

# **Cosmetic versus Clinical Use of Risk Estimation**

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**Understanding Risk 2014  
London, United Kingdom  
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# Cosmetic application of risk (e.g., media & politics)

1996

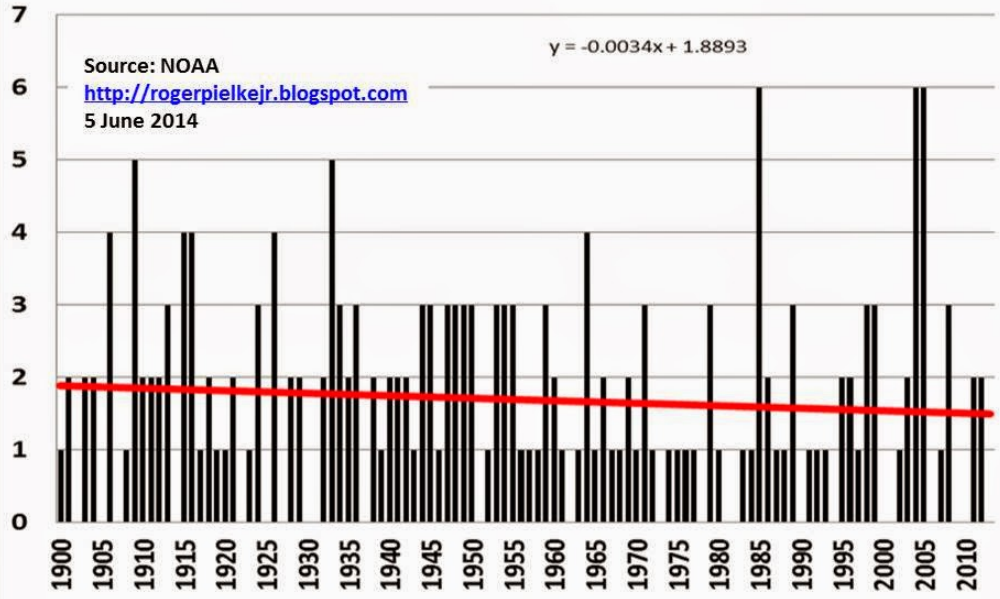


2012



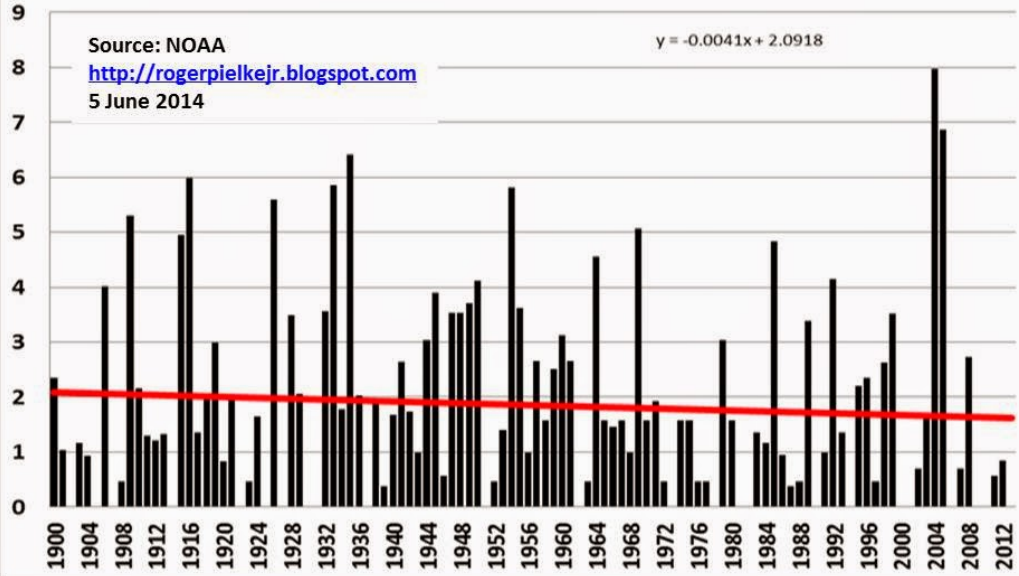
# Clinical application of risk (e.g., IPCC)

### US Hurricane Landfalls 1900-2013



Since 1900, US hurricanes have not increased in frequency or intensity

### US Hurricane Power Dissipation Index 1900-2013



# Cosmetic application of risk

## the guardian


Environment > Climate change

### Flooding and storms in UK are clear signs of climate change, says Lord Stern

Author of 2006 report says recent weather is part of international pattern and demonstrates urgent need to cut carbon emissions

Conal Urquhart

theguardian.com, Thursday 13 February 2014 15.29 EST

 [Jump to comments \(1597\)](#)



Flooded houses in the village of Moorland on the Somerset Levels. Writing in the Guardian, Lord Stern says failure to cut emissions will result in 'even more

# Clinical application of risk (e.g., IPCC)

**“a direct statistical link between anthropogenic climate change and trends in the magnitude/frequency of floods has not been established. . . There is such a furore of concern about the linkage between greenhouse forcing and floods that it causes society to lose focus on the things we already know for certain about floods and how to mitigate and adapt to them. ”**

**Zbigniew et al. 2014  
(co-authors of IPCC SREX 2013)**

# **Clinical application of risk (e.g., IPCC)**

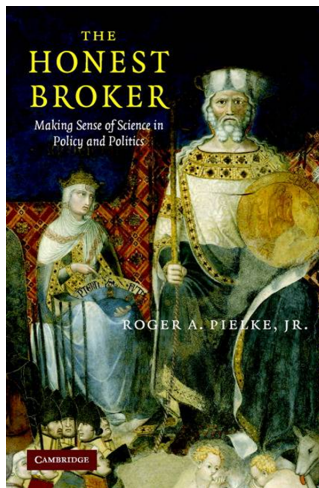
## **Conclusion:**

**Distinguishing the cosmetic versus clinical uses of risk information on disasters is more difficult today because of the highly politicized nature of the climate debate.**

**Risk experts have been caught up in that politicization.**

# How to provide feedback!

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- Papers etc. can be downloaded from:  
<http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu>
- <http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com>



**Thank you!**

