

Premios Fundación **BBVA** Fronteras del Conocimiento 2009
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Category Climate Change

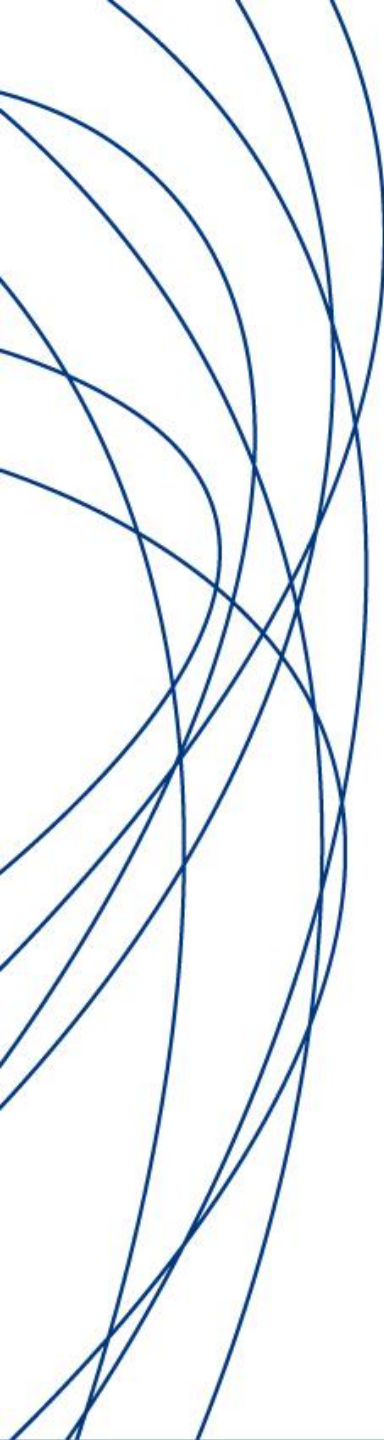
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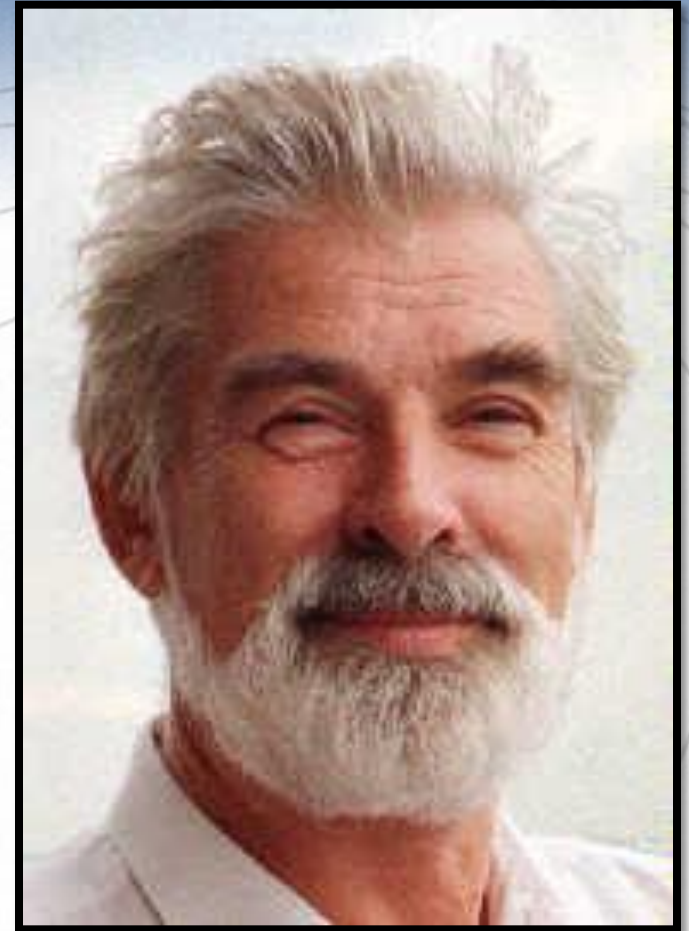
Prof. Klaus Hasselmann

Founder of the Max Planck
Institute for Meteorology
Hamburg, Germany

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- 1931 · Born in Hamburg
- 1957 · PhD from the University of Göttingen
- 1961 · Professor at the University of California, La Jolla
- 1975 · Director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology
- 1988 · Scientific Director of the German Climate Computer Centre



Professor Klaus Hasselmann has crucially advanced the frontiers of scientific and public understanding of the climate change phenomenon.

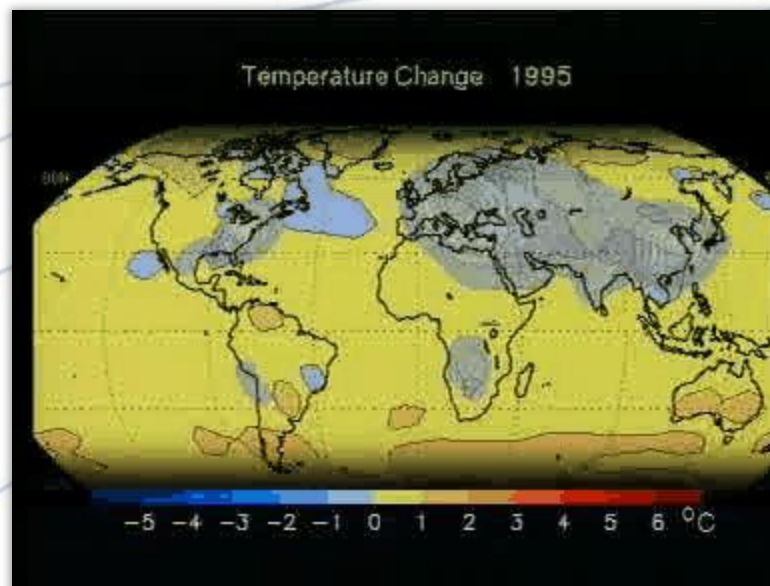
K. Hasselmann has developed new methods permitting the verification that recent global warming trends are primarily attributable to human activities.



These insights drew equally on his fine mathematical skills and a deep understanding of the properties of the ocean-atmosphere-land system.

Hasselmann developed the “fingerprinting” method, able to discriminate between natural contributions to climate change and the perturbations caused by accumulations of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

Its achievement was to reliably identify the human imprint in climate change, overcoming a sustained obstacle to scientific progress in this area.



- Development of climate prediction models
- Explanation of how natural variability can disguise the trail of anthropogenic climate change
- Instrumental in having climate change attributed to human factors (greenhouse gases) in the 4th report of the IPCC (2007)
- Evidence of the spiraling costs associated to climate change and the benefits of early action
- K. Hasselmann has been a pivotal figure in the recent expansion of the research community working on climate change



*“I always had a practical bent,
I wanted to work on problems I thought
I would be able to solve”*

Prof. Klaus Hasselmann

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