

AGCI Frontiers workshop

Global change research, worldviews, and social tipping points

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Overview of the presentation

- Part I: Global change research
- Part II: My research career
- Part III: Future needs and aspirations



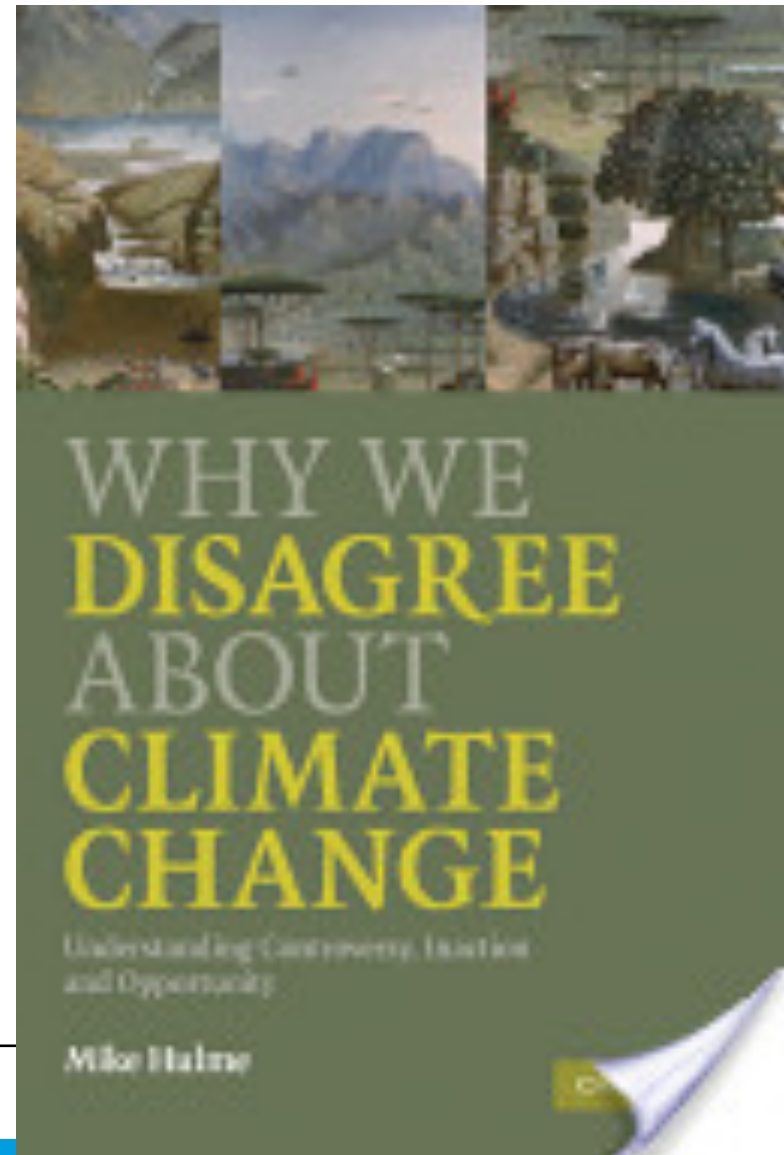
PART I:

Global change research

- Strong exterior focus in climate change and other environmental research.
- Social sciences underemphasized, interior dimensions frequently absent.

Evolution of global change research

- Increased focus on interdisciplinarity (e.g., Future Earth, IPCC, PUP)
- Increased focus on interiority—kind of an awakening!



PART II:

My research career - interests

- Research into interiors; particularly “worldviews”
- Worldview as a concept able to bring together and synthesize earlier research
- ‘Digging deeper’
- But also operationalizing and measuring it
- And connecting that with actual behavioral choices that have a concrete, measurable impact.

My research career - interests

- Looking at cultural trends that tend to be overlooked, but may turn out to be highly impactful in the shaping of future events. And that also can give hope and truly inspire.


Worldviews and the transformation to sustainable societies

An exploration of the cultural and psychological dimensions of our global environmental challenges





Context: PBL's worldviews-approach



PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

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IMAGE 3.0 released

07-07-2014

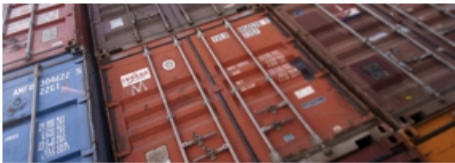
PBL released a new version of its internationally leading integrated assessment model framework IMAGE – IMAGE 3.0. The model has been improved to strengthen its relevance in assessing long-term environmental and sustainability problems and identifying possible answers.

[read more](#)

Current publications


- > Integrated Assessment of Global Environmental Change with IMAGE 3.0 - Model description and policy applications
- > Energy cooperatives: aims, operational perspective and interaction with municipalities
- > Green Gains: In search of opportunities for the Dutch economy
- > Costs and benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation
- > All publications

Highlights



PBL organized two seminars during the IABR

As part of the International Architecture Technology



Green Gains: In search of opportunities for the Dutch economy

If the Netherlands is to remain a strong player

Jump to...

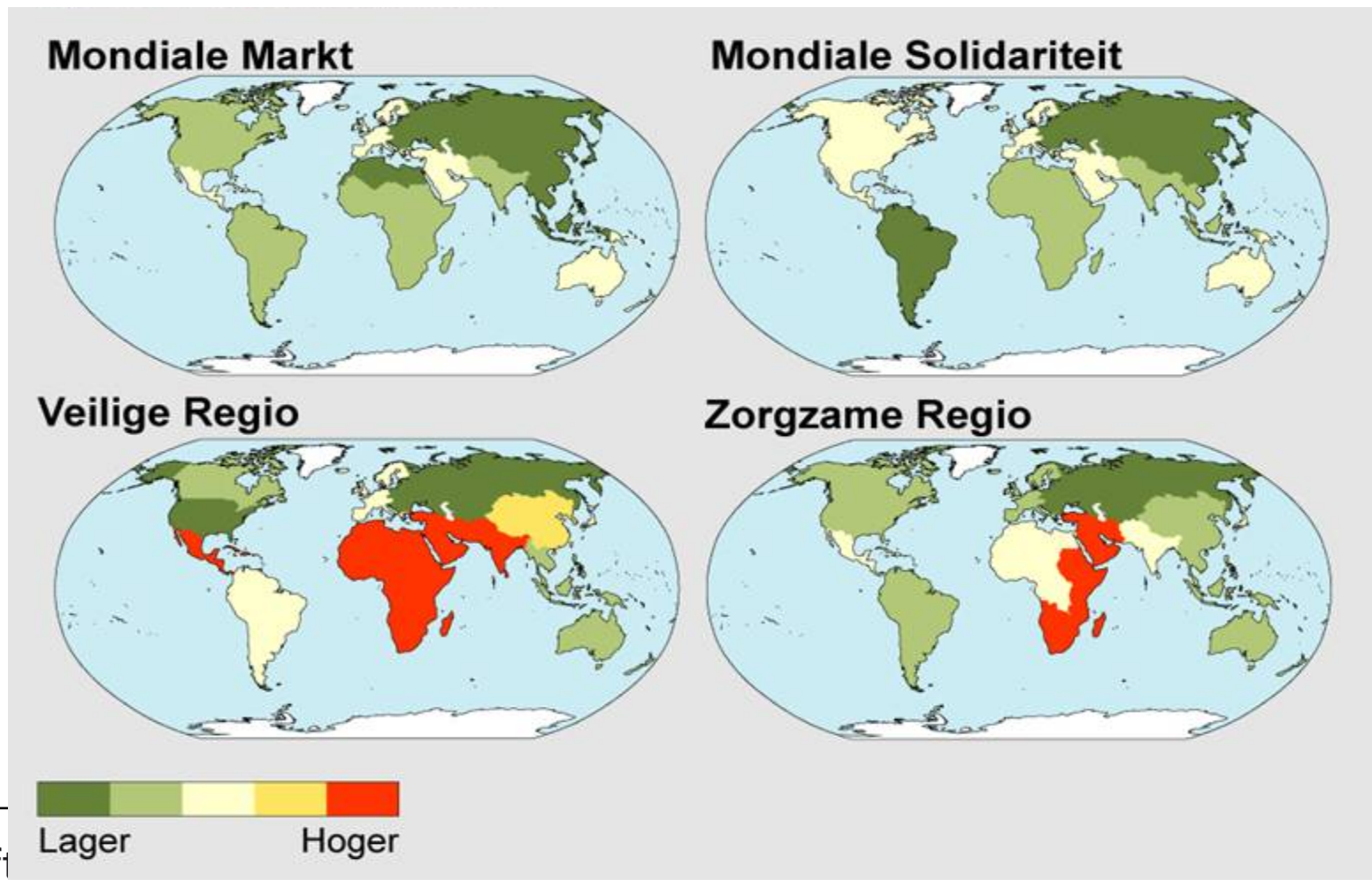
- > Changing track, changing tack; Dutch ideas for a robust environmental policy for the 21st century
- > Trends report 'The energetic society. In search of a governance philosophy for a clean economy'
- > Theme sites

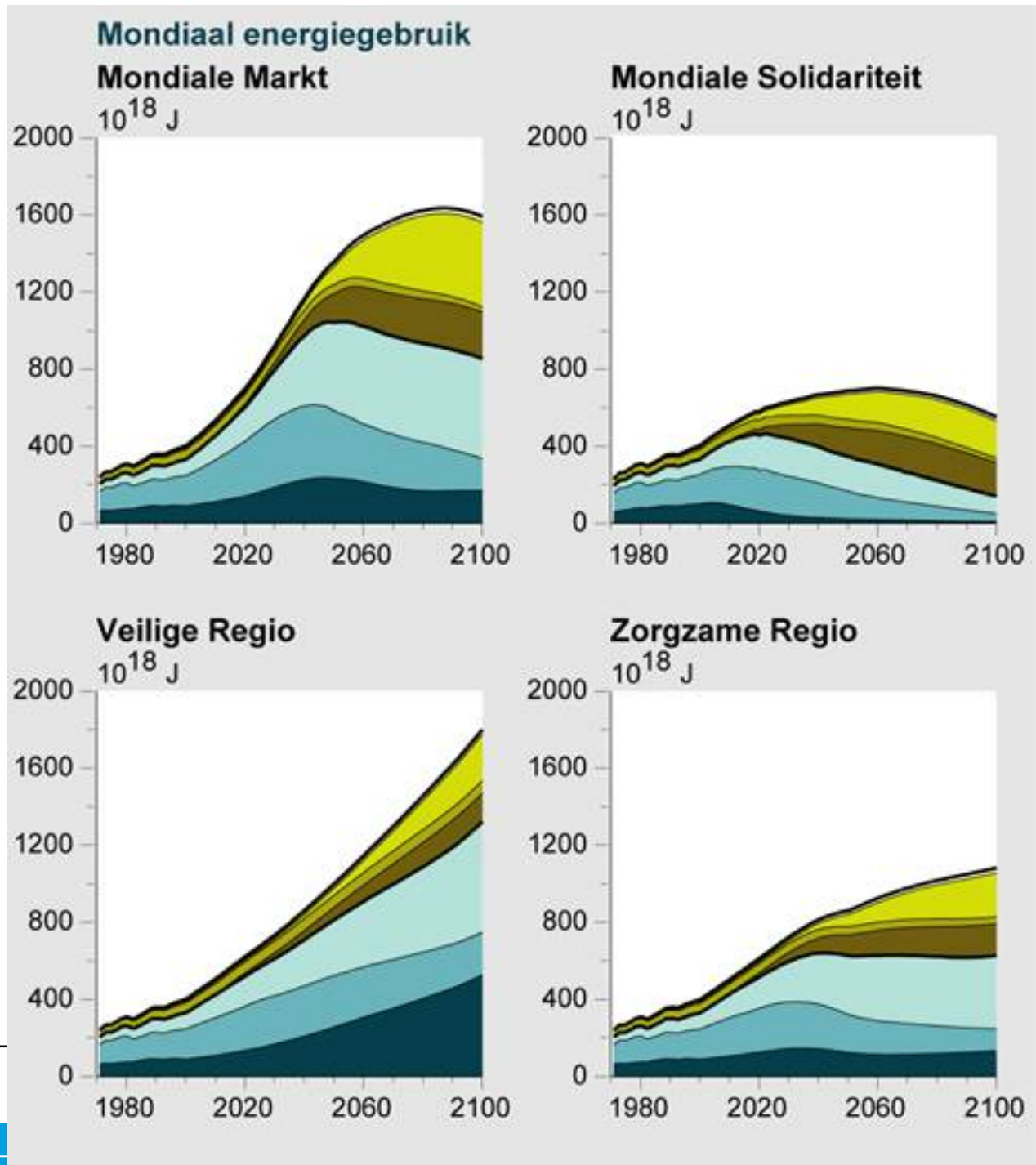
Current topics

Klaas van Egmond



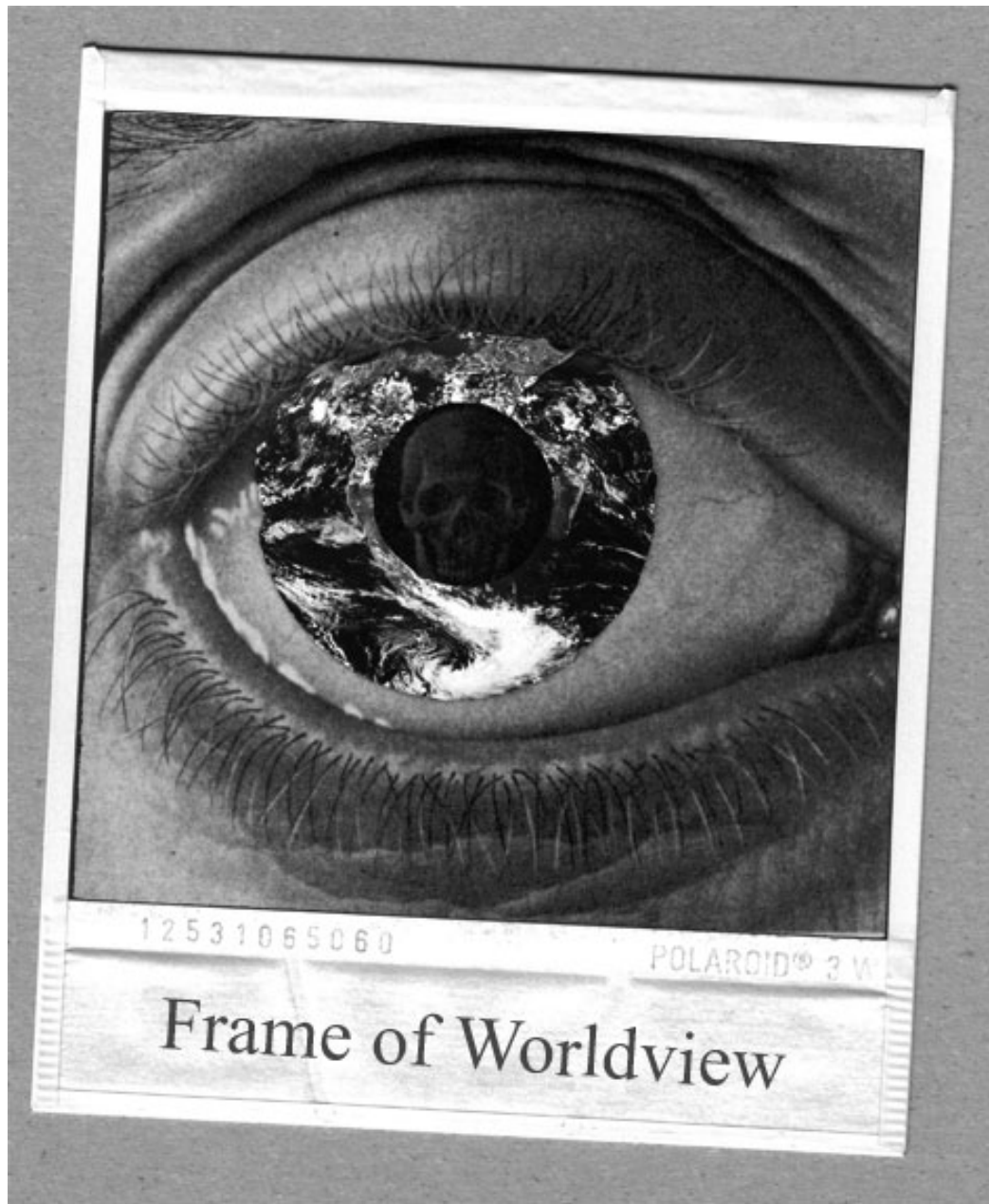
Different worldviews create different worlds...





Worldviews?

“Worldviews are the overarching systems of meaning and meaning-making that substantially inform how humans interpret, enact, and co-create reality.”



The Integrative Worldview Framework (IWF)

- Operationalizes worldviews into aspects:
 - Ontology
 - Epistemology
 - Axiology
 - Anthropology
 - Societal vision/social imaginary
- Distinguishes between at least four major worldviews in the contemporary West
- Developed a valid research tool that can start to track (changes in) worldview and culture.

Select the item that you most agree with, and the one you least agree with

- God stands far above life on earth
- The universe is governed by mechanical, natural laws
- People look at the world from different perspectives, which are all equally valid
- Reality is complex: it is both scientific and spiritual at the same time

Select the item that you most agree with, and the one you least agree with

- The suffering that happens to people is the will of God
- The suffering that happens to people does not have meaning but is random
- The suffering in the world is created and maintained by existing power structures
- I use the pain and suffering in my life as opportunities for inner growth

What we found...

- Fairly consistent worldview-structures, particularly in the Netherlands but also in the USA
- Significant relationships with:
 - environmental behaviors
 - political preferences
 - positions on issues like climate change and GMO's
 - different preferences for solutions (e.g., behavioral change versus technological fix)



PART III:

Future needs and aspirations

My own research:

- Making it (more) longitudinal & cross-cultural
- Application to other fields and issues.
- Serve policy, communication, and education
 - know thyself, know thy audience
 - develop more inclusive policies, strategies

A little reflexivity goes a long way!

Please take a moment to find out your

WORLDVIEW

This is how it works



Take the time you
need to reflect upon
your thoughts!

[illegible]

Impediments

- Global change research: more 'science' may not be the (only or even the best) answer...
- "How science makes environmental controversies worse" (Sarewitz, 2004)
- Polarizing impact of science literacy (Kahan et al., 2012)

Begs the question what kind of knowledge we really need...

Impediments

- Too little emphasis on *the human potential for creative change*, and too much emphasis on top down solutions and technological fixes



Future needs and aspirations

My '2 cents':

- We need more focus on interiors, particularly worldviews and other psychological and cultural drivers of opinion, behavior, and even science.
- We need to get a much better hold of the social-cultural movements that are already transforming our world for the better
 - identify (empowering) social tipping points



Thanks for your attention!

- Questions?!?

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