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Working in the Eye of the Storm: A Sociology of Climate Engineering

One of the first and foremost international concerns in recent years has been anthropogenic climate change, or global warming as was the prevalent term a bit over a decade ago. In the shadow of the interest in conventional mitigation, which is on all accounts considered to be the preferable option, a growing number of scientists is considering (and researching) the possibility of a different approach to anthropogenic global warming. This alternative approach—which was coined as early as 1976 in an early publication by Cesare Marchetti but came to prominence through Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen’s publication in the journal *Climate Change* in 2006—is traditionally referred to as geoengineering, though in recent times the term climate engineering (CE) has been gaining momentum.

My research, a sociological study, focuses on the development of climate engineering from a socio-historical perspective. Mainly directed at the current developments in the field of climate engineering, and concerned with the question of how the scientists working on the issue are relating to their work, anthropogenic climate change, and the world at large, my research aims to chronicle and understand the developments in climate engineering through a socio-historical lens, providing in-depth insights into the field of climate engineering.

This means my research will be three-part. Firstly, I will analyze the historical events in CE-research, and how the field came to be as it is today. Secondly, I aim to understand how CE as a research field is defined, what its parameters and its underlying assumptions are, and to give an overview of the status quo. Finally, I intend to spend a significant amount of time with specific researchers, in order to track the development of CE up close.