

Viewpoint: Science denialism is not the exclusive province of the political right — it's growing on the left, too

There is, I think, a fairly well-established idea that the Left is the “side” of science and evidence, and the Right is the “side” of science “denial”.

I find that strange, because I can think of quite a few areas in which elite Left-wing or liberal opinion doesn't sit well with mainstream scientific findings.

For instance: the UK Green Party wants to “[phase out](#)” nuclear power. Is that “science denial”? I don't know, but I think the [consensus scientific position](#) is that nuclear power is extremely safe and carbon-efficient.

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I suspect that if you could find some reasonable way of defining terms like “science denial” or “misinformation” (and “Right-wing” and “Left-wing”), you'd probably end up finding that it's more prevalent on the Right. But, at least in the largely Left-wing or centrist circles I inhabit, it's almost axiomatic that misinformation is what the Right do. There's a serious strain of thought that thinks we are the correct ones, and they are the wrong ones.

But the desire to show your political opponents in the worst possible light, or [to believe things that are politically convenient](#) rather than things that aren't, is entirely bipartisan. It's just easier to spot when the enemy is doing it.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)