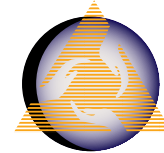


The Costs of Inaction

Richard S.J. Tol
Hamburg, Vrije and Carnegie
Mellon Universities



Quote of the Day

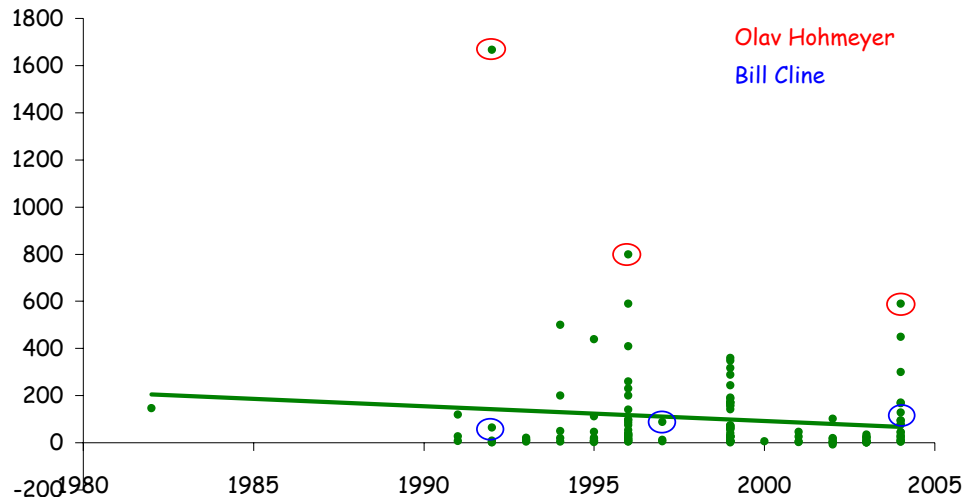
- "Although Cline has done a good job of summarizing the literature through the early nineties, there is an extensive literature that has been developed since then."

(Prof. Dr. Robert O. Mendelsohn, Yale U.)





Evolution of the social costs of carbon



More on Evolution

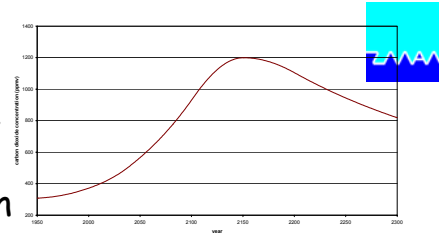


- The estimates of the social costs of carbon / marginal damage costs / Pigou tax have declined because
 - Emission projections have fallen
 - Climate change is less severe
 - Adaptation has been included in impact studies
 - Positive impacts have been included in impact studies
 - Changing vulnerability has been added
- For over twenty years, the next, unstudied impact has been like really terrible

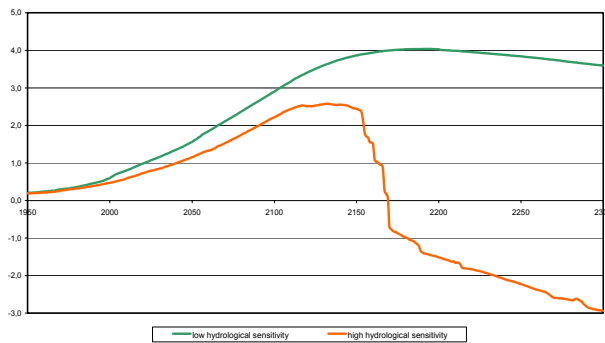




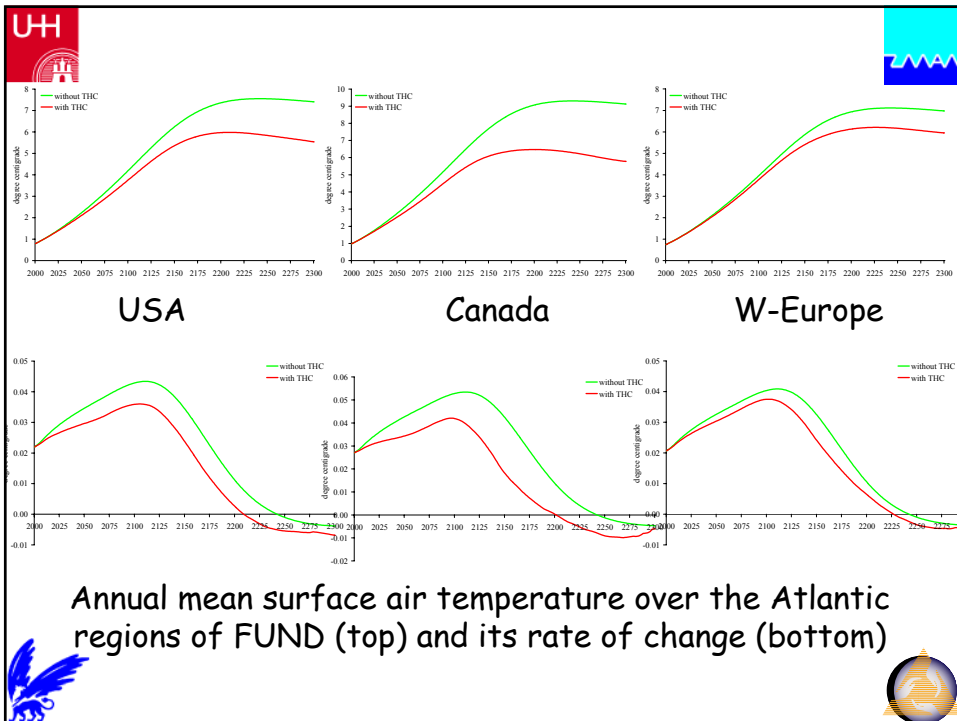
Today, everyone's favourite bogeyman is the collapse of the thermohaline circulation



CO2 concentration

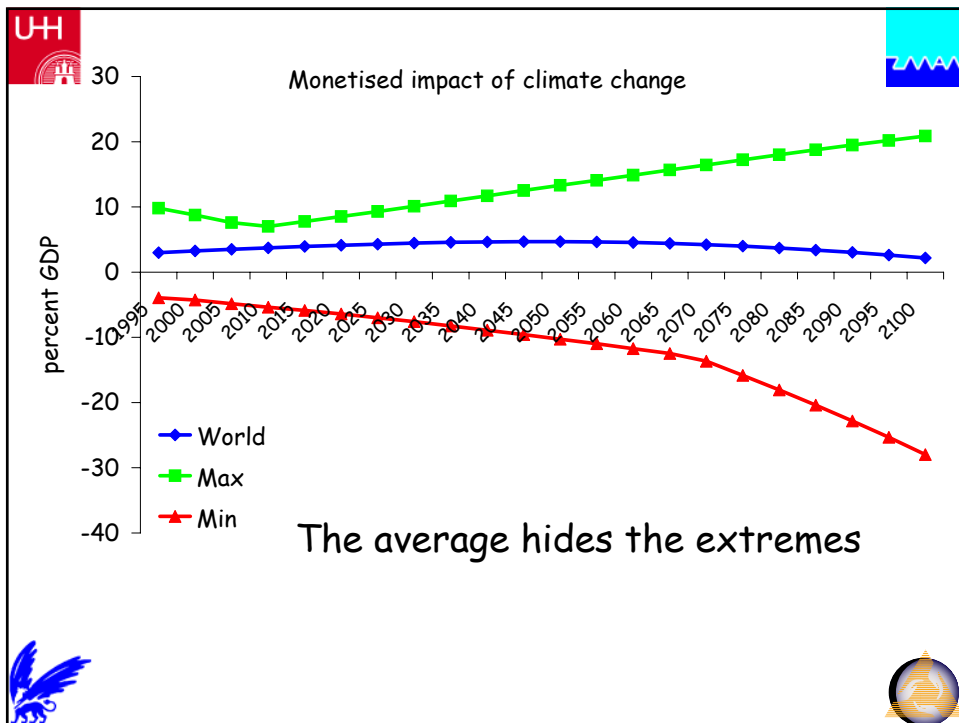
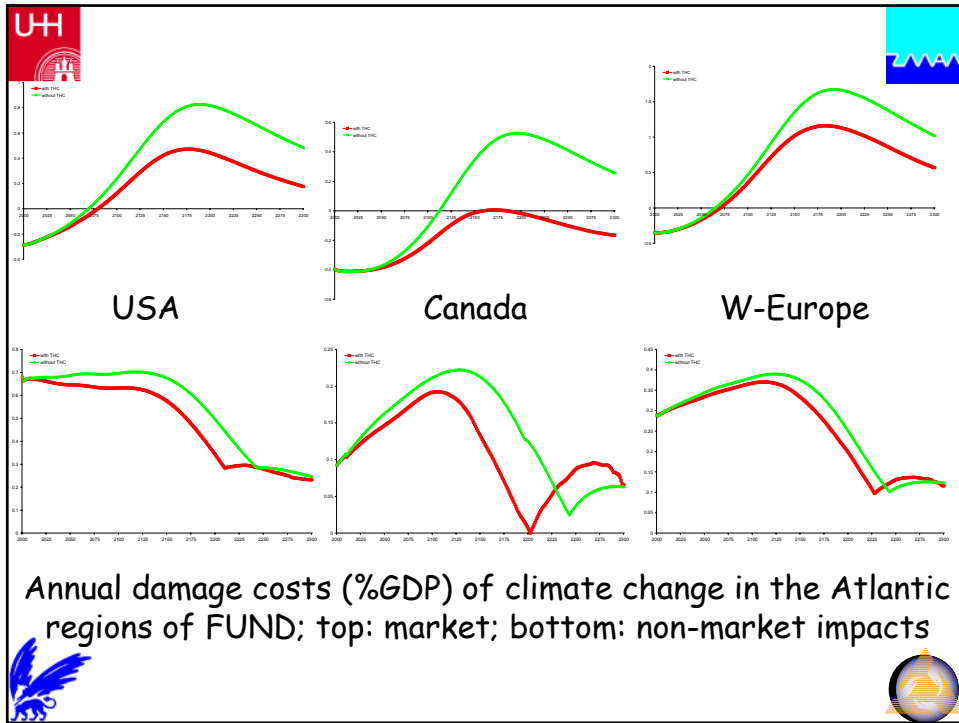


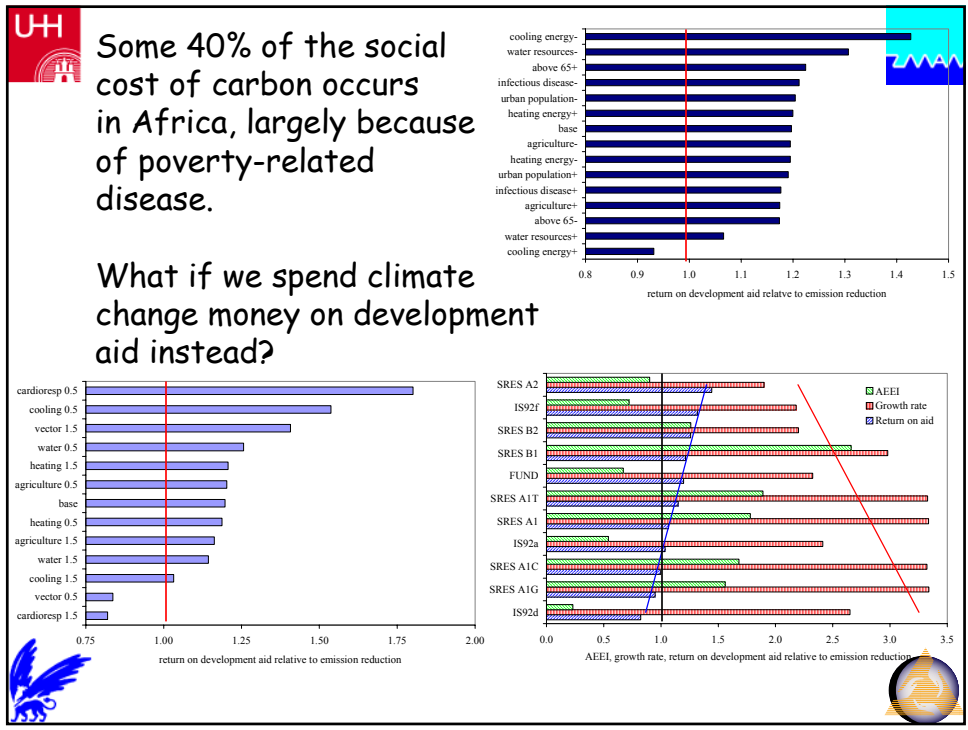
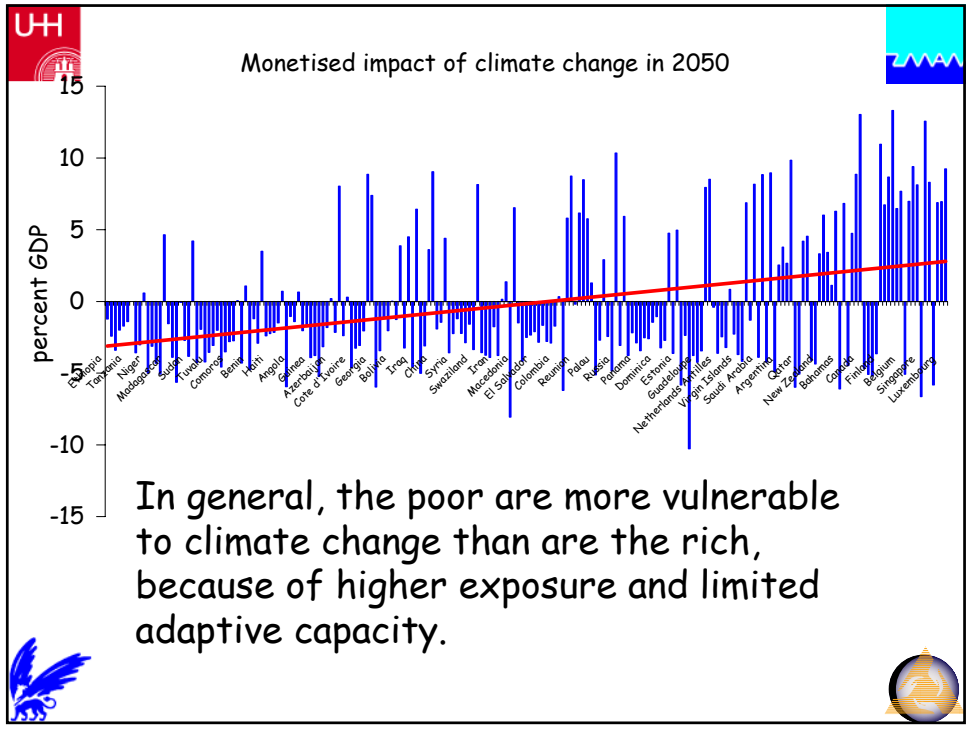
Winter surface air temperature over the North Atlantic Ocean at 56°N (after Rahmstorf & Ganopolski, 1999)



Annual mean surface air temperature over the Atlantic regions of FUND (top) and its rate of change (bottom)









Conclusion

- Climate change is a real problem, particularly in the long run
- The science and politics of climate change is clouded by all sorts of scaremongers and naysayers
- Our current knowledge of climate change impacts justifies emission reduction ...
- ... but nowhere near as much as our green friends would like us to believe - one needs to make incredible assumptions on climate change (impacts) or adopt untenable ethical positions to justify such a position

