

Overall response

See responses to comment and responses in the interactive domain. Some editorial changes were made, a number of additional references included.

This essay is submitted for publication in a journal devoted to nonlinear dynamics. This is certainly puzzling, but the editors have encouraged me to do so – and indeed social dynamics is certainly most nonlinear, and high-dimensional – but different from most textbook cases of nonlinear dynamics, there is neither a statistical frame nor a set of differential equations framing these dynamics. But the system is definitely *not linear*.

The material presented in this paper, as well as the conclusions, are not new. Instead, it is a compact compilation of what the author, as a natural scientist, has learned in the past 30 years. The paper does not claim to cover the wealth of discussions in social science studies, but insists that two key issues, the reanimation of climatic determinism and the post-normal character of contemporary climate sciences, have been identified in cooperations involving the author. One could rightly argue that the claim of climate science being a social process is a trivial assertion – but among many natural scientists and in the public discourse, which treats scientific knowledge claims as “truth”, climate science is usually not perceived as such. Thus, it makes sense, in particular in a journal aiming at physical scientists, to make this trivial assertion.

If the editor decides that the essay would be unsuitable for a publication in the specific journal, I would not object t.