How do weather forecast platforms represent climate change in connection to extreme weather events?

PROTOCOL 3

Data collection

Protocol 3 analyses the coverage of 15 extreme weather events worldwide made by a selection of five weather websites from the ones investigated in protocol 2. The events selected are all correlated to climate change according to studies from the WWA (World Weather Attribution).

Reports and articles on the specific weather phenomena are retrieved by scraping the selected websites.

SOURCES

The <u>World Weather Attribution (WWA)</u> is a team of researchers from several institutions worldwide born to study actual extreme weather phenomena and assess their correlation to climate change in terms of frequency and/or intensity.

SELECTION - EVENTS

Out of all the events they investigated, <u>15 were selected</u>: they are all significantly correlated with climate change and varied in terms of both event type (e.g. storm) and location. A <u>spreadsheet</u> (Dataset P3_events) was manually compiled, mapping key metrics for each event. The saved information includes temporal and geographical coordinates as well as details on the type of event and its relation to the climate crisis.

SELECTION - WEBSITES

Out of the 50 websites analysed in protocol 2, five were selected. They comply with the following conditions:

- 1. they must singificantly address climate change (according to protocol 2);
- 2. they must have an archive of weather news going back to (at least) Jan 2017.

SCRAPING - WEBSITES

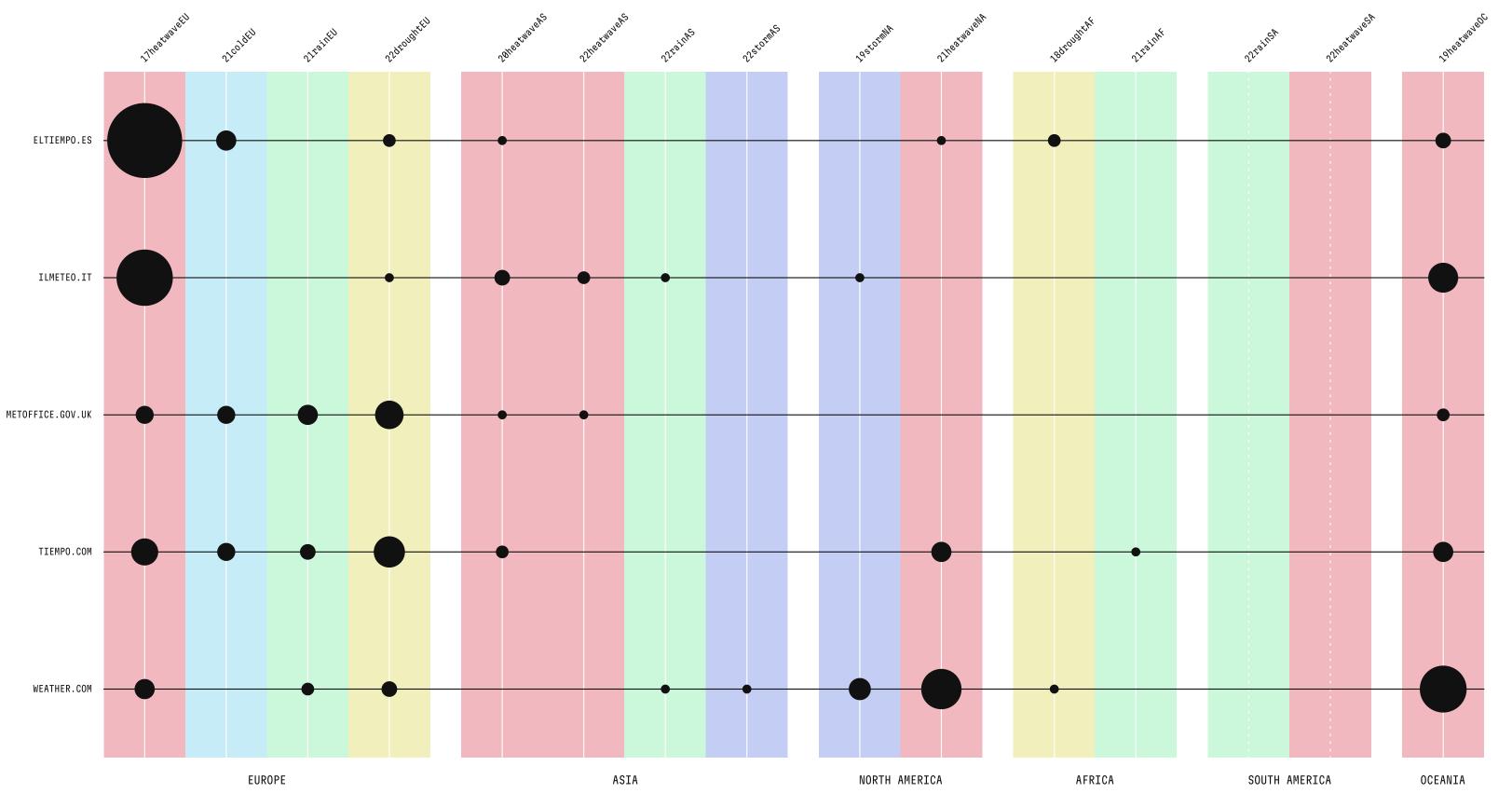
A custom python script based on *Selenium* was used to <u>scrape the news archive of each website</u>. Textual information was saved from the previews of articles published in set time frames, each related to one extreme weather event.

SELECTION - ARTICLES

The scraped texts were analysed – partly manually and partly with automated filters – in order to detect all individual articles covering the selected extreme weather events. In total, 275 relevant articles were identified.

SCRAPING - ARTICLES

The articles were subjected to a second round of scraping, this time more detailed and focused not on the previews but on the article pages. Scraped information was saved into a spreadsheet (Dataset P3_Articles).



DATA COLLECTION

DATASETS



Datates P3_events

Including the selected 15 extreme weather events assessed by the World Weather Attribution.



Datates P3_articles

Spreadsheet with detailed information from the 275 articles by 5 websites covering the selected extreme weather events.

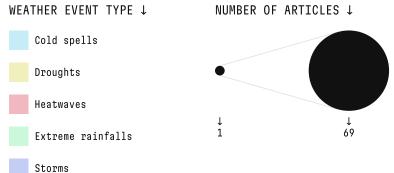
♦ P3 \rightarrow DATA COLLECTION \rightarrow MATRIX PLOT \rightarrow VIZ 01

The visualisation on the left is a matrix plot showing the selected articles at the intersection between extreme weather events and websites:

- $X \text{ axis} \rightarrow \text{extreme weather events} < \text{continents}$
- Y axis → websites

Websites are ordered alphabetically, while weather events are grouped on the basis of the continent where they took place and ordered chronologically inside each group. Event types (e.g. storm) are identified by colour.

The number of articles is represented through the size of a circle at the intersection between event and website. The absence of the circle means the absence of articles for that event in that website.



CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

Texts

All texts were then translated to English (when in a different language) in order to allow comparison.

TEXTS

SELECTION

Both texts in the <u>preview</u> of the articles and texts inside the <u>article pages</u> were included in the analysis.

FILTERING

The detection of articles that explicitly cite climate change was handled with Google Sheets' conditional formatting options. Four key terms were considered: climate change, climate crisis, climate emergency, global warming (plus their translations in the language corresponding to the considered website). Out of 275 articles, only 52 include at least one of the terms listed above.

TRANSLATION

A custom Python script based on *GoogleTrans* was used to <u>translate all the</u> extracted texts into a single language: English. The code ran through all the entries and saved the translations into a new csv file.

Each row of the csv file (Dataset P3_translations) includes both:

- the translated text;
- information on website and article from which the original text was extracted.

DATASET



Dataset P3_translations

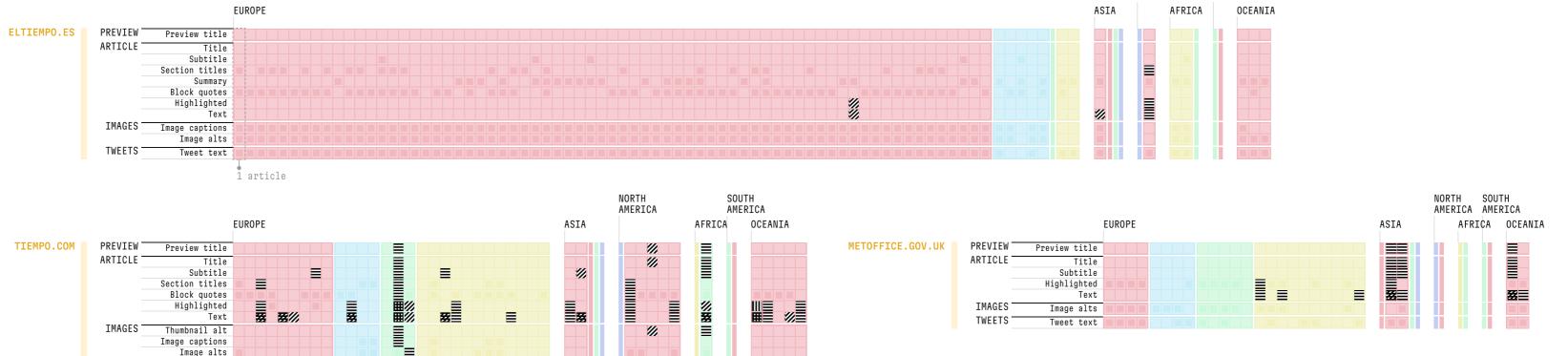
Spreadsheet resulting from the translation of the textual entries from the articles scraping.

\bullet P3 → TEXTS → MATRIX PLOT → VIZ 01

The visualisation on the left is a series of matrix plots (one for each website) showing text entries at the intersection between articles and text types:

- X axis → articles < extreme weather events < continents
- Y axis → text types

Each individual text is represented as a square which is covered by a black and white texture when it includes a climate change reference - with the texture depending on the actual term used. The purpose of this matrix plot is to map climate change references across websites and in relation to the text types (which are connected to visibility and importance).



NORTH

AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA

TEXT INCLUDES ↓

"Climate change"

"Climate crisis"

"Climate emergency"

"Global warming"

"Climate change" & "Global warming"

"Climate change" & "Climate crisis"

None of the above

Text doesn't exist

NORTH SOUTH AMERICA AMERICA ASIA AFRICA OCEANIA **EUROPE** ILMETEO.IT PREVIEW T Preview title Preview text ARTICLE Subtitle Highlighted IMAGES -Thumbnail alt Thumbnail title Image captions Image alts Image titles SOUTH AMERICA AFRICA OCEANIA **EUROPE** ASIA NORTH AMERICA WEATHER.COM PREVIEW -Preview title Preview text ARTICLE Highlighted 暴暴暴 ■ 器 ■■■ **翌** IMAGES T Image captions Image alts Slideshow captions Slideshow alts TWEETS -Tweet text

Image titles

Tweet text

TWEETS

Droughts Heatwaves Extreme rainfalls Storms

WEATHER EVENT TYPE ↓

Cold spells

CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

A map of climate change representations across the online weather forecast landscape

PROTOCOL 3

Tag clouds

The analysis of translated texts started with detecting the predominant words in the websites, and later visualising them with sizes proportional to their frequencies.

WORD COUNT

A Python-based tool was used to process a <u>word count on the translated texts of</u> each website. The the following conditions were set:

- Language → English;
- Saved words → most frequent 100.

A second round of word count with the same conditions was processed, for each website including only texts from climate-change-citing articles.

The tool was finally run on merged translations from all websites, twice:

- 1. Including texts from all articles.
- 2. Including only texts from climate-change-citing articles.

Both times with the following conditions:

- Language → English;
- Saved words → most frequent 500.

For each word count process the tool produced a csv file with the list of most frequent words, their rank and their frequency.

TAG CLOUDS

The tag cloud generator tool from *Digital Methods Initiative* was used to create tag cloud visualisations out of all the word counts. From each word count list the generator produced an svg file in which the text sizes are associated to absolute frequency ranges (e.g. 61-65 times $\rightarrow 18$ px).

$INDIVIDUAL \leftrightarrow GLOBAL$

The purpose of individual websites' tag clouds is to give an horizontal mapping of the words used in each website. On the other hand, the merged texts' tag clouds provide insights on general trends and patterns.

ALL ARTICLES ← CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING ARTICLES

Differentiating between climate-change-citing and overall articles allows to spot key differences - if there's any - in the way news related to climate change are treated in comparison to the normal flow of news.

 \diamond P3 → TEXTS → TAG CLOUDS → VIZ 01

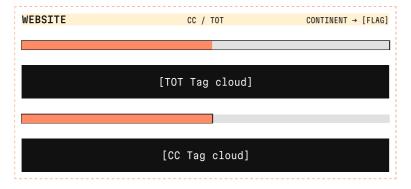
The following visualisation shows all tag clouds from individual websites, two for each website:

- 1. all articles included;
- 2. climate-change-citing articles only.

The ration between the articles that reference climate change and articles that don't is shown through a bar chart.

The proportion between word frequency and text size is consistent for all tag clouds inside the following visualisation, but it is different from the proportion in corresponding visualisations of protocol 1 and 2 (P1 \rightarrow texts \rightarrow tag clouds \rightarrow viz 01 and P2 \rightarrow texts \rightarrow tag clouds \rightarrow viz 01).

The visualisation is designed as follows:



WEBSITE	Domain
CC / TOT	Number of climate-change-citing articles / total number of articles
CONTINENT	Where the website is based
[FLAG]	Country where the website is based
[TOT Tag cloud]	Considering texts from all articles
[CC Tag cloud]	Considering texts from climate-change-citing articles only
	Climate-change-citing articles
	Climate-change-avoiding articles

EUROPE →

will (778) temperatures (340) areas (298) heat (222) peninsula (219) islands (211) continue (156) north (147) also (131) clouds (131) canary (125) may (121) can (116) high (114) day (113)

dron (108) rise (106) spain (103) sputh (101) wave (100) wind (97) palicia (95) week (94) country (97) cantabrian (90) many (87) days (80)

heat (19) dust (16) arctic (16) wave (14) temperature (14) fires (12) sahara (11) record (11) canada (11) air (10) area (9)

ILMETEO.IT

TIEMPO.COM

METOFFICE.GOV.UK

07 / 27

england (94) high (82) heat (78) week (75) hot (71) conditions (71) met (64) average (64)

climate (41) weather (34) uk (29) temperatures (27) change (27) summer (27) average (24) heat (23)

will (156) weather (144) temperatures (135) uk (115)

rain (61) said (59) health (56) warm (54) extreme (54) southern (51) office (50) areas (48) climate (47)

will (140) temperatures (133) heat (125) air (82) last (76)

water (67) month (63) high (60) also (60) one (59) year (55) records (54) can (54) climate (52)

since (52) drought (51) extreme (51) country (48) maximum (46) europe (46) many (44) record (43) change (43) may (43)

rainfall (41) spain (40) although (40) already (40) °c (40) meteorological (39) large (39) due (39) years (39) warm (38)

recent (38) new (38) even (37) hours (36) part (36) average (36) cold (36) australia (36) us (35) waves (34) reservoirs (34) soa (32)

storms (32) wave (30) time (30) mass (29) especially (29) according (29) august (28) southern (28) almost (28) fire (28) north (28) northern (28)

fires (73) summer (72) situation (71) peninsula (69) days (69) temperature (68) areas (68)

temperatures (70) fires (64) heat (61) will (56) climate (52) change (40)

temperature (34) extreme (34) also (33) last (33) summer (32) high (32) year (32) europe (30) one (29) air (28)

days (28) new (28) record (27) records (27) situation (27) australia (27) meteorological (26) country (26) since (26)

can (25) spain (23) already (23) warming (22) due (22) many (22) increase (22) maximum (21) june (21) although (21) may (21) drought (21) fire (21) world (21) waves (20) wave (19) peninsula (19) recent (19) area (19) time (19) us (18) recorded (18) global (18)

people (18) now (18) areas (18) years (18) cold (18) totay (16) forest (16) according (16) study (16) winter (16) great (16) water (16) tropical (15)

warning (47) see (46) parts (46) weekend (44) across (44) much (44) many (42) showers (41) likely (40) northern (40)

change (40) wales (39) south (39) record (39) pressure (39) also (39) scotland (38) people (38) can (38) friday (36)

england (22) will (21) year (17) met (17) temperature (17) office (15) high (15) extreme (15) june (14) 2022 (14)

emissions (13) hot (13) study (13) °c (13) record (13) likely (13) may (12) warm (12) warmest (12) driest (12) temp (12) since (11)

conditions (11) august (11) forecast (10) said (10) dry (10) prolonged (10) areas (10) actual (10) anomaly (10) rise (9) parts (9) parts (9) parts (9)

temperature (35) summer (35) july (35) forecast (34) next (34) expected (33) year (32) dry (31) water (30) central (30) rainfall (2)

sunshine (25) - (24) ireland (24) °c (24) heavy (25) meteorologist (25) continue (25) cold (25) since (25) well (25) suburday (25) june (25) may (21)

weather (131) europe (130) anticyclone (85) continent (75) thunderstorms (71) charon (69) also (64) will (61) fires (58) many (54) high (54) pressure (53) italy (51) temperatures (50) unstable (47) northern (47) australia (47) areas (45) heat (41) atlantic (40) rains (39) spain (39) situation (35) sectors (35) summer (33) hot (33) especially (32) clouds (31) regions (30)

widespread (29) even (29) month (29) days (28) united (28) kinodom (27) france (26) mediterranean (26) old (25) central (25) north (24) part (24) rain (23) eastern (23) take (22) african (22) states (21) article (21) stock (21) european (21) showers (21) fire (21) origin (20)

WEATHER.COM

fire (508) said (314) fires (278) people (206) miles (197) heat (188)

fire (197) said (124) heat (123) fires (107) according (77) people (74)

miles (65) told (62) homes (60) drought (59) tuesday (56) burning (56) climate (51) wildfires (49) square (49)

london (48) temperatures (45) burned (45) also (45) state (44) extreme (43) reported (42) change (41) wildfire (41) several (40)

across (40) us (40) water (39) weather (38) record (36) south (36) area (35) two (35) new (35) air (34) firefighters (33) least (33)

conditions (32) near (32) county (32) wednesday (31) australia (31) areas (30) wave (29) degrees (29) residents (29) one (29) year (29) west (29) many (29) washington (29) california (29) uk (28) deaths (28) get (28) river (27) parts (26) ett (26) dry (26) large (26) emergency (25) destroyed (25)

according (185) homes (152) burning (150) told (150) australia (144) wildfires (143) south (142)

square (140) burned (134) reported (116) also (114) state (111) new (107) across (105) wildfire (104) least (102)

drought (100) county (97) area (96) smoke (94) water (93) one (91) weather (90) tuesday (90) thursday (89) temperatures (86) near (86)

residents (85) firefighters (84) areas (84) several (84) two (83) destroyed (80) us (79) many (75) friday (74) town (73) australian (73)

emergency (72) wednesday (71) conditions (71) since (70) bushfires (70) ethreme (68) still (67) large (67) service (67) ethricids (66) air (65) solicula (65) smootay (67) western (64) plance (63) will (65) wales (65) contained (67) arisona (67) parts (61) continued (67) parts (67) p

 \bullet P3 → TEXTS → TAG CLOUDS → VIZ 02

The following visualisation shows the two tag clouds resulting from the merged texts from all websites:

- 1. all articles included;
- 2. climate-change-citing articles only.

A bar chart shows the ratio between climate-change-citing and avoiding articles.

clouds in the following visualisation, but it is different from the proportion in corresponding visualisations of protocol 1 and 2 (P1 \rightarrow texts tag clouds \rightarrow viz 02 and P2 \rightarrow texts tag clouds \rightarrow viz 02) as well as in the previous visualisation (P3 \rightarrow texts \rightarrow tag clouds \rightarrow viz 01).

will (1198) temperatures (744) heat (654) fire (632) areas (543) fires (479) weather (455) also (408) said (388) high (360) south (316) peninsula (307) many (297) people (287) north (261) can (254) days (251) according (242) week (241) australia (239) continue (238) water (236) air (233) extreme (233) islands (223) may (222) drought (216) summer (215) one (213) record (212) hot (210) spain (210) europe (208) rain (207) year (206) area (203) country (202) temperature (201) miles (198) since (197) month (194) day (193) northern (191) wave (191) last (189) thursday (187) especially (184) southern (182) conditions (182) us (178) clouds (174) climate (174) new (174) much (172) expected (171) friday (170) large (169) homes (165) june (163) average (163) weekend (162) burning (162) situation (161) across (159) even (155) sunday (155) burned (154) still (152) several (151) western (150) told (150) wildfires (149) uk (149) square (148) rise (146) although (145) maximum (143) time (143) wind (143) change (141) part (140) least (140) through the control of the control o first (124) now (122) showers (121) winds (121) smoke (120) around (119) east (119) two (114) wates (114) dry (112) reach (111) monday (110) Intel (LEV) row (LEV) Street, ELLLY WHIRE (LELL) STREET, ELLY WITH ELLY WITH ELLY STREET, ELLY WITH E

heat (233) fire (230) fires (196) climate (158) temperatures (155) said (143) change (116) will (112) according (102) extreme (101) weather (95) people (95) record (91) also (91) year (88) drought (83) summer (81) air (78) high (78) new (77) temperature (76) since (69) wave (67) us (67) area (66) homes (65) one (65) burning (65) miles (65) australia (63) last (63) many (63) areas (62) told (62) uk (59) can (59) water (59) tuesday (57) days (56) south (56) several (55) burned (54) wildfires (54) conditions (53) square (52) across (52) average (51) london (51) june (50) country (48) europe (48) dry (48) state (48) hot (47) reported (47) time (47) two (46) due (45) already (45) years (45) continue (45) july (45) warming (45) situation (44) may (43) least (43) now (42) records (42) spain (42) mark (42) parts (
wildfire (41) north (41) global (39) world (39) even (38) week (38) firelighters (38) large (38) recent (37) river (37) degrees (36) arctic (35)

california (35) deaths (34) destroyed (33) like (33) near (33) wednesday (33) day (33) region (33) county (33) maximum (32) waves (32) around (32)

CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

DATA COLLECTION

The proportion between word frequency and text size is consistent for the two tag

A map of climate change representations across the online weather forecast landscape

Tag clouds - categories

Merged texts' tag clouds were further investigated: the words they contain were grouped on the basis of their meaning and in accordance with the evaluation criteria previously set.

Meaningful comparisons between all articles and climate-change-citing articles were provided through categorisation and colour coding.

CATEGORISATION

Each word from the two merged tag clouds was categorised into <u>1 exclusive</u> category of 15, according to its meaning. Categories are the same as in protocol 1 and 2, and keep into consideration both the specific words in the tag clouds of all protocols and the evaluation criteria set prior to starting the analysis.

Each category can be made of 1, 2 or 3 specific subcategories. Categories and subcategories are listed and defined on the opposite page. However, the analysis initialy focus on first-level categories (highlighted in orange in the list).

COLOUR CODING

A colour for each category was estabilished, then the words in the merged texts' tag clouds were coloured according to their category of belonging. Working directly with colour on the clouds allows to see:

- variety → how many words for each category:
- frequency → position and size of words for each category.

ALL ARTICLES ↔ CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING ARTICLES

Comparing the distribution of each colour for the two tag clouds (all articles and *climate-change-citing articles*) allows to go deeper into analysing whether and how communications addressing the climate crisis differ from the regular flow of news in the websites.

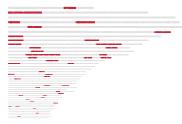
\bullet P3 → TEXTS → TAG CLOUDS → VIZ 03

The visualisation on the right shows for each category the pair of tag clouds placed side by side, with the words falling in the category highlighted in colour.

In order to give more importance to the colours, words were replaced with rectangles through Dan Ross' *Flow Block* font. The terms falling in the category were made readable in an ordered list (most frequent to least frequent) that follows each tag cloud. Words in the *all articles* list that don't appear in the climate-change-citing list are faded.

drought, air

ALL ARTICLES



fire, fires, weather, air, drought, rain, clouds, climate, burning, burned, wildfires, wind, change, rainfall, storms, forecast, sho winds, smoke, dry, rains, wildfire, pressure, antycyclone, sun, storm, flames, bushfires, charon, flooding, p meteorological, snow, blaze, meteorologist, lightning, skies, sunny, blazes, radiation, sunshine, gusts, heatwave, driest, imelda,

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING



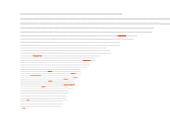
fire, fires, climate, change, weather, drought, air, burning, burned, wildfires, dry, wildfire, winds, rain, rainfall, meteorological smoke, flames, forecast, blaze, storms, bushfires, flooding, floods, driest, lightning, pressure, blazes, wind, droughts, humidity, anticyclone, atmospheric, meteorologist, heatwave, clouds

ALL ARTICLES



due, associated, caused, issued, affect, cause, affected, department

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING



due, associated, emissions, fueled, cause, greenhouse, gas, caused, affected, linked, consequences, influence, attribution, lead, result

ALL ARTICLES

firefighters, officials, authorities, hief, agency, firefighting, sheriff, police

ALL ARTICLES

impacts, rising



high, many, extreme, record, wave, conditions, new, much, large, average, situation, even, several, rise, least, records, already, strong, first, reach, reached, risk, destroyed, warnings, intense, low, emergency, level, end, highest, help, , higher, important, h increase, evacuation, exceed, waves, died, worst, hit, damage, deaths, need, evacuations, evacuate, great, levels, largest, lower, exceeded. events, forced, severe, killed, increasing, reaching, experiencing dangerous, evacuated, suffered, warned, significant, lot, ever, frequent. devastating, death, unprecedented, effects, problem,

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

firefighters, officials, agency, firefighting, brigade, department police, noaa, nifc, authorities, management, control, minister, spokesperson, ready, beat, environmental

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING



extreme, record, high, new, wave,

many, several, conditions, already, situation, least, records, much, even, large, deaths, destroyed, waves, increase, risk, reached, emergency, highest, end, help, evacuation, worst, events, first, hit, intense, rise, need, increasing, great, low, higher, reach, died. suffered, evacuatiions, exceptional, worse, largest, major, extremely, effects, death, level, frequent, extraordinary, historic, really, experienced, anomaly, greater, devastating, evacuated, dangerous, strong, increased, event, catastrophic, evacuate, exceeded, lot, impacts, frequency, unprecedented, ever, alltime, top,

forced, exceed, disaster, important

ALL ARTICLES

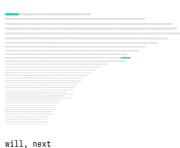


ALL ARTICLES



continue, since, last, now, recent, today, 2017, current, 2020, 2019, history, continues, 2021, 2022, latest, historic, currently, previous, past, continued, ago

ALL ARTICLES



CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

ALL ARTICLES

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

year, summer, tuesday, days, june, time, years, july, may, week, wednesday, day, monday, season, hours, month, friday, weekend, months, august, weeks, winter, times, morning, thursday, period, right, prolonged, saturday, earlier, early, later, afternoon, spring, century, sunday, yesterday

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

since, last, continue, now, recent,

2020, today, 2022, current, latest,

2019, previous, 2021, ago, past,

2017, 2018, continued, continues,

Past & present

days, week, may, summer, year, month,

day, thursday, friday, june, weekend,

wednesday, tuesday, monday, years,

hours, morning, afternoon, august,

times, september, pm, january,

night, months, weeks, april, season,

period, early, spring, later, winter,

sunday, time, july, saturday,





currently

will, next, soon, future, scenario

ALL ARTICLES

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING



can, around, expected, likely, estimated, seems, think, possible can, expected, around, likely,

Locations

possible, expect

ALL ARTICLES

areas, south, peninsula, north,

southeastern, idaho, jaén, granada,

strait, cities, land, coastal,

australia, islands, spain, europe, area, country, northern, southern, us, across, western, uk, state, v. eastern. east. wales. national, england, west, cantabria county, galicia, town, northwest continent, region, australian, southeast, states, m regions, atlantic, coast, city, balearic, iberian, andalusia, world, california, castilla, northeast, place, arizona, italy, southwest, united, madrid, london, valley, la, n, sydney, pyrenees, local, france, portugal, texas, ebro, arctic, catalonia, provinces, washington, places, cordoba, victoria, scotland, guadalquivir germany, european, african, global, mancha, canberra, africa, oregon, locally, coasts, kingdom,

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

us, area, australia, areas, uk,

south, across, london, country, europe, state, spain, north, global world, arctic, california, region, county, washington, east, western, west, wales, southern, england, states, australian, national, city, siberia, canada, oregon, northwest, peninsula, northern, arizona, portland, southeast, town, idaho, regions, place, seattle, france, coast, russia, eastern, portugal, siberian, sydney, united, land, located, earth, germany, cities, pacific, victoria, africa, hemisphere, planet, sahara, ground, capital, madrid, saharan, america

temperatures, heat, hot, temperature, cold, warm, degrees, 40°c, tropical, °c, warming, cool, hottest, thermal,

Natural environment

ALL ARTICLES



water, sea, forest, animals, river, reservoirs, mountain, mountains, koalas, environment, basin



values, data, maximums, known, know. study, minimum, report, information



Science |



according, miles, maximum, recorded,



water, river, forest, ice, environment, natural, sea, lake

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

according, miles, average, maximum,

recorded, study, scientists, data,

information, amount, researchers,

research, values, university, know,

reports, studies, experts, resources

ALL ARTICLES



CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

heat, temperatures, temperature, hot warming, degrees, warm, cold, warmest, known, tropical, °c, cool hottest, warmer, temp, celsius, cooling, heatrelated, °c

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

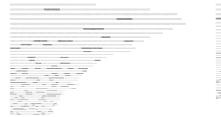


People

people, homes, residents, health, community, communities, home, m

Others -

ALL ARTICLES



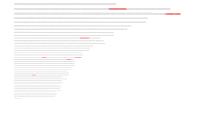
CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

ALL ARTICLES



said, told, reported, video, news. say, tell, press, episode, media

ALL ARTICLES CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING



weathercom, press, update, media,

episodes, says, show

people, homes, residents, health, community, home, human

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

9. LOCATIONS

b. Global \rightarrow words related to earth as a whole (e.g. global); c. <u>Local</u> \rightarrow words referring to specific locations (e.g. greenland);

11. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

a. Institutions → words related to scientists and scientific institutions

a. People \rightarrow words connected with humanity as a group (e.g. human);

15. OTHERS

A map of climate change representations across the online weather forecast landscape

CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES WITH THEIR EXPLANATIONS

- a. Forecasts → words referring to weather and weather forecasting
- (e.g. meteorological); b. Phenomena → words referring to weather phenomena and events (e.g. rain);

2. CAUSES

a. General \rightarrow words generally related to causation (e.g. due); b. Climate change →words referring to specific causes of climate change

SOLUTIONS

(e.g. greenhouse);

a. Action \rightarrow words conveying the general idea of action/reaction (e.g. fight); b. Institutions \rightarrow words related to institutions or governments, supposed to act against climate change (e.g. intergovernmental);

c. Climate change → words related to specific behaviours connected with climate change savviness (e.g. sustainability); 4. IMPACTS

a. Extreme \rightarrow words conveying a sense of out of the ordinary (e.g. extreme);

- b. Effects \rightarrow words generally related to effects (e.g. impacts); c. Threats \rightarrow words related to clearly negative effects (e.g. disasters);
- a. Time \rightarrow words expressing general time periods and intervals (e.g. winter);
- a. $\underline{Past} \rightarrow \text{words}$ expressing specific moments in the past, specifically before
- the moment when the data was collected (e.g. 2019), b. Present \rightarrow words generally addressing the present moment (e.g. now);
- a. General \rightarrow words generally related to future (e.g. projections);
- b. Specific moment → words expressing specific moments in future time (e.g. 2050);

a. <u>Uncertainty</u> \rightarrow words expressing uncertainty or doubt (e.g. might); b. Certainty → words expressing certainty or confident expectancy

(e.g. sure);

a. General \rightarrow general geographical terms (e.g. longitude);

10. TEMPERATURE a. Temperature \rightarrow words related to temperature (e.g. heat);

a. Natural environment \rightarrow words related to natural environments,

ecosystems and/or their elements (e.g. mountain): 12. SCIENCE

b. <u>Studies</u> → words related to scientific studies and measurements (e.g. data), c. Information \rightarrow words related to scientific communications (e.g. report);

a. Media \rightarrow words generally related to formats and channels (e.g. photo);

a. Others → everything else;

CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

PROTOCOL 3

Tag clouds - subcategories

The last textual analysis focused on climate-change-citing articles only: its purpose was to inquire deeper the representation of climate change made by weather forecast websites in connection with extreme weather events. To do that, words from the tag cloud were rearranged according to second-level categories.

CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

Finally, only the tag cloud regarding climate-change-citing articles was taken into consideration. Previous analysis had already provided a satisfying comparison between news in general and articles which explicitly reference the climate crisis. The focus shifted then to a more detailed exploration of textual representations of the climate crisis in the extreme weather events articles.

CATEGORISATION

The focus shifted on subcategories (second-level categorisation) from the ones previously listed and defined (complete list available on the right, subcategories highlighted in orange).

CLUSTERING

The tag cloud was broken into single words, which were then positioned according to the subcategory they belong to. The information available through this kind of

- variety → how many words for each subcategory;
- frequency → size of words for each subcategory.

\bullet P3 → TEXTS → TAG CLOUDS → VIZ 04

The visualisation on the right shows the words from the tag cloud grouped according to the category and subcategory they belong to. Words are readable, and their size is linked to their frequency as in the original tag cloud. Furthermore, each word is followed by its absolute frequency (in brackets).

The colour coding previously estabilished is mantained in order to strengthen the visual clustering of subcategories in higher-level groups.

drought (83) air (78)

Weather

FORECASTS

climate (158) change (116) air (78)

meteorological (29) forecast (24) pressure (15) atmospheric (11)

drought (83) burning (65) burned (54) wildfires (54) dry (48) wildfire (41) winds (32) rain (31) rainfall (31) smoke (27) flames (26) blaze (23) storms (21) bushfires (19) flooding (17) floods (17) driest (16) lightning (15) blazes (15) wind (15) droughts (14) humidity (12) anticyclone (11) heatwave (11) clouds (9)

fire (230) fires (196)

PHENOMENA

weather (95)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Causes

GENERAL

lead (11) result (9)

due (45) associated (27) emissions (23) fueled (17) cause (16)

Solutions

caused (15) affected (15) linked (14) consequences (13) influence (13) attribution (13)

ACTIONS

INSTITUTIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE

management (11) control (16) posts (16) best (16)

firefighters (38) officials (24) agency (15) firefighting (15) brigade (14) authorities (11) minister (10)

Impacts

many (63)

several (55)

already (45) least (43)

records (42) much (42)

even (38) large (38)

increase (32) reached (29)

increasing (19) great (19) low (18)

higher (17) reach (17) exceptional (16)

highest (28) end (26) worst (23)

first (22) hit (22) intense (21) rise (19

worse (16) largest (16) major (15) extremely (1

level (14) frequent (13) extraordinary (13) historic (13)

Past & present

since (69) last (63) recent (37)

recent (37) 2020 (29) 2020 (29) 2022 (24) latest (17)

2019 (16) previous (15) 2021 (15) ago (14) past (13) 2017 (11) 2018 (11)

really (13) anomaly (13) greater (13) strong (12)

increased (12) exceeded (11) Int (11) frequency (11

Time

PAST

GENERAL

EXTREME

extreme (101) record (91) high (78) new (77)

EFFECTS

wave (67)

conditions (53)

year (88) summer (81) tuesday (57) days (56) june (50) time (47)

years (45) july (45) may (43) week (38) wednesday (33) day (33) monday (27) month (26) hours (27)

PRESENT

continue (45) now (42) today (25) current (22)

month (26) friday (25) weekend (22) months (22) august (22) weeks (21) winter (19) times (18) morning (17) thursday (17) period (16) night (16)

prolonged (16) saturday (15) earlier (14) early (14) later (14) afternoon (13) spring (13) century (13) january (12) sunday (12) yesterday (15)

deaths (34) destroyed (33) risk (30) emergency (28) help (24) evacuation (24) need (19) died (17) situation (44) waves (32) suffered (17) evacuations (16) death (14) devastating (12) exacuated (12) dangerous (12)

THREATS

Future

GENERAL

SPECIFIC MOMENT

Will (112) next (21) soon (12) tuture (12) scenario (12)

Anticipation

UNCERTAINTY

CERTAINTY

can (59) around (32) estimated (14) seems (13) think (12)

expected (32) likely (29)

Locations

GENERAL

area (66) areas (62)

south (56) across (52) state (48) north (41) region (33) county (33) east (31) western (31) west (31) southern (30) states (30) national (28) city (27) northwest (22)

peninsula (22) northern (21) southeast (18)

town (18) regions (16) place (16) coast (14)

eastern (14) land (13) located (13) cities (12)

hemisphere (11) ground (10) capital (10)

world (39) global (39)

GLOBAL

us (67) australia (63) uk (59) london (51) country (48) europe (48) spain (42) arctic (35) california (35) washington (32) wales (30) england (30) australian (29) siberia (26) canada (25) oregon (25) arizona (19) portland (19) idaho (17) seattle (16) france (15) russia (14) portugal (14) siberian (14) sydney (13) united (13) germany (12)

pacific (12) victoria (12) africa (12) sahara (11) modrid (10)

saharan (10) america (10)

LOCAL

Temperature

GENERAL

heat (233) temperatures (155) temperature (76) hot (47) Warming (45) degrees (36) warm (29) cold (23) warmest (19) known (19) tropical (19) °c (17) cool (16) hothest (12) temp (12) cold (19) °c (17) cool (16) hothest (12) temp (12) cold (19)

Natural environment

GENERAL

water (59) river (37) forest (30) ice (15) environment (13) authoral (12) see (12) late (10)

Science

WHO

INFORMATION

know (14) information (14) report (11) resources (10)

according (102)

WHAT

miles (65) average (51) maximum (32) recorded (30) study (29) data (21) research (15)

values (15) amount (14) studies (10)

Media

scientists (25) university (14) researchers (12)

GENERAL

said (143) told (62) reported (47) news (27) services (15) weathercom (14) press (14) update (13) made (13) model (13) mo

People

GENERAL

people (95) homes (65) residents (31) health (19) community (19) home (18) human (13)

a. Forecasts \rightarrow words referring to weather and weather forecasting (e.g. meteorological);

b. <u>Phenomena</u> → words referring to weather phenomena and events (e.g. rain);

CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES WITH THEIR EXPLANATIONS

2. CAUSES

1. WEATHER

a. General \rightarrow words generally related to causation (e.g. due);

b. Climate change → words referring to specific causes of climate change (e.g. greenhouse);

3. SOLUTIONS

a. Action \rightarrow words conveying the general idea of action/reaction (e.g. fight); b. Institutions → words related to institutions or governments, supposed to

act against climate change (e.g. intergovernmental); c. Climate change → words related to specific behaviours connected with

climate change savviness (e.g. sustainability);

4. IMPACTS

a. Extreme \rightarrow words conveying a sense of out of the ordinary (e.g. extreme);

b. Effects \rightarrow words generally related to effects (e.g. impacts);

c. Threats \rightarrow words related to clearly negative effects (e.g. disasters); 5. TIME

a. Time \rightarrow words expressing general time periods and intervals (e.g. winter);

6. PAST AND PRESENT a. $\underline{Past} \rightarrow \text{words}$ expressing specific moments in the past, specifically before

the moment when the data was collected (e.g. 2019); b. Present \rightarrow words generally addressing the present moment (e.g. now);

7. FUTURE

a. General \rightarrow words generally related to future (e.g. projections);

b. Specific moment → words expressing specific moments in future time (e.g. 2050);

8. ANTICIPATION

a. Uncertainty \rightarrow words expressing uncertainty or doubt (e.g. might);

b. <u>Certainty</u> → words expressing certainty or confident expectancy (e.g. sure);

9. LOCATIONS

a. General \rightarrow general geographical terms (e.g. longitude); b. Global \rightarrow words related to earth as a whole (e.g. global);

c. <u>Local</u> → words referring to specific locations (e.g. greenland);

10. TEMPERATURE

a. Temperature \rightarrow words related to temperature (e.g. heat);

11. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

 \rightarrow words related to natural environments. ecosystems and/or their elements (e.g. mountain):

12. SCIENCE

→ words related to scientists and scientific institutions a. Instit (e.g. ipcc);

b. Studies \rightarrow words related to scientific studies and measurements (e.g. data);

c. Information \rightarrow words related to scientific communications (e.g. report);

13. MEDIA

a. Media \rightarrow words generally related to formats and channels (e.g. photo); 14. PEOPLE

a. $\underline{\text{People}} \rightarrow \text{words connected with humanity as a group (e.g. human)};$ 15. OTHERS

a. Others \rightarrow everything else;

A map of climate change representations across the online weather forecast landscape

CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

Images











VIDEO THUMBNAILS

VIDEO THUMBNAILS

13 IM

All images included in the articles - except from embedded tweets - were taken into consideration.

IMAGE COUNT

The scraping of previews and article pages returned a total of <u>3.538 pictures</u> connected to the <u>15 extreme weather events</u> selected (either from climate-change-citing and climate-change-avoiding news). Images from embedded tweets and social content in general were not included, since they are part of a radically different web context.

IMAGE TYPES

The selected images can be of <u>various kind</u>: thumbnails in the article preview, article covers, pictures inside the article page, thumbnails of videos in the article page or even images from slideshows embedded in the article page.

CLIMATE-CHANGE-AVOIDING ↔ CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

Images were classified according to whether their source article explicitly referred climate change or not. The comparison between the <u>visual spaces of climate-change-citing and climate-change-avoiding articles</u> allows to investigate the tendencies peculiar to representations explicitly connected with the climate crisis.

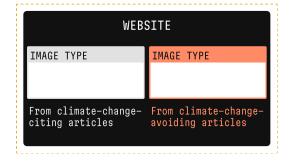
GRID MONTAGES

ImageJ was used to create <u>grid montages</u>, with the purpose to highlight both quantities of images in specific groups and dominant colours and visual aspects.

\bullet P3 → IMAGES → GRIDS → VIZ 01

The visualisation on the left shows <u>image grids based on image types</u>, <u>source websites and relation to climate change</u> of the respective source article. Each website constitutes an enclosed group, in which types and climate-change-relation build a tabular frame which encourages comparison.

The visualisation is designed as follows:



Network

Images were arranged into a network based on AI image captioning. The network provided the base for mapping the visual representations of climate change in the websites.

VISUAL SIMILARITY

The 3,538 images were fed to Yale DHLab's PixPlot in order to get an interactive image network based on similarity: each picture is captioned from a previosly trained neural network model, then all pictures are arranged in the space according to their content similarity.

The network can be explored through panning and zooming in the space or jumping to hotspots (image clusters). PixPlot automatically identifies some default hotspots, but they can also be created and curated by the user.

TAGGING

A static screenshot of the network was taken and manually tagged according to groups and clusters visually identified while exploring the interactive model and with the help of automatically identified hotspots.

\bullet P3 → IMAGES → NETWORK → VIZ 00

The visualisation on the right shows the 3,538 images (resulting from the scraping as previously described) displayed in the space on the basis of similarity (according to PixPlot's process of image captioning and positioning through a pre-trained convolutional neural network model).

Areas characterised by the predominance of a specific subject are outlined and tagged, even if subject clusters are often more spread around and less localised than they appear.

CLUSTERING

The network mapping was expanded into a detailed clustering of the images through the creation of a hierarchy of manually curated hotspots. The categorisation process kept into consideration the actual images' features and subjects as well as the evaluation criteria previously set. The hierarchy of (not exclusive) image clusters is visible on the opposite page.

INTERACTIVE NETWORK



Interactive network including all the 3,538 images, displayed according to image similarity and with hotspots based on images' subjects.



The visualisation on the right displays the <u>cluster hierarchy</u> and the quantity of images for each cluster and subcluster. It builds on the metadata display provided by PixPlot: images from climate-change-citing (CC) and climate-change-avoiding (CA) articles are organised in two distinct grids. colour is used to distinguish one category from the others as well as for highlighting the links in the hierarchy.

Clusters are ordered from the most populated to the least populated. Quantities are always expressed as percentages, since the most interesting comparison in that sense is that between child clusters belonging to the same parent cluster (or that of parent clusters between each other).

A single cluster is visualised as follows:

Burnt houses and cars

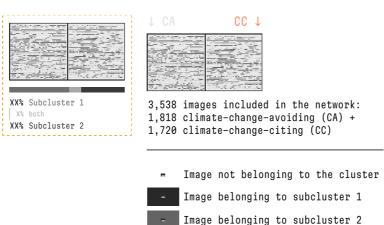
Emergency vehicles

Burnt

houses

and cars

Flames

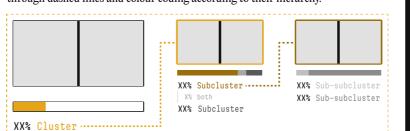


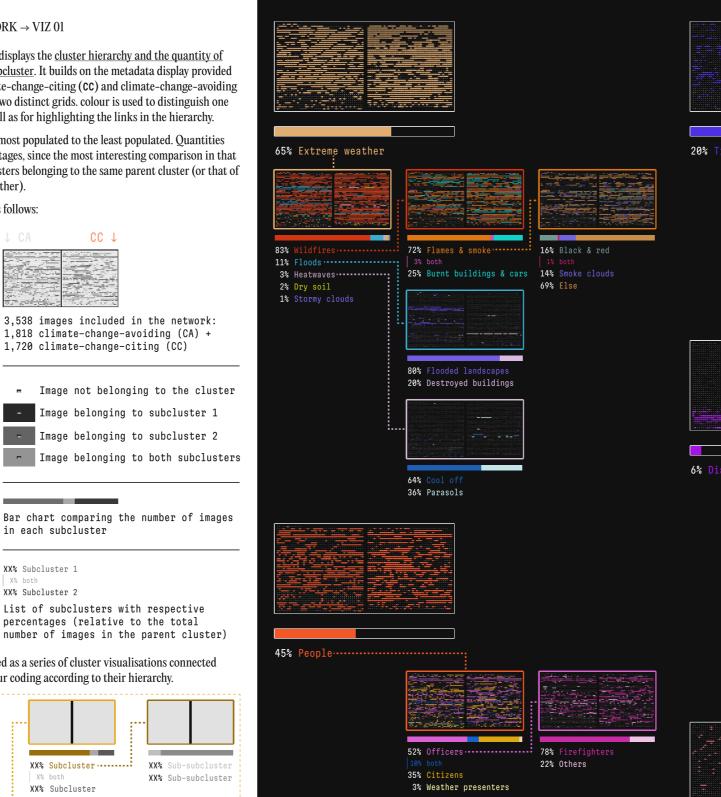
Bar chart comparing the number of images in each subcluster

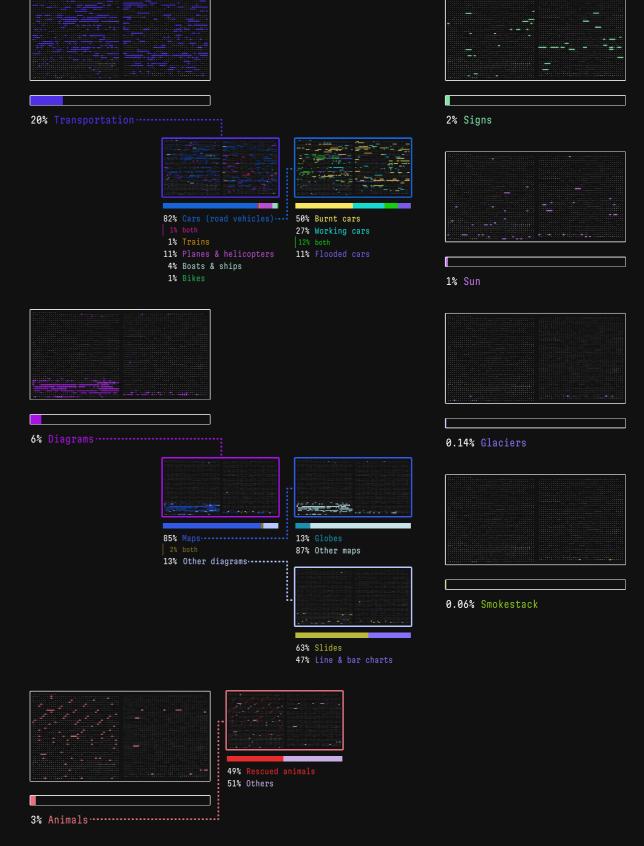
XX% Subcluster 1 X% hoth

XX% Subcluster 2 List of subclusters with respective percentages (relative to the total number of images in the parent cluster)

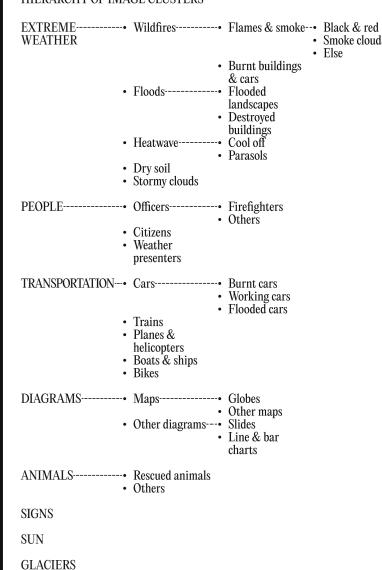
A family of clusters is visualised as a series of cluster visualisations connected through dashed lines and colour coding according to their hierarchy.







HIERARCHY OF IMAGE CLUSTERS



SMOKESTACK

Network - images

Clustered images were reconnected with their visual appeareance through cluster-specific wall of images based on the grouping hierarchy.

All images in each low-level-cluster (clusters which don't contain other clusters) were downloaded and arranged together in creating <u>cluster-specific image walls</u>. The purpose of this operation was to connect the abstraction of the network with the qualitative appearence of the images, providing samples of the distinctive visual qualities in each image group.

The complete hierarchy of clusters with all low-level-clusters highlighted in orange is available on the right.

\bigcirc P3 → IMAGES → NETWORK → VIZ 02

The visualisation on the right covers all low-level-clusters in the previously <u>defined hierarchy</u>. For each cluster are shown:

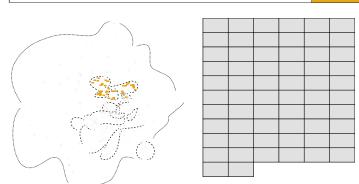
- the hierarchy of its parent clusters (if any);
- the number of images in the cluster;
- the position of the images in the network; • a sample of images from the cluster (image wall).

→ viz 01). A single cluster is visualised as follows:

Colours are mantained from the previous visualisation (P3 \rightarrow images \rightarrow network

↓ CLUSTER HIERARCHY

Cluster & Subcluster & Sub-subcluster



The sequence of low-level-clusters' displays is followed by a miniature of the tagged network (P3 \rightarrow images \rightarrow network \rightarrow viz 00), in order to provide an easy-to-consult map of the network areas.

EXTREME----- Wildfires----- Flames & smoke-- Black & red

NUMBER OF IMAGES ↓

• Floods----- Flooded landscapes Destroyed Heatwave---- Cool off Parasols

PEOPLE----- Officers----- Firefighters Others Weather presenters

Dry soil

Stormy clouds

TRANSPORTATION--- Cars----- Burnt cars Working cars Flooded cars Trains Planes & helicopters

 Boats & ships Bikes DIAGRAMS----- Maps---- Globes

 Other maps • Other diagrams---• Slides Line & bar

ANIMALS----- Rescued animals Others

GLACIERS

SMOKESTACK

SIGNS

HIERARCHY OF IMAGE CLUSTERS (CHILD CLUSTERS HIGHLIGHTED) Extreme weather & Wildfires & Flames & smoke &

> Smoke clouds Else Burnt buildings

Extreme weather & Wildfires & Flames & smoke &

Extreme weather & Wildfires & Flames & smoke & Else 995 IMAGES

Extreme weather & Floods & Flooded landscapes 207 IMAGES

Extreme weather & Wildfires & Burnt buildings &

Extreme weather & Heatwaves & Parasols

Extreme weather & Dry soil

Extreme weather & Floods & Destroyed buildings 53 IMAGES

Extreme weather & Stormy clouds 11 IMAGES People & Weather presenters

Extreme weather & Heatwaves & Cool off 42 IMAGES People & Officers & Firefighters

10 10 10 10 10

24 IMAGES People 4 Officers 4 Others 218 IMAGES Transportation 4 Cars 4 Working cars 230 IMAGES Transportation 4 Boats & ships

46 IMAGES Transportation & Trains 16 IMAGES Diagrams & Maps & Globes 25 IMAGES Animals & Rescued animals

765 IMAGES Transportation & Cars & Burnt cars 296 IMAGES Transportation & Planes & helicopters

The state of the s

27 IMAGES Diagrams & Others & Slides

79 IMAGES Diagrams & Maps & Other maps

725 IMAGES Transportation 4 Cars 4 Flooded cars 139 IMAGES Transportation 4 Bikes 7 IMAGES Diagrams 4 Others 4 Line & bar charts 12 IMAGES Sun

53 IMAGES

165 IMAGES Animals & Others

51 IMAGES

1/1/1/1

The same of the sa

/ Burning forest and cars Burnt Cars and cars Firefighting **

P3 → images → network → viz 00

CLIMATE (COMMUNICATION) EMERGENCY

↑ IMAGES IN THE NETWORK

A map of climate change representations across the online weather forecast landscape

PROTOCOL 3 18

Image plot

The visual space of the articles was also examined in regard to hue and brightness values in the pictures, to detect trends and tendencies in the use of colours of climate crisis' representations.

IMAGE MEASURING

<u>Colour values in each of the 3'538 images</u> were measured through *ImageMeasure* for ImageJ. In particular, the process returned for each picture:

- median of brightness values;
- standard deviation of brightness values;
- median of saturation values:
- standard deviation of saturation values:
- median of hue values:
- standard deviation of hue values.

PLOT DIMENSIONS

The <u>measures of brightness and hue</u> were used to build a plot of images through *ImagePlot* for ImageJ. The axis of the plot were mapped as below:

- X axis → median of hue values (*hue_median*);
- Y axis → standard deviation of brightness values (*brightness_stdev*).

Each image was positioned in the plot according to its measured values.

PLOT EVALUATION

The distribution in the plot was analysed mainly in regard to the <u>hue values</u>, considering image density as well as recurring subjects across the x axis.

\bullet P3 → IMAGES → IMAGE PLOT → VIZ 01

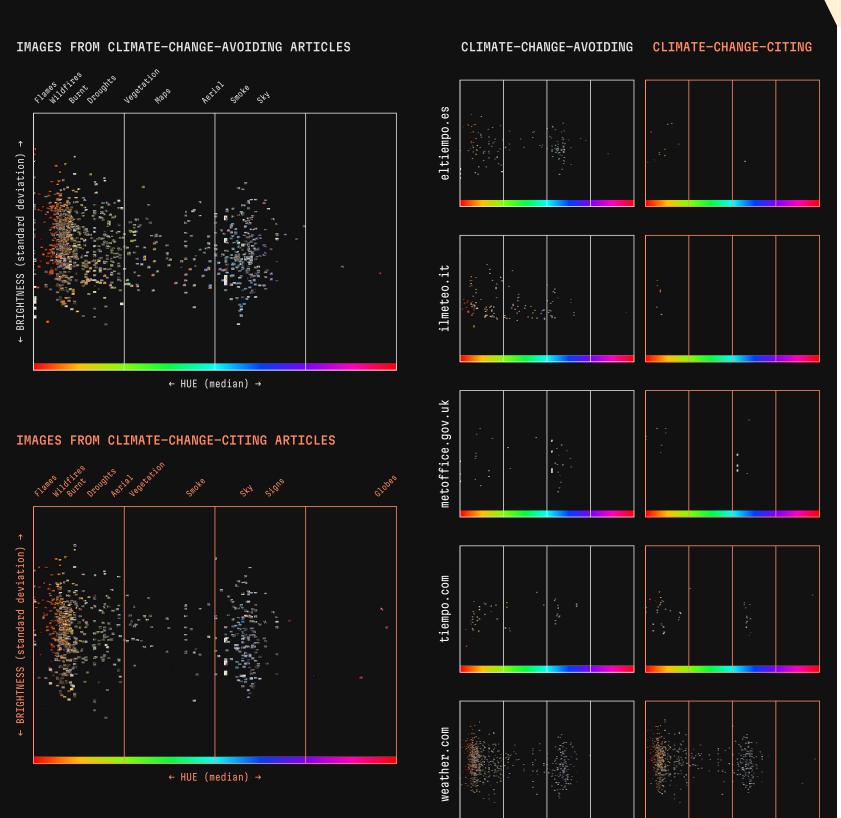
The visualisation on the right shows the each of the 3,538 <u>images positioned into one of two plots</u>: the first for images scraped from climate-change-avoiding articles, the other for images scraped from climate-change-citing articles. Inside each plot the pictures are <u>distributed in the space according to their hue values</u> (median mapped on X axis) <u>and brightness values</u> (standard deviation mapped on Y axis), as previously explained.

The plot is split vertically into 4 portions of equal width, according to hue values:

- 1. red to green (X1);
- 2. green to light blue (X2):
- 3. light blue to purple (X3);
- 4. purple to red (X4).

The purpose of those portions is to facilitate the evaluation of image density in relation to hue values.

Recurring subjects for specific hue areas are noted above the plot.



19 IM

WEBSITE-BASED

<u>Website-specific image plots</u> were also built with *ImageMeasure* and *ImagePlot* for ImageJ. Each website includes two plots: the first for images scraped from climate-change-avoiding articles, the other for images scraped from climate-change-citing articles. The axis of the plots were mapped as below:

- X axis → median of hue values (*hue_median*);
- Y axis → standard deviation of brightness values (*brightness_stdev*).

Each image was positioned in the respective plot according to its measured values.

The axis of every individual plot include the same range of values, in order to make them comparable. The evaluation of website-based plots in relations to the global plots is also encouraged, in order to detect <u>cross-website tendencies</u> as well as website-specific features in the use of colours.

CLIMATE-CHANGE-AVOIDING ↔ CLIMATE-CHANGE-CITING

The classification based on climate change relation (according to whether the source article explicitly referred climate change or not) remains. The plots provide another opportunity of comparison between the <u>visual spaces of climate-change-citing and climate-change-avoiding articles</u>.

♦ P3 \rightarrow IMAGES \rightarrow IMAGE PLOT \rightarrow VIZ 02

The visualisation on the left shows the <u>image plots at the intersection of websites</u> and climate change reference. As in previous visualisation ($P3 \rightarrow images \rightarrow image plot \rightarrow viz 01$), images are <u>distributed in the space according to their hue values</u> (median mapped on X axis) <u>and brightness values</u> (standard deviation on Y axis).

Each plot is split vertically into 4 portions of equal width, according to hue values:

- 1. red to green (X1):
- 2. green to light blue (X2);
- 3. light blue to purple (X3);
- 4. purple to red (X4).

The purpose of those portions is to facilitate the evaluation of image density in relation to hue values for visual spaces connected to specific websites.

