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Nature Climate Change

How to get published

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University of Leeds
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Scope and Focus



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*Scope is climate change,
its impacts and
implications for the
economy, policy and
society*

*Focus is specifically on
contemporary and future
climate change*



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Key facts



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- First issue March 29, 2011
- 12 issues per year
- Online and print (recycled paper)
- Impact factor due in 2013
- 4 in-house editors
- External advisory board
- Standard peer review process
- OTR rate 24%, accept rate TBC



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Team



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- Chief Editor: Olive Heffernan (climate impacts on ecology, biodiversity, resource management, policy)
- Senior Editor: Jo Thorpe (atmospheric science, palaeoclimatology, climate policy)
- Senior Editor: Monica Contestabile (social science including economics, policy)
- Associate Editor: Alastair Brown (climate impacts, adaptation, vulnerability)
- External Advisors
- Publisher: Ruth Wilson



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External Advisory Board



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- All decisions made by in-house editors
- Ten external advisors to advise on publishing social science
- In areas covering psychology, anthropology, sociology, policy, economics, adaptation, development, vulnerability etc.
- Suggest referees, topics for review, encourage submissions and occasionally review articles and advise on editorial thresholds.



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Content



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- Original research in the natural and social sciences, plus original interdisciplinary research
- Review articles on frontier topics
- Opinion and analysis from thought leaders in business, academia and policy
- Market and policy analyses
- Original reporting from renowned journalists



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Comparison to other Nature titles



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- Like *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Climate Change* publishes original research on understanding of the physical climate system.
- *Nature Climate Change* focuses exclusively on contemporary climate change, so palaeoclimate research is usually considered only if it is furthering our knowledge on modern and future climate.
- And publishes much that neither *Nature* nor *Geoscience* would publish
 - Social science research
 - Research that has substantive/groundbreaking implications for policy, the economy etc but not as great a scientific advance as research published in *Nature*

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Submitting to Nature Climate Change



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- Pre-submission enquiries: referenced abstract only
- Full letters (2,000 words) and articles (2,000 -3,000 words)
- Reviews and Perspectives (3,000-4,000 words; usually commissioned; proposals welcome and should include background, summary, key references and list any previous reviews on the topic)
- Commentary ($\leq 1,500$ words; almost always commissioned, though enquiries welcome in the form of a 200 word summary to the editor; commentaries may be peer-reviewed at the editors' discretion)



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Criteria for publication



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- Novelty – work must represent a conceptual advance in understanding of climate change or of its impacts and/or implications for policy, society and the economy
- Broad interest – the findings must be of interest to the wider climate research community, spanning atmospheric science to anthropology
- Scientifically robust – determined during peer review



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Peer review process



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- Standard Nature RJ peer review process; single blinded
- Interdisciplinary papers usually have more than 3 referees, however, depending on the diversity of expertise on the paper
- Double blind; may be something we trial in the future



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Social science



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- Submissions strong in certain areas such as behavioural research; less so in others such as economics
- Format may present a problem; used to longer articles and used to discursive essay-type articles.
- Criteria for publication (in terms of clear advance in understanding) not always obvious, nor even claimed. Findings often intuitive.

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Published so far



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- A review on the role of social and decision sciences in communicating uncertain climate risks (most visited in issue 1)
- One social science paper on how experience of extreme weather events can influence willingness to save energy, with N&V (most emailed paper)
- One interdisciplinary paper on the economic and human impacts of stringent vehicle emissions standards in developing countries
- A correspondence on a scientometric analysis of the climate lit
- Lots of front half content including features, unlinked N&Vs on policy (CDM) and social learning (around CCS), opinion (carbon labelling) and analysis (on policy and adaptation), reviews, highlights.

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Other titles



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Journal	Launch Year	Predominant disciplinary scope	Impact Factor	Publisher
Theoretical and Applied Climatology	1948	Climatology	1.776	Springer
Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climate	1962	Meteorology and climatology	1.894	American Meteorological Society
Climatic Change	1977	Inter-disciplinary	3.635	Springer
International Journal of Climatology	1981	Climatology	2.347	Wiley
Geophysical Research Letters		Atmospheric, physical science	3.204	AGU
Global Change Biology		Ecology	5.561	Wiley
Global Environmental Change		Inter-disciplinary	3.340	Elsevier
Climate Dynamics	1986	Meteorology and climatology	3.917	Springer
Journal of Climate	1988	Meteorology and climatology	3.363	American Meteorological Society
Climate Research	1990	Climatology and geography	2.25	Inter-Research
Climate Policy	2001	Policy Sciences	1.402	EarthScan
Climate and Development	2009	Development sciences		EarthScan
Weather, Climate and Society	2009	Social Sciences		American Meteorological Society
WIREs Climate Change	2010	Inter-disciplinary		Wiley-Blackwell

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