

DOOMISM

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Fig. 11.
Doomism

Chemineau From Lamb WF et al.(602a)

DOOMISM

“Anything we do is too little, too late. Climate change is already locked-in. We should adapt, or accept our fate in the hands of God or nature.”

Doomism removes one’s agency to address climate change, thereby absolving individuals of the responsibility to take meaningful action.

- Every fraction of every degree of global heating matters because the situation just gets worse the hotter it gets
- It is of course too late to completely prevent some damage (social, environmental, etc.). We have already warmed the planet by 1.25 degrees and more residual warming is likely, even if we cut all emissions tomorrow. But there is no point in exaggerating what science already tells us about climate change (even if it’s good for sales...). So let’s avoid doomism, the equivalent of watching your kitchen burn and saying “we can’t do anything, it’s over” while the fire spreads to the other rooms
- It is wrong to say that we are “already doomed”. It does not mean anything. We still have time to make the changes necessary to live in a sustainable world.. And, there is no deadline. Of course, it would have been better to act 20 or 30 years ago. But it’s not because we haven’t acted in 2025 or even in 2030 that all is lost. The point is that the longer we wait, the more catastrophic it will be (with nasty feedback loops on top of it)

