

# The Earth in Crisis: Global Warming and the Failure of Climate Diplomacy

LSE Summer School Public Lecture  
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**Dr Robert Falkner**

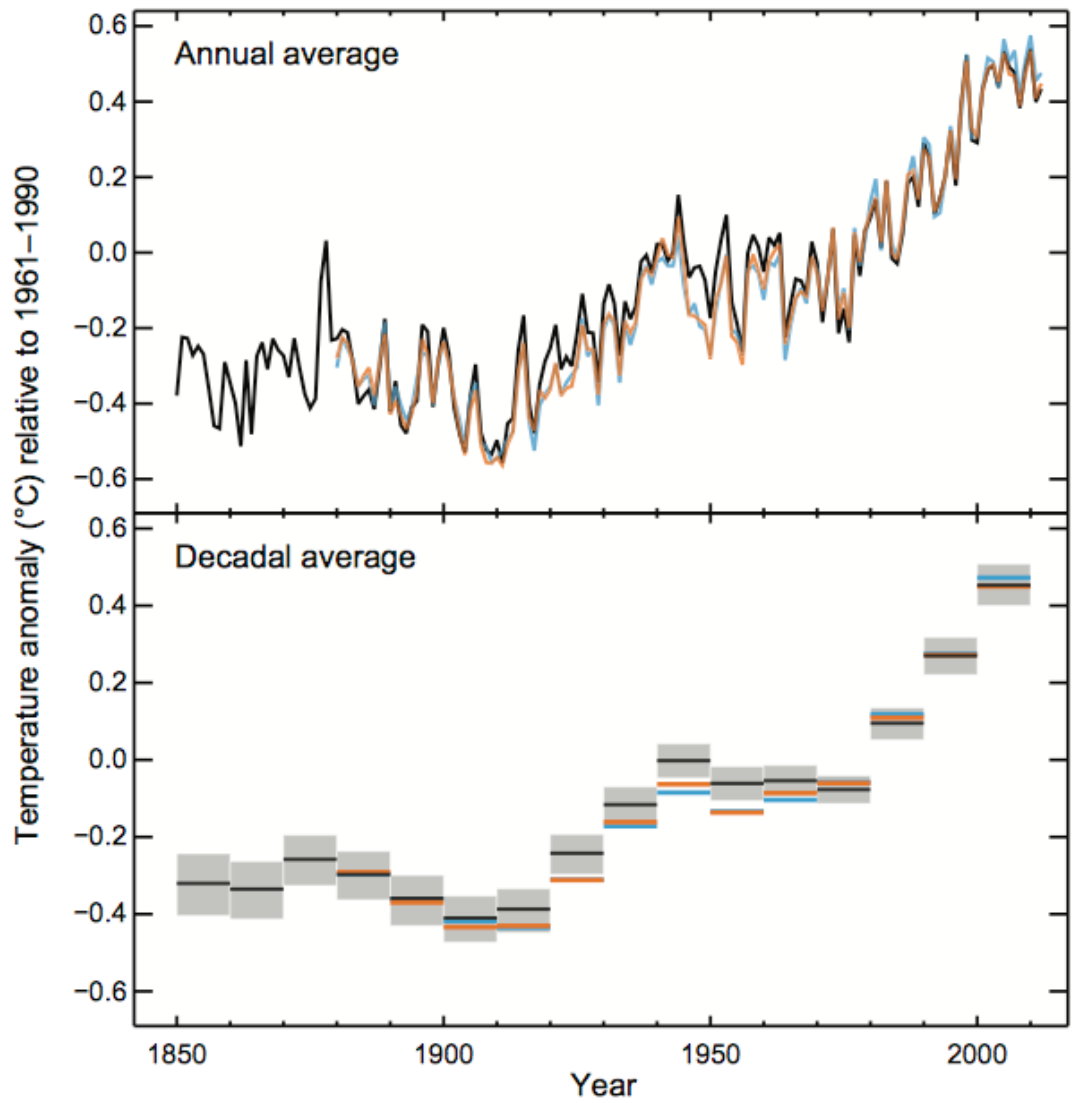
Associate Professor of International Relations, LSE

# Who has power in climate politics?



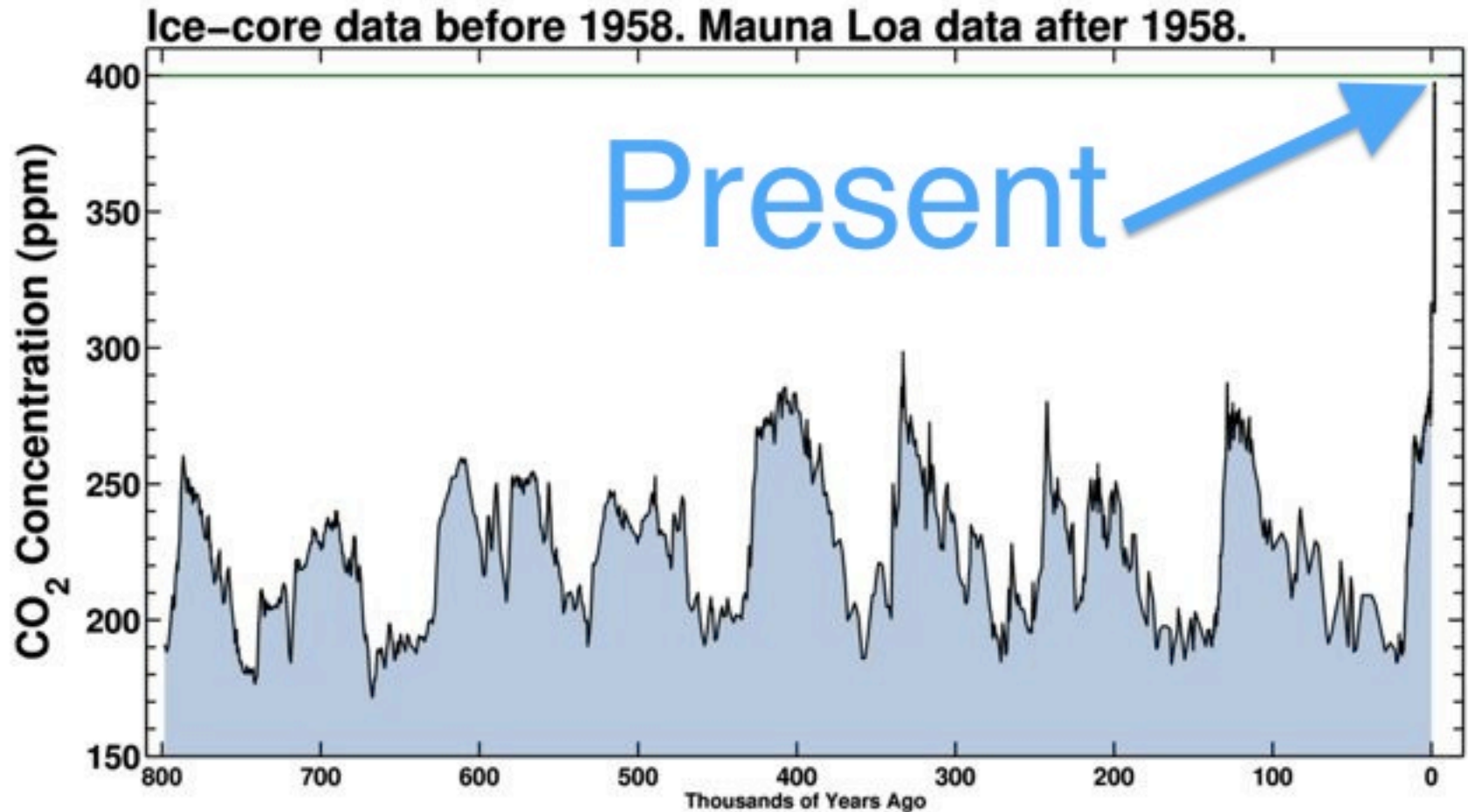
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# Global warming – the last 150 years

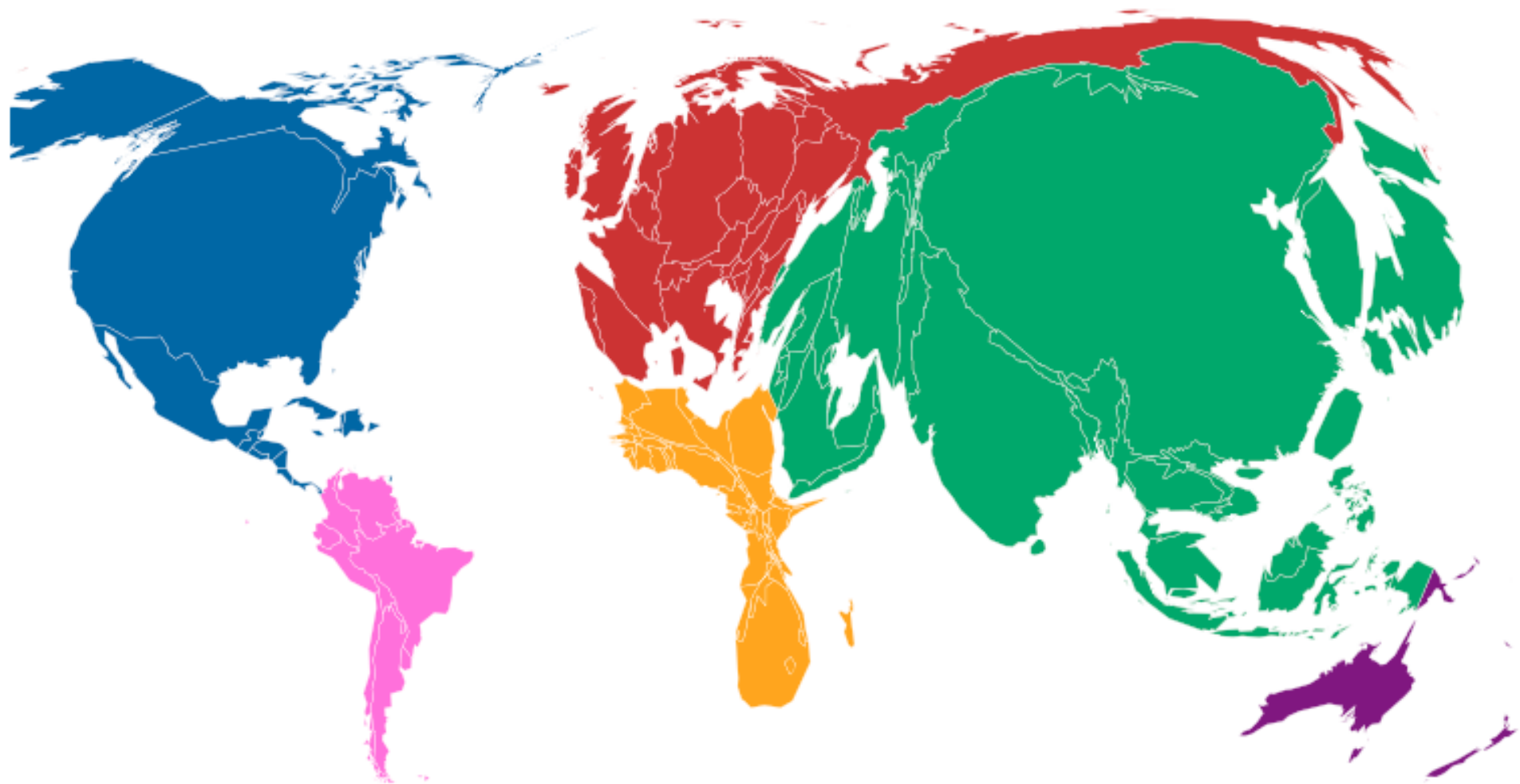


Source: IPCC, 2014

# Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations

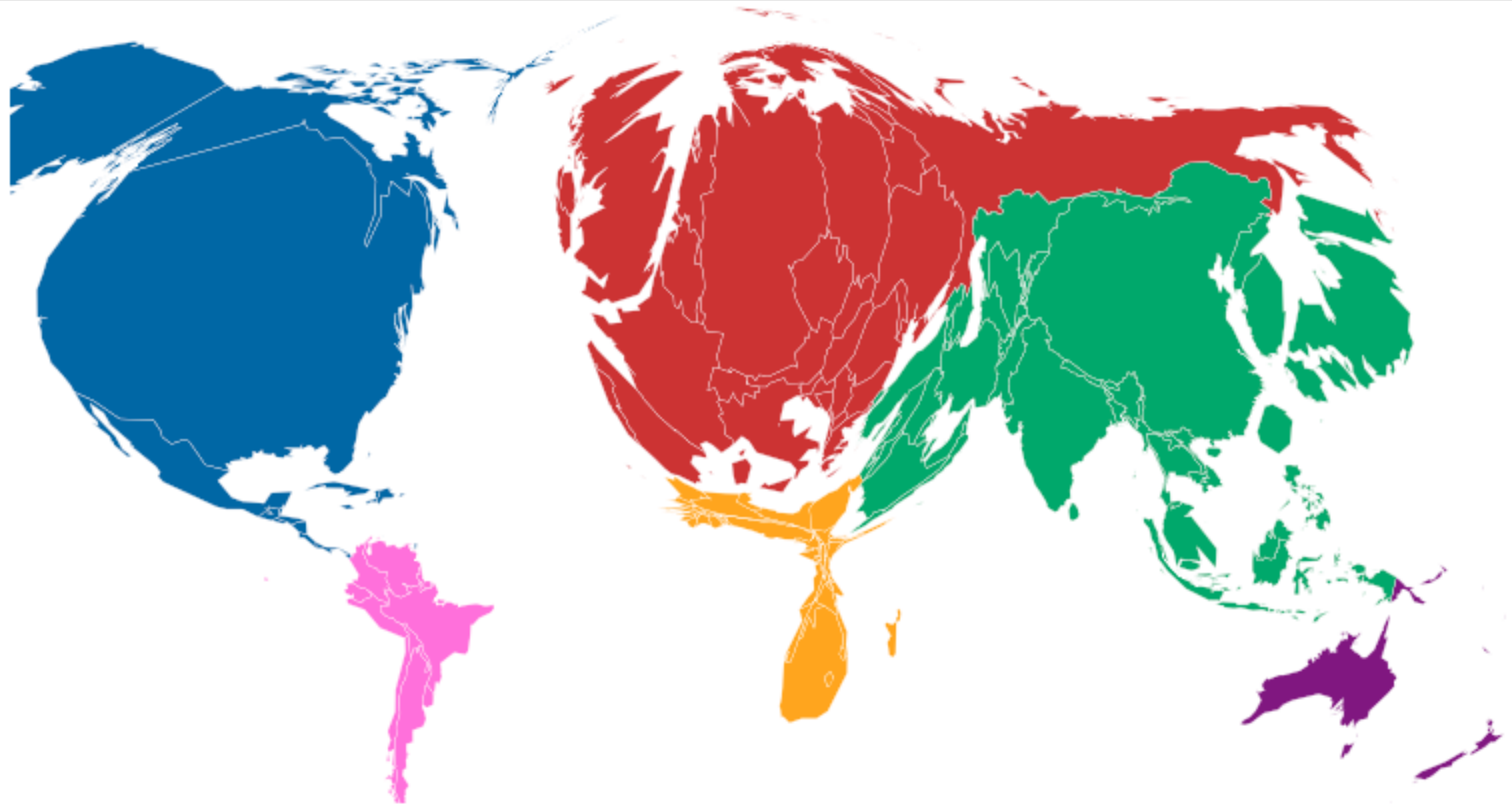


# Current CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (2011)



Source: The Guardian

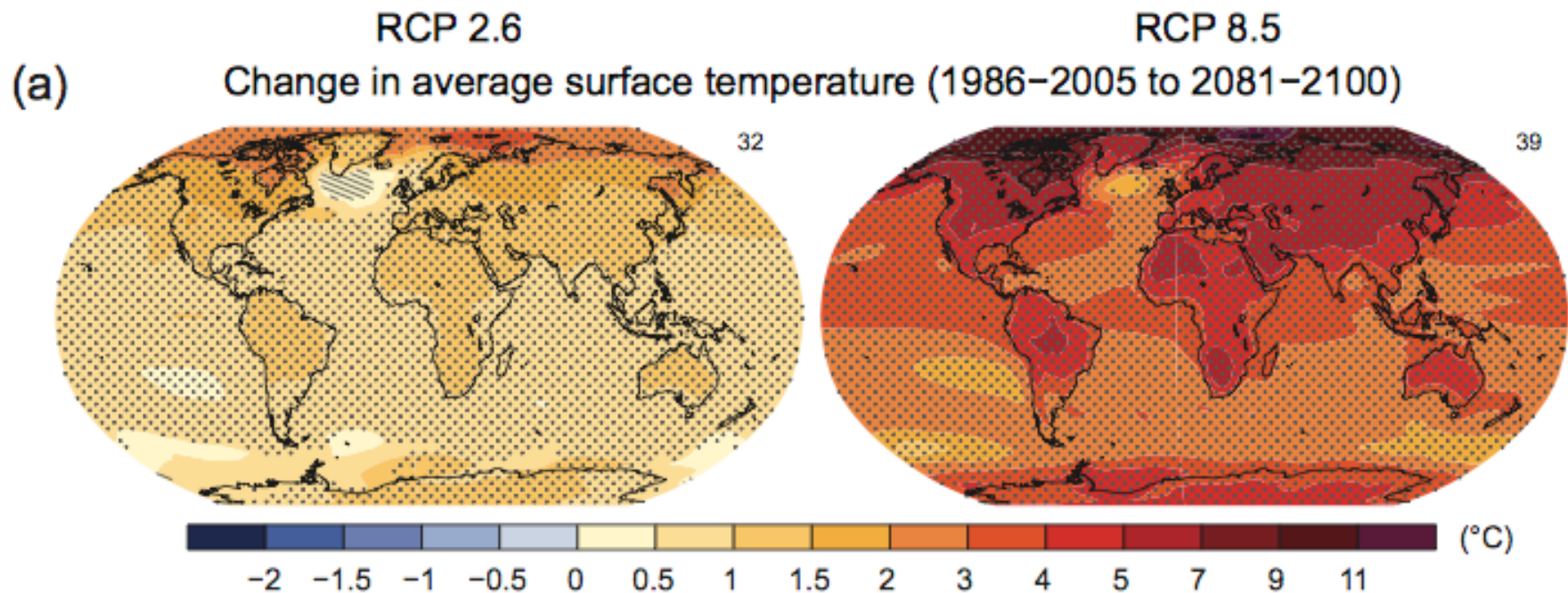
# Historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Source: The Guardian



# How hot will it get?



# Melting of Arctic Sea ice – so far

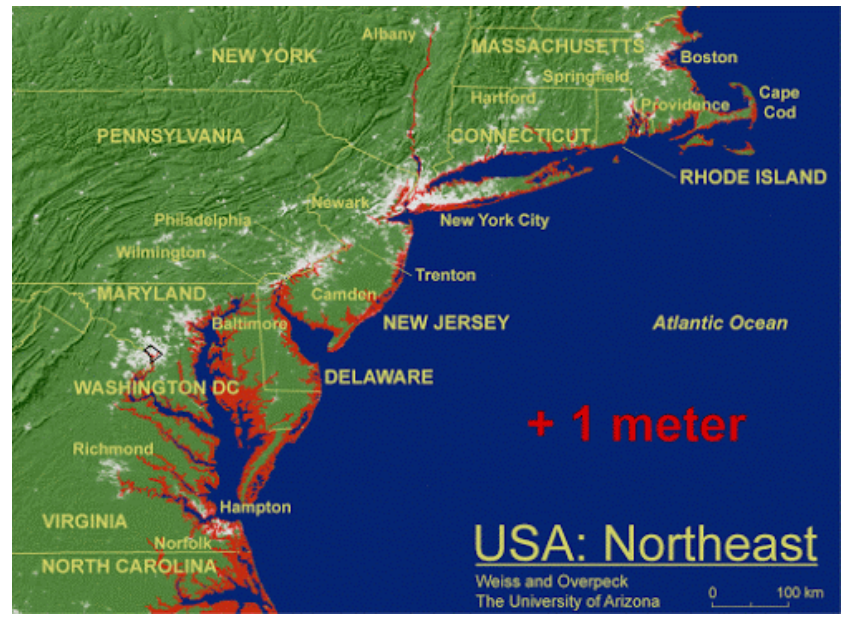
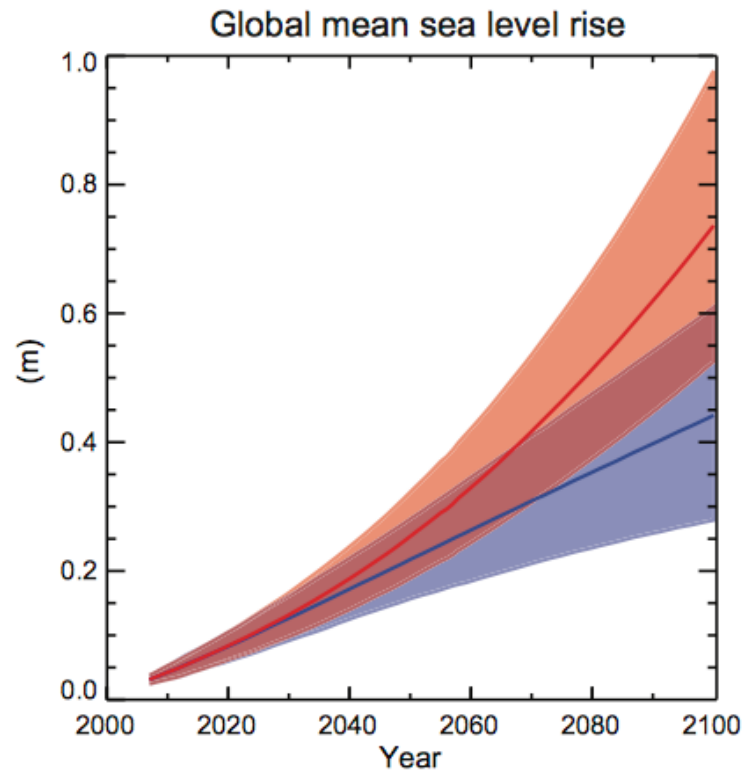


Source: Fugro NPA Ltd

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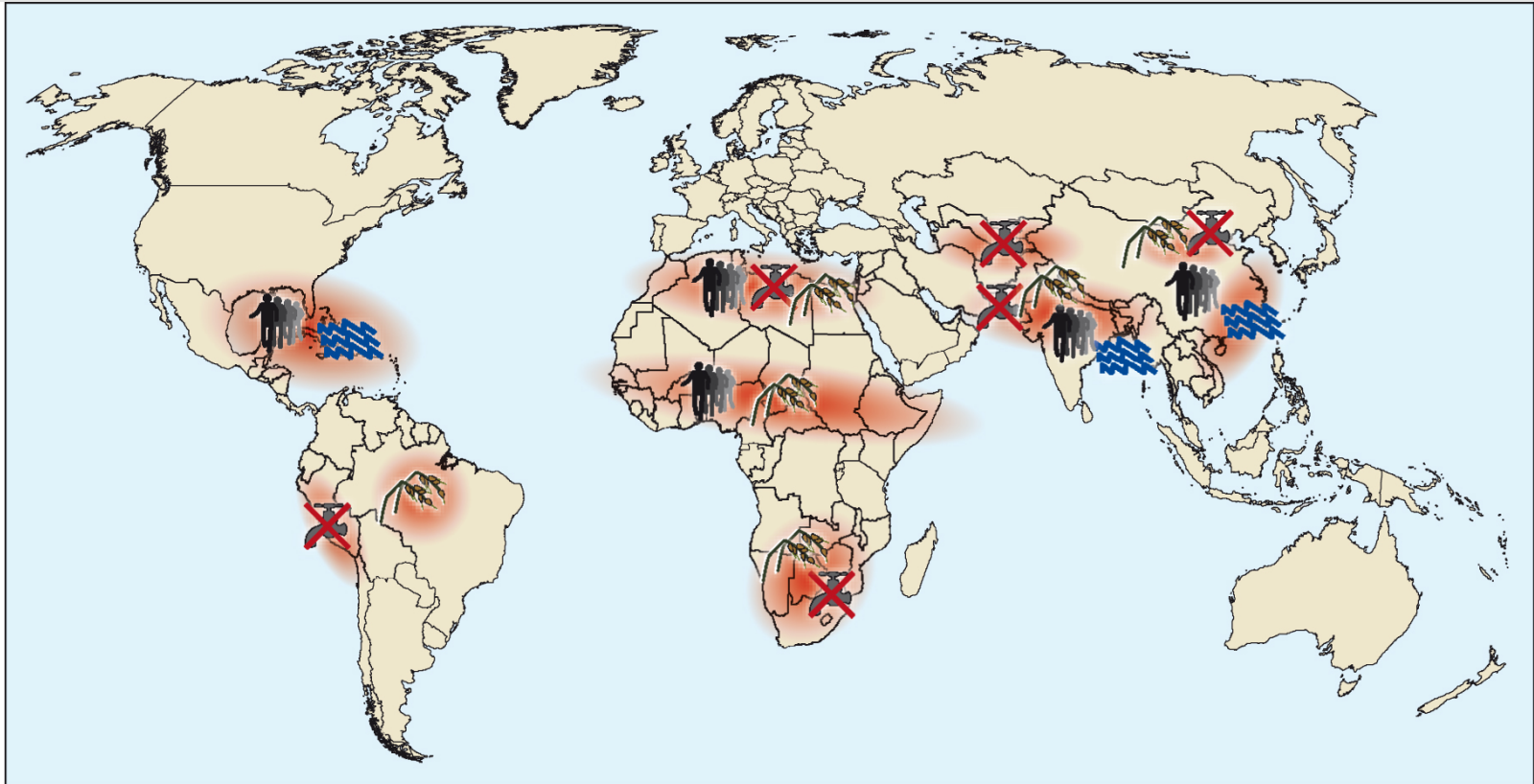


# How far will sea levels rise?



Source: IPCC 2014; University of Arizona

# Climate disruption & insecurity in the 'South'



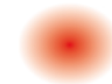
## Conflict constellations in selected hotspots



Climate-induced degradation  
of freshwater resources



Climate-induced decline  
in food production



Hotspot



Climate-induced increase  
in storm and flood disasters

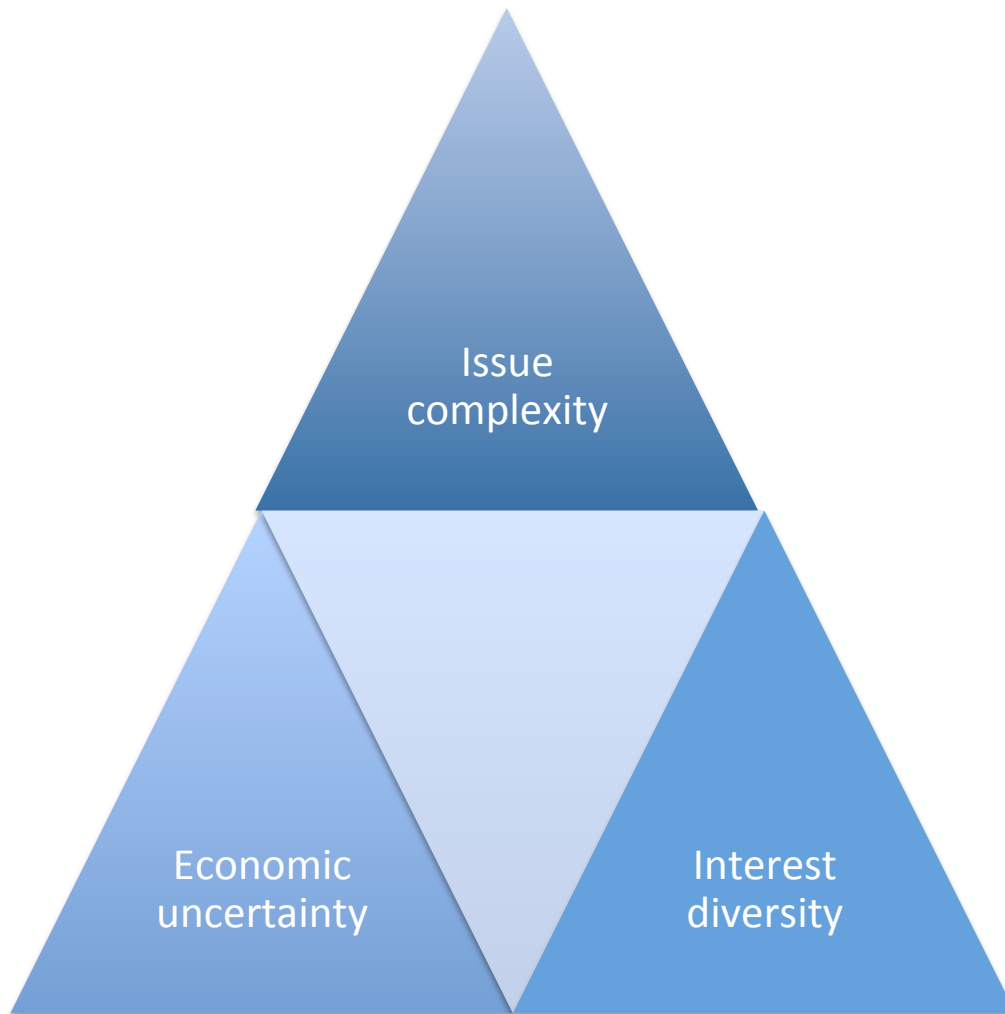


Environmentally-induced  
migration

# A very brief history of climate diplomacy

- 1992: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - Establishes norm of climate stabilisation
  - Universally ratified, but no binding targets
- 1997: Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC
  - First legally binding emission targets
  - US refuses to ratify; emerging economies exempted
- 2009: Copenhagen Accord
  - Failure to agree legally binding replacement for Kyoto Protocol
  - Instead, political agreement on bottom-up mitigation pledges
- 2015: Paris climate conference
  - All major emitters committed to reaching a deal
  - Nature of agreement uncertain: legally binding? Commitments or contributions?

# Reasons for 'failure' of climate diplomacy



# Multi-level, multi-actor climate governance

