

**Cogut Center for the Humanities  
and the Committee on Science and Technology Studies:**

**Abstract**

**Climate Change: Science, (Un)Certainty and Denial**

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The reality of global climate change is now accepted by an overwhelming majority of climate scientists, based on observations spanning many decades and increasingly sophisticated earth system models that successfully reproduce the observations. The findings of the UN-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) represent possibly the widest and deepest consensus in the entire history of science. An important aspect of the IPCC effort is specifying the levels of uncertainty associated with different findings and predictions of future change. In spite of the degree of scientific consensus, there a well-funded, articulate and effective opposition that exploits uncertainty to argue against taking steps to mitigate or adapt to climate change. The science is not at issue. What can be done? The challenges lie in the social and political sphere. Perhaps the humanities have a key role to play in moving forward to avoid dangerous changes to the Earth's ecosystems before it is too late.