

Weiler *et al.* (2011) provide a very interesting insight into the personalities of climate scientists. Personality types of interdisciplinary, Ph.D. climate change researchers were collected based on a Jungian type personality assessment (described below). Each person is characterized by four personality traits as shown in Table 7.1b. Climate researchers were compared with the general public as shown in Table 7.1c.

Table 7.1b. Personality Traits (Weiler *et al.*, 2011).

Extraversion	Intraversion
Think out loud in discussions, talk more than listen	Process information internally, listen more than talk
Share ideas immediately	Share ideas after careful reflection
Sensing	Intuition
Focus on experience	Focus on theories
Build carefully and logically towards conclusions	Follow hunches to reach conclusions
Want details	Want big picture, become bored or impatient with details
Anchored in the present, relate to the past	Oriented towards the future
Prefer step-by-step information or instructions	Talk in general terms
Ask "what" and "how" questions	Ask "why" questions
Look for facts	Look for patterns and possibilities
Prefer practical, plain language to symbols, metaphors, theories or abstractions	Use metaphors, analogies and other symbolic language
Thinking	Feeling
Present information using cause-and-effect reasoning	Use personal situations, stories and examples to communicate
Analytical	Empathetic
Need to know "why"	Connect with people
Judging	Perceiving
Prefer to make decisions quickly, come to closure and move on	Prefer to stay open to new information and last-minute options
Uncomfortable with free-flowing discussions	Feel confined by detailed plans and final decisions
Prefer focused discussion and options	Prefer open discussion to explore linkages between topics

Table 7.1c. Comparison of Personality Traits of Climate Scientists with those of the general public (Weiler *et al.*, 2011).

Personality Trait	Climate Scientists vs. Public
Extraversion/Intraversion	Climate scientists similar to general public (roughly 50% extravert and 50% introvert)
Sensing/Intuition	Climate scientists were far more likely to use intuition (82%) over sensing (18%) than the general public that preferred sensing (73%) vs. intuition (27%)
Thinking/Feeling	Climate scientists were somewhat more likely to use thinking (49%) over feeling (51%) than the general public that preferred feeling (60%) vs. thinking (40%)
Judging/Perceiving	Climate scientists were far more likely to use judging (73%) over perceiving (27%) than the general public that was more even with judging (54%) vs. intuition (46%)

One thing stands out. There is a huge statistical inversion between climate scientists vs. the public in that climate scientists greatly lean toward intuition whereas the public heavily leans toward sensing. This implies the climate scientists "focus on theories" and "follow hunches to

reach conclusions” whereas the public tends to “focus on experience” and “build carefully and logically towards conclusions”. The strange thing is that one would expect that the very nature of the scientific method requires that scientists should focus on sensing, rather than intuition. In addition, there is also a much stronger tendency of climate scientists to prefer judging to perceiving, and there is a somewhat greater tendency of climate scientists to prefer thinking to feeling. Thus climate scientists tend to “prefer to make decisions quickly, come to closure and move on”. This is clearly evident in the many papers in climatology that utilize a penny’s worth of data to draw a dollar’s worth of conclusions.