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**Prolegomena to the development of cultural concepts for climate change mitigation and adaptation:**

**Cross cultural and diachronic perspectives**

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The technical means for mitigation and adaptation to Global Climate Change have, since the 1990s, been the focus of research and development efforts within the academic, business, and policymaking communities. Recent papers in the fields of economics, accounting, and management have pointed out the importance of studying the concepts that guide human behavior to better understand why societies make certain choices in relation to energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and, how to effect positive change to these behaviour patterns. (Hobbs 2008 et al.; Nisbet et al. 2008; Robert et al. 2002; Rees 1999; Tapio et al. 2008). Research in environmental psychology, environmental philosophy, cultural anthropology, archaeology, psychiatry, etc., have revealed important emergent phenomena concerning human reactions to climate change, quite distinct from those tied to the assumptions of the economically rational actor. (Albrecht et al. 2007; Albrecht 2005; Blunt 2005; Rice 2007).

Somaterratic or earth-related physical health issues resulting from, for example, extreme temperatures, produce significant physiological but also psychological impacts on health. Thus, psychoterratic, or earth-related mental health concepts such as nostalgia, the newer solastalgia, phronesis (Flyvbjerg 1992) and the very idea of home (Benjamin 1996; Benjamin 1993), show that

humans in many parts of the world are reacting to the threat of, or actual impact of climate change (e.g., drought, wild weather, melting sea ice, glaciers and permafrost), with identifiable forms of psychic distress. The authors will briefly review the history and development of psychoterratic, somaterratic, and psychosomatic syndromes as possible explanations of human reactions to climate change. We will argue that the study of how humans utilize spatio-temporal and integrative concepts such as the home, nostalgia, and solastalgia are key aids in analyzing and predicting the general human response to climate change, more specific reactions to policy initiatives, and likely patterns of behavior change. Further, we will look at the potential for how such concepts can or should be elaborated upon in a normative framework for the development and sustainability of socio-economic behavior of benefit to both the global climate and human society in general. The following research questions will be used to bring to light the practical potential of these place and time-based concepts:

1. What are the cross cultural ethical implications of the elaboration of such concepts with the intention of guiding human behavior?
2. Does the archaeological record or the study of recent cultures offer potentially significant experience about the success of human's translation of conceptual frameworks into action in relation to perceived environmental threats or opportunities?
3. Are there verifiable methods for measuring the impact of such guiding cultural concepts related to the environment, in recent recorded history?
4. Does the apparent disjunction between expert models of behavior related to climate change and informant generated concepts represent a barrier to successful mitigation/adaptation, or possibly a useful conceptual gap that can inspire transformative and innovative breakthroughs?

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