



What Does it Mean to Declare a Climate Emergency?

Why Narratives Matter in the Movement to Address Climate Change

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A key moment for democracy

Our Current Climate Emergency

- *A sense of urgency:* climate change is a public health matter, a moral emergency, a security threat; need to address all systems
- *A long emergency:* rising sea levels, diseases such as cancer, acute poverty and the struggle to meet basic needs
- *Emergency mode:* warlike conditions, shifting resources
- *Global movements, local actions:* over 1,000 municipalities have declared climate emergencies around the world
- *Multilevel action:* these declarations can spark other levels of government to respond

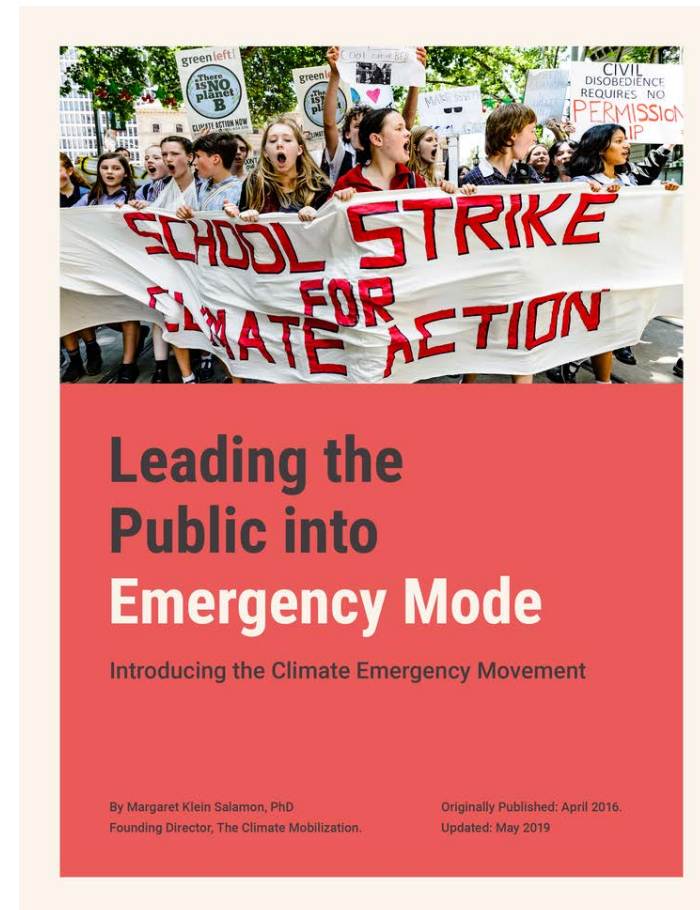


Subvert narratives

Emergency Mode: From Fear to Flow

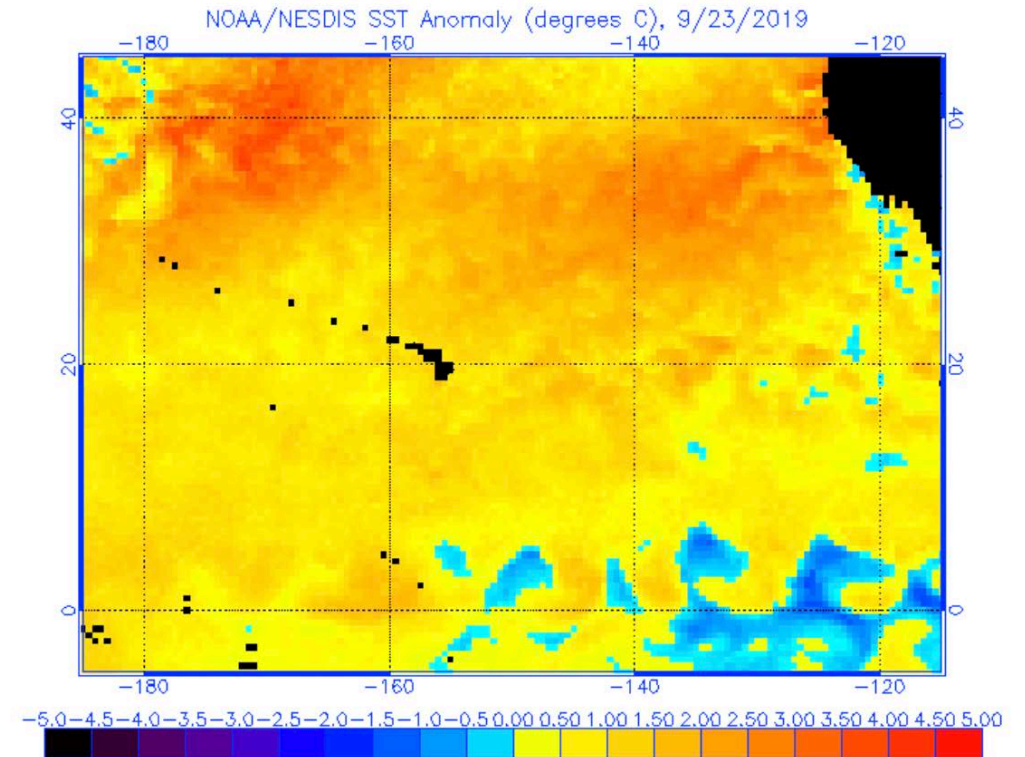
“No one has been more inspiringly clear-eyed about the climate emergency or what it demands than Margaret Klein Salamon. Here, she is just as clear-eyed, and just as inspiring, laying out the path forward—and how to bring everyone along that path, out of pluralistic ignorance and into mobilization.”

- David Wallace Wells, author *The Uninhabitable Earth*



Democracy, Narratives and Action

- Framing & reframing: *feeling climate change*
- Changing public discourse affects how people see and feel the changing climate
- Shift to an emergency frame-of-mind and mode of being
- Beyond incrementalism
- From helplessness to action



The entire eastern and central North Pacific, save for equatorial regions, continues to experience above-average sea surface temperatures. It's a large contributor to Hawaii's recent warmth. (NOAA)

Storytelling, Sensing Policy & Dreaming Together



▲ Poets Aka Niviana and Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner in Greenland. Photograph: Daniel Lin/350.org

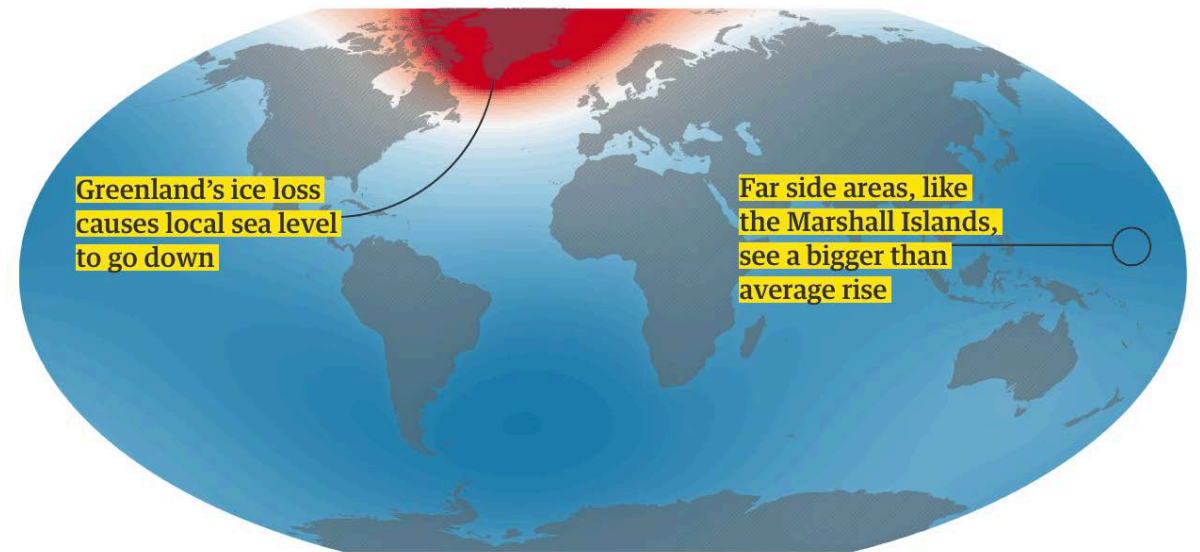
**High ice and hard truth:
the poets taking on
climate change**

- Moving beyond the dominant narratives:
 - Climate denial
 - Doom and gloom
- How are people *living with* climate change and *envisioning alternative futures*
- *What does climate emergency feel like?*
 - Situated stories, lived-experiences, multiple values
 - Engaging the senses

Climate Justice as Policy Justice

- Equity and fairness
- Learning from widespread social, political, ecological, economic mobilization
- Listening to the voices of those at the frontlines
- Celebrating radical action and public engagement
- Addressing asymmetrical vulnerabilities

Global sea level is rising. But it doesn't happen at the same rate everywhere. The darker blue colours show where **sea level rises** most as Greenland loses ice. The red shows where the **sea level goes down**

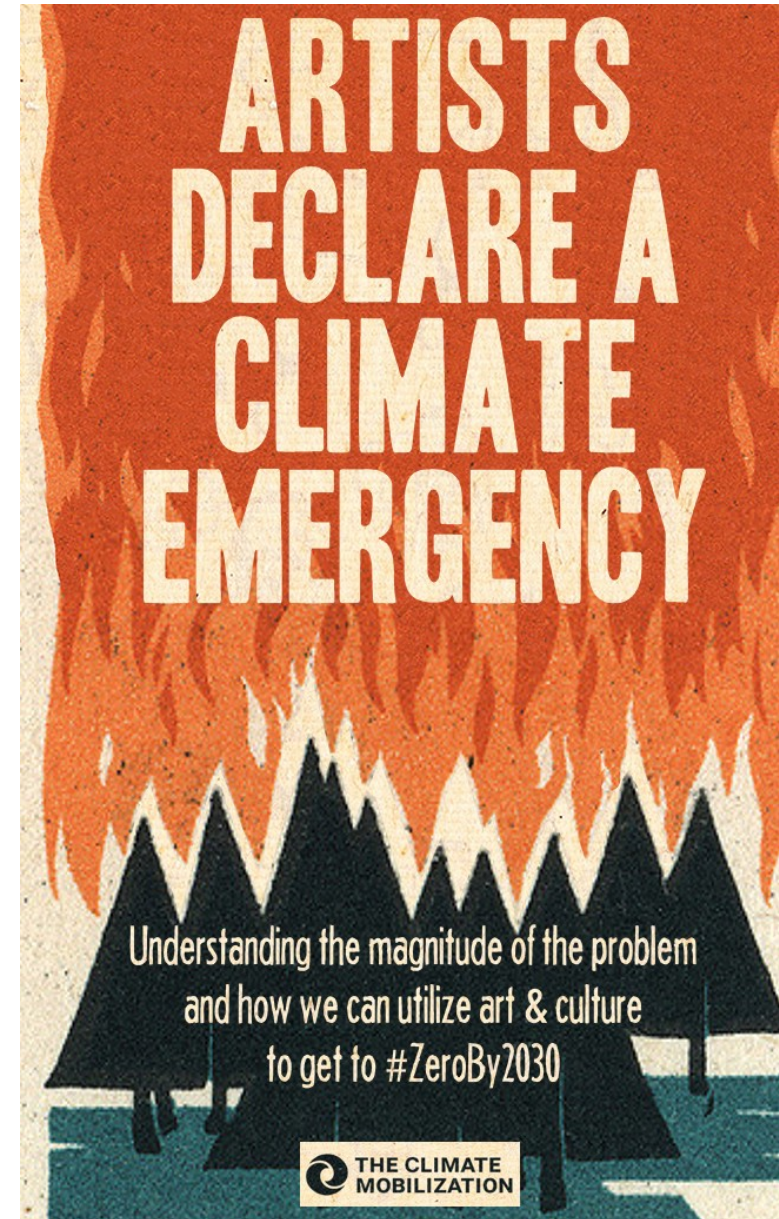


-1mm 1
Regional variations for every 1mm rise in global sea level caused by Greenland

Gravitational fingerprint for Greenland's surface mass balance. Source: NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

Art, Policy and Action

- The emergence of a climate movement and a structure for engagement
- Leadership, direction and support
- Responsive decision-making means avenues for community decision-making
- Effective communication requires policy listening
- Communication and coordination through crises



Climate Dialogue & Creative Connections

INUNDATION : ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC



Angela Tiatia, "Holding On," 2015

E EXHIBITION

INUNDATION: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

January 19 - February 28, 2020

The Art Gallery, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Sensing Policy Workshop | The Art Gallery
Tuesday February 18th 2020 1:30-3:00 with Lala Nuss