

Review for GC

General Comments: GC-2022-7

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting and timely article: Climate Stories: Enabling and sustaining arts interventions in climate science communication. This is an important and valuable paper addressing relevant scientific questions that are well within the scope of Geoscience Communication, and I believe that it will be of keen interest to readers of GC. The paper clearly outlines some of the challenges that face the climate science community in communicating environmental risks and offers a very comprehensive critical review of existing dominant deficit approaches to communicating climate change.

My main reservation with the manuscript as it currently stands is that a couple of sentences in the abstract and opening sections, related to claims around engaging wider publics, appear to 'over promise' (details and specific examples are presented in the review below). However, this point might simply require a minor revision to ensure consistency with the stated aims throughout the paper. Otherwise the results presented throughout this paper are sufficient to support the interpretations and conclusions. Other minor suggestions to strengthen this paper, including potential to reduce some repetition in the sections 2 and 3, are detailed in the review. In summary, it is a very engaging and accessible paper, detailing an innovative collaboration, and I highly recommend it for publication in this journal.

Specific Comments:

Below I have included a number of specific comments which I hope will serve to strengthen the manuscript.

- The opening sections seem rather repetitious and I believe that might be because of the length of Sections 2 and 3 which could be reduced.
- The evidence presented in the case of the collaborative workshop currently does not support one of the stated aims highlighted in abstract and the opening sections of the paper e.g. this extract from the abstract states:

the paper highlights innovative ways in which climate change communication can be re-imagined through different art forms to enable complex concepts to become knowable, accessible and engaging to wider publics....

The case of collaboration which forms the central part of this paper does not currently provide enough details on any engagement with the wider publics to support this claim. I believe that this issue can be addressed by softening or rephrasing this aim within the abstract and opening section. Indeed, at Line 102 this aim is rearticulated and expanded and it is rephrased to more accurately summarise the significance of the research:

we demonstrate that engaging in art-science collaborations offer climate scientists opportunities for gaining increased personal and professional confidence, enhanced and widened intellectual engagement with climate change, as well as opportunities for creating new and potentially effective means of engaging publics with climate

change and its impacts'. Please review with an eye to ensuring consistency with the stated aims throughout the paper.

- In a similar vein, at Line 687, please clarify if this claim ('our findings support the notion that storytelling can provide insight into ways of improving the effectiveness of climate change communication') is based on the wider Climate Stories project as opposed to the findings in this paper i.e. workshop, which is limited in making claims about the effectiveness of these approaches.
- Line 75 –This claim (we explore ways in which climate change may be made more emotionally connected and engaging to a diverse range of publics) might require clarification or rephrasing as it could be argued that the participants in the case study collaboration described later in this paper do not represent a diverse range of publics.
- While the title of the paper is accurate, the manuscript might benefit from a more explicit statement about the limitations of this paper i.e. it doesn't set out to test the effectiveness of this approach for wider publics, focus is on climate scientists.

Overall I enjoyed the results and discussion sections and as a geographer who wishes for more time for communication activities and improved communication strategies and skills, I found myself relating to many of the participant quotations included in this great paper - e.g. discussion around self-promotion on Line 487 – and I'm prompted to read more about the larger study.

Technical edits/suggestions:

Phrases like 'In so doing', and 'In addition' could be reduced throughout the text

Lines 395 and 607 – insert diary instead of dairy