that "updated" her study and in effect disproved it with newer results. The language is confusing, and the **Schulte** paper uses different rules to categorize abstracts, covers a different period, and of course, is seemingly secondhand. **Monckton** fails to mention that **Schulte** is a *medical* researcher, which is important, given that appropriate domain expertise is highly relevant to abstract evaluation. **Peiser** had failed badly for a similar reason, and **Schulte**'s expertise seems even further removed. *It did let Monckton and the denialist PR machine say "researcher."*

If **Monckton[3]**'s publication of the information at **SPPI** was unauthorized by **Schulte**, and he was actually unhappy about this, one would expect him to express anger at **Monckton** and **SPPI** and demand withdrawal of the **Monckton piece** and the relevant blogs.

Given his good medical publication record, **Schulte** surely must be accustomed to normal scientific publishing, *with which the bizarre process here bears no resemblance*. People sometimes make preprints available, under conditions of confidentiality, but often, prior publication elsewhere may stop an article's normal publishing. Before a paper is actually published in a credible journal, one does not expect third parties to be publishing *unauthorized* major excerpts, referencing it as "submitted."

Monckton quoted **Schulte**'s Abstract, a key table, and lists the 7 explicit "counter-consensual papers," although they are poorly cited, giving only Author(year). Of these 7, later analyses show 2-3 as real rejections, a better record than **Peiser**, but not much. Altogether about 3 pages of the paper appear to be direct quotes from **Schulte**. **E&E** later declined to publish the paper after all.

08/20/07 Morano Briefly Mentions Monckton[3] on EPW Blog

Morano briefly mentions the **Monckton** article in blog (item 6) of well-known AGW-denialist **Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)**'s EPW:

epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=84e9e44a-802a-23ad-493a-b35d0842fed8&Issue_id.

"A July 2007 review of 539 abstracts in peer-reviewed scientific journals from 2004 through 2007 found that climate science continues to shift toward the views of global warming skeptics.

Excerpt: "There appears to be little evidence in the learned journals to justify the climate-change alarm." (LINK)"

(LINK) points back to **Monckton[3]**.

Marc Morano is well-known (for "swift boat" attack on John Kerry and similar attacks on James Hansen) and is easily findable, as in an article by Scientific American Editor-in-Chief John Rennie:

blog.sciam.com/index.php?title=senator_inhofe_s_pet_weasel&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1

www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Marc_Morano

08/29/07 Asher @ DailyTech: “Less Than Half of All Published Scientists Endorse Global Warming”
www.dailytech.com/article.aspx?newsid=8641

As one of a long series of denialist pieces, **Michael Asher** writes about this in DailyTech:

"The results have been submitted to the journal Energy and Environment, of which the DailyTech has obtained a pre-publication copy."

There is one discrepancy (528 papers versus 539, a likely typo), and unlike **Monckton**, **Asher** precisely labels **Schulte** as a *medical* researcher, but otherwise, the information is similar. **Schulte**'s paper might have come through **E&E**, although that seems odd for an article in review process, which does not usually include handing papers out to bloggers so they can write about them. At least one other blogger, **Fergus Brown**, was able to obtain a copy directly from **Schulte**, no later than 09/07/07. **Asher** discusses the IPCC, using words somewhat akin to those in **Monckton**[3], so perhaps he read that as well as the **Schulte** paper.

08/29/07 PM EPW Widely Publicizes Asher DailyTech Article

A few hours later that day, another **Inhofe EPW** staffer, **Matthew Dempsey**, references **Asher**'s report:

"Today, Michael Asher provides more details about this new survey in his blog post."

It's difficult to find much new from **Asher** that wasn't in **Monckton**[3] that **Dempsey**'s colleague **Morano** referenced the week before, but an independent blog is now the source, somewhat obscuring **EPW**'s role in spreading the information, as well as **Monckton**'s:

epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=B35C36A3-802A-23AD-46EC-6880767E7966

Also, one person (Jerrald Hayes) reports being surprised to get an email from marc_morano@epw.senate.gov that day: **Morano** spreads the word widely:

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/08/classifying_abstracts_on_globa.php, #8.

Presumably, **Morano** emails alert some writers, such as **Noel Sheppard** (who is also believed to have a good email list, and was quick off the mark):

newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2007/08/29/less-half-published-scientists-endorse-global-warming-theory

Either **Matt Drudge** reads **EPW** or **Morano** alerted him, because this "story" now hits the "home run":

08/30/07 AM Drudge Report Links to Asher; Blogosphere Explodes

Matt Drudge links to the Asher DailyTech piece (2nd item):f

www.drudgereportarchives.com/data/2007/08/30/20070830_132342.htm

The blogosphere explodes with copies of the story, many referring to Dailytech or copying its headline, some a bit more independent. As shown earlier, there are over 700,000 hits (the number varies, up and down, daily) for a key phrase, and additional hits for other combinations. Many blogs do not say how they learned about something, so it is difficult to tell who heard this from **Ferguson**, **Morano**, **Asher**, **Drudge**, **Sheppard** or someone else. In any case, the net effect is a massive flood of essentially-verbatim posts.

08/30/07 Others Start Checking

Altogether about 3 pages of **Monckton**[3] appear to be direct quotes from **Schulte**. **Tim Lambert** had done much of the work to refute **Peiser**[2], and he starts an effort to duplicate **Schulte** paper from the published descriptions, and accumulate the results. He quickly finds 6 of the 7 papers mentioned in **Monckton**[3], of which he shows 3 rejected the consensus, and 3 did not.

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/08/classifying_abstracts_on_globa.php
cgi.cse.unsw.edu.au/~lambert/cgi-bin/clim/

Of the 3 that clearly rejected the consensus:

One was another American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) review by Gerhard (2004). Shaviv(2005) claimed that warming is mostly caused by cosmic rays, but with no clear causative mechanism, and this explanation has been proposed before and not held up well. See: "Cosmic rays don't die so easily",

www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2007/10/cosmic-rays-don%e2%80%99t-die-so-easily/

Zhen-Shan and Xian (2007) did an unusual time-series analysis disconnected from physics, which have been done often, and usually fallen apart as new data appears, following the usual "Correlation is not causation" rule.

I found the actual 7th paper, Moser(2005), a policy study of how people are handling the uncertainties of sea-level rise in coastal planning. I read the actual paper, not just the abstract, and it hardly rejects the consensus. Both **Monckton** and **Schulte** seem to make the same mistakes as **Peiser**, just as Sylvia S. Tognetti had written (page 7), *and if the 2 real rejections are the best they could find, they are so weak as to imply utter desperation to find something.*

A good summary of the analyses can be found by John Cook in:

www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php?a=122

A later analysis of these papers is provided, 09/18/07 by "Eli Rabett" in:

rabett.blogspot.com/2007/09/if-article-in-forest-is-not-cited-does.html

08/31/07 Oreskes Responds to Lynch, Who Posts Oreskes[5]

On August 29, **Dr John M. Lynch** (and others) had forwarded copies of the EPW release to **Oreskes**, who wrote a short response while preparing for an imminent trip to Europe. **Lynch** offered to host a copy of any response at his Stranger Fruit blog, which was done on August 31, and which the reader is urged to examine now, as the ensuing sequence of messages is informative.

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/08/oreskes_reponds_to_schulte.php [5]

The first part is **Oreskes[5]**, copied here in **Appendix I** for completeness on paper.

Lynch[5] is the reference for the rest of that thread.

The reader may assess: is her response a reasonable and professional one, especially as her work has been subject to a continual flow of manufactured, non-science attacks by various denialists over the last few years? Google: oreskes morano to see some examples

09/02/07 9:35PM UK Time: "Chris" Predicts Trouble for Oreskes

In **Lynch[5]** #24, 4:35 PM "Chris" first appears and posts:

"Oreskes has made the cardinal error of criticizing Mr. Schulte for "misrepresentation" and for being "foolish" before she has read what he has written. His paper is not yet publicly available: however, it is known that he did not challenge Oreskes' research, but merely updated it to cover all scientific papers on "global climate change" in the period from 2004 to February 2007. Her "head-count" review of the literature had run from 1993 to 2003 inclusive. If the media reports are correct, Schulte has (unlike Oreskes) actually quoted several papers which demonstrate his conclusion that the supposed "consensus" is no longer unanimous. It would be wisest not to follow Oreskes in attacking him until we have seen what he actually says. Oreskes is likely to find herself in trouble with her University if Mr. Schulte decides to complain, because just about the only thing you can be instantly dismissed from a University for these days is making a false accusation of "misrepresentation" against another academic when you have not in fact read what that academic had written. Expect fireworks on this one."

The supposed **Schulte** article was not then officially "published" anywhere, even though key parts were published in **Monckton[3]** at **SPPI**, spread across thousands of blogs, and given to at least two bloggers. If **Schulte** objected to all this, there was no public sign. Quoting from abstracts is easy – understanding them takes knowledge, and **Monckton/Schulte** were wrong on more than half of the 7 quoted.

It might be worth comparing the writing style of “Chris” with that of **Christopher Monckton**’s December 11, 2006 open letter to Snowe and Rockefeller. The timing certainly is extremely interesting, because either “Chris” was astonishingly prescient in saying “if Mr. Schulte decides to complain” or else he was in very close communication with **Schulte**, and knew perfectly well that he was going to complain, and possibly, may even have been contributing text and edits.

As it happens, additional evidence emerges later that “Chris” was indeed **Monckton**, and that he was actively working with **Schulte**.

Anyway, ~4 hours later we find:

09/03/07 2:22AM UK Time: Schulte[6] Letter (Word) to Oreskes/Fox

Schulte sends a letter, dated September 03 (US Labor Day Holiday) to **Oreskes** and **Dr Marye Anne Fox**, **Chancellor of UC San Diego**, complaining of discourtesy, misrepresentation and unprofessional conduct. He demands apologies or resignation. This is not a typical method of doing science or resolving academic disputes. *If I were writing a paper in an unfamiliar domain, claiming that it “carried forward” someone else’s research, and yielded very different conclusions, it would be courteous (and might save me embarrassment) to send them an early copy and ask for their comments before sending it to journals. I’ve certainly taken analogous actions, even in areas of expertise. **Schulte** has sent his article to various bloggers, but not to **Oreskes**, even when she later offered to review it.*

Schulte[6]’s email letter version used an official King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust logo and template, but it was published shortly thereafter without such by **SPPI**, although **Schulte**’s KCL and KCH affiliations are given both places. As will be seen later, a substantial portion of his letter is plagiarized from **Peiser[2]**, very likely via cut-and-paste from the original Word file used to produce **Monckton[3]**.

*The reader may assess: Was **Schulte[6]** an official NHS document or not? Various NHS branches have guidelines, including comments about professionalism and respect, and guidelines about external communications, of which someone else (presumably inside the NHS) should check.*

The UCSD Fall Term actually starts September 24: school was not yet in session. During this time, there was an 8-hour difference between the UK and California. *The Schulte email was dated ~2AM, but since it arrived at San Diego ~9AM, it appears that either Schulte was in Europe at the time, or his computer was off an hour, so that either way, it would have been ~1AM in the UK.*

09/04/07 SPPI Converts Schulte[6] Letter to PDF (Portable Document Format)

Examination of the PDF’s Properties reveals interesting facts:

The PDF creation time is 9/4/2007 4:46PM, presumably Washington, DC time.

File>Properties>Additional Metadata reveals something even more interesting - the title of the (**Schulte** Word file + **SPPI** logos and contact) from which **SPPI** created the PDF:

“Microsoft Word - Monckton - Schulte letter to Oreskes cover9-4-07”

*That title is interesting. Why does **Ferguson** label this a **Monckton-Schulte** letter?*

The reader may assess:

Recall comments from “Chris” earlier.

*Did **Monckton** write any of or review that letter before it went to **Oreskes & Fox**?*

*The reader may assess: what is the **Monckton-Schulte-Ferguson** relationship? Does **Schulte** understand the tight relationships among the various US denialist groups? Does **Schulte** work directly with **Ferguson**, or just through **Monckton**? Has **Monckton** supplied any funding to **SPPI**?*

*Consider the chronology. **Schulte** writes a letter on September 3, a US holiday. No later than 4PM (ET), or 1PM (California time) the next day, **Ferguson** had **Schulte**’s letter and was preparing it for posting. **Schulte** gave **Oreskes** and **Fox** at most one working morning to provide a reply, and maybe less.*

The reader may assess: was there any interest in actually getting a reply, or was this whole effort a fraud intended to make this widely public quickly to intimidate and threaten Oreskes?

09/05/07 SPPI Posts Schulte[6] PDF

Ferguson publishes Schulte[6], the same letter, now entitled:

“Open Letter in Response to Namoi (sic) Oreskes’ Criticisms” at SPPI,

using SPPI logo, claiming to be part of SPPI’s “Reprint Series”:

scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/schulte_letter.pdf [6]

Lambert[7] quickly starts a thread to analyze Schulte[6]:

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/oreskes_replies_to_schulte_1.php [7]

09/06/07 Ferguson Announces Schulte[6] on Business Wire; Lynch Again

Ferguson sends out a press release, via Business Wire (an odd venue for normal science):

Researcher Demands Apology for Professional Discourtesy from Essayist Who Claimed Climate “Consensus” Reports SPPI

home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070906005790&newsLang=en

Endocrinologist Schulte is called a “researcher” (which is correct, a *medical* researcher), whereas Oreskes (a well-published geoscientist/science historian and an expert in this field) is a mere “essayist.”

The reader may assess: was this whole sequence designed as a personal attack to harass Oreskes? Is this the way professional researchers normally act?

09/30/07: Google: researcher demands apology professional discourtesy essayist claimed climate consensus
➔ ~300 hits ... much less than the overall story, but still a few, for a total non-story

Lynch[8] now starts a thread about Schulte[6]:

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/schulte_reponds_to_oreskes.php [8]

That occasions a several-day free-for-all, in which “Chris” returns, but is not well-received.

09/07/07 Commentary Accumulates in Blogs

By now, several non-denialist blogs have picked up on this story, with typically messy blog sequences and confusing names, but much useful analysis. Important threads are (re)listed here to put them together:

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/08/oreskes_reponds_to_schulte.php [5]

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/oreskes_replies_to_schulte_1.php [7]

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/schulte_reponds_to_oreskes.php [8]

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/schulte_replies_to_oreskes.php [9]

The following are also useful:

Andrew Dessler: Gristmill: Hunting the white whale, 09/02/07.

gristmill.grist.org/story/2007/9/1/12556/89102/

This is a great analogy: denialists keep attacking consensus in any way possible, and once again, the harpoon has missed.

Kevin Grandia: DeSmogBlog: The Oreskes Attack: Background on the Participants, 09/06/07

www.desmogblog.com/the-endocrinologist-the-viscount-of-brenchley-and-the-dc-think-tank

Richard Littlemore: DeMogBlog: Schulte's Analysis: Not Published; Not Going to Be, 09/20/07

www.desmogblog.com/schultes-analysis-not-published-not-going-to-be

Fergus Brown: Old Man in a Cave:

Brown had managed to get a copy of the paper directly from **Schulte**, and within the bounds of confidentiality, offered some useful comments, especially in a 09/07/07 piece:

fergusbrown.wordpress.com/2007/09/07/the-truth-will-out/

Brown also offers a useful tidbit:

“Thanks to these two show-and-tell projects, we now know that, out of 1467 abstracts on the subject of ‘global climate change’, there are 4 (there may be a few more) which appear to challenge the ‘consensus’ position. That’ll be 0.27%. This means, surely, that 99.73% do not challenge this position. (We won’t go into the details now). Does **this** look like a scientific consensus?”

Thus, **Schulte** could not find more than a few that rejected the consensus, consistent with **Monckton**’s quotes. **Brown** also pointed to similarities of wording.

William Connolley: STOAT had some useful early comments:

scienceblogs.com/stoat/2007/08/survey_less_than_half_of_all_p.php

John Cook: Skeptical Science had some useful comments as well:

www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php?a=122

www.skepticalscience.com/news.php?n=8

“**Eli Rabett**”: [Rabett Run, 09/18/07:](http://rabett.blogspot.com/2007/09/if-article-in-forest-is-not-cited-does.html)

rabett.blogspot.com/2007/09/if-article-in-forest-is-not-cited-does.html

09/08/07 “CHRIS” THREATENS LAWSUITS

The free-for-all continues, and the dedicated reader may wish to peruse the entire discussion, of which these are just tiny excerpts:

In **Lynch**[8]#3, “Chris” again demands apologies for **Schulte**, and says:

“If you can’t argue the science, don’t resort to ad-hom insults: be silent.”

In **Lynch**[8]#6, “Chris” says:

‘Schulte is “not a contrarian, whatever that may be”’,

and says of **Lynch**:

“By making the allegations his own and endorsing them with such lamentably unscientific enthusiasm, however, he has exposed himself to the legal action which may well follow if Oreskes does not come forward quickly with an unreserved apology to Schulte.”

*Of course, if “Chris” is **Monckton**, he knows perfectly well what a contrarian is, so this might be considered rather disingenuous.* He then threatens **Lynch** with possible legal action.

In **Lynch**[8]#8, **Lambert** suggests “Chris” is indeed **Monckton**.

09/09/07 “Chris” Continues; Lambert Finds Plagiarism by Schulte

In **Lynch**[8]#13, “Chris” once again claims:

“Oreskes is in deep trouble over her misbehavior, facilitated by your blog entry publicizing her ill-considered and improper comments. Face this, and prepare your own apology.”

Meanwhile, **Lambert**[9] writes a crucial post:

scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/schulte_replies_to_oreskes.php [9]

He highlights **Schulte**’s un-attributed use of material from **Peiser**[2] or **Monckton**[3]:

“Not only did Peiser make the same mistakes in his cites, all of the Schulte’s examples come from Peiser’s letter. Schulte must have copied his examples and cites from Peiser. Schulte does not cite or acknowledge Peiser as a source.”

*For reasons shown later, there is evidence that **Schulte** had a copy of **Monckton**[3] in Word (not just the PDF at **SPPI**), and just did electronic cut-and-paste, with a few edits. Possibly, **Monckton** did the work and just handed that part to **Schulte**.*

Lambert goes on to compare portions of **Schulte**[6] and **Monckton**[3], showing side-by-side paragraphs that are either identical or just slightly reworded. He concludes:

“Now Monckton makes it clear that he is reporting Peiser's work but Schulte carefully removed the references to Peiser after he cut and pasted from Monckton. Schulte plagiarized his text from Monckton and his references from Peiser. And he's not some first year student who doesn't know how to cite properly -- he's a published researcher who should know better.”

*I'm not sure I'd agree that “Monckton makes it clear” as he quotes many comments from **Peiser**, but separated from mention of his name, but that may just be sloppiness, and it matters not. **Schulte**[6] mentions neither **Monckton** nor **Peiser**, but is written as an innocently-aggrieved researcher trying to establish his own competence in the climate science domain.*

*The reader may assess: was this an attempt to seem both independently knowledgeable and hide the connection with **Monckton**? Does it seem foolish to not only commit plagiarism in a demanding letter sent to an academic's Chancellor, but to plagiarize clearly-erroneous material, and then have it published on the same website as a copy of the source?*

Appendix II analyzes **Schulte**[6] paragraph by paragraph, integrating **Lambert**'s and other comments.

09/10/07 “Chris” Identified as Monckton

In Lynch[8]#26, “**Chris**” gives a long discussion of numerous issues on which **Monckton** has written, of which the conclusion is especially fascinating:

“Adhere to the science, and do not push it in one direction or another. Follow it quietly wherever it leads, even if the direction of the truth is politically uncongenial. Truth alone is worthy of our entire devotion.”

Lynch [8]#32 identifies **Monckton**'s bikerbikerbiker@hotmail.com. Other discussions add Internet IP addresses.

Lynch then writes a pithy summary, asking the audience to judge for themselves whether this was plagiarism or not, and whether or not “**Monckton** has been hanging around ... trying to scare people.” scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/ah_another_day_in_denialism_la.php

*The reader may assess: is “Chris” **Monckton**? Does the reader recall Monckton's claim to be a member of the House of Lords? Does the reader recall Monckton's interactions with Wikipedia? How well does “Truth alone...” fit?*

At least, **Benny Peiser** participated openly under his own name in the earlier debates. As of 10/09/07, no further comments from “Chris” have appeared on those blogs.

09/19/07 Harassment Continues

Schulte sends another threatening letter to Oreskes, described in 09/24/07 posting below.

09/20/07 E&E Says Schulte[6] Will Not Be Published!

People have been assuming that E&E would publish this sooner or later, as it is widely regarded as a haven for contrarian papers unable to be published elsewhere, but then:

Richard Littlemore writes, in DeSmogBlog: "Schulte's Analysis: Not Published; Not Going to Be"
www.desmogblog.com/schultes-analysis-not-published-not-going-to-be

Dr. Sonja A. Boehmer-Christiansen, Editor of E&E, wrote in response to email from Littlemore:
"His survey of papers critical of the consensus was a bit patchy and nothing new, as you point out. it was not what was of interest to me; nothing has been published."

This is a good reminder that "submitted" is not the same as "published" or even "to-be published." After all this fuss, even E&E was not interested.

People have commented that actually publishing research anywhere may have been far less important than being able to fill the blogosphere with a story in which a "researcher" will publish a rebuttal in a "journal" and also harass Oreskes.

09/24/07 Oreskes offers updated response to Schulte

Oreskes[10] offers an updated response to Schulte, noting that she was working from the published descriptions, and if he thought they misrepresented his work, that she would be glad to review his paper, which after all, has been in the hands of several bloggers for weeks. He refuses, and continues:

"Withdraw your unfounded personal allegations against me, with the expression of your apologies. Failure to do so within 14 days will oblige me to take appropriate measures to protect my position without further notice."

scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/oreskes_offers_updated_respons.php [10]

The reader may assess: does this seem professional? Does this seem like an honest dispute, or an attempt to threaten and harass?

7. SUMMARY

The reader may assess: *is my following opinion of this affair reasonable?*

This is not science, this is anti-science PR done by press release and blogosphere, filled with deceptive techniques and outright attempts to harass Oreskes. It includes demands for resignation and threats of lawsuits and other unspecified actions. It bears no resemblance to normal academic research, scientific publication or even legitimately contentious scientific discussion. It bears interesting similarities to attacks on Michael Mann and James Hansen. It is clearly a manufactured fight in which a huge amount of noise originates on one side, with great PR amplification by people who neither do fact-checking nor care to, and who are happy to accept a vague description of unpublished research by an endocrinologist as disproving the consensus.

It is a very strange involvement for an NHS surgeon and endocrinologist, whose main contribution seems to be the label “researcher.” If he has an argument with medical journals’ handling of AGW, he could discuss it with them, but instead he attempts to challenge a strong consensus in a scientific domain far outside his own. He commits clear (and incredibly silly and incompetent) plagiarism. He claims competence at a task where his own words show him to lack such competence. He cooperates closely with well-known contrarians/denialists who lack relevant scientific expertise, but generate masses of anti-AGW disinformation. Even after being exposed as a plagiarist, he persists in writing threatening letters to an expert in the field.. He prominently displays his NHS and Kings’ College affiliations, and sometimes logos, attached to writings that seem to violate their guidelines, and do not reflect well on those respected institutions.

I am unable to provide any reasonable explanation for this truly bizarre behavior.

All this does illuminate the workings of the “the denialist machine” that can amplify and propagate silly nonsense, in this case, about a paper that even a poorly-regarded journal has chosen not to publish.

In any case, they do not refute Oreskes, who claims consensus, not unanimity, although near-unanimity keeps appearing despite denialist’ increasingly-desperate attempts to attack it. It would take a great deal of credible dissent, with good research results that hold up over time, to change the balance of evidence that convinces the Royal Society, the AAAS, the AGU. It would also need astonishing revisions to well-understood physics.

The reader may assess: *was this a collaboration among Monckton, Schulte, Ferguson and Morano, to propagate Monckton’s views, confuse the public, and even include personal harassment, including demands for absurd apologies, threats of lawsuits, and attack-by-press-release?*

*In any case, please read **Appendices I and II**, which reproduce Oreskes[5] and analyze the Schulte[6] letter in detail, and clearly establish serious plagiarism and perhaps misrepresentation, deception, and other unprofessional behavior. **Appendix III** reproduces Oreskes[10]. **Appendix IV** offers notes on British medical journals views about AGW. **Appendix V** offers a few further notes on SPPI.*

REFERENCES

- Oreskes[1]** [Naomi Oreskes, The scientific consensus on climate change, *Science* 306: 1686, 2004. Following includes an erratum January 1, specifying “global climate change” as the search phrase.
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/306/5702/1686.pdf
- Peiser[2]** Benny Peiser, The letter Science Magazine refused to publish, submitted 4 January 2005, plus additional correspondence.
www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/Scienceletter.htm PEISER[2]
- Monckton[3]** Christopher Monckton, 3rd Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, July 2007, “Consensus”? What “Consensus”? Among Climate Scientists the Debate is not over.
scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/monckton/consensus.pdf
File>Properties>Advanced:
Created 7/10/2007 11:14AM from file:
Microsoft Word – Monckton on Oreskes –consensus final 6-21-07.
PDF Created 7/10/2007 1:14PM, with SPPI logos.
- Oreskes[4]** Oreskes, Naomi, 2007, "The scientific consensus on climate change: How do we know we're not wrong?" *Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren*, edited by Joseph F. C. DiMento and Pamela Doughman, MIT Press, pp. 65-99.
www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/documents/Chapter4.pdf
- Oreskes[5]** Naomi Oreskes, Reply to EPW Blog: New Peer-Reviewed Scientific Studies Chill Global Warming Fears, published via John M. Lynch in Stranger Fruit, 08/31/07. **Lynch[5]** is the reference for the rest of the thread.
scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/08/oreskes_reponds_to_schulte.php
The original version is reproduced in **Appendix I**, as the current file has modest updates that were done on 09/24/07; see **Oreskes[10]** for introduction to the revision.
- Schulte[6]** Klaus-Martin Schulte, Open Letter in Response to Namoi (sic) Oreskes' Criticisms, September 3, 2007. [*Ferguson may have been in a hurry.*]
scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/schulte_letter.pdf
File>Properties>Advanced:
Created 9/4/2007 2:46PM, from file:
Microsoft Word – Monckton - Schulte letter to Oreskes cover9-4-07. [*fascinating title*]
PDF Created 9/24/2007 4:46PM, with SPPI logos.
- Lambert[7]** Tim Lambert, Oreskes replies to Schulte, 09/05/07, in Deltoid
scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/oreskes_replies_to_schulte_1.php
- Lynch[8]** John M. Lynch, Schulte responds to Oreskes, 09/06/07, in Stranger Fruit
scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/schulte_reponds_to_oreskes.php
- Lambert[9]** Tim Lambert, Schulte replies to Oreskes, 09/09/07, in Deltoid.
scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/schulte_replies_to_oreskes.php
- Oreskes[10]** Oreskes offers updated response to Schulte, 09/24/07, in Stranger Fruit.
scienceblogs.com/strangerfruit/2007/09/oreskes_offers_updated_respons.php
This is reproduced in **Appendix III**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much of this draws on blog comments and sometimes email from Tim Lambert, John Lynch, Andrew Dessler, Fergus Brown, and Kevin Grandia, but I am solely responsible for the content of this document and any errors therein. I've done the best I can to put together the details, knowing that some are unclear, and some relationships almost certainly have been purposefully obscured.

APPENDIX I – ORESKES[5] RESPONSE, 08/31/07

This shows a note from **Oreskes** to **John Lynch**, which he then offered to post, with his short introduction, and **Oreskes** allowed. This is the original; **Oreskes** updated it slightly 09/24/07 (**Oreskes[10]**).

[Oreskes responds to Schulte](#)

Posted on: August 31, 2007 1:50 PM, by [John Lynch](#)

Many readers will no doubt know the [2004 paper](#) in *Science* by historian of science Naomi Oreskes, a paper which discussed the consensus position regarding anthropogenic climate change. Predictably, the paper received much vitriol from the climate contrarians and denialists. Now, a medical research (Klaus-Martin Schulte, who appears to be a consultant in endocrine surgery) has claimed that Oreskes' paper is not only outdated but also wrong. This claim has been extensively crowed over not only by Inhofe's [EPW Press Blog](#) but by other [Right wing sites](#) and, indeed, our own beloved [Uncommon Descent](#).

Naomi kindly shared with me her response to Schulte's work and below the fold I provide her reply in full. **Updated:** Link to full text of Oreskes (2007) added.

Reply to EPW Blog: [New Peer-Reviewed Scientific Studies Chill Global Warming Fears:](#)

Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego

- 1) The Schulte piece is being published in *Energy and Environment*, a known contrarian journal. It was posted on the minority blog of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, whose leader thinks that global warming is a "hoax." It was circulated on the internet by Marc Morano, a long-standing contrarian and former reporter and producer for the Rush Limbaugh Show, and who was involved in the "swift boat" campaign against John Kerry.
- 2) The Schulte piece misrepresents the research question we posed. It was, "How many papers published in referred journals disagree with the statement, "...most of the observed warming of the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations"? This statement came from the IPCC (2001) and was reiterated explicitly by the 2001 NAS report, so we wanted to know how many papers diverged from that consensus position. The answer was none. The Schulte claim does not refute that.
- 3) The piece misrepresents the results we obtained. In the original AAAS talk on which the paper was based, and in various interviews and conversations after, I repeatedly pointed out that very few papers analyzed said anything explicit at all about the consensus position. This was actually a very important result, for the following reason. Biologists today never write papers in which they explicitly say "we endorse evolution". Earth scientists never say "we explicitly endorse plate tectonics." This is because these things are now taken for granted. So when we read these papers and observed this pattern, we took this to be very significant. We realized that the basic issue was settled, and we observed that scientists had moved on to discussing details of the problem, mostly tempo and mode issues: how fast, how soon, in what manner, with what impacts, etc. (See Oreskes, 2007 for further discussion).
- 4) The Schulte piece misrepresents my own interpretation of the severity climate question, as well as that of the scientific societies whose positions we compiled. This is a typical contrarian tactic - to exaggerate or misrepresent the scientific claim and then "refute" it. My analysis was a summary of the position of scientific experts. I never said, nor have any of the major scientific societies said, that the scientific literature warns of an imminent "catastrophe." An analysis of how *severe* scientists think warming is or will be would have been a different paper. So you cannot "refute" my analysis by pointing out that the word "catastrophe" doesn't appear. I never said that it did. Nor would I expect it to. Scientists don't generally use that kind of language, although contrarians do.
- 5) The EPW press release accuses my paper of being "outdated." It is in fact a crucial element of the paper that the study that it goes back to 1993. We wanted to see how the arguments had developed over time, and

to test, if we could, when the consensus position emerged. A crucial result for me was the realization that the basic consensus had already been established in the early 1990s. However, in hindsight this should actually have been obvious: it's why President George H.W. Bush signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The basic scientific insight was already in place.

6) The author is a *medical* researcher. As a historian of science I am trained to analyze and understand scientific arguments, their development, their progress, etc., and my specific expertise is in the history of earth science. This past summer I was invited to teach a graduate intensive course at Vienna International Summer University, Vienna Circle Institute, on Consensus in Science. I do not know why a medical researcher would feel qualified to undertake an analysis of consensus in the earth scientific literature.

7) Contrarians have been trying to refute my work for three years. A previous claim, also circulated and cited by Marc Morano, was subsequently retracted by its author. Evidently it has taken them three years to find some one foolish enough to try again.

I refer interested individuals back to the original paper (Oreskes, 2004) and to a more extended version of the argument (Oreskes, 2007).

Oreskes, Naomi, 2004. "The scientific consensus on climate change," *Science* 306: 1686. [[link](#)]

Oreskes, Naomi, 2007, "The scientific consensus on climate change: How do we know we're not wrong?" *Climate Change: What It Means for Us, Our Children, and Our Grandchildren*, edited by Joseph F. C. DiMento and Pamela Doughman, MIT Press, pp. 65-99. [[Download file](#)]

APPENDIX II – SCHULTE[6] LETTER WITH INTEGRATED COMMENTARY

APPENDIX II shows Schulte's letter to **Oreskes** and **Fox** on Labor Day, then posted 2 days' later at SPPI as **Schulte[6]**. I used a copy of the original Word email letter, which I obtained from **Oreskes**, from which the PDF at **SPPI** was derived by adding **SPPI** logos.

Oreskes' reply is written in Roman.

Schulte interspersed his comments in **Bold**.

*My comments are interspersed in separate paragraphs in Italics. This pulls together analysis scattered around many blog threads, but especially using comments from **Tim Lambert, John Lynch, Fergus Brown, and Andrew Dessler**.*

***Schulte's** letter uses NHS electronic letterhead. NHS publications emphasize values of professionalism and communications that are straightforward, honest, and respectful. Some NHS branch guidelines say: "Documents for external circulation or publication should be checked by someone other than the author." This same document was published on the **SPPI** website 05 September 2007, with **Schulte's** affiliation shown, and widely disseminated by **Ferguson**.*

The reader may assess: does Schulte's letter follow those standards?

*If the following, with 2 levels of in-line comments, is too complicated to read easily, the reader might print a copy of **Schulte[6]** for reference as well. I apologize that some comments may seem redundant, but they are here to pull together various comments into one place, in context that may calibrate **Schulte's** outraged innocence.*

03 September 2007

King's College Hospital 
NHS Foundation Trust

Dr. Marye Anne Fox
Chancellor
University of California, San Diego

Mr. Klaus-Martin Schulte, MD, FRCS
Consultant of Endocrine Surgery
King's College HHonorary Senior Lecturer of Surgery
King's College London

and

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3 September 2007

To: Dr. Marye Anne Fox, Chancellor, University of California, San Diego
To: Dr. Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego
By email to chancellor@ucsd.edu and to noreskes@ucsd.edu

Mesdames,

My attention has been drawn to what purports to be a statement by Naomi Oreskes, a science historian at the University of California at San Diego, commenting on a forthcoming but not yet finalized paper of mine, an early draft of which was circulated without my authority. Furthermore, since no draft of my paper contains the statements attributed to me by Oreskes, the comments which have been made are based not on the paper itself but on media reports about it, though the statement fails to make this clear. Whether or not it was Oreskes who issued the statement, it has been widely publicized and the points made require answers from me.

Oreskes is not only a science historian, but a well-published geoscientist. Key points of Schulte's paper were published, quoted in Monckton[3], on the SPPI website August 20 or as early as mid-July, reusing Peiser[2]'s earlier (but disavowed) efforts and adding Schulte's results. Monckton[3] was broadly publicized at the end of August, which brought various references to Oreskes' notice, and she replied to Lynch August 31. Oreskes' reply has been far less publicized than the reports of Schulte's work. As seen in Figure 1, most of the publicity was done by people connected, directly or indirectly with Schulte.

Schulte not only failed to disavow the Monckton piece, or various derivatives thereof, but published this letter on the SPPI website September 05, just 2 days later. Also, under the Chronology, recall that the internal title of the document was: "Microsoft Word - Monckton - Schulte letter to Oreskes cover9-4-07"

The reader should assess: how long had Schulte and Monckton been collaborating? Was Schulte actually expecting an answer from a busy professor and the UCSD Chancellor the morning of the next day, after sending it on a holiday before UCSD's term had even started? Or was the idea to create a threatening note that could then be widely disseminated? How can the Monckton, Asher, pieces be called unauthorized?

I shall enumerate the points in the statement, which I shall recite in full and in Roman face. My reply to each point will be in bold face.

1) The Schulte piece is being published in Energy and Environment, a known contrarian journal. It was posted on the minority blog of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, whose leader thinks that global warming is a "hoax." It was circulated on the internet by Marc Morano, a long-standing

contrarian and former reporter and producer for the Rush Limbaugh Show, and who was involved in the "swift boat" campaign against John Kerry.

I drafted the paper because I had become concerned that patients were being perhaps unduly alarmed by media reports of catastrophic climate change and were coming to harm through resultant stress. Peer-reviewed studies of patients' views on the subject of climate change had reinforced my concern. The medical journals had also begun commenting on climate change, often in a frankly but not necessarily justifiably alarmist sense. Accordingly, I decided to study the peer-reviewed literature on climate change myself, starting where Oreskes' essay (Oreskes, 2004) had left off, in January 2004. It was only once the paper was written that a colleague recommended that I should submit it to *Energy and Environment*, a peer-reviewed journal in good standing. *Science*, to which it was originally submitted, declined to publish it on the ground that it was not of sufficient interest. I have never had any contact with any member of the US Senate or with his staff. I am neither a "contrarian" nor an "alarmist". I am an endocrine surgeon with numerous published papers in the medical journals. My sole concern in this debate is the welfare of patients.

It is possible that patients were becoming unduly alarmed, and certainly, if Monckton were a Schulte patient (unknowable due to confidentiality), then there would indeed be one patient with such stress. It is certainly the case, as seen in Appendix IV, that the British Medical Journal and The Lancet are concerned with the effects of climate change.

The reader should assess: if a patient is concerned about something far outside a doctor's expertise, which of these would be thought normal professional behavior?

A) Refer them to an appropriate knowledgeable specialist to address their concerns?

B) Embark on a major effort (examining 500+ abstracts in a different field) to attack a consensus strongly supported by the relevant learned societies in that specialty?

If a child was worried that they would get sick because their parents smoked at home, should a surgeon tell the child not to worry, and then do a study to disprove the medical consensus regarding the effects of secondhand smoke?

The reader should assess: which colleague suggested E&E? Is E&E a widely-read journal at the NHS? Or might Monckton have been the "colleague"?

The reader should assess: does this whole rationale ring true?

2) The Schulte piece misrepresents the research question we posed. It was, "How many papers published in referred journals disagree with the statement, "...most of the observed warming of the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations"? This statement came from the IPCC (2001) and was reiterated explicitly by the 2001 NAS report, so we wanted to know how many papers diverged from that consensus position. The answer was none. The Schulte claim does not refute that.

All drafts of my paper contain the following paragraph –

“The question whether there is a unanimous scientific consensus about climate change was investigated by means of a review of the recent peer-reviewed literature, carrying forward the research by Oreskes (2004), whose short essay had stated that none of 928 abstracts of papers published between 1993 and 2003 and found on the ISI Web of Science database using the search term “global climate change” had rejected the scientific consensus to the effect that –

““Most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations’ (IPCC, 2001).”

Since my quotation from IPCC (2001) was identical to that which was used by Oreskes herself, any charge of misrepresentation on my part must fail. Indeed, the unfortunate assertion of

misrepresentation, which should surely not have been made without prior reference to me for verification of the facts, demonstrates that, at the time when the statement was written, its author had not read any draft of my paper.

*The reader may assess: “The question whether there is a unanimous scientific consensus...carrying forward the research by Oreskes.” As **Oreskes** has said frequently, the issue has never been unanimity, so **Schulte** claiming his research carried **Oreskes**’ forward is nonsense, and is indeed misrepresentation, and **Schulte** keeps doing it. More accurately, he might have said “I performed a different study, on a different set of data, on a topic about which I know little, with different rules, and I prefer my rules, although Science is unconvinced, and I got different results.”*

*Had he studied 2004-2007 with the same methodology and proper expertise, “carrying forward” might make sense, but of course, his results would have confirmed **Oreskes** (as seen from **Brown**’s comments).*

*The reader may assess: does this sound like a serious comment or debating rhetoric? Again, if **Schulte** wanted to “carry forward” **Oreskes**’ research, why didn’t he send her a preview copy? He sent them to **Monckton** and at least two bloggers. Is **Oreskes** required to research the background of every unpublished attack that arrives via **Morano/Ferguson/Denialist PR Machine**? (These happen frequently, and they are designed to generate publicity and waste researchers’ time.)*

The statement says that none of the papers which Oreskes reviewed departed from the “consensus” in the strictly limited sense defined in her essay. I say “strictly limited” because the IPCC’s quoted sentence implies no more than that at least 0.25 °C of the 0.5 °C observed increase in global temperature over the past half century is likely to have been anthropogenic. My own paper carried Oreskes’ research forward. The papers she reviewed had been published between 1993 2003: the papers I reviewed were published from 2004 onward. Therefore my paper was silent on the question whether her analysis had been correct. However, since she has seen fit to raise the question of unanimity in the peer-reviewed journals, I have now inspected the papers which she had reviewed. Some examples of papers which fell within her search criterion and within her timeframe, but which do not appear to me, *prima facie*, to support even her limited definition of the “consensus”, are as follows –

*Oreskes’ “limited definition” of consensus was accepted by **Science**, and **Oreskes** has endlessly said that consensus does not depend on unanimity, and has even expressed surprise at finding unanimity amongst large samples. **Schulte** keeps repeating “carried Oreskes’s research forward”, which is misrepresentation.*

*The reader may assess: is **Schulte** looking for a fight? Is that the whole point?*

Just above, we start finding obvious, substantive plagiarism.

*In **Monckton**[3] is found the sentence:*

“Some examples of papers which fell within Oreskes’ search criterion and within her chosen timeframe but which she regarded as supportive of her imagined “unanimous” consensus:”

*And in **Schulte**[6], from above:*

*‘Some examples of papers which fell within her search criterion and within her timeframe, but which do not appear to me, *prima facie*, to support even her limited definition of the “consensus”, are as follows’*

The reader may assess: does that look similar, with minor rewording?

*Section 3) below of **Oreskes**’ response is clear, and from a well-published geoscientist/science historian, one of whose specialties is the study of real scientific controversies. **Schulte** wants to use his own interpretation. Science accepted **Oreskes**’ interpretation, and did not accept **Schulte**’s paper. Neither has **E&E**, usually considered a haven for contrarian papers unpublishable elsewhere.*

The following appears to be an attempt by Schulte to establish his credibility as knowledgeable in this domain. **Lambert** is impressed that **Schulte** quickly inspected the 900+ papers (not just abstracts) found by **Oreskes**. At 6 minutes (.1 hour) apiece, an amazing speed for anyone, much less a nonspecialist, that takes 92.6 hours. As a surrogate experiment, Google Scholar: global climate change, and the reader should try to even access these papers, much less “inspect” them, in 6 minutes apiece.

But, there is a much more serious problem. The rest of this section is both **outright plagiarism** and **wrong**, as identified by **Lambert[9]**, who did all the hard work, and whose comments I integrate and expand from: scienceblogs.com/deltoid/2007/09/schulte_replies_to_oreskes.php [9]

All 5 references below are found in the References section, Page 3 of **Peiser[2]**, and erroneous citations are copied from there by **Monckton** and then **Schulte**: www.staff.livjm.ac.uk/spsbpeis/Scienceletter.htm [2]

The following section is word-for-word (and text formatting) identical to part of **Monckton[3]**, pages 8-9: scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/monckton/consensus.pdf [3]

If one just selects text from the **Monckton[3]** PDF and pastes it into a Word document, some formatting is lost, and the 3 arrow markers (from the somewhat unusual “Wingding” font) turn into squares, but **Schulte[3]** has the Wingding arrows, as seen below.

- A) Maybe one might use some PDF-to-Word converter to preserve formatting , Wingdings.
- B) One might copy the text, then restore the Wingdings, needing specific effort.
- C) One might have a copy of the Word file used to create **Monckton[3]**, and then it would be trivial to cut-and-paste the text and do a few edits.

The reader may assess: which of A), B), or C) seems most likely?

Peiser had withdrawn his objections in 2006, so the uselessness of this material should have been known to even the casual researcher, but **Monckton** and **Schulte** either did not know, or did not care. My comments in this section are derived from **Lambert[9]**.

- **AMMANN et al. (2003) detected evidence for close ties between solar variations and surface climate.**

The consensus view says: of course solar variations influence climate, but do not explain recent warming, especially since solar irradiance has oscillated modestly (11-year sunspot cycles), and not increased noticeably since we’ve had satellite measurements. **Peiser, Monckton** and **Schulte** identically mis-cite the paper, for which HS Oh is actually the first author: [/amath.colorado.edu/faculty/naveau/PUBLI/solar_Oh.pdf](http://amath.colorado.edu/faculty/naveau/PUBLI/solar_Oh.pdf)

Neither the abstract nor the paper (which I’ve read) support a rejection of the consensus. Finally, Caspar Ammann is an amazingly-silly choice to pick as an author of a consensus-rejecting article:

Google Scholar: ammann wahl OR ammann global climate change
Google: amman wahl mann

He is listed as a contributor at <http://www.RealClimate.org>, and one of the authors of the IPCC’s AR.... i.e., the chance of him being a rejector is about zero.

Anyone at all familiar with climate change arguments would know his name or easily check it. The quote is taken directly from **Peiser[1]**, who either did not read the abstract or did not understand it, and **Monckton** must not have either.

- **REID (1997) found that “the importance of solar variability as a factor in climate change over the last few decades may have been underestimated in recent studies”.**

*This cite is vague, but at least the right author is listed, and via **Peiser**[2], one finds a useful cite, and the exact quote above. I could not find a freely-available copy, but the abstract is:*

www.springerlink.com/content/r2n447034x15v087/

Just preceding the quote is:

“suggestion that solar forcing and anthropogenic greenhouse-gas forcing made roughly equal contributions to the rise in global temperature that took place between 1900 and 1955.”

That view is part of the consensus. Later, solar forcing stopped growing, leveling off into usual 11-year cycles, so cannot explain current warming.

The quote has been widely used by denialists to claim “it’s just the Sun.”

***Peiser** either did not understand the abstract, or he cherry-picked the last sentence.*

***Monckton/Schulte** used **Peiser**’s quote, and it is not clear whether they understood the abstract or actually looked at the paper. At the very most, one might think this a legitimate argument to make sure solar irradiance effects are included and modeled ... and climate models certainly do that.*

For example:

data.giss.nasa.gov/modelforce/solar.irradiance/

- **KONDRATYEV and Varotsos (1996) criticize “the undoubtedly overemphasized contribution of the greenhouse effect to the global climate change”.**

*This is another poor cite, and copied from **Peiser**[2], page 3, item 6), whose cite is incorrect, obviously duplicated from the previous item 5). Clearly, neither **Monckton** nor **Schulte** noticed the error and likely never even saw the real abstract. The correct cite, via **Lambert**[9] is:*

KONDRATYEV, K. and Varotsos, C. 1995 Atmospheric Greenhouse-Effect in the Context of Global Climate-Change. Nuovo Cimeno della Societa Italiana di Fisica C-Geophysics and Space Physics 18 (2): 123-151.

The abstract can be found:

www.springerlink.com/content/114728q984120156/

The article was written in 1994, and the abstract basically says, among other things, that more work is needed to understand greenhouse gasses versus aerosol forcing, which is both correct and agrees with the consensus. They write:

“It is only in the context of a coupled totality of significant climate forming factors and processes that the contribution of the greenhouse effect may be estimated.”

*That doesn’t sound like a challenge to the consensus, but it does not matter, as **Lambert**[9] says:*

*“ISI classifies this as a review and not an article, so it was not included in **Oreskes**’ sample and should not have been included by **Schulte** either.”*

*In **Monckton**[3], the next sentence was:*

*“Two abstracts reviewed by **Oreskes** directly and bluntly rejected the “consensus” as she had defined it, but she counted them as “consensual” nevertheless:” Compare with **Schulte**:*

Two abstracts, in particular, directly rejected the “consensus” as **Oreskes had defined it -**

GERHARD and Hanson (2000): “The American Association of Petroleum Geologists’ Ad Hoc Committee on Global Climate Issues has studied the supposition of human-induced climate change since the committee’s inception in January 1998. This paper details the progress and findings of the committee through June 1999, At that time there had been essentially no geologic input into the global climate change debate. The following statements

reflect the current state of climate knowledge from the geologic perspective as interpreted by the majority of the committee membership. The committee recognizes that new data could change its conclusions. The earth’s climate is constantly changing owing to natural variability in earth processes. Natural climate variability over recent geological time is greater than reasonable estimates of potential human-induced greenhouse gas changes. Because no tool is available to test the supposition of human-induced climate change and the range of natural variability is so great, there is no discernible human influence on global climate at this time.”

Lambert[9]: This is by AAPG and is not a peer-reviewed research article. ISI mis-classified this as an article, not a review, so it shouldn’t have been in Oreskes’ list anyway.

FERNAU et al. (1993): “This article examines the status of the scientific uncertainties in predicting and verifying global climate change that hinder aggressive policy making. More and better measurements and statistical techniques are needed to detect and confirm the existence of greenhouse-gas-induced climate change, which currently cannot be distinguished from natural climate variability in the historical record. Uncertainties about the amount and rate of change of greenhouse gas emissions also make prediction of the magnitude and timing of climate change difficult. Because of inadequacies in the knowledge and depiction of physical processes and limited computer technology, predictions from existing computer models vary widely, particularly on a regional basis, and are not accurate enough yet for use in policy decisions. The extent of all these uncertainties is such that moving beyond no-regrets measures such as conservation will take political courage and may be delayed until scientific uncertainties are reduced.”

Lambert[9]: “This was in the Social Science Index, not the Science Citation Index, so was not included in Oreskes’ sample.” Of course, Monckton added the full abstracts, so Schulte would need to use the same words in these two cases.

The reader may assess: Does this quality of citation and analysis encourage confidence in Schulte’s ability to understand abstracts and papers in this domain? Does this look like someone plagiarizing in an attempt to look personally knowledgeable?

Table 1 – Summary Analysis of Peiser cites used by Monckton/Schulte

Correct Cite	Correct Index	Peer-Reviewed	Rejects Consensus	Real Reject Good Cite	Paper
N	Y	Y	N	0	Ammann (Oh is lead author)
Y	Y	Y	N	0	Reid
N	N	Y?	N	0	Kondratyev (wrong year, journal)
Y	N	N	Y	0	Gerhard
Y	N	Y	N	0	Fernau
				0/5	Total

At this point in Monckton[3] is found:

“Though Oreskes has challenged Dr. Peiser’s analysis by pointing out that the paper by Gerhard and Hansen was not peer-reviewed, her essay appears not to have been peer reviewed either.” Compare:

I am given to understand that Oreskes has pointed out that the paper by Gerhard and Hansen was not peer-reviewed. However, it is not clear to me that her essay was peer-reviewed either. It was published as an “Essay” in the comment section of *Science* under the subhead “Beyond The Ivory Tower” – an essay series which, according to the editors of *Science*, “highlights the benefits that scientists, science, and technology have brought to society throughout history”.

The reader may assess: does Schulte equate **Science** and AAPG? AAPG's Bulletin is about "geoscience and the associated technology of the energy industry." Do the editors of Science routinely run peer-review, and evaluate climate science papers? (Yes).

Has AAPG had a definite viewpoint?

(Yes), and if the reader wants to assess that opinion, noting that there is a state of flux, as there have been many arguments inside AAPG over this.

www.aapg.org. Search box: global climate change; read results.

www.aapg.org/explorer/2006/07jul/climate_card.cfm

Monckton[3] resumes:

"It may even be the case that the authors of most or even all of the cited abstracts personally believe that humankind is responsible for more than half of the 0.4C observed warming of the past half century. Dr. Peiser accepts, as does the author of the present paper, that most climate scientists published in the journals probably believe that humankind has contributed more than 0.2C of the 0.4C observed warming over the past half century. But the published papers we have quoted, nevertheless, raise sufficient doubts about important aspects of the imagined "consensus" to demonstrate the falsity of Oreskes' claim that not one of the abstracts was counter-consensual." Compare with Schulte:

It may or may not be that the authors of the above-cited abstracts personally believe that humankind is responsible for more than half of the observed warming of the past half century. It may or may not be that most climate scientists published in the journals believe that. However, the published papers which I have cited above, and the numerous papers which I have cited in my own study of papers published after the end of Oreskes' study, do raise grave doubts about the unanimity which Oreskes said she had found in the papers which she had reviewed when preparing her 2004 essay. If unanimity existed in the peer-reviewed literature between 1993 and 2003 – which I have reason to doubt – it certainly no longer exists today.

The reader may assess: does the entire section look like plagiarism? Does this specific paragraph look like rewording to remove references to **Peiser**, and turn "we" into "I"? Does the inability to notice even simple errors, to reasonably assess abstracts, and to recognize even a well-known supporter of the consensus (Ammann) give much confidence in **Schulte's** comments? Again, he somehow thinks that dispelling unanimity dispels the consensus, exactly as **Monckton** does.

The reader may assess: does Schulte show even the slightest competence in this field?

3) The piece misrepresents the results we obtained. In the original AAAS talk on which the paper was based, and in various interviews and conversations after, I repeated pointed out that very few papers analyzed said anything explicit at all about the consensus position. This was actually a very important result, for the following reason. Biologists today never write papers in which they explicitly say "we endorse evolution". Earth scientists never say "we explicitly endorse plate tectonics." This is because these things are now taken for granted. So when we read these papers and observed this pattern, we took this to be very significant. We realized that the basic issue was settled, and we observed that scientists had moved on to discussing details of the problem, mostly tempo and mode issues: how fast, how soon, in what manner, with what impacts, etc. (See Oreskes, 2007 for further discussion).

The statement says that "very few papers analyzed said anything explicit at all about the consensus position." **In remarkable contrast to this assertion, however, Oreskes' 2004 essay says, "Of all the papers, 75% fell into the first three categories [explicit endorsement of the consensus position, evaluation of impacts, mitigation proposals], either explicitly or implicitly accepting the consensus view."**

All drafts of my own paper contain the following paragraph –

“Oreskes reported that 75% of the 928 abstracts which she reviewed were –

‘explicitly or implicitly accepting the consensus view ... Remarkably, none of the papers disagreed with the consensus position. ... Politicians, economists, journalists, and others may have the impression of confusion, disagreement, or discord among climate scientists, but that impression is incorrect. ... The question of what to do about climate change remains open.’”

Once again, since my paper quoted Oreskes’ essay explicitly and accurately, any charge of misrepresentation on my part must fail. With all respect, the statement’s declaration that the starting-point for Oreskes’ research was that “we realized that the basic issue was settled” would, if true, cast considerable doubt upon the impartiality and reliability of her research.

Oreskes, just above, stated that they read the papers, and then realized the basic issue was settled even before 1993. That seems fairly clear.

The reader may assess: can Schulte tell the difference between a conclusion drawn after doing research and a “starting-point?” Oreskes is quite explicit about the temporal sequence. Is Schulte calling her a liar? Even as he says the charge of misrepresentation must fail, he misrepresents a clear sentence from Oreskes, just a few lines away.

The statement’s admission that all papers on evaluation of impacts and on mitigation were counted as accepting the consensus also raises serious questions as to the appropriateness of Oreskes’ methodology: for it is perfectly possible, for example, to insure against a risk without believing that the risk is at all likely to become a reality.

Oreskes wrote for Science because she had earlier given at the 2004 AAAS meeting a well-received George Sarton Award Lecture , which mentioned this study briefly in passing. Science of course is one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world.

The reader may assess:

Schulte is free to question Oreskes’ methodology and prefer his own, but does his view convince people who actually understand the history of real scientific controversies, like the editors of Science? Oreskes[5] seems a persuasive discussion. Even the poorly-regarded E&E has so far declined to publish Schulte’s paper. In science even unsupported expert opinions hold little weight, and non-expert opinions even less.

In my own research, I carefully confined my analysis to what the learned papers under review actually said, and took no prior position on whether or not there was, or ought to be, a consensus. In all drafts of my paper, I quoted several papers *verbatim*, though I note that Oreskes did not do this in her 2004 essay. She assumes that the authors of many papers which do not reject the consensus can be counted as accepting it. The authors may or may not accept the consensus, and I have been made aware of research by Von Storch *et al.*, who had invited scientists in climate and related fields to express their opinions as to the “consensus”, and had found that many disagreed with it: however, the statement is in effect now conceding that a substantial proportion of the scientific papers themselves, as published and as reviewed by Oreskes, do not provide any direct internal evidence whatsoever that their authors accept the consensus as she chose to define it.

*The reader may assess: Schulte has certainly been cooperating with Monckton, whose negative views on consensus are certainly well-known, as are Ferguson’s. Does this “no prior position” ring true? A bit later, Schulte states that his only concern is patient welfare. Does that ring true? Oreskes’ 2004 essay was limited to one page, which simply does not leave room for quoting papers *verbatim*. Of course, quoting abstracts *verbatim* is useless if one does not understand their meaning.*

Therefore Oreskes’ original conclusion that 75% of the papers which she reviewed either explicitly or implicitly accepted that “consensus” seems to me, with respect, to be little better than guesswork

inspired by wishful thinking on the basis of a previously-unstated now-declared preconception that the “basic issue” is “settled”.

The reader may assess: Schulte has strong opinions for someone with no previous publications in climate science. Are those opinions warranted? Do they misrepresent what Oreskes said in 3)? How does this compare with the clear plagiarism of material that Schulte clearly didn't understand (and was wrong anyway)? Has Schulte displayed even the slightest evidence of competence in this domain?

4) The Schulte piece misrepresents my own interpretation of the climate severity question, as well as that of the scientific societies whose positions we compiled. This is a typical contrarian tactic - to exaggerate or misrepresent the scientific claim and then "refute" it. My analysis was a summary of the position of scientific experts. I never said, nor have any of the major scientific societies said, that the scientific literature warns of an imminent "catastrophe." An analysis of how severe scientists think warming is or will be would have been a different paper. So you cannot "refute" my analysis by pointing out that the word "catastrophe" doesn't appear. I never said that it did. Nor would I expect it to. Scientists don't generally use that kind of language, although contrarians do.

Oreskes' 2004 essay contains the following statement, which, though the word “catastrophe” is not used, is unscientifically apocalyptic in tone –

“Our grandchildren will surely blame us if they find that we understood the reality of anthropogenic climate change and failed to do anything about it.”

However, no draft of my own paper either explicitly or implicitly ascribed any “interpretation” of the “severity” of climate change to Oreskes. Accordingly, any charge of misrepresentation on my part must again fail. The focus of my paper was not Oreskes' research. In every draft of my paper, I was careful to make no comment of any kind on the accuracy or reliability of her research, still less on whether she regarded anthropogenic “global warming” as serious enough to be potentially catastrophic and hence to require action for the sake of our grandchildren. I confined myself to citing figures from her essay merely as a point of comparison for the figures in my own paper, which cover a period subsequent to, not coincident with, the period which her own research had covered.

My sole concern is the question whether, on the question of climate change, patients – particularly children, who are easily terrified – have any scientifically-compelling reason to be as alarmed as the studies in the medical literature now demonstrate that they are. Accordingly, I carefully examined the peer-reviewed literature and found that, out of 539 papers on “global climate change” whose abstracts I read, only one mentioned climate change as being “catastrophic”, and even that paper offered no evidence in support of catastrophism. Patients will be reassured to know that.

The reader may assess: Schulte's paper has not been published (and E&E has declined), but reports about it, written by Monckton and Ferguson (and indirectly) by Morano/EPW and other have been, and Schulte has not once publicly denounced those.

5) The EPW press release accuses my paper of being "outdated." It is in fact a crucial element of the paper that the study that it goes back to 1993. We wanted to see how the arguments had developed over time, and to test, if we could, when the consensus position emerged. A crucial result for me was the realization that the basic consensus had already been established in the early 1990s. However, in hindsight this should actually have been obvious: it's why President George H.W. Bush signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The basic scientific insight was already in place.

I have no connection with the Environment and Public Works Committee of the US Senate. Nor have I drafted, issued, or authorized any press release or statement of any kind. No draft of my paper used the word “outdated”. However, it is a fact that Oreskes' essay covered no papers published after 2003. In my own paper, Oreskes' research was brought up to date by using the same search term, “global climate change”, on the same database that she had used, the ISI Web of Science, to inspect abstracts of 539 papers published between 2004 and mid-February 2007.

The reader may assess:

*Schulte may not have been initially aware of the **Ferguson / Morano** connection, but is it wise to understand the people with whom one is getting involved? The chronology established the quick transfer of **Schulte**'s September 03 letter (via **Monckton** to **Ferguson** or directly to **Ferguson**), who issued a press release. Was this unauthorized? So, why is **Schulte** not publicly complaining about **Monckton** or **Ferguson**?*

***Schulte** keeps saying "Oreskes' research was brought up to date." He used a different set of rules, applied by someone whose domain- incompetence is clear. Is this misrepresentation or not?*

6) The author is a medical researcher. As a historian of science I am trained to analyze and understand scientific arguments, their development, their progress, etc., and my specific expertise is in the history of earth science. This past summer I was invited to teach a graduate intensive course at Vienna International Summer University, Vienna Circle Institute, on Consensus in Science. I do not know why a medical researcher would feel qualified to undertake an analysis of consensus in the earth scientific literature.

At this point, the statement is unduly *ad hominem*. As the author of numerous peer-reviewed papers in endocrinology, which is my medico-scientific specialism, I am of course experienced in the application of the scientific method, and am certainly no less qualified than a historian of science to evaluate the abstracts of peer-reviewed papers on global climate change against a simple, stated criterion.

The reader may assess: *is **Schulte** a plagiarist? Is **Schulte** indeed competent at these tasks? Does **Schulte** understand that **Oreskes** is a well-published geoscientist, as well as a science historian, one of whose specialties is study of scientific controversies, and who wins prestigious awards in her area? Has he proved that he cannot even properly analyze a handful of previously-refuted examples? Or even get simple citations right? **Schulte** seems a competent researcher in his own domain, not a beginner. Can such a person make so many mistakes by accident?*

7) Contrarians have been trying to refute my work for three years. A previous claim, also circulated and cited by Marc Morano, was subsequently retracted by its author. Evidently it has taken them three years to find some one foolish enough to try again.

I am not a "contrarian" and have not made any attempt to "refute" Oreskes' work. I have not had the pleasure of making Mr. Morano's acquaintance.

*Oreskes did not actually label **Schulte** a contrarian. However:*

***Brown** had actually read a draft copy of article for **E&E**, and properly has not commented on anything not yet public. He writes, in Sept 9th, 2007 at 2:47 pm, in:*

fergusbrown.wordpress.com/2007/09/07/the-truth-will-out/

*"However, his (private) comments do strongly resemble those of **Monckton**, so I'd guess that, whilst he may once have been cautiously skeptical of the relationship between AGW & patients' health ..., I suspect he has been 'converted', as many rational people are, by having his predisposition supported by apparent criticisms of the AGW hypothesis."*

The reader may assess: *Does **Schulte** provide his text to a known contrarian (**Monckton**), and then later plagiarize text from a Word file returned to him by that same contrarian? Does he cooperate (directly or indirectly) with another (**Ferguson**)?*

The reader may assess: *did **Schulte** get pulled into this by **Monckton**, not realizing the interconnected nature of the US-based "denialist machine," especially its propensity to seize on anything that might serve its purposes and distribute it widely? If he was surprised at that, why was he still writing threatening letters*

to Oreskes weeks later? Was Schulte not tracking all this himself, but rather getting (perhaps selective) feedback via Monckton? Has Schulte been seduced into all this as a front for Monckton?

The author of the statement has been less than courteous, and less than professional, in having failed to verify the facts with me before thrice having used the word “misrepresentation” in connection with a draft of a paper by me which he or she cannot have read at the time. Worse, the author of the statement has used the word “foolish” about me when he or she had not done me the usual professional courtesy either of contacting me or even of reading what I had written before making haste to comment upon it. I should not expect any properly-qualified and impartially-motivated scientist to behave thus.

The reader may assess: Morano and Ferguson maintain a constant flow of such material. Was Oreskes’s response professional? Does Schulte continue to misrepresent simple sentences stated by Oreskes? And one more time: why didn’t Schulte just send a preview copy to Oreskes at the beginning? He was willing to send it to several bloggers.

The reader may assess: Has plagiarism been adequately established? Has the reader considered the reasons for such? If anyone is unprofessional, discourteous, and dishonest in this whole silly affair, is it Oreskes, or Schulte?

If the statement was indeed authored by Oreskes, I expect her to apologize for her professional discourtesy to me, and I invite the Chancellor of her university to enquire into the matter and then, if she be the statement’s author, to ensure that she apologizes promptly and unreservedly. If she was not the author of the statement that has been widely circulated in her name, then of course no apology from her will be necessary; but I shall expect her to make it clear that she was not the author of the statement, and to dissociate herself from it *latae sententiae*.

The reader may assess: Demanding apologies seems to be common amongst Monckton and his associates. Did Monckton write part of Schulte’s letter? Did all this follow NHS rules? Did it follow King’s College practices? Is it “foolish” to do obvious cut-and-paste plagiarism, using error-filled, material, in such a way as to cast doubt on one’s domain knowledge, and then have it posted on the same website as a copy of the original, with press releases sent out to the world?

**Yours truly,
(signed) KLAUS-MARTIN SCHULTE
References**

**IPCC. 2001. *Climate Change, The Scientific Basis*, Cambridge University Press, London, 2001.
ORESKEs, Naomi. 2004. *The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change*. *Science* 306: 1686, with
Erratum, 2005, 21 January.**

APPENDIX III: Oreskes[10]

Oreskes offers updated response to Schulte,

Posted on: September 24, 2007 11:28 PM, by [John Lynch](#)

The following is posted on behalf of Naomi Oreskes:

On September 3, I was contacted by Mr. Schulte, who asserted that statements made in my response - specifically that "The Schulte piece misrepresents the research question we posed," that "the piece misrepresents the results we obtained," and that the "piece misrepresents my own interpretation of the severity climate question" - inaccurately describe his paper. Mr. Schulte also contacted the Chancellor of my university, describing my work and behavior in highly unflattering terms.

My understanding of the contents of Mr. Schulte's paper was based on reports that appeared on the web, including *Daily Tech Science Blog* on August 29, 2007, under the byline Michael Asher, *NewsBusters* on August 29, 2007 (Noel Sheppard) and the *Inhoffe EPW Press Blog* (Marc Morano). Since the *Daily Tech* blog asserted that it had obtained a pre-publication copy of the Schulte paper, I reasonably assumed that it described the paper accurately (its description was largely duplicated by the other sources). In response to Mr. Schulte's September 3 letter, I wrote him stating that:

"If the characterization of your work in that press release was inaccurate, then you have my sympathy, but then your complaint should be with the individuals who issued the press release, not with me."

I offered to review the actual article if Mr. Schulte would send it to me. In a September 19, response, Mr. Schulte rejected that suggestion, stating that

"[m]y manuscript still is under consideration by a peer-reviewed journal and I hence do not consider it appropriate to invite any further review or comment at this point."

Instead, he demanded that I:

"Withdraw your unfounded personal allegations against me, with the expression of your apologies. Failure to do so within 14 days will oblige me to take appropriate measures to protect my position without further notice."

Well, OK. I've [revised my response](#) to make it clear that I am discussing the blog descriptions of Mr. Schulte's paper, not Mr. Schulte's paper itself. My regrets to Mr. Schulte if the two are not the same.

By the way, it has now been [reported](#) that *Energy and Environment* never accepted Mr. Schulte's paper for publication and has indicated that it does not intend to publish it. If that report is accurate, why is Mr. Schulte continuing to send me threatening letters? And why did he not make clear, when the story broke, that Daily Tech and the EPW committee were spreading an incorrect story? Surely his demand for an apology should be directed at the people who spread the incorrect story?

APPENDIX IV: A BRIEF LOOK AT MEDICAL JOURNALS IN UK

Schulte claims his interest is all due to concern over patients' unnecessary concern over global warming. While the popular press might write anything, I thought it would interesting to see what, if anything, credible medical journals might say about climate change.

As a quick sample of what Mr. Schulte might likely read, I took a quick look at two major British journals, The Lancet, and British Medical Journal (BMJ), which I understand are considered among the top medical journals of the world. I make no claim that this was any serious study, just a quick look to get a feel for the level of attention to climate change in these journals, and what, if any, position was taken by the editors.

The Lancet. I visited the website, registered, and did a search for "climate change" in 2006. This gave me 35 articles, which on a brief examination seemed to accept the consensus, and were generally talking about health impacts and how to ameliorate them. An Editorial "Climate change preparations must focus on health disparities," The Lancet 2006; 368:1624 certainly did. I did the same search, but for 2007, and found 33 articles, of a similar tenor.

BMJ. My 2006 search found 43 results, of which the first hit was BMJ 2006;333:983-984 (11 November), by Robin Stott and Fiona Godlee (the Editor). The Editorial "What should we do about climate change? Health professionals need to act now, collectively and individually" said:

"Given the scientific consensus that global warming-the underlying cause of climate change-is mainly caused by human beings and its effects are likely to be damaging to global health, citizens and governments must take much more effective action."

Based on a cursory survey, my sense is that the editors of these journals accept the scientific consensus on climate change, which of course originates outside their domain, but then are trying to promote discussion and call for relevant actions within their domain. They might or might not be correct in believing what climate scientists (and the Royal Society, the UK Met Office, and AAAS, and IPCC, etc) say, but that seems a reasonable default position, and then it seems responsible to apply the results to their own domain.

*I conjecture that **Schulte** disagreed with the Editors of these journals, but rather than attacking a consensus arising far outside his expertise, one would think he would argue with the Editors instead.*

APPENDIX V: Notes on SPPI

For those unfamiliar with denialist organizations, SPPI seems typical of a small one. It has a few key people, plus a handful of advisors, most of whom are also advisors or authors for other such organizations, most of which are based in the USA. As an example, **Figure 2** gives a matrix of SPPI advisors and organizations with which they have (or have had) some connection. As can be seen, 8 people are (or have been) involved in 17 different organizations. **SPPI** has top-level links to CO2Science (Center for Study...) and Heartland Institute, but also has a useful list of pointers to a good sample of other such websites:

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/links_resources.html

All this changes fast, as organizations come and go. Some are called “Astroturf” organizations, i.e., intended to look like “grassroots,” but artificial front organizations.

Figure 2. SPPI Participants and Involvement in Related Organizations

Entities	Location	Carter	D'Aleo	Ferguson	Idso	Kininmonth	Legates	Monckton	O'Brien	Soon
		Aus	US	US	US	Aus	US	UK	US	US
American Petroleum Institute										X
Center for Study of Carbon Dioxide & Global Change					X					
Climate Research Journal										X
Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow					X					
Competitive Enterprise Institute							X			
Cooler Heads Coalition										X
Fraser Institute			X			X			X	X
Frontiers of Freedom CSPP				X						X
George C. Marshall Institute					X		X		X	X
Heartland Institute						X	X			X
Independent Institute							X			
Interfaith Stewardship Alliance							X			
National Center for Policy Analysis							X			
Science and Public Policy Institute		x	x	X	X	x	x	X	x	x
Tech Central Station		X					X		X	X
United for Jobs										X
World Climate Report										X

*Much of the content on the site originates from non-scientist **Monckton**. His writings are not published in peer-reviewed journals, but occasionally get noticed by real scientists and refuted. **Monckton** has been discovered a number of times to be willing to assert clear untruths, like membership in the House of Lords. Nevertheless, **Ferguson** is quite happy to feature such material, and as noted earlier, encourage plagiarism and generate fraudulent attacks. Presumably this will gain him further funding.*

*A few pieces are authored by **Ferguson**, or “SPPI Staff”, whoever they may be. Others are authored by various other well-known denialists, and many have at least one of the SPPI Science Advisors as authors.*

*The saddest case is that of **Dr. Syun-Ichi Akasofu**, a recently-retired and very distinguished aurora expert, founder of the International Arctic Research Center, who just recently has started writing (extremely poor) anti-AGW articles that are not published in peer-reviewed journals, unlike his hundreds of earlier papers on other topics. One such is hosted at SPPI, scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/page-3.html or one can look at: people.iarc.uaf.edu/~sakasofu/*

*It is sad to see someone like that lend his name to **Ferguson’s** efforts.*