



Image: James Behrens

Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica



Professor Robert DeConto 2016 Tinker-Muse Prize Fellow

The “**Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica**” has been awarded to Prof. Robert DeConto, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA. This recognition comes for his outstanding work on past and future Antarctic climate, and for research integrating geological data with modelling to reveal likely consequences for future sea level rise from ice sheet melt.

Over the last decade, Rob has worked with colleagues in a series of influential papers, incorporating new and significant ice loss processes that provide improved comparisons between model results and geological data. In their most recent article (DeConto and Pollard, *Nature*, March 2016), the models predict a doubling in the amount of sea level rise by the end of the century and beyond, compared with the 2013 assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This increased sea-level rise comes from melting ice sheets if atmospheric CO₂ emissions continue to rise as at present. They also show that aggressive reductions in CO₂ emissions, in order to stabilize global warming at no more than 2°C, agreed in the Paris Climate Change Accord, substantially limits Antarctic ice sheet melting and future sea-level rise.

Rob DeConto says, “I am thrilled to receive this award. Our work indicates we do still have choices in addressing climate change and sea-level rise. The award will stimulate my work with colleagues to improve the robustness of this new generation of models, hopefully leading to greater confidence in confronting the issue.”



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