

Role of 'natural factors' on recent climate change underestimated, research shows

October 10 2018



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Pioneering new research has given a new perspective on the crucial role that 'natural factors' play in global warming.

The study, by Dr. Indrani Roy at the University of Exeter, suggests that the natural phenomena such as solar eleven-year cycles and strong volcanic explosions play important roles in recent climate change which has been 'underestimated'.

All existing studies focus on the rise in CO₂ in the atmosphere as being the main driver of global temperature rises.

However, Dr. Roy suggests that the role natural factors plays in climate change should be given more prominence. This study explores various possible areas where models miss important contributions due to these natural drivers.

The research is published in leading journal *Frontiers in Earth Science*.

Although CO₂ has risen significantly since 1998, global temperature did not show any significant increase. Models however suggested a significant rise.

Dr. Roy said: "So what factors are missing? It is a puzzle of recent slowdown of global [warming](#) trend or Hiatus and this study addresses that issue."

For the study, Dr. Roy looked specifically at data between 1976-96, which not only covered two full strong solar cycles and two explosive volcanic eruptions during active phases of those cycles, but which also matched a period of abrupt global warming. These data were compared with other periods.

The research highlighted the important role that a dominant Central Pacific (CP) El Nino, and its associated water vapour feedback, played in [global warming](#) within the chosen period.

Dr. Roy suggests that the explosive volcanoes seen during this phase, which changed the sea level pressure around the North Atlantic, kick-started a 'chain mechanism' that played a crucial role.

Dr. Roy added that the change in Indian Summer Monsoons and El Nino connection during that abrupt warming period, and a subsequent recovery thereafter, can also be explained by this 'chain mechanism'.

Addressing on Abrupt Global Warming, Warming Trend Slowdown and Related Features in Recent Decades by Dr Indrani Roy is published in *Frontiers in Earth Science*.

More information: Indrani Roy, Addressing on Abrupt Global Warming, Warming Trend Slowdown and Related Features in Recent Decades, *Frontiers in Earth Science* (2018). [DOI: 10.3389/feart.2018.00136](https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2018.00136)

Provided by University of Exeter

Citation: Role of 'natural factors' on recent climate change underestimated, research shows (2018, October 10) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-role-natural-factors-climate-underestimated.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.