

Special Issue: ‘Communicating Climate Change in an Age of Rising Authoritarian Populism’

Journal of Environmental Media

Editors

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- Extended Abstract Deadline: **31 October 2025**
- Submission Deadline: **15 March 2026**
- Projected Publication Date: **Autumn 2026**

Overview

This Special Issue invites scholarly contributions that examine the mediated dimensions of climate change politics amid the global rise of authoritarianism and right-wing populism. Around the world, surging right-wing populist and authoritarian movements have profoundly reshaped public discourse on climate change by challenging scientific consensus and environmental advocacy through narratives that range from denial and disinformation to hyper-partisan framing. Considering this evolving discursive environment, the special issue will explore how climate change communication is being contested, co-opted or curtailed across platforms and geographies.

The timeliness of this topic is underscored by recent political developments. There are growing attempts to silence or subvert climate communication. In the United States, for instance, [climate.gov](#), a major government climate science website, was reportedly stripped of content staff by political appointees in 2025, effectively halting the release of new public-facing climate information. *The Guardian* described this act as a ‘deliberate, targeted attack’ aimed at keeping scientific knowledge out of public reach. Furthermore, the websites of the U.S. National Climate Assessment reports, mandated by Congress, have been removed from the Internet, though the reports [remain archived](#) by NOAA.

Meanwhile, [a Yale Climate Connections analysis](#) found that 8 of the 10 most popular online shows have *circulated false or misleading information* about climate change, reflecting how right-leaning influencers dominate key platforms like podcasts and streaming media. Globally, similar patterns emerge in various forms – from [populist leaders withdrawing from climate agreements](#) to [right-leaning](#)

[media downplaying climate risks](#). These trends highlight the urgent need for scholarly insight into how media, power and ideology intersect on climate change debates.

This Special Issue aims to provide a dedicated forum to analyze how climate change is communicated – or obscured – amid the rise of far-right and authoritarian populism worldwide. We seek concise yet theoretically informed contributions that illuminate the dynamics of climate politics as a communication phenomenon. We especially welcome contributions that go beyond the Global North, examining cases in the Global South as well as transnational phenomena.

We encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and diverse methodological approaches. Submissions may be drawn from various disciplines (e.g., media studies, political ecology, sociology) but must maintain clear relevance to mediated climate politics. The goal is to advance understanding of how communication and media systems, both old and new, enable or challenge the politicization of climate change in an era of rising authoritarianism and right-wing backlash.

Contributors may address (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Authoritarian media, censorship, and climate information;
- Climate populism and culture wars;
- Digital misinformation ecosystems, including generative AI deep fakes and climate change;
- Eco-fascism and right-wing environmentalism;
- Far-right discourses of climate denial and delay;
- High-tech capitalism and climate change;
- Climate activism in authoritarian political contexts;
- Challenges for messaging to partisan audiences;
- Media, extreme weather and crisis narratives.

The list above is illustrative. This Special Issue will consist of two sections of contributions, both of which will undergo peer review.

- **Short commentaries** (1,000–2,000 words): Brief, insightful essays or case commentaries that provoke thought or offer perspective on emerging issues related to the special issue theme.
- **Full length peer-reviewed articles** (approx. 7,000 words): In-depth studies presenting original research, theoretical analysis or critical review.

Format and Style: All manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with Intellect's [Notes for Contributors](#) for the *Journal of Environmental Media*. For further questions, potential authors may contact the Special Issue editors Sibó Chen <sibo.chen@torontomu.ca>, Jill Hopke <jhopke@depaul.edu> and Antal Wozniak <A.Wozniak@liverpool.ac.uk>.

Note: Contributors may be asked to peer-review other submissions to the Special Issue to facilitate timely review.