A Continued Assessment of Chinese and American Climate Change Views 2015/2017 Including Open-Ended Survey Responses

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire | The Power of AND

Students: Connor Adams, Dara Coker, Kayla Coonen, Cora Cornett, Zhixin Fang, Austin Holmes, Andrew Moran, Ashley Pike & Anastasia Rauland

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Eric Jamelske, Dr. James Boulter & Dr. Won Jang

SUSTAINABILITY at UW-Eau Claire | The Power of AND

Introduction

Given the strong scientific consensus on the causes and consequences of climate change, global action to address this issue is paramount.

Additionally, public perceptions regarding climate change are likely to influence how and when policy action is taken both domestically and internationally.

Moreover, public views regarding climate change are diverse/complex and can often be uninformed/misinformed and thus more can learned from a deeper investigation.

To this end we analyze responses to one open-ended climate change question from the same surveys described in our previous two posters.

Open-Ended Question

The open-ended question was the first question on our surveys in both 2015 and 2017 in order to avoid contamination effects from the remainder of the survey.

2015 Question

Write down the first words that come to mind when you hear or read the words “climate change”? We welcome all answers, from a few sentences to a few words.

问题：请写出当您听到或者看到“气候变暖”时，脑海中的第一个词汇。我们接受任何词句或短语在内的答案

2017 Question

Write down the thoughts that come to mind when you hear or read the words climate change/global warming. We welcome all answers, from a few sentences to a few words

请写出当您听到或者看到全球变暖时，您脑海中的第一个想法。我们接受任何形式的答案，从词组到句子。

- 39 individual topics identified (some overlap)
- Collapsed into 5 categories (some overlap)
  - I Climate, Weather
  - II Responses, Solutions
  - III Consequences, Impacts
  - IV Authority, Conflict
  - V Causes, Attribution

Country	Average # Coded Topics per Response
US	2.14
CH	1.15

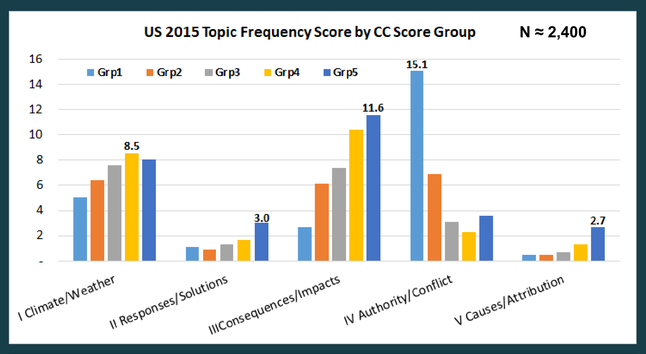
Graphical Analysis of Topic Prevalence

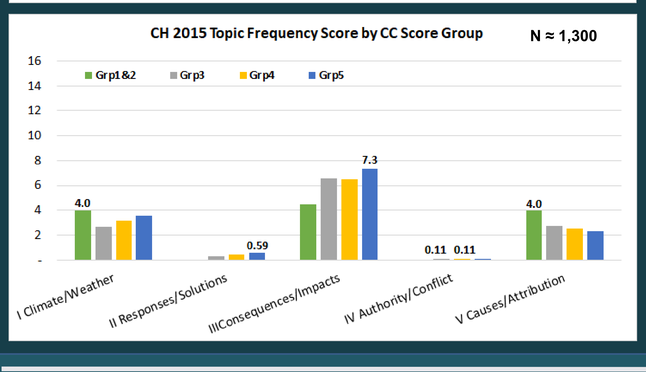
The figures below present a graphical analysis/comparison of the frequency each specific category was mentioned among Chinese and American respondents for our 2015 data.

We also show within country comparisons for China and the U.S. by climate change acceptance/knowledge/concern groupings based on CC scores in 2015.

CC Score Groupings

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
(G1 < -6)	(-6 ≤ G2 < -2)	(-2 ≤ G3 < 2)	(2 ≤ G4 < 6)	(6 ≤ G5)





Specific Politician Count

2015 – US
N ≈ 2400

- US Gore 2015 = 66
- US Obama 2015 = 13
- US Trump 2015 = 2

2017 – US
N ≈ 2300

- US Gore 2017 = 20
- US Obama 2017 = 3
- US Trump 2017 = 156

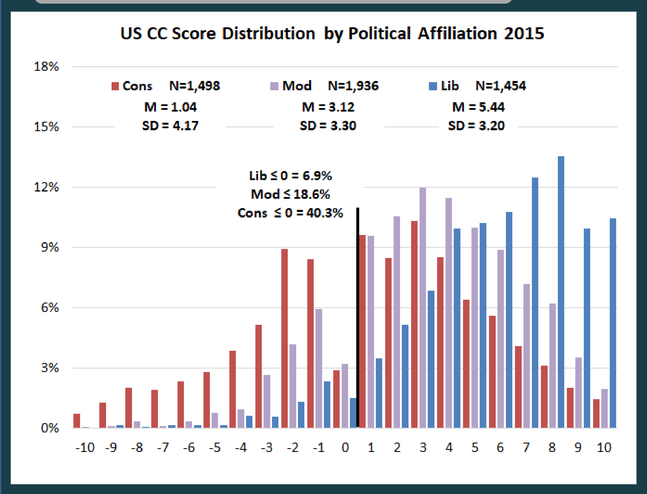
2015 – CH
N ≈ 1300

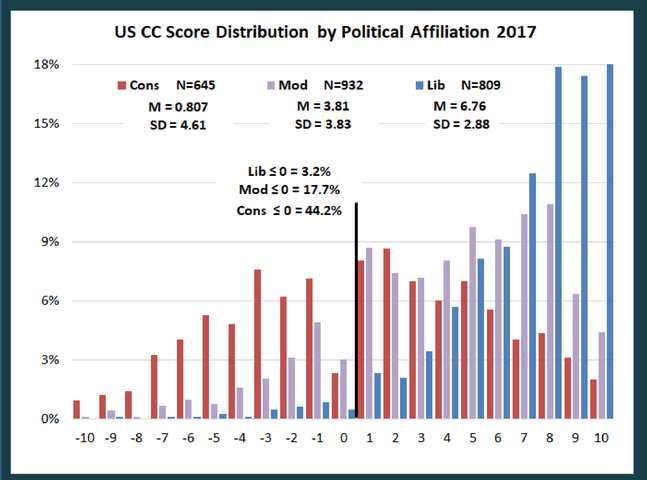
- CH Anyone 2015 = 0

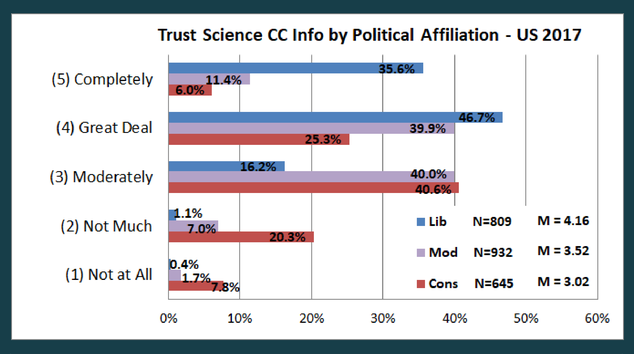
2017 – CH
N ≈ 5000

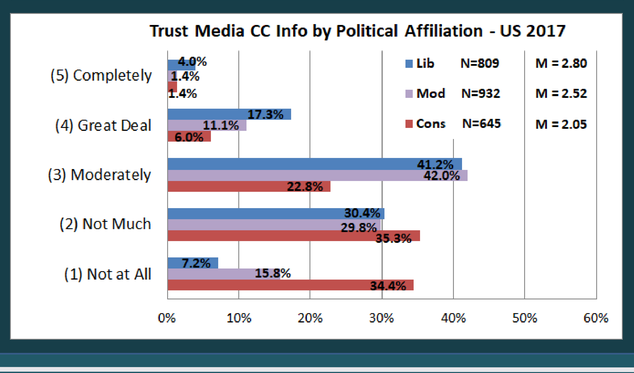
- CH Trump 2017 = 39
- CH Anyone 2017 = 0

Politics in United States

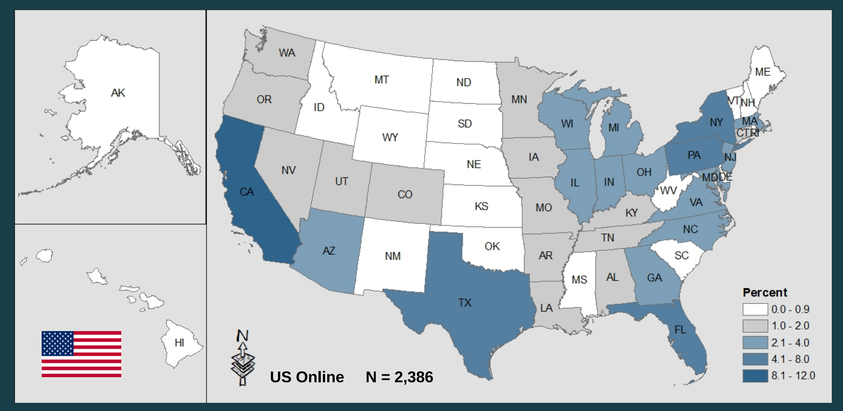


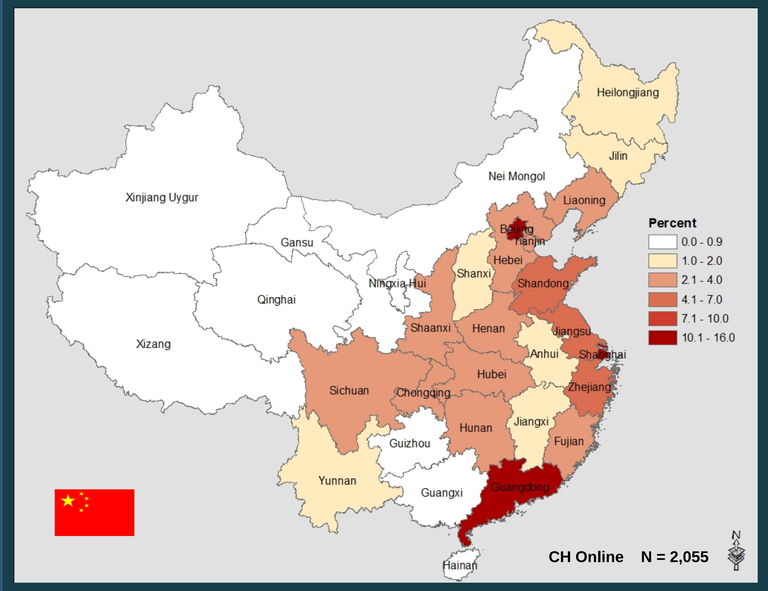


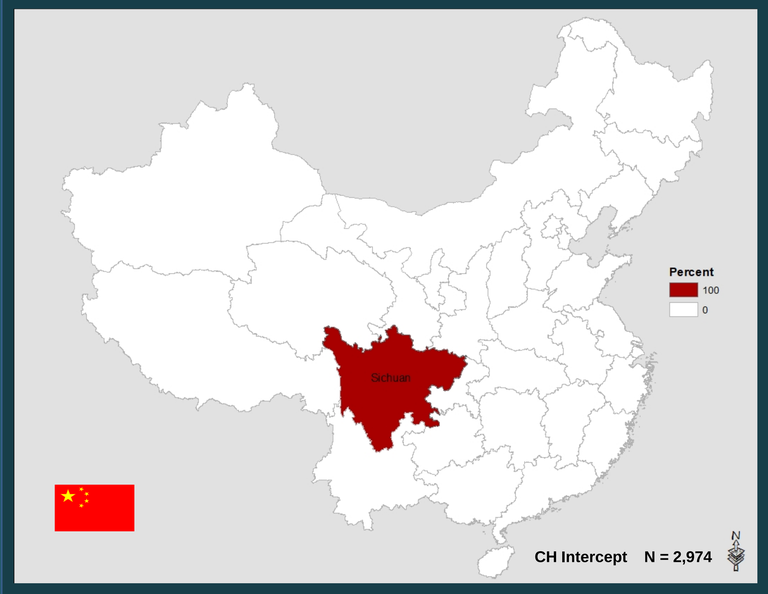




2017 Survey Samples (Maps produced by Kayla Coonen using ArcGIS)







Conclusion & Discussion

Topic prevalence analysis of open-ended survey responses show that Chinese and Americans view CC differently as was evident from the results of our two previous poster analyses.

- Americans mention more topics compared to Chinese across topic groups
- Conflict/debate and responses/solutions were least mentioned topic groups for Chinese
- Americans were least likely to mention responses/solutions and causes/attribution

CC is definitely a contentious partisan political issue in the U.S. with conservatives more likely to deny or be unconcerned while liberals are more aligned with scientific realities of CC (Trump effect).

All 2017 U.S surveys were conducted online through Survey Sampling International (SSI) generating reasonably geographically representative sample of adults and college students across all fifty states.

In 2017 surveys were conducted in China online using SSI as well as face-to-face in Sichuan province.

We gratefully acknowledge generous funding support from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Office of Research & Sponsored Programs, Blugold Commitment and International Fellows Program. We also give a special thank you to our Chinese and American partners for their assistance.