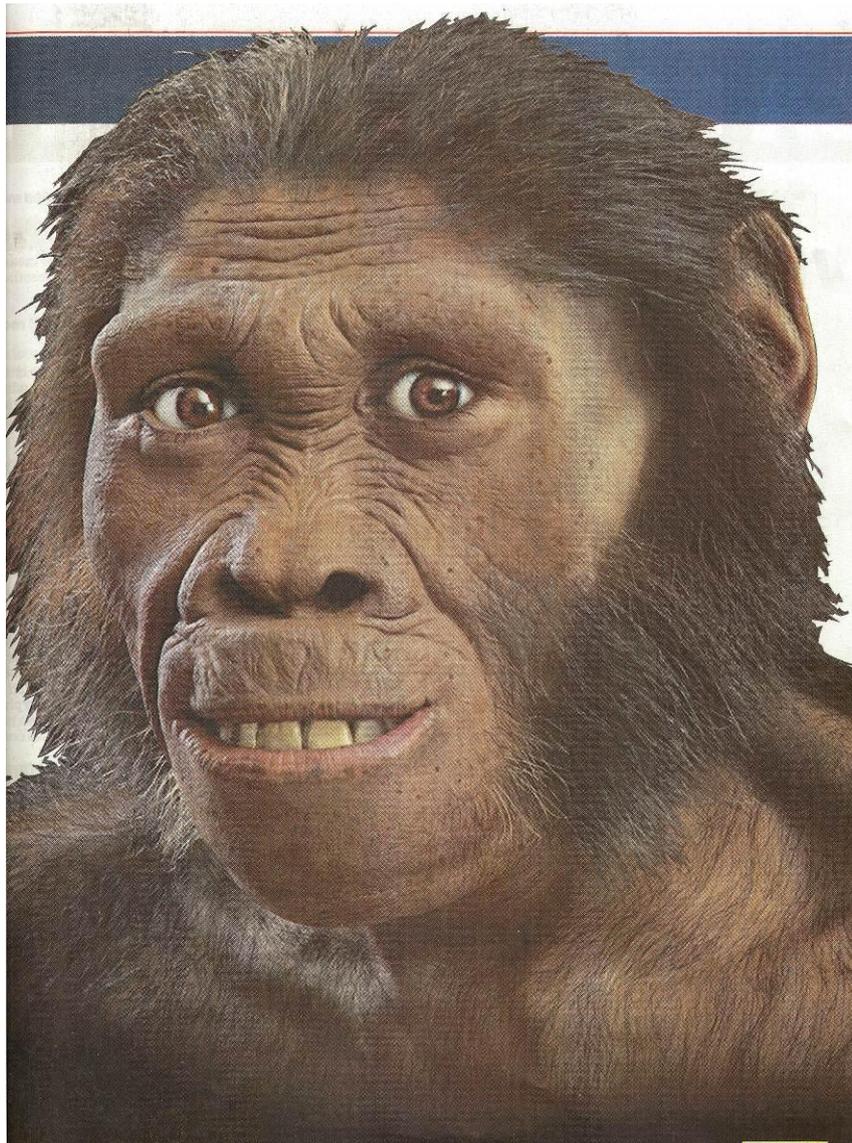


Memo 10/11

Earth-centred climatology

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Australopithecus sediba

On Friday 9 September there was a four-page presentation in The Star newspaper to mark the publication of five papers in the journal Science relating to studies of the fossil remains of *Australopithecus sediba*. The discovery of the 1.97 million year old humanoid fossils of a young woman and a teenage boy are unique in the world. The research team was made up of more than 80 international scientists, students and technicians. It was one of the largest

assembly of scientists in the history of archaeology and palaeontology. One of the findings was that this was the earliest of our human ancestors that could smile!

Compare this internationally coordinated, open access research initiated by the University of the Witwatersrand (my alma mater) with the totally unscientific activities of the universities in the UK and the US that were involved in the Climategate scandal, and the activities of the Royal Society whose president has just announced:

"The Royal Society has a responsibility to provide advice on difficult issues, even if they are contentious," he says. He hopes to boost the society's role in government decision-making by fostering greater involvement of its roughly 1,500 fellows and foreign members in preparing reports, potentially with the help of more policy staff. --[Geoff Brumfiel, Nature, 13 September 2011](#)

Who asked for this 'advice'? His prejudiced views demonstrate a total ignorance of the real world situation that exists on our planet. This is the theme of the following comments.

Some very serious decisions relating to climate change will have to be made between now and the conclusions reached at COP17 in Durban at the end of this year. They may well influence the lives and livelihoods of millions of people on this planet. Nobody will be smiling.

Copernicus meets the greenhouse effect

The above heading is the title of a seven page essay by Joseph Postma dated 10 September 2011 that I have just received with the following message.

It is a short essay on the greenhouse effect paradigm. Please read and enjoy.

Feel free to post on websites.

It is also posted on my site: [http://www.tech-know.eu/uploads/Copernicus Meets the Greenhouse Effect.pdf](http://www.tech-know.eu/uploads/Copernicus_Meets_the_Greenhouse_Effect.pdf)

I strongly recommend that you download a copy and study it after reading this memo two or three times if possible.

Historical developments

The following short historical quotes are from Frederick Bailey's book *Textbook of Gravity, Sunspots and Climate*, published in 2007.

1543. Nicholas Copernicus published *De Revolutionibus Orbitum Coelestium* in which he proposed a Sun-centred universe. He was threatened with excommunication and death by the Church authorities if he did not retract it. He had the sense to retract it.

1600. Giordano Bruno was also threatened with excommunication and death if he did not retract his endorsement of Copernican theory. He had the guts to say *Don't tell me what to think*. He was burned at the stake for his views.

1609. Kepler published his first two laws of planetary motion.

1632. Galileo published *Dialogue* supporting the Copernican view of the universe and was accused of heresy.

1666. Isaac Newton formulated his laws of gravity. He published the *Principia*, announcing the laws of gravity.

1843. Heinrich Schwabe discovered the sunspot cycle.

1916. Albert Einstein published his *Special Theory of Relativity*.

Here in South Africa:

1970. Our multidisciplinary Commission of Enquiry into Water Matters reported that there are frequent occurrences of meteorological phenomena that cannot be explained on the presumption that the Earth and its atmosphere constitute a closed system, so it follows that investigations are called for into possible influences beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

The Earth-Centred Solar System

Postma used this heading to explain the difficulty that the early scientists faced. For 1400 years it was assumed that the Earth was the centre of the solar system. The physics were adjusted to operate within this boundary condition. [This is what I called the cage of knowledge in earlier memos.]

You can imagine how their contemporaries were upset when Copernicus, Bruno and Galileo demonstrated the errors in their basic assumption of the Earth-centred universe and all their analytical methods that were based on this assumption.

The solar system

Strangely, modern climate change believers are in the same position. They still do not understand the fundamental role of the Sun as the driver of climate variability. The IPCC reports are adamant that received solar radiation is sensibly constant whereas our research and that of many others demonstrates the opposite, as I summarised in my previous Memo 09/11.

Consider two different scenarios. First, assume that the whole solar system consisting of the Sun and its orbiting planets is frozen in time. This is the boundary condition assumed by climate change believers. Now consider the true position. All elements of the solar system consisting of the Sun and its orbiting planets move in elliptical paths about the solar system's centre of mass. This elliptical plane lies at 45° to the line of movement of the solar system through the galaxy. The path of the solar system is not influenced by any other objects within the galaxy. This is the true boundary condition.

Because the components of the solar system lie within a plane that is at a 45° angle to the line of movement through the galaxy, it is obvious that all the components of the system including the Sun must alternately accelerate and decelerate as they orbit the solar system's centre of mass. This boundary condition is far removed from the assumptions made by climate change believers. It must surely be obvious to all those involved in these studies that the components of the solar system including the Earth are never in a static position relative to each other. In other words we are dealing with a dynamic, four-dimensional system, not a system that is constant with time and can be illustrated in two-dimensional diagrams such as those in the IPCC documents.

The believers make two fundamental errors. The first is the static boundary condition where they assume that the Earth's climate operates within a closed two-dimensional system. The second is that climatic variations have no linkage with the movements of the Sun and the orbiting planets. They are then forced to make unrealistic physical assumptions in order to meet this false boundary condition. Study our five-authored paper *Linkages between solar activity, climate predictability and water resource development* for more information on the physical processes, and Postma's essay for a greater understanding of the meaning of boundary conditions.

An example of their ignorance is when they were unable to detect any statistically significant 11-year periodicity in the data, they assumed that this was proof that there was no solar

linkage. This in turn was proof of their assumption that the boundary condition does not extend beyond the Earth's atmosphere. **This is false logic.** Those who make this interpretation are applying pre-Copernican assumptions. They are 400 years behind the times. In fact, the boundary conditions extend all the way to the solar system's trajectory through the galaxy.

The reason for their error is that they are applying erroneous Earth-centred climatology. They see no reason to look beyond the Earth's atmosphere for a solution to this difficult problem. They failed to read their history books.

The world is now suffering from their ignorance.

Crabs invading Antarctica

On Wednesday 14 September the *Beeld* newspaper had two interesting, short one-column articles relating to climate change. The first was headlined *Concerns about invasion of giant crabs*. It started by stating that blood-red giant crabs (*Neolithodes yalkwyni*) have invaded the western Antarctic peninsula. They are going to cause irreparable damage to the ecosystem. The scientist from the University of Alabama is quoted as having said that the invasion is due to climate change that has increased the sea temperatures in a region that was previously too cold for the crabs to flourish. In his enthusiasm this scientist has overlooked the good news. Crab meat is a delicacy. If his predictions are valid we can soon expect a huge crab fishing industry to flourish in the region. This will have the dual advantage of saving the ecosystem and feeding those of us who have developed a taste for prawns, crabs and crayfish.

The second article is headed *South African leaders must pull themselves together on climate change*. It quotes the views of a newly established NGO Food and Trees for Africa. These NGOs are breeding as fast as fleas on a dog's back.

Hutchins 1889

I end this memo with Hutchins' concluding remark in his 1889 book *Cycles of drought and good seasons in South Africa*:

The moral of all this is, that the sunspot cycle should take its place as a hard fact in every farmer's head; the rainfall probability deduced from the cyclical diagram of the locality **should be shown in every colonial almanac.**

The emphasis is mine in this book published 120 years ago at a time when two of South Africa's provinces were under British colonial rule.

When did the Royal Society lose its way and insist on following pre-Copernican science? The answer is to be found in the inaugural address of a previous president of the Royal Society. On the same occasion he predicted that heavier than air machines would never fly.