

Introduction

- Climate change anxiety can be developed through direct experience of the impacts of climate change or through mere knowledge of its existence.
- The best way to examine climate change anxiety and its correlation to years of education is through deeper understanding of both variables.
- Existing research shows varying results in the relationship between climate change anxiety and years of education.
- We found more evidence of a positive correlation.
- This research examines the correlation between education levels and climate change anxiety.
- To further understand this relationship, we considered age as a covariant.

Method

- 500 CloudResearch approved participants were recruited from Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk) in the United States.
- 15 climate change deniers were removed from the data set. 14 outliers were removed from the data set because they influenced the results.
- After removing these participants we were left with a sample of 471.
 - Gender: 273 male, 195 female, and 3 non-binary
 - Age range: 19 to 76 ($M = 39.75$, $SD = 11.86$).
 - Years of education range: 8 to 22 ($M = 15.08$, $SD = 2.19$)
- 13-item Climate Change Anxiety Scale (CCAS; Clayton & Karazsia, 2020).
- We calculated mean scores of our participants on their self-reported climate change anxiety.
- We used R version 4.3.1 to run a correlation analysis of participants' mean climate change anxiety and years of education, and to construct scatterplots of the data.

Climate Change Anxiety versus Years of Education: A Correlational Study

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Empower Minds, Cool the Earth.

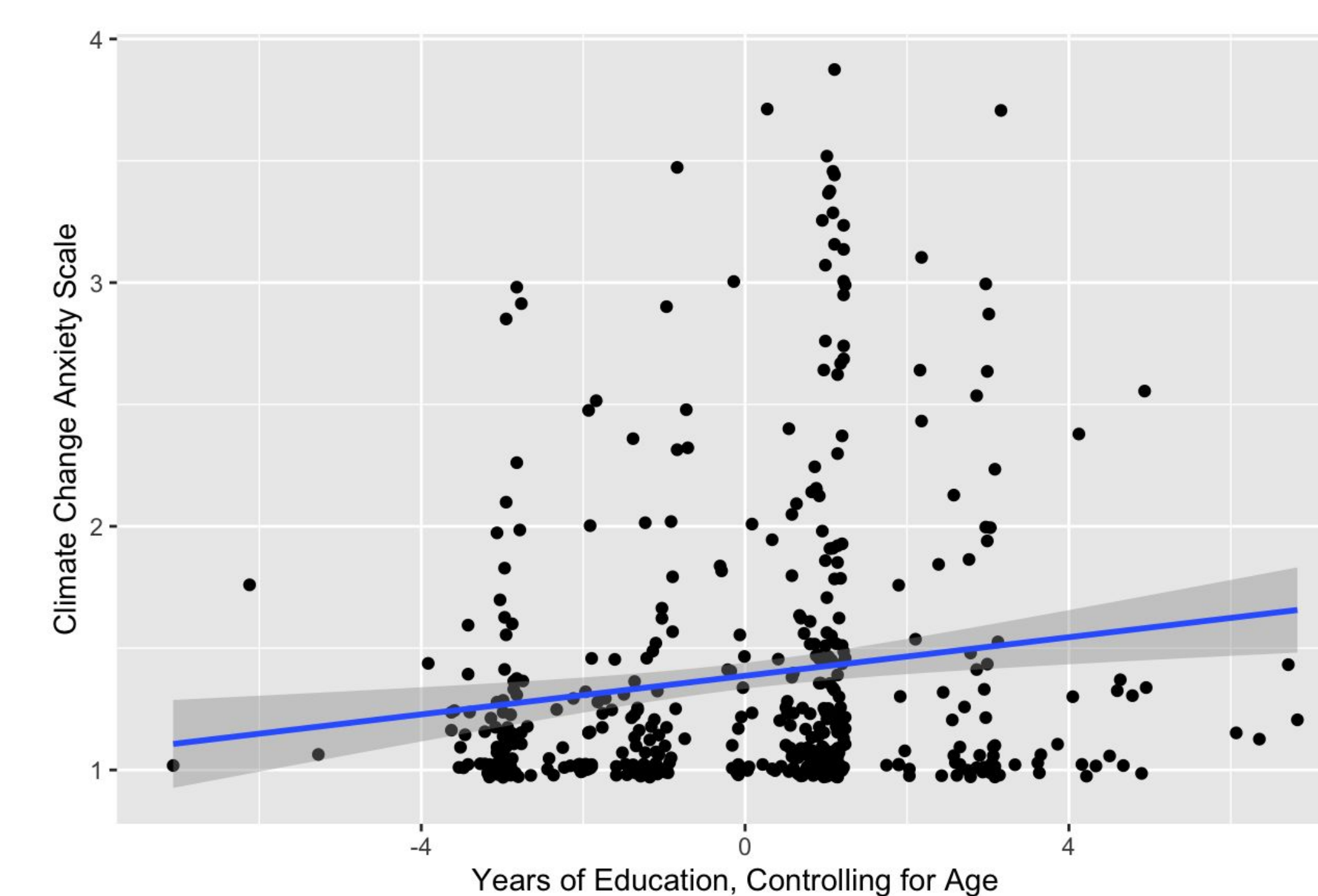
Results

- Climate change anxiety had a small positive correlation with years of education ($r(471) = .12$, $p < .05$, 95% CI [.03, .21]).
- A partial correlation of climate change anxiety and years of education, controlling for age yielded similar results: $r(471) = .15$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.06, .23].
- Thus, years of education accounts for about 2% of the variance in climate change anxiety.

Discussion

- Existing research shows varying results in the relationship between climate change anxiety and years of education.
- We found more evidence of a positive correlation, and so we expected to find that climate change anxiety would have a significant, positive correlation with years in education.
- The results of our study supported our hypothesis.
- This suggests that more years in education is associated with higher climate change anxiety.
- A partial correlation of climate change anxiety and years of education, while controlling for age suggested that age only accounted for 2% of the total variance.

The Partial Correlation of Years of Education and Climate Change Anxiety, Controlling for Age



$r(471) = .15$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.06, .23]