UNIVERSITÄT KLAGENFURT

Contribution ID: **41**   Type: **Presentation in Symposium**

Toward a bigger picture on emotional messages: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of emotional climate change interventions

Friday, 13 September 2024 11:00 (20 minutes)

How we feel about climate change determines our judgments and motivational tendencies on whether and how to react. A range of negative and positive emotions about climate change have been found that correlate positively with various pro-environmental behaviors. Moreover, scholars who are interested in designing effective emotion-based interventions and climate messages are hard at work trying to design interventions that successfully trigger the specific emotion(s) that translate into desired outcome(s). Beyond many successful attempts, recent research has also identified unexpected negative effects and reports an increasing number of non-significant findings (for example of some hope interventions). This, in total, has led to a body of evidence that is vast, heterogeneous, and sometimes difficult to traverse. We argue that it is about time to take stock of the evidence that we have so far regarding the effectiveness of emotional climate change interventions. We are therefore conducting a systematic review of published and unpublished studies within psychology and the behavioral sciences, which we then use as the basis for a meta-analysis. We believe that this project can help researchers to more easily understand the current state of the art and to identify which are the most pressing future research questions. We will present the current progress of the project and invite discussion.

Are you currently an Early Career Researcher?

Yes, I am within 6 years of receiving my Ph.D.

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Session Classification: Symposium: What can Emotions contribute to Sustainable Behavior?

Track Classification: Environmental Psychology