



Royal Meteorological Society

## **Lukewarming: The New Climate Science That Changes Everything**

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When talking of ‘global warming’, most people consider there to be two doctrines: either you accept the existence of human-made climate change and regard it a global threat, or you deny it exists at all. *Lukewarming* introduces a third camp– the belief that humans are causing some changes to global climate, but that humanmade impacts have been exaggerated. The changes are ‘lukewarm’ – not as dire as extremist activists claim. Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C.

Knappenberger are both climate scientists, and they are also Director and Assistant Director of the Centre for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, Washington DC. The Institute is an American libertarian think tank and public policy research foundation focussing on the role and influence of public media and questioning government policy. Michaels is a past president of the American Associate of State Climatologists, and he is the author or editor of six books on climate. Knappenberger has over 20 years’ experience in climate research and has published many papers on climate change, hurricanes and Greenland ice melt, among many other topics.

A ‘lukewarmer’ would say that we don’t know the causes of warming and can’t measure accurately the natural forces affecting warming, so we can’t say how large humanity’s contribution is. Which is just what a proper sceptic would say. Hence the book presents a thorough discussion of the quality of climate science from an appropriately sceptical stance. As there have always been sceptics, I question the book’s subtitle – *The New Climate Science That Changes Everything*. However, this is a well-researched and well-documented look at the current state of climate science and the politics surrounding it. Arguing from the ‘lukewarming’ position, the authors show that the climate models used for the IPCC reports are predicting significantly more warming than is actually occurring. They contend that there is a systematic error in the climate models and that some of the catastrophic impacts of warming put forward by the alarmist camp are implausible or even impossible. Highlighting examples of bad information from other sources, they show how such information became heavily promoted by the media and governments.

*Lukewarming* is broken down into 42 very short essays, with the authors getting quickly to the heart of each issue and exploring it clearly and succinctly. Many graphs accompany and explain the text, although the non-scientist may find some of the material somewhat heavy going. The book would probably have benefitted from a more in-depth and slower-paced development of its

arguments, so I found myself reading it in small chunks so as to digest the information thoroughly. There are plenty of source citations for those wanting to research more.

Advocates of human-made climate change more than likely won't take to *Lukewarming*, but those undecided about the topic will find the book convincing. Will you be better informed by reading the book? Yes. Will you have a better understanding of what may be true and what may be hype? Probably not. What is very obvious after reading the book, if not before, is that climate change is the perfect scapegoat – too complex to understand fully and therefore the universal cause of everything. I can only hope that the politics of climate change might be settled in my lifetime, but the science of climate change is set to go on and on.