

Arthur Rörsch has learned to be even-tempered. The scientific fraud specialist has seen many issues come and go, but the hacked emails from a British climate institute have shocked the former boss of TNO [the largest independent Dutch Technical Research Institute]. This not honest science any more. These are politically inspired people, who try to modify the truth to their own liking. "Climatology is a sick science", according to the professor emeritus. He is annoyed that Dutch researchers at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) and the "Planbureau voor de leefomgeving (PBL)" have been following this alarmist clique thoughtlessly and uncritically for many years.

By Edwin Timmer.

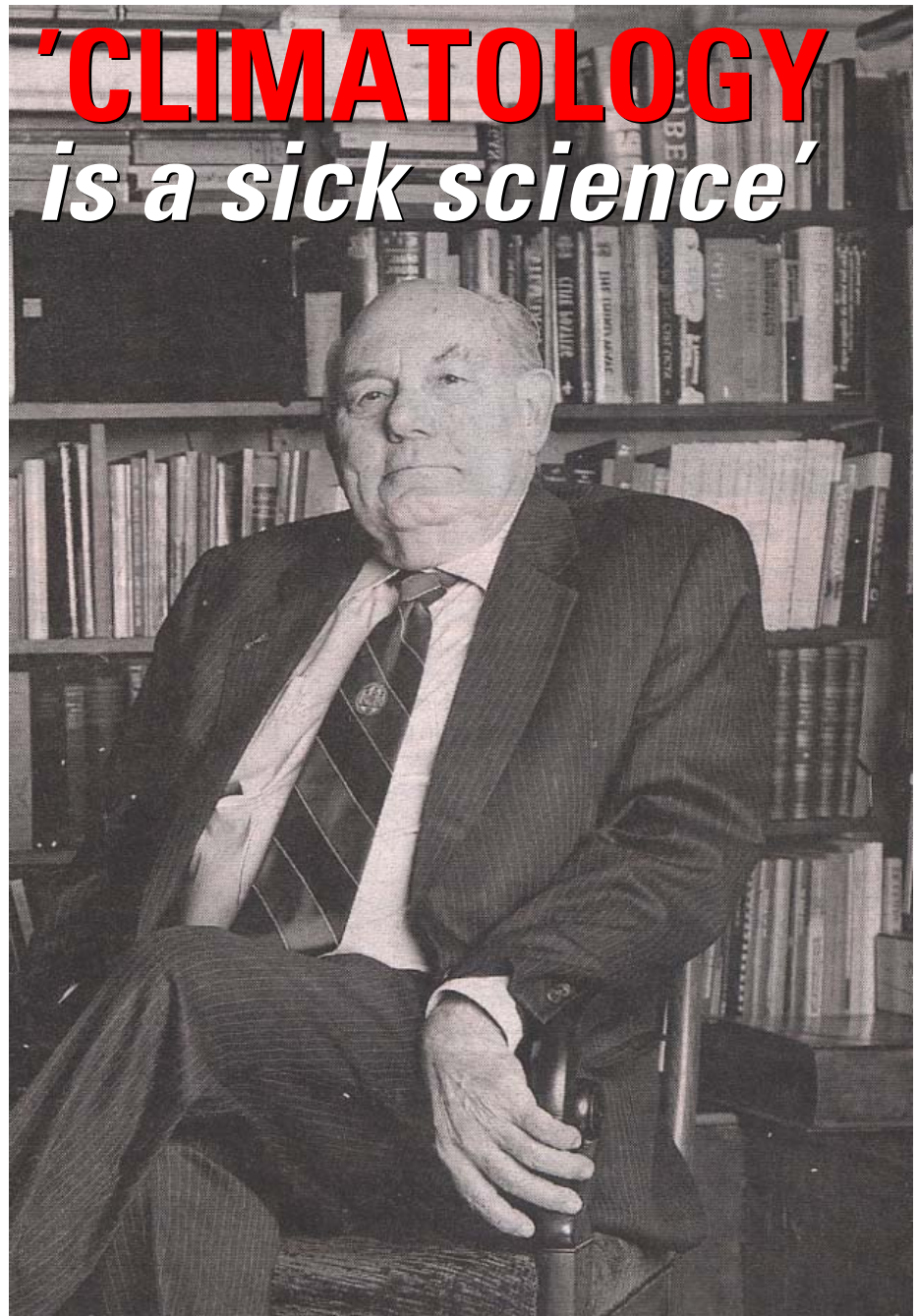
LEIDEN "This is exactly as we feared" notes Arthur Rörsch, with a mixture of amazement and disappointment, while looking out over a typical Leiden patio from his living room which is stacked with books. We always received a rejection whenever I wanted to publish a paper by a friendly colleague in a scientific journal. Without any proper justification as to why. I was not the only Dutch scientist who saw this happening. Climate skeptics everywhere came up against this brick wall. Whoever tried to show the world new research which questioned the human role in climate change simple couldn't get their voice heard". After ClimateGate, Rörsch now knows why.

Recently, mouths dropped in amazement when thousands of emails from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at the English University of East Anglia became public. And it wasn't only the so-called climate skeptics who were flabbergasted. It was also a blow for the scientists who are convinced that the Earth is warming because of human emissions of CO₂.

Even George Monbiot, one of Britain's most famous climate alarmists, acknowledged that "Pretending this is not a crisis does not mean that it will disappear automatically."

What does this electronic mail reveal? Not only does it show that scientists were manipulating

"Dutch researchers sing along in the climate church without criticism"



Specialist wetenschapsfraude Arthur Rörsch: " Uit alles proef je een onthutsende arrogantie." FOTO: RENE BOUWMAN

numbers and models every now and then in order to exaggerate the Earth's warming. Or that the passing-away of a fanatical skeptic is "cheering news" for the former CRU chief Phil Jones. The worst is that the core of scientific study, the open environment where contradicting arguments can be freely exchanged and discussed, has been harmed. Scientists who do not believe in the warming of the Earth because of CO₂ produced by cars and factories turn out to have been silenced on purpose for many years.

Mob Rule

Rörsch has been investigating many

"supposed," cases of scientific fraud ever since his retirement after fifteen years on the board of TNO. When psychologist Rene Diekstra was accused of plagiarism in 1996, it was Rörsch who replied to the critics. He also supported Danish Björn Lomborg when his "Skeptical Environmentalist" "a masterpiece that invalidated many environmental scares" unleashed a storm of criticism, particularly among environmentalists. Rörsch: "Often false accusations are expressed. You have to be careful. If you're not careful, you may provoke Mob Rule."

Everything about Rörsch breathes science. The "Waalse" library, where he and his wife live in an

apartment, is- according to research done on the wooden roof- the oldest stone building in Leiden, dating back to about 1300. In the early days, professors at the flourishing Leiden University provided accommodation for students. Nowadays it is home to Rörsch, among a dazzling pile of books, and he frequently invites people to debate at his long wooden table. About climate for example. Most of the time skeptics join in. Proponents of the greenhouse hypothesis don't show up.

Rörsch has already investigated whether he could accuse one of the defenders of climate alarmism of fraud. When Michael Mann of the University of Virginia presented his so-called "hockey-stick graph", his message was that the temperature had been rising in an unparalleled way during the last century. But he refused to make his data publicly available. "That is not fraud in itself, but socially completely unheard of in the scientific circles I am familiar with", according to Rörsch. "As a molecular biologist you obviously provide data to your peers, so that others can filter out potential flaws and errors".

Mann constructed his terrifying warming theory from historical tree rings. Rörsch: "They don't tell the whole story, because the annual growth also depends on the available amount of CO₂ as well as moisture. Furthermore, Mann and his comrade Keith Briffa had been very selective in dealing with their data. In Briffa's results, a hockey-stick occurs only when using a few kinds of tree species. If you use others, or even all tree species from the Siberian area used in the study, little remains of the entire story", according to Rörsch. However, a complaint was never filed.

The hacked emails -or were they perhaps leaked by a whistleblower?- also show that scientists like Mann and Jones, on whose opinions the UN climate panel IPCC builds the doomsday scenarios refuse to make their raw temperature data publicly available. Jones writes: "if they [the skeptics, ed.] ever find out that the United Kingdom has a Freedom of Information Act, I would rather destroy all the data than providing it to them". Furthermore, the group of greenhouse-believers encourage each other to pressure scientific journals not to accept and publish sceptical papers. Is there still an independent editor anywhere, who accepts this "crap science"? They then consult each other by email on how to get rid of this person.

Professor Rörsch is shocked. "As far as I am concerned, these ClimateGate emails are proof of the intention to cheat. This is not honest science. These are politically inspired people, who try to modify the truth to their own liking. This way it becomes a religion, or more properly, a kind of conviction. Everything just shows a perplexing arrogance. Whoever is working like this can obviously not maintain that thousands of scientists are in agreement, and that doubt about Earth's warming is non-existent.

And then he laughs and philosophises: "Ah well, it has happened before." Big egos have often prevented the progress of knowledge. At the beginning of 20th Century the British Maya-expert Eric Thompson thought he had found the key to deciphering Mayan-script. Until it turned out that behind the Iron Curtain there was a Russian scientist who attacked the work in a very different way. However, Thompson was considered such a distinguished scientist that he was able to frustrate the dissemination of Yuri Knorozov's ideas. Only after Thompson's death in 1975 did it become widely accepted that Knorozov was right all-along. And after that the deciphering quickly advanced.

Climate rhetoric

Such a perspective is refreshing, but for the time-being Minister Cramer (Environment) and institutes like the KNMI continue to promote the well know climate rhetoric. The leading lady from the Labour party called the hackers "criminals" and the KNMI's main sympathy was for the now departed CRU chief Jones. Rörsch: "You can believe the KNMI unconditionally when they note that the temperature in the Netherlands has risen significantly since the last "Eleven cities race" [ed. Famous 130 mile ice skating race on natural ice passing 11 cities in the province of Friesland in the north of the Netherlands, which can only be organized every so many years and is a big event when it happens, capturing the entire nation's attention]. Their temperature measurements are among the best available in the world. More southwesterly winds have been transporting warm air.

But the changes in circulation patterns cannot be directly attributed to human emissions of CO₂. No matter how good the quality of their work, I think that scientists at the KNMI or the "Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving

(PBL)" are insufficiently critical about the basis of the greenhouse-hypothesis. In our country hardly anyone is really doing any research into the relationship between CO₂ and temperature. As an extension of the government they are in essence not independent research institutes. I am not saying that they are automatically parroting political opinion, but they are certainly insufficiently critical. Which is even more the case of the alarmist cries from Wageningen [agricultural University, ed.]."

Climatology would take a big leap forward if all research funding were not expended on climate change, according to Rörsch. "For once, abandon the paradigm that carbon dioxide determines everything. All this exaggerated attention only slows down science. Here, if I take this old Encyclopedia Britannica from 1965, our knowledge has hardly advanced. How do hurricanes function? What is the natural greenhouse effect of water vapour? How does the regulation of warmth in ocean currents between poles and tropics work? This system is many times more complex than we understand".

His biggest amazement about climatology concerns the major role of models. "In molecular biology we use models only for testing our ideas. Does what I expect to occur actually happen? In climatology predictive powers are attributed to models. CO₂ is warming the climate, and so this and that will happen. Even though this theory of warming has already been falsified, because the earth does not seem to want to have warmed during the last ten years."

That politicians nevertheless promote the reduction of CO₂ emissions hardly bothers the aging scientists at all. "I am not going to burn my fingers with politics. Every government tends to throw money away. Both left and right. But I do not understand Jacqueline Cramer [ed. Dutch Minister of Environment]. Yes, she was present at my farewell party at TNO in 1995, when she gave me a box of chocolates. Sometimes I think about sending her a letter. Just to ask if - with a box of chocolates- I can visit her."

Source: "De Telegraaf, Holland" 13/12/2009.

See also:

<http://www.bol.com> (the Great Global Warming Swindle)
<http://www.groenerekenkamer.nl/>
<http://www.wind-energie-halkema.org/>