



EGUsphere, author comment AC2  
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## Reply on RC1

Hans von Storch

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Author comment on "Brief communication: Climate science as a social process – history, climatic determinism, Mertonian norms and post-normality" by Hans von Storch, EGU sphere, <https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-577-AC2>, 2022

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I add a paragraph to the caveat-statement:

"The material presented in this paper, as well as the conclusions, are not new. Instead, it is a compact compilation of what the author, as a natural scientist, has learned in the past 30 years. The paper does not claim to cover the wealth of discussions in social science studies, but insists that two key issues, the reanimation of climatic determinism and the post-normal character of contemporary climate sciences, have been identified in cooperation involving the author. One could rightly argue that the claim of climate science being a social process is a trivial assertion – but among many natural scientists and in the public discourse, which treats scientific knowledge claims as "truth", climate science is usually not perceived as such. Thus, it makes sense, in particular in a journal aiming at physical scientists, to make this trivial assertion."

Thus, one may indeed wonder if the essay is suitable for a scientific journal. Having had doubts, I had asked the editor if I really should try to write down my presentation, but I was encouraged to do so. On the other hand, if the editor decides now that it is unsuitable, I would not object.

The suggestion of the reviewer to add a discussion about Hulme's 2011 paper may make perfect sense but am not convinced that this is a valid argument. Indeed, as stressed in the caveat there are many aspects, brought forward in the literature, which I have not covered or even touched. I am afraid that I must live with that. May I suggest to the reviewer that she will prepare her own manuscript, covering this aspect?

The "catastrophe of racial determinism and colonialism" is not related to climate science, but racial determinism is related to climate determinism, and colonialism was the first political mission of climatology. The sentence reads now: "After the catastrophe of racial determinism and colonialisms, with the end of World War II, climate determinism lost its reputation, and the significance of geography and its approaches declined."

The observation what constitutes scientific statements, have been moved from line 117 to the introductory section, which is now "Introduction: Climate as a natural and social object".

Two references are added, on the “knowledge gap model” and on the “knowledge market”.

The article was edited throughout to improve readability, but without significant changes in content.