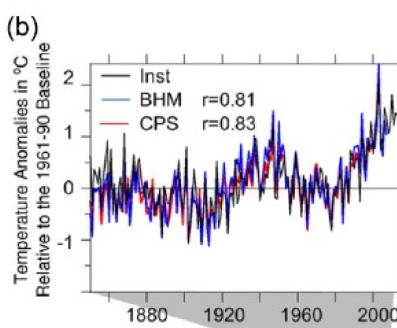


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European Summer Temperatures since Roman Times

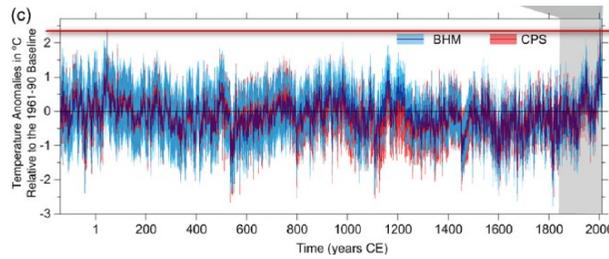
J. Luterbacher from the University of Giessen has published in Environmental Research Letters an interesting [paper](#) on the evolution of European summer temperatures. The paper is only 12 pages long, but the long list of coauthors counts 44 coauthors, reflecting the inflationary tendency to cite everyone the author will be agreeable too (and the desperate struggle for scientists to be coauthor for a maximum of papers). Nevertheless, the paper is interesting to read.

The authors used two statistical methods to evaluate temperature proxies (here tree-rings): a Bayesian hierarchical modelling and a Composite Plus Scaling method (CPS). Both results compared (where feasible) with instrumentals records (here Crutem4). The concordance of these 2 methods and the instrumental record is rather good, as shown in this figure which gives correlations r of 0.81 and 0.83.



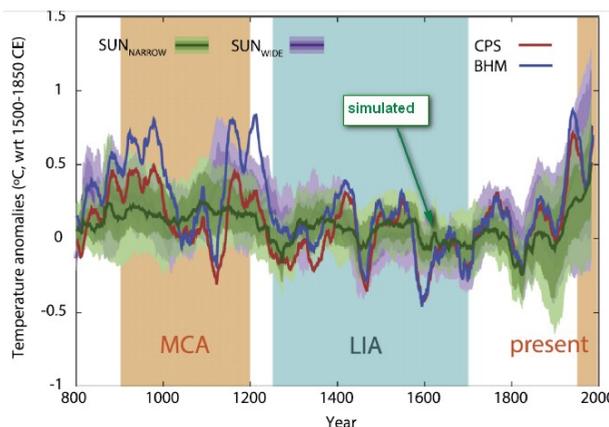
Are the 20th century summer temperatures unusual?

A comparison from Roman times to today is known to include 3 warm periods: the Roman, the Medieval and the Modern (notice the well-known ~1000 year period!). The next figure shows the results given by the two statistics and the IPCC consensus reconstruction:



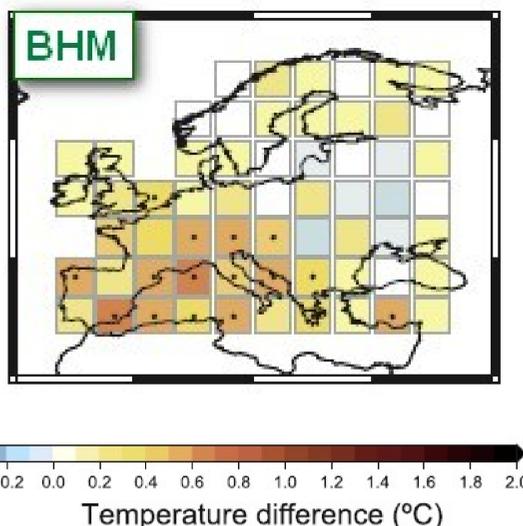
I have added the red horizontal line giving the highest (reconstructed) level of the Roman Warm Period: clearly the situation during the 20th century was not unusual compared to this period.

Another figure starts at the Medieval Warm Period and gives the same impression:



Compared to the Medieval times, the last 100 years with noticeably higher atmospheric CO2 concentrations (mixing ratios) do not show a dramatic warming!

A last figure is also very telling: it gives the temperature differences between Present (1950 to 2003) and Medieval Warm Period:



Some locations close to the Mediterranean are warmer, most only slightly warmer or about the same and two even cooler.

Conclusion:

The authors write that "both CPS and BHM indicate that the mean 20th century European summer temperature was not significantly different from some earlier centuries, including the 1st, 2nd, 8th and 10th centuries CE".

This would be the last word, but we all know that a scientist today must pay at least lip-service to the global warming meme. Accordingly the authors tell us that "However, summer temperatures during the last 30 yr (1986-2015) have been anomalously high". Remember that we had a "monster" El-Nino in 1998, and a very big one in 2015: these two events alone pushed up the average temperatures a lot, so this last remark is rather irrelevant.

But as they write in another part of their paper that "... as well as a potentially greater role for solar forcing in driving European summer temperatures than is currently present in the CMIP5/PMIP3 simulations. This might be evidence for an enhanced sensitivity to solar forcing in this particular region", acknowledging the IPCC denied solar forcing, I will pardon the mandatory, career friendly and politically correct sentence on the last years.

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