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Reality, causes, consequences: The role of climate change perceptions in climate adaptation

A.M van Valkengoed

Propositions

1. Most individuals and households are exposed to various climate change risks and need to take a variety of actions to adapt. (this thesis)

2. Perceptions of the reality, causes, and consequences of climate change are empirically distinguishable, although they are strongly positively correlated. (this thesis)

3. Stronger perceptions of the reality, causes, and consequences of climate change are consistently associated with more support for adaptation policy and information seeking about climate change risks and adaptation, but they are not consistently associated with adaptation behaviour. (this thesis)

4. Perceptions of the reality, causes, and consequences of climate change are all similarly strongly associated with adaptation actions. (this thesis)

5. Climate change perceptions are more strongly related to adaptation actions when it is clear that the relevant risks are caused by climate change. (this thesis)

6. Climate change perceptions are indirectly associated with adaptation intentions via perceived specific climate-related risks, self-efficacy (i.e., perceived capability of taking adaptation measures), and outcome efficacy (i.e., perceived effectiveness of adaptation measures in reducing risks). (this thesis)

7. "There is nothing so practical as a good theory" (Kurt Lewin)

8. If you stay ready, you do not have to get ready.