

Global Warming between science and fiction

Tiziana Lanza

Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia
Via di Vigna Murata 605

00143 Roma

Abstract

Michael Crichton had stirred up the controversy over Global Warming (GW) with his latest techno-thriller, *State of Fear (SoF)*. GW already lies at the centre of an international political debate due to the USA's refusal of ratifying Kyoto protocol. Nevertheless *SoF* is an interesting experiment because the book contains graphs coming from excellent research centres and footnotes where scientific articles are used to validate the story. The bibliography is also a long list of references to scientists' works. An analysis of how Crichton used science in this context will lead to more general considerations. The scientific community is claiming at large that GW will lead to more frequent extreme events. Can the fiction help citizens to get aware of the role played by science in this context, involving them in the problem solving? Rather than considering the fiction merely for entertaining, I suggest to consider it an intriguing tool to promote a debate between people and the scientific community.

Keywords: Science, Story, Global Warming