





# Media and Climate Change Observatory (MECCO)



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reported on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chief Scott Pruitt's recent comments suggesting the U.S. should withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.<sup>2</sup> Both articles highlighted the uncertainty surrounding the US President's forthcoming decision and the conflicting advice coming from different parties within the Administration.

Coverage of *scientific* and *ecological* dimensions of climate change in April 2017 centered on a number of new and recurrent reports of environmental degradation attributed to global climate change. As examples, several articles highlighted the recent and drastic changes to the Slims River in Northern Canada, which lost its water source to another nearby river during a period of intense melting affecting one of Canada's largest glaciers.<sup>3,4</sup> Jeremy Hance of *The Guardian* also summarized three recent academic studies that describe and document the negative impacts of climate change on Earth's ecological processes and living organisms.<sup>5</sup>

Spanning the boundaries of *cultural*, *scientific*, and *political* dimensions of climate change, both the 'March for Science' and the 'People's Climate March' garnered significant coverage in April 2017. The 'March for Science' included a large demonstration in Washington D.C., but similar protests took place in hundreds of cities across the U.S. and around the world.<sup>6</sup> *The Bangkok Post* reported that Australia, New Zealand, and Germany also saw large turnouts as part of the 'March for Science'.<sup>7</sup> Another article in *The Hindu* by D. Balasubramanian described the important role of science and technology in India's continued development and called for similar marches in India to support rational, evidence-based decision making.

Coverage also focused on the 'People's Climate March', which took place April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. While the 'People's Climate March' differed in topics, strategies and scope compared to the 'March for Science', there was some undeniable overlap between the two events.<sup>8</sup> Nonetheless, each event garnered significant coverage in April 2017 that further underscored the dimensional intersections of science, culture and politics.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/04/14/trumps-epa-chief-scott-pruitt-calls-for-an-exit-to-the-paris-climate-agreement/?utm\\_term=.7d23570578df](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/04/14/trumps-epa-chief-scott-pruitt-calls-for-an-exit-to-the-paris-climate-agreement/?utm_term=.7d23570578df)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/21/rivers-vanishing-thin-air-climate-crisis>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/17/science/climate-change-glacier-yukon-river.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/17/science/climate-change-glacier-yukon-river.html?_r=0)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/radical-conservation/2017/apr/05/climate-change-life-wildlife-animals-biodiversity-ecosystems-genetics>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/22/science/march-for-science.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1236594/scientists-speak-out-worldwide>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/climate-march-expected-to-draw-massive-crowd-to-dc-in-sweltering-heat/2017/04/28/1bdf5e66-2c3a-11e7-b605-33413c691853\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.4f9f2bd1fe46](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/climate-march-expected-to-draw-massive-crowd-to-dc-in-sweltering-heat/2017/04/28/1bdf5e66-2c3a-11e7-b605-33413c691853_story.html?utm_term=.4f9f2bd1fe46)