USING FILM TO COMMUNICATE CLIMATE CHANGE
...WITH EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

Barry J. Lyons
Humanities Center, Wayne State University
September 27, 2017
THE POLITICAL PROBLEM

Why has the United States political system been unable to address the climate crisis through effective legislation?

How can it be that the current administration can withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, work to undo the Clean Power Plan, undermine climate research ... with no evident political price for all this?
36% of Americans are personally concerned about climate issues

% of U.S. adults who say they care ___ about the issue of global climate change

- Not too much: 18%
- Some: 38%
- Not at all: 8%
- A great deal: 36%
- No answer: 1%

Among those who care a great deal:
- Democrats: 72%
- Republicans: 24%

Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and other non-partisans who “lean” toward the parties. Respondents who do not lean toward a political party are not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
U.S. Has Stark Partisan Differences on Climate Change

Percent saying ...

- Global climate change is a very serious problem:
  - Republican: 20%
  - Independent: 41%
  - Democrat: 68%
  - DEM-REP Diff: +48

- Support limiting greenhouse gas emissions:
  - Republican: 50%
  - Independent: 72%
  - Democrat: 82%
  - DEM-REP Diff: +32

- Very concerned that climate change will harm me personally:
  - Republican: 12%
  - Independent: 30%
  - Democrat: 42%
  - DEM-REP Diff: +30

- Climate change is harming people now:
  - Republican: 24%
  - Independent: 42%
  - Democrat: 53%
  - DEM-REP Diff: +29

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q32, Q40, Q41 & Q42.
Pew Research Center
Political groups are worlds apart in their beliefs about climate change

% of U.S. adults in each group who say climate change is mostly due to human activity/
mostly due to natural patterns/there is no solid evidence that Earth is getting warmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Because of human activity</th>
<th>Because of natural patterns</th>
<th>There is no solid evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Republican</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod/lib Republican</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mod/cons Democrat</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Democrat</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Beliefs about climate change include those who “lean” toward each response. Republicans and Democrats include independents and other non-partisans who “lean” toward the parties. Respondents who do not lean toward a political party and those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 10-June 6, 2016.
“The Politics of Climate”
PEW RESEARCH CENTER
### Religious makeup of the electorate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protestant/other Christian</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other faiths</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiously unaffiliated</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Attend worship services...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White born-again/evangelical Christian</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Note: “Protestant” refers to people who described themselves as “Protestant,” “Mormon” or “other Christian” in exit polls; this categorization most closely approximates the exit poll data reported immediately after the election by media sources. The “white, born-again/evangelical Christian” row includes both Protestants and non-Protestants (e.g., Catholics, Mormons, etc.) who self-identify as born-again or evangelical Christians.


PEW RESEARCH CENTER
## Presidential vote by religious affiliation and race

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protestant/other Christian</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Catholic</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other faiths</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiously unaffiliated</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, born-again/evangelical Christian</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “Protestant” refers to people who described themselves as “Protestant,” “Mormon” or “other Christian” in exit polls; this categorization most closely approximates the exit poll data reported immediately after the election by media sources. The “white, born-again/evangelical Christian” row includes both Protestants and non-Protestants (e.g., Catholics, Mormons, etc.) who self-identify as born-again or evangelical Christians.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of exit poll data. 2004 Hispanic Catholic estimates come from aggregated state exit polls conducted by the National Election Pool. Other estimates come from Voter News Service/National Election Pool national exit polls. 2012 data come from reports at NBCnews.com and National Public Radio. 2016 data come from reports at NBCnews.com and CNN.com.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
% of U.S. adults in each group who say the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity/natural patterns in the atmosphere/or that there is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Human activity</th>
<th>Natural patterns</th>
<th>No solid evidence</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. adults</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious affiliation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET Protestant</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White evangelical</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Protestant*</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET Catholic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Catholic*</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET Unaffiliated</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black non-Hispanic</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend worship services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly or more</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than weekly</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey conducted Aug. 15-25, 2014. Q20. Nested figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding. Those saying don’t know are not shown. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics; Hispanics are of any race. *N for black Protestants=93; for Hispanic Catholics=94.
THE POLITICS OF EVANGELICAL IDENTITY

Local Churches and Partisan Divides in the United States and Canada

LYDIA BEAN
Among American Christians, Evangelicals Are the Most Likely to Say That God Expects People to Be Good Stewards of Nature

Now using the scale below, please indicate how well the statement... describes your view, where “1” means you think people should protect God’s creation, Earth, by being good guardians of the natural resources God gave us, “7” means you think people should benefit from God’s creation, Earth, by using the natural resources God gave us, and “4” is in between. Please use any number on the scale to show your opinion on this issue.

Call To Action
We are young evangelicals striving to live out what Jesus said was most important: loving God fully and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Climate change is already impacting our neighbors and God’s creation here in the United States and around the world. For the sake of “the least of these,” we believe God is calling us to faithful action and witness in the midst of the current climate crisis. Therefore, we commit ourselves to living faithfully as good stewards of creation, advocating on behalf of the poor and marginalized, supporting our faith and political leaders when they stand up for climate action, and mobilizing our generation to join in.
Mitch Hescox
Evangelical Environmental Network
Majuro – Marshall Is. (Micronesia)

Tangier Is., Chesapeake Bay, Virginia
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities

• People respond to messengers they trust
  • Pastors, other evangelicals
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities
• People respond to messengers they trust
• Respect subjects’ and audience’s intelligence & knowledge
  • Local knowledge
  • Don’t oversimplify science
  • Diversity of evangelical perspectives
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities
• People respond to messengers they trust
• Respect subjects’ and audience’s intelligence & knowledge
• People respond to narratives
  • Stories of people they can empathize with
  • With dramatic tension
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities
• People respond to messengers they trust
• Respect subjects’ and audience’s intelligence & knowledge
• People respond to narratives
• People need hope and a sense they can do something constructive
  • Show subjects acting, e.g. alpaca project – not just victims
  • Direct audience to evangelical creation care organizations for guidance on constructive responses
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Respect and speak to audience’s values, sacred symbols, identities
• People respond to messengers they trust
• Respect subjects’ and audience’s intelligence & knowledge
• People respond to narratives
• People need hope and a sense they can do something constructive
• People confront crises and act as members of communities
  • Distribute through evangelical allies, in churches
OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT

• Help transcribe interviews (English, Spanish, Kichwa; maybe other languages next year)
• Translate interviews
• Help with fundraising, social media
• Research potential film locations
• Help with administrative/logistical tasks
• Graphic design (logos)
• Scholarly collaborations
• Sign up for updates, spread the word
Thank you!
Thank you!