

Ånnaboda, 9-11, 9-11 May 2005

Hans von Storch:

A history of human perceptions of anthropogenic climate change in the past 1000 years.

Nowadays, the concept of anthropogenic climate change is widely understood as a “new” concept, but a closer examination of the history of ideas reveals that claims of humans deliberately or unintentionally changing climate is a frequent phenomenon in western culture. Also, extreme weather phenomena have in the past often been explained by adverse human interference (such as relating severe summer rainfall conditions to the installation of lightning rods in the early 19th century).

A preliminary list of claims of anthropogenic climate modifications is presented; the remarkable similarity of the anthropogenic climate change debate in the second half of the 19th century, as recorded by Eduard Brückner in 1890, is compared to the present situation.