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MEDIA TIP
Feb. 15, 2012

The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars – one-off Vancouver lecture

The lead author of the “Hockey Stick” chart that sparked bitter controversy between climate scientists and global warming deniers will be giving a free public lecture in downtown Vancouver this Sunday.

Hosted by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, the talk by Michael E. Mann will be based on his soon-to-be-released book, *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines*.

In its 2001 climate report, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) featured the “Hockey Stick,” a chart showing global temperature data over the past 1,000 years. So-called because of its hockey stick shape, the chart showed that temperature had risen with increasing industrialization and use of fossil fuels, as human activities raised CO₂ levels, trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and warming the planet.

Mann says the attacks against himself and the other scientists involved had little to do with the temperature rise. “The Hockey Stick became a central icon in the ‘climate wars’ because of the perceived threat it posed to those who oppose governmental regulation and other restraints to protect our environment and planet. Their attacks were about diverting attention away from one of the central scientific and policy issues of our time.”

Mann will share the real story of the science and politics behind this controversy, including the key figures in the oil and energy industries plus their media front groups, who cast doubt on the science.

WHAT: Public lecture by Michael E. Mann: *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*
WHEN: 6–7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19
WHERE: Fletcher Challenge Theatre, SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC
Live webcast: www.pics.uvic.ca/events.php

Additional biographical information: Michael E. Mann holds joint positions at Penn State University’s Departments of Meteorology and Geosciences, and the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute. He is also director of the Penn State Earth System Science Center. Along with other scientists who participated in the IPCC, he jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Mann is author of more than 150 peer-reviewed and edited publications, and has published two books including *Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming* in 2008 and *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines*, due out this March. He is also a co-founder and avid contributor to the award-winning science website RealClimate.org.

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Note to editors: Interviews with **Mann** can be arranged before or after the Feb. 19 lecture by contacting PICS communications staff. Interviews can also be arranged with another leading climate scientist, **Prof. Mike Hulme**, who will be giving a free PICS public lecture tonight (Feb. 15) from 5 to 7 p.m. at the same Vancouver venue. Hulme is professor of climate change at the University of East Anglia and founding director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research from 2000 to 2007.

Media contact: Jessica Worsley (PICS Communications) at 250-217-9057 or jworsley@uvic.ca

