Mathematics Education Research Unit Unité de Recherche Éducationnelle en Mathématiques

Climate Change and Mathematics Education Making the Invisible Visible

(En anglais seulement)

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Abstract

Mathematics is crucial for describing, predicting and communicating climate change. In this paper, we use the perspective of critical mathematics education to examine how mathematics is constructed in reporting climate change. We focus particularly on accounts of mathematical modelling. Our discussion is illustrated by reference to two texts: a newspaper report and a policy document. We argue that mathematics, human mathematical activity and the role of human activity in causing climate change are all largely invisible in such texts. Mathematics education has an important role to play in making the invisible visible.