

Human Exceptionalist Thinking about Climate Change

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Supplementary Materials

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1. Implicit Exceptionalism Measure (Studies 1 and 2)

Table S1. Organisms included in Property Attribution Task, Studies 1 and 2

Organism	Taxonomic	
	Class	Likelihood to be influenced by Climate Change
Human	Mammal	High
Wolf	Mammal	Low
Polar Bear*	Mammal	High
Painted Turtle	Reptile	Low
Alligator	Reptile	High
Hummingbird	Bird	High
Dove	Bird	Low
Salmon	Fish	High
Anchovy	Fish	Low
Coral	Invertebrate	High
Red Crab	Invertebrate	Low
Magnolia Tree	Plant	High
Algae	Plant	Low

**Note: For study 2, we replaced ‘polar bear’ with ‘white-tailed deer’ because of the strong association between polar bears and climate change. This was the only difference between this measure across the two studies.*

Table S2. Attributes used in the Property Attribution Tasks, Studies 1 and 2

Scientific Domain	Limited Properties
Biology	Does ____ have a heart?
	Does ____ breathe?
Ecology	Does ____ get its energy from other organisms?
	Does ____ compete with other organisms to survive?
Climate	Does ____ contribute to climate change?
	Does ____ emit greenhouse gases?
	Will ____ experience habitat loss due to climate change?
	Will ____ face extinction due to climate change?

Response Scale: 1 (Extremely Unlikely) to 7 (Extremely Likely).

2. Explicit Exceptionalism Measure (Studies 1 and 2)

Table S3. Exceptionalism Statements with Domain-Specific Variants, Studies 1 and 2.

Biology Variant	Ecology Variant	Climate Change Variant
Humans have many genes and enzymes that are extremely different from other species	Humans' ecosystems are extremely different from other species' ecosystems.	Humans will be impacted by climate change very differently than other species.
There are many biological processes that are unique to humans.	Unlike other species, humans have unique relationships with other animals.	Humans have many unique attributes that will influence how they are impacted by climate change.
Humans are just another animal.	Like other plants and animals, humans are ecologically interconnected with other species.	Humans are just another organism that will be impacted by climate change.
Humans are the most highly evolved species.	Humans are at the top of the food chain.	Of all species, humans are in the best position for surviving in a changing climate.
Humans are not closely related to any other species.	Humans do not rely on any other species for survival.	Humans can survive climate change regardless of which other species survive.

Response Scale: 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 7 (Strongly Agree).

3. Mitigating Attitudes and Mitigating Behaviors Questions, Study 2

The mitigating attitudes and mitigating behaviors questions were completed by Study 2 participants (undergraduate novices). Below, we report all individual items for the two measures as well as ratings for both Mitigating Attitudes (Table S4) and Mitigating Behaviors (Table S5).

Table S4. Items included in Mitigating Attitudes Measure, with Agreement and Mean Ratings, Study 2

<i>Rate the extent to which you believe the following:</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>Mean Rating</i>
1. I don't believe my behavior and everyday lifestyle contribute to climate change.*	33%	2.5
2. I would be prepared to pay more for environmentally friendly products.	73%	4.3
3. If things continue on their current course, we will soon experience a major environmental disaster.	10%	1.7
4. The so-called "environmental crisis" facing humanity has been greatly exaggerated.*	9%	2.0
5. Climate change is beyond control--it's too late to do anything about it.*	91%	5.2
6. The effects of climate change are too far in the future to really worry me.*	14%	2.1
7. Any change I make to help the environment needs to fit in with my lifestyle.*	39%	3.3
8. It's not worth me doing things to help the environment if others don't do the same.*	29%	2.1
9. It's not worth the U.S. trying to combat climate change because other countries will just cancel out what we do.*	9%	1.6

Response Scale: Agreement: 1 (Not at all agree) to 6 (Fully agree). *Item was reverse coded.

Table S5. Items included in Mitigating Behaviors Measure, with Mean Ratings, Study 2

<i>Rate the frequency with which you engage in the following activities¹</i>	<i>Mean (SD)</i>
Read books or magazines about the environment	5.0 (2.34)
Refuse to buy products with excessive packaging	5.0 (2.23)
Consider the environmental impact before purchasing products	5.2 (2.27)
Exchange environmental information with friends	5.5 (2.32)
Seek out information on environmentally conscious behaviors	4.8 (2.37)
Choose to buy locally produced products over cheaper products at an unknown location	5.0 (2.07)
<i>Which of these best describes your current lifestyle?²</i>	<i>Choice %</i>
I really don't do anything environmentally friendly	2%
I do one or two things that are environmentally friendly	11%
I do some things that are environmentally friendly	48%
I do quite a few things that are environmentally friendly	26%
I'm environmentally friendly in most things I do	12%
I'm environmentally friendly in everything I do	1%

¹Response scale: 1 (Never) to 7 (At every opportunity)

²Participants chose the response that most closely described themselves