

Critical Thinking Final Project–Climate Change Denial –Science Denialism

Part 1: Screenshots from BBC



website: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59251912>

Part 2: Two techniques of science denial used in climate change

(1) Science denial:

The climate change deniers claim that the science of climate change is not settled. They suggest that climate change is just part of the natural cycle. Or the climate models are unreliable and too sensitive to carbon dioxide. Moreover, there are other people who believe that carbon dioxide has such a small proportion to the atmosphere that it won't cause the heating effect.

(2) Humanitarian denial:

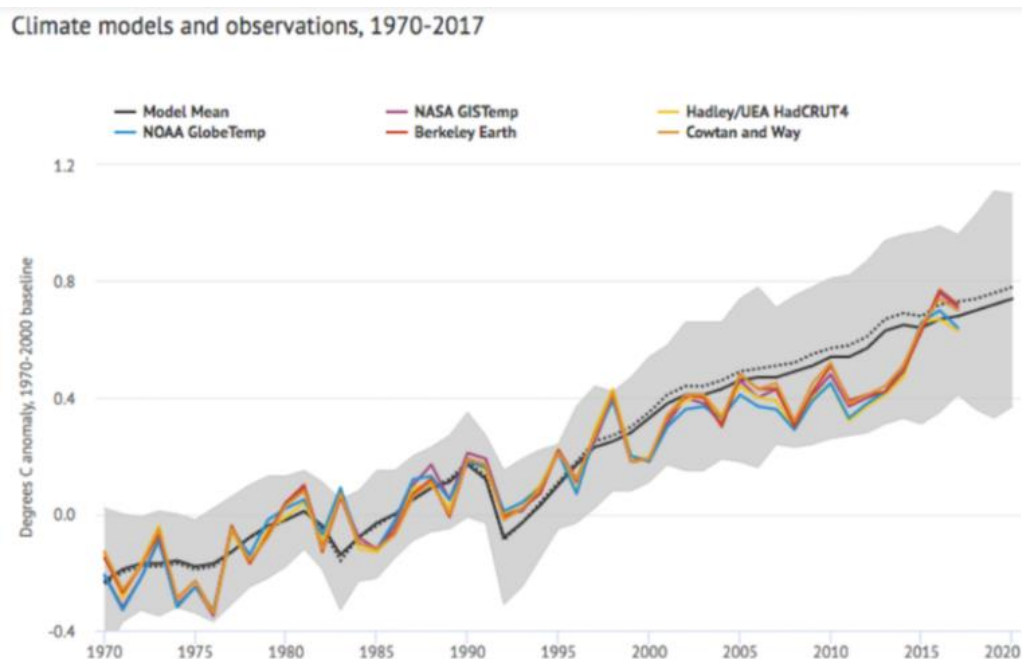
Climate change deniers claim that climate change is good for us. They suggest longer and warmer summers in the temperate zone will

make farming more productive. Moreover, they point out that plants need carbon dioxide to grow. So, if climate change leads to a higher proportion of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, it acts like fertilizer. Climate change deniers will also tell you that more people die of cold than heat, so warmer winters will be a good thing for us.

Part 3: Two counterarguments to rebut the two arguments made by science denialists

(1) Science Proof:

First, the science of climate change is settled. Most scientists have a consensus on the world temperature increasing data. For the past thirty years, scientists have tried to predict the increasing temperature climate models. Although there are other complicated factors that need to be concerned, the outcome data are still similar to the real-world situation. Hence, we can know that scientific proof is correct.



(2) Humanitarian issue:

Although climate change will lead to warmer summers, the increased frequency of heatwaves in those areas won't make farming more productive. As far as the plants are concerned, the temperature is too high for them to live. Moreover, the high frequency of heatwaves will also cause the habitants and the creatures to die. Although a higher

proportion of CO₂ may act like fertilizer for plants to grow, land deforestation and urbanization have already diminished the fertilizer effect.

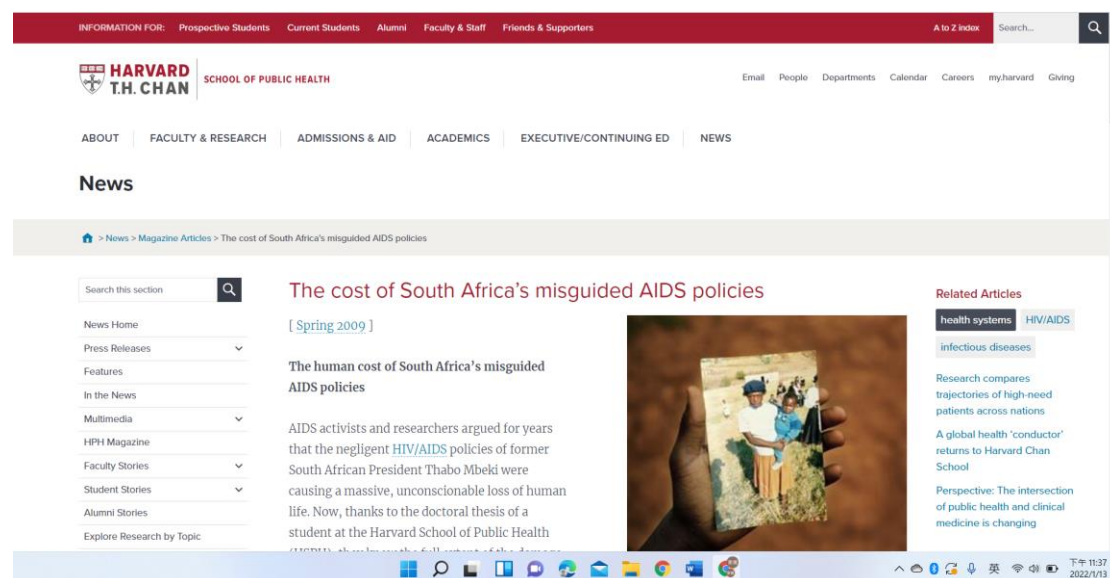
For those who believe more people die of cold than heat, they are totally wrong. The reason why the statistics show that more people die of cold is according to the cause of death. However, heat causes diseases and diseases kill people. So, the cause of death often records the disease while the heat. Horribly, the number of diseases which are caused by heat is four times more than the number of diseases which are caused by cold. Seemingly, once the temperature has risen significantly, there is a high probability that more people will die from the heat.

Conclusion

Climate change has truly existed, and all we should do now is take full responsibility rather than shun it!

HIV/AIDS Denial in south Africa –Science Denialism

Part 1: Screenshots from social media



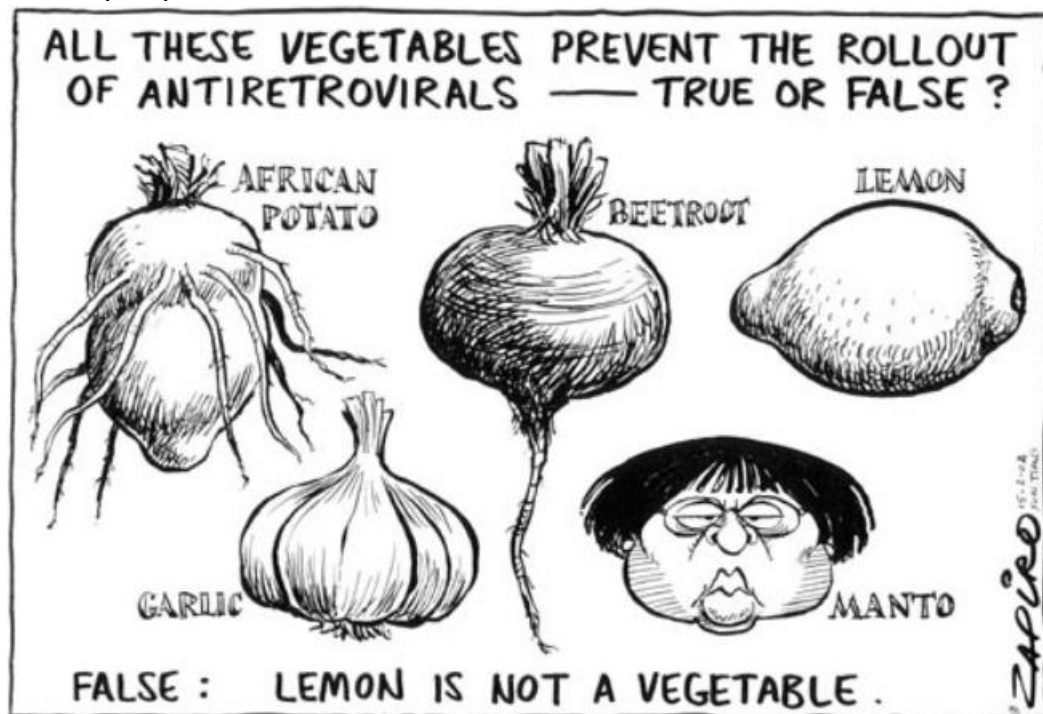
website: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/magazine/spr09aids/>

Part 2: Two techniques of science denial used in

HIV/AIDS denialism

(1) Political denial:

From 1999 to 2008, South Africa president Thabo Mbeki criticized the scientific consensus that HIV does cause AIDS. He organized a Presidential Advisory Panel to deny that HIV caused AIDS and claimed that HIV is a harmless passenger virus. Moreover, during his presidency, Thabo Mbeki also restricted the use of nevirapine (a drug that helps keep newborns from contracting HIV) and appointed Manto Tshabalala-Msimang as the country's health minister, who offered useless herbs to cure the AIDS patients, such as garlic, beetroot, and lemon juice. Dreadfully, the misleading policy has caused almost four hundred thousand people to die from AIDS.



The ironic picture taunts the health minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang

(2) Science denial:

About one-fifth of the protesters think that there is no exact proof about how HIV caused AIDS. About two decades ago, medical and technology aren't good enough to have lots of data to test the connection between them. Lots of people weren't highly educated so they don't have the basic ability to determine whether the rumor was correct or false. Furthermore, some people also think that HIV leads to

AIDS may be a conspiracy. They made up complicated reasons to point out that scientists are misleading the public. Those people who don't take the critical thinking course may easily believe the conspiracy and think the scientists were deceiving them. Consequently, the misleading information spread and caused lots of people to be hooked and infected with HIV.

Part 3: Two counterarguments to rebut the two arguments made by science denialists

(1) Political:

After the presidency of Thabo Mbeki, the succeeded president Kgalema Motlanthe has soon lifted the ban of AZT(one kind of vaccine to prevent HIV), in order to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. As soon as the correct policy has been enacted, the death caused by HIV has eventually decreased gradually.

(2) Science Proof:

Thanks to the highly advanced technology, we already have enough statistics to prove that HIV really leads to AIDS. With the popularization of education, more and more people received correct concepts and were vaccinated. Through Internet, the scientist-proof paper can be spread miles away within a second. Recently, the proportion of infected AIDS has decreased to the lowest rank all over the world.

Conclusion

With more and more people being educated and being rational, I think that one day the AIDS will disappear from the world.