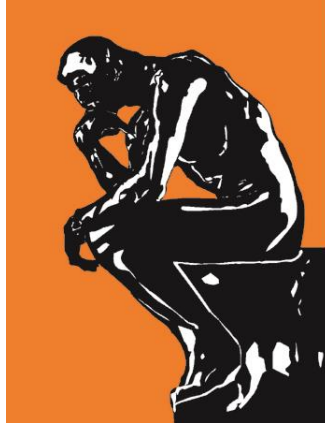


Cli-Fi for a nourishing Earth

Minh-Hoang Nguyen

Quan-Hoang Vuong

AISDL



September 06, 2023

* * * * *

The article [1] relates to “empirical ecocriticism” and has attracted the attention of many academics, political circles, and social groups for the global living environment. Schneider and Mayerson explore the topic of “climate fiction,” a literary genre focusing on climate-related themes that has grown in popularity over the last decade. It is generally believed that this genre can create positive ecological-political impacts by providing climate information to the readers and helping them recognize the urgency of climate change.

However, whether that success can be achieved is a question that must be answered. Also, who can access this type of cli-fi information?

As a result, Schneider and Mayerson conducted a qualitative investigation of 161 readers of 19 cli-fi literature. The investigation’s data was collected through a system called Amazon’s Mechanical Turk (AMT). (This system is becoming increasingly familiar to social researchers in the United States.)

The investigation showed that most of these readers are young and liberal, with a pre-existing interest in climate change. These are distinguishing characteristics from the majority.

Regarding the impacts of the literary genre, the increased awareness induced by cli-fi is equivalent to the impacts of other cultural messages that are in circulation but not more significant. In addition, readers’ emotional responses towards cli-fi might foster the intensity

of their negative emotions associated with climate change. This effect can lead to counterproductive outcomes for environmental engagement or persuasion.



The Influence of Climate Fiction

An Empirical Survey of Readers

MATTHEW SCHNEIDER-MAYERSON

Division of Social Sciences (Environmental Studies), Yale-NUS College, Singapore

Figure 1.

Therefore, the author recommends a novel “interdisciplinary” approach to environmental literature called “empirical ecocriticism.”

From the perspective of humanities research, the study shows perspectives that are close and even directly related to the content of [2]. Intuitively, the future development possibilities of empirical ecocriticism following this research direction seem promising.

However, this is a qualitative study that employs sentence analysis of interviewed opinions to suggest representative or simulated statistical trends. Thus, the study [1] could not provide a logical framework or analytical approach like the study [3] on a small sample size. If the qualitative data were structured deliberately, Schneider and Mayerson could have acquired a discrete dataset with multiple categorical data and conducted MCMC analysis like the study [3] has done.

The study [1] also provided no information regarding the data availability.

Apart from those things, a relevant book that can reach international readers is “*The Kingfisher Story Collection*.” Although it mainly focuses on social and philosophical content, this type of fable may have the ability to convey a less stressful cli-fi message, as Schneider and Mayerson suggested. Natural feathered species are also vital targets for ecological and environmental studies.

What's interesting is that coincidentally, at the beginning of Schneider-Mayerson's research, there is a picture of two birds (see image above), which is very common in book [4]'s paintings.

References

1. Schneider-Mayerson, M. (2018). The influence of climate fiction: an empirical survey of readers. *Environmental Humanities*, 10(2), 473-500.
<https://read.dukeupress.edu/environmental-humanities/article-abstract/10/2/473/136689>
2. Vuong, Q. H. (2021). The semiconducting principle of monetary and environmental values exchange. *Economics and Business Letters*, 10(3), 284-290.
<https://reunido.uniovi.es/index.php/EBL/article/view/15872>
3. Nguyen, M. H., & Jones, T. E. (2022). Building eco-surplus culture among urban residents as a novel strategy to improve finance for conservation in protected areas. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 9, 426.
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-022-01441-9>
4. Vuong, Q. H. (2022). *The Kingfisher Story Collection*.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BG2NNHY6>