



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2018

Paul "Jim" Roscoe

***Climate Change and the End-Times:
Anticipating Apocalyptic Responses to Climate Change***

Mittwoch 30.05.2018, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



Paul ("Jim") Roscoe is Professor of Anthropology and Co-operating Professor of Climate Change at the University of Maine. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in New Guinea and has archival expertise in Ancient Polynesia. His research interests

include climate change, warfare, the evolution of political leadership and political communities, and hunter-gatherer studies. His latest relevant publications include: "Method, Measurement, and Management in IPCC Climate Modeling," in *Human Ecology* (2016) and "A Changing Climate for Anthropological and Archaeological Research? Improving the Climate Change Models," in *American Anthropologist* (2014).

...kommende Termine

06.06.2018 **Tereza Kuldova**

**On the Rise of Popular Support of
Outlaw Bikers: When Fictions and
Weakening States Collude**

DI 12.06.2018 **Pamila Gupta**

Village Goa

13.06.2018 **Stan Frankland**

**The paradox of the performing
'Pygmy'**

Research on the human dimensions of climate change is heavily invested in economic and socioeconomic modeling, but human-environment interactions are manifestly affected by more than economic rationality. They are structured also by political, psychological, cosmological, and other domains of thought and behavior. These domains do not yield easily to the quantification and computerized modeling required to integrate behavioural inputs and outputs into natural-science models of the climate, but there is a growing recognition that mitigation and adaptation modeling must take some account of "institutions and governance" and "broader societal factors" such as "worldview" (O'Neill et al. 2014:395-396).

Worldviews and the behaviors they regulate are arguably the most intractable of human phenomena to model, but even in this domain progress may be possible. Although it has gone largely unremarked, people in many parts of the world are likely to interpret climate change in apocalyptic terms, as evidence that the End Times are at hand. This development is likely to pose major barriers to climate-change mitigation and adaptation policy. Drawing from field research on New Guinea millenarian movements and anthropological and historical knowledge of apocalyptic cults, this presentation models how vulnerable major world religions and selected nations may be to interpreting and responding to climate change in apocalyptic terms.