



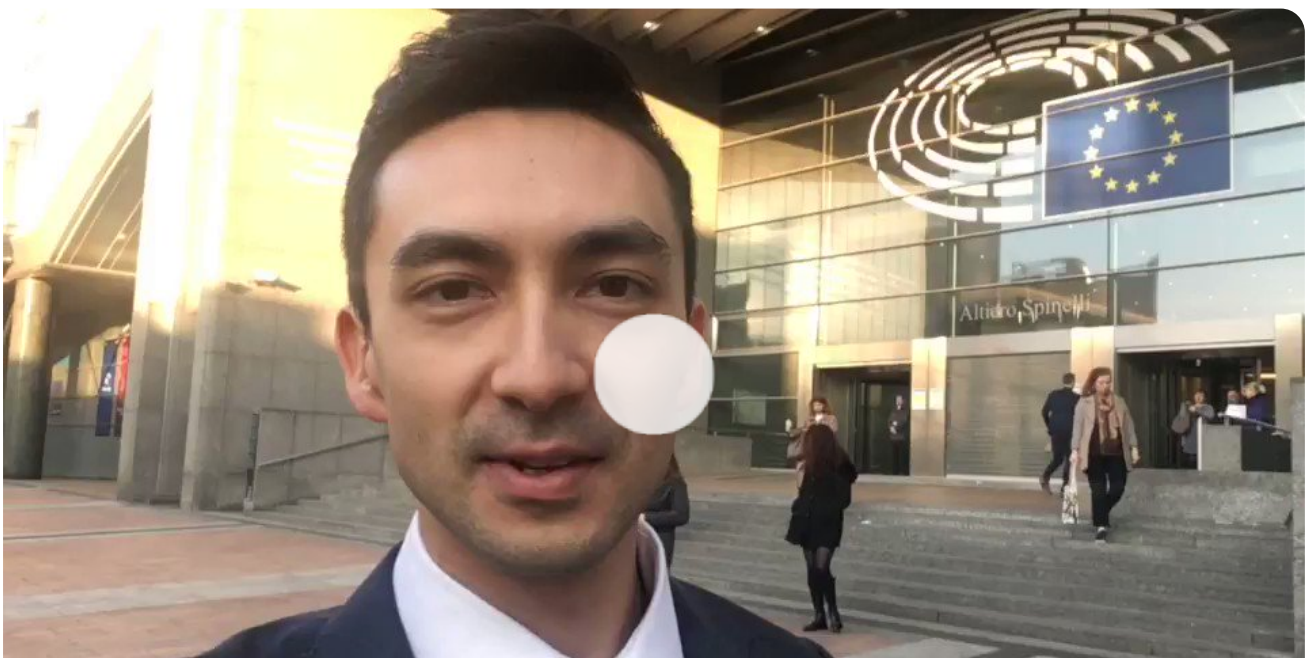
Geoffrey Supran @GeoffreySupran

Mar 22, 2019 • 15 tweets



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I just testified as an expert witness to EU Parliament about ExxonMobil's decades of climate denial + delay. Between being the first major hearing of its kind, a leaked Exxon memo, & the rising prospect of Exxon being banned from EU lobbying, it was an interesting day. THREAD



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2/n: You can watch the full hearing here (my testimony starts at 11:53:13, and my responses to some, ahem, enthusiastic Q&A start at 12:37):

europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/com...





3/n: As @ClimateLawNews reported, this was the first time any major body of lawmakers has heard on-record evidence of the fossil fuel industry's decades of climate denial. climateliabilitynews.org/2019/03/21/eu-...

4/n: I'll post my slides and the press conference video ASAP, but in the meantime, here's my conclusion slide. I shared three key takeaways with Parliamentarians...

Our results do not stand in isolation.

Fossil fuel companies and trade associations, including ExxonMobil, have variously orchestrated, funded, and perpetuated direct and indirect climate change misinformation.

Fossil fuel companies and trade associations, including ExxonMobil, have variously known about the basics of climate science and its implications for decades.

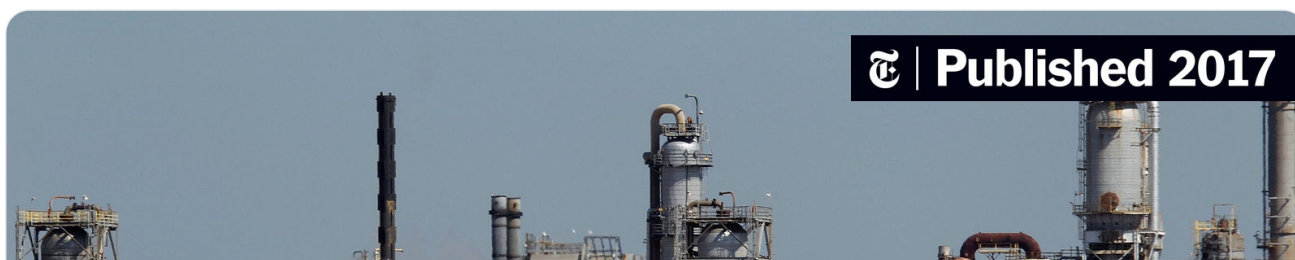
Put together, the evidence points to a singular conclusion: Fossil fuel companies and trade associations, including ExxonMobil, have variously promoted disinformation about climate change so as to stifle action by misleading the public and policymakers.

Quantitative and qualitative analyses suggest that they have succeeded.

5/n: Takeaway #1 - Big Oil is the new Big Tobacco. From strategy and tactics to infrastructure and rhetoric, the fossil fuel industry's denial and delay come straight out of Big Tobacco's playbook.

		TOBACCO	FOSSIL FUELS
STRATEGY	Develop detailed understanding of products' dangers	✓	✓
	Denial of consensus – including internal – science	✓	✓
	Subvert evidence in policymaking	✓	✓
	Reshape media	✓	✓
	Preempt litigation & regulation	✓	✓
TACTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE	Internal research to inform decision-making and PR	✓	✓
	Direct denial	✓	✓
	Shift to indirect denial & lobbying ('think tanks', AstroTurf groups, PR firms, lobby groups, trade associations, politicians)	✓	✓
	Contrarian scientists and talking heads	✓	✓
	Colonization of academia	✓	✓
	Aggressive, predatory marketing at unprecedented scale	✓	✓
RHETORIC	Doubt mongering	✓	✓
	Shift from explicit doubt to "risk" rhetoric	✓	✓
	Appeal to techno-fixes & solutions misinformation	✓	✓
	Consumer risk and choice versus industry responsibility	✓	✓
	Appeal to libertarian and free-market conservative ideologies	✓	✓
	Never acknowledge deception	✓	✓

6/n: Takeaway #2 - ExxonMobil is a case in point. My and @NaomiOreskes's peer reviewed analysis demonstrates beyond doubt that ExxonMobil misled the public about climate science and its implications. [nytimes.com/2017/08/22/opi...](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/22/opinion/exxon-mobil-climate-science.html)

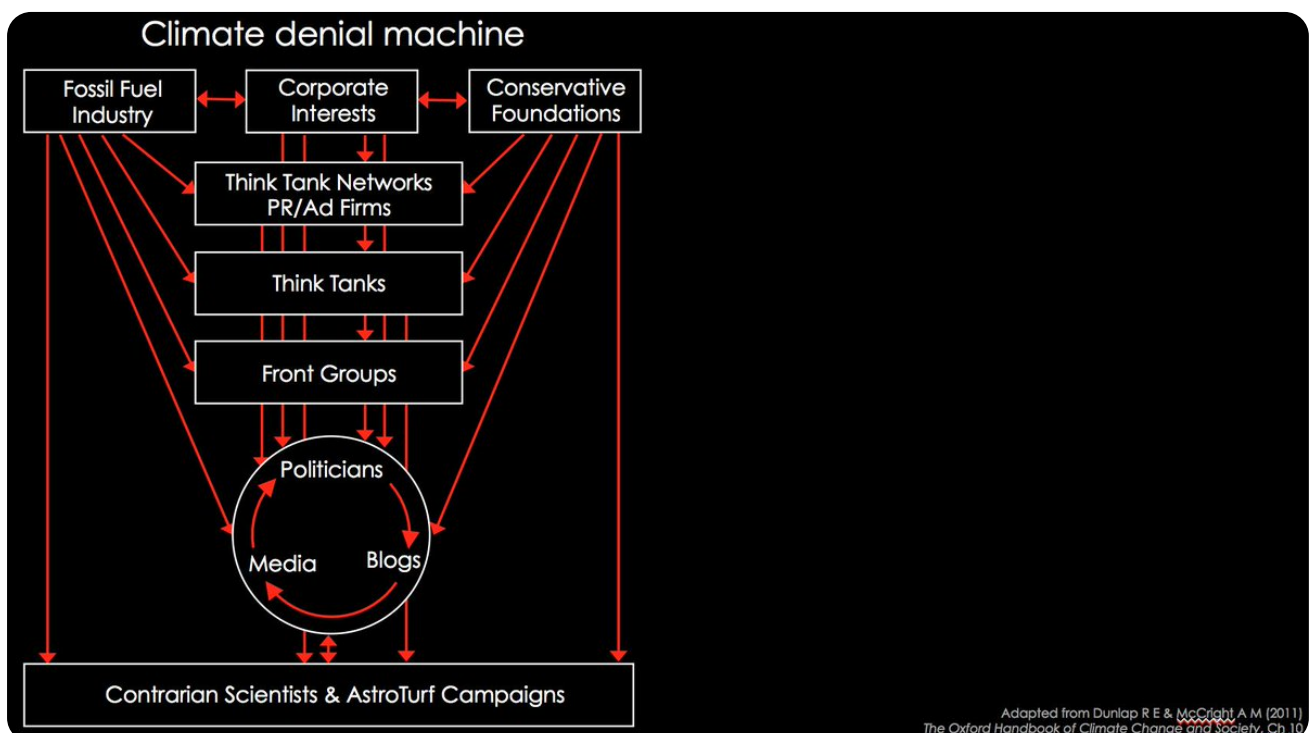




nytimes.com/2017/08/22/opi...

Opinion | What Exxon Mobil Didn't Say About Climate Change (Published 2017)

7/n: Takeaway #3 - This is just the tip of the iceberg. One cog in a well-funded, well-oiled climate denial machine.



8/n: For an up-to-date summary of the history of the fossil fuel industry's climate knowledge & denial, see this amicus brief submitted by colleagues and I to the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of CA climate lawsuits: [x.com/geoffreysupran...](https://www.x.com/geoffreysupran...)



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Less than a decade after World War II, the fossil fuel industry was studying CO2 pollution. Within a few years, it knew its products threatened global warming. Its response? To turn around & orchestrate an anti-science, anti-policy denial campaign dwarfing even Big Tobacco's. 1/n

Nos. 18-15499, 18-15502, 18-15503, 18-16376

**United States Court Of Appeals
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. CHEVRON CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> , Defendants-Appellants	No. 18-15499 No. 17-cv-4929-VC N.D. Cal., San Francisco Hon. Vince Chhabria
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL BEACH, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. CHEVRON CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> , Defendants-Appellants	No. 18-15502 No. 17-cv-4934-VC N.D. Cal., San Francisco Hon. Vince Chhabria
COUNTY OF MARIN, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. CHEVRON CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> , Defendants-Appellants	No. 18-15503 No. 17-cv-4935-VC N.D. Cal., San Francisco Hon. Vince Chhabria
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, <i>et al.</i> , Plaintiff-Appellee, v. CHEVRON CORPORATION, <i>et al.</i> , Defendants-Appellants	No. 18-16376 Nos. 18-cv-00450-VC; 18-cv-00458-VC; 18-cv-00732-VC N.D. Cal., San Francisco Hon. Vince Chhabria

**BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE ROBERT BRULE, CENTER FOR
CLIMATE INTEGRITY, JUSTIN FARRELL, BENJAMIN
FRANTA, STEPHAN LEWANDOWSKY, NAOMI ORESKES, and
GEOFFREY SUPRAN
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLEES AND AFFIRMANCE**

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9/n: And something else happened yesterday. Exxon refused to come to the hearing, choosing instead to smear me and [@NaomiOreskes](#) behind the scenes, in a now-leaked memo sent to MEPs the day before the hearing. [x.com/_aploy/status/...](#)



Ploy Achakulwisut, PhD @climateploy

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So... Exxon is now trying to disinform the [#EUparliament](#) on Exxon's history of [#ClimateDisinformation](#), attacking academics [@Geoffrey Supran](#) & [@NaomiOreskes](#)' peer-reviewed research in the shadows with "evidence" from an expert-for-hire. This is [#MerchantsOfDoubt](#) 101. [#ExxonKnew](#)

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10/n: This is doubt mongering and character assassination-101, and it backfired. It shows that even though Exxon says it has changed, its sabotage of science and its slander of scientists continue.

11/n: Also, and ironically, it exemplified the very corporate capture this EU hearing was called to address. It is a smoking gun of how the industry operates in the shadows to stymie action on climate change.

12/n: This was plain for Ministers of Parliament to see. Immediately following the hearing, Minister of Parliament [@MollyMEP](#) announced that she would formally request that Exxon be banned from lobbying the EU. [@AFP News Agency's @Lachlan Carmichael](#) has the deets: [news.yahoo.com/eu-parliament-...](#)

13/n: And as [@The Guardian's @Arthur Neslen](#) reports, "ExxonMobil would become only the second multinational – after Monsanto – to lose access to MEPs, parliamentary meetings and digital resources if it loses a high-level vote expected by the end of April.": theguardian.com/business/2019/...

14/n: My thanks to [@European Parliament](#) for its unprecedented attention to these issues and for inviting me. And thanks of course to the dozens of colleagues, scholars, and journalist I channeled and cited in my testimony. Onwards.

15/n: UPDATE 📺 Here's a full recording of my testimony along with accompanying slides. WATCH: facebook.com/1243521/videos...

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