

## REVIEW OF THE MONOGRAPH BY YEVHENIIA TYKHOMYROVA AND ALONA TYKHOMYROVA «INFORMATION DISORDER: THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE»

## РЕЦЕНЗІЯ НА МОНОГРАФІЮ ЄВГЕНІЇ ТИХОМИРОВОЇ ТА АЛЬОНИ ТИХОМИРОВОЇ «ІНФОРМАЦІЙНИЙ БЕЗЛАД: ПОЛІТИКО-ПСИХОЛОГІЧНИЙ ВИМІР ЗМІНИ КЛІМАТУ»

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The monograph by Yevheniia Tykhomyrova and Alona Tykhomyrova, *Information Disorder: The Political and Psychological Dimension of Climate Change*, is a thorough interdisciplinary scholarly work deserving special attention from both the Ukrainian and international academic communities. The study reveals one of the key phenomena of our time – information disorder, which, amid digitalization, media platformization, and the intensification of global political conflicts, becomes a systemic factor influencing the formation, course, and content of climate discourse. Given that addressing climate change has become one of the critical issues in international politics, upon which global security, economic development, and societal resilience depend, the investigation of the interrelations between climate disinformation, psychological vulnerability, and political processes is highly relevant.

The monograph is distinguished by a high level of conceptual clarity and theoretical depth. The authors systematize existing approaches to the study of information disorder and propose an updated analytical framework for examining climate disinformation, drawing on the latest political, psychological, and communication research. Of particular value is the fact that the study consistently integrates perspectives on the structure of climate discourse, which in the global scholarly field is still investigated largely in a fragmented manner and within the boundaries of individual disciplines.

The first chapter of the monograph «Information chaos regarding climate change: interpretation and related concepts» is devoted to the conceptual and theoretical foundations of the study of information disorder. The authors provide a detailed analysis of established definitions of disinformation, misinformation, and malinformation, while emphasizing that within climate discourse these categories acquire specific characteristics. One of the chapter's key achievements is a thorough comparison of the leading contemporary paradigms for interpreting climate change. Y. Tykhomyrova and A. Tykhomyrova comprehensively explain how the Anthropocene paradigm shapes the notion of humanity's collective responsibility by drawing attention to global processes of industrialization and technological development. Within the Capitalocene framework, the analysis focuses on the systemic logic of capitalist development, which creates opportunities for political lobbying, economic interests, and information interventions. The third paradigm, Natural Climate Variability, is examined in detail as an ideological resource that is systematically employed by denialists to contest the anthropogenic factor. The authors demonstrate how the interaction of these three approaches generates a conflict between scientific knowledge and informational distortions, thereby creating the preconditions for the spread of climate disinformation in the global information space.

The second chapter of the monograph «The landscape of misinformation about climate change: the denialist perspective» is devoted to the examination of the landscape of climate disinformation,

the structure of its production, and the mechanisms of its dissemination. Climate disinformation is conceptualized as a structured, goal-oriented, and systematically organized instrument of influence, the production of which involves both state and non-state actors, including corporations, political parties, networked communities, informal groups, media institutions, and technological platforms. The authors provide a systematic classification of the actors engaged in the creation of manipulative climate-related messages. The chapter offers a thorough analysis of how states may exploit climate-related issues for geopolitical positioning, the reinforcement of their own ideological doctrines, or the formation of distorted perceptions of climate impacts in other countries. At the same time, significant attention is paid to non-state structures, such as business groups, industrial corporations, think tanks, networks of digital trolls, and pseudo-environmental organizations. The study emphasizes that denialist narratives are often supported by the interests of major industrial sectors, particularly energy companies, which have strong economic incentives to block or slow down environmental reforms. Y.Tykhomyrova and A.Tykhomyrova provide a detailed account of the mechanisms of financing and coordination of denialist campaigns, emphasizing that these campaigns are predominantly not spontaneous, but institutionally organized.

The third chapter «A proactive approach to combating climate change misinformation» examines the psychological foundations of information perception and the mechanisms that determine audiences' vulnerability to climate disinformation. The authors demonstrate a profound command of political psychology, enabling them to integrate cognitive models with the analysis of climate narratives. They substantiate how cognitive biases—such as confirmation bias, motivated reasoning, the availability heuristic, and the backfire effect—influence the audience's capacity to accept or reject scientifically grounded information. An important component of the chapter is the analysis of the role of emotions, including fear, anxiety, anger, and apathy. Notably, psychological models are not presented in isolation but are embedded within a political context, which allows climate disinformation to be viewed as a dynamic process that is simultaneously informational, political, and psychological in nature. Y.Tykhomyrova and A. Tykhomyrova convincingly demonstrate that emotional responses may both amplify susceptibility to manipulation and, conversely, stimulate constructive mobilization, depending on how communicators and political actors shape their narratives.

Particular attention is given to the analysis of psychological «inoculation» models and prebunking, which have become widely adopted in contemporary research on countering disinformation. The authors convincingly demonstrate that preventive strategies aimed at building resilience to manipulative influences produce significantly stronger effects than reactive methods of debunking. In this regard, the monograph constitutes an important intellectual resource for professionals working in the fields of strategic communications, media literacy, and climate policy.

An important achievement of the study is the typology of strategies for countering climate disinformation proposed in the fourth chapter of the monograph «Strategies for dispelling and refuting climate misinformation». This typology encompasses the individual level (critical thinking, psychological resilience), the institutional level (media strategies, political regulation, scientific communication), and the technological level (algorithmic content labeling, artificial intelligence for disinformation detection), as well as educational practices, cultural strategies, digital literacy, technological solutions, and psychological models of resistance. Y.Tykhomyrova and A.Tykhomyrova emphasize that none of these approaches is sufficient in isolation and that only their comprehensive integration can create the conditions necessary for reducing the impact of manipulative content. The study further underscores the fundamental importance of cross-sectoral cooperation, in particular the synergy among the state, the academic community, civil society, and business, in countering climate disinformation.

The style of presentation is marked by academic clarity, and the structure is designed to ensure a coherent progression from abstract concepts to applied strategies. At the same time, the study possesses substantial practical value: the proposed recommendations may be applied in the activities of public authorities, journalists, think tanks, environmental organizations, and international agencies for the development of national communication strategies in the field of climate policy, including within the Ukrainian context.

It should be noted that the monograph opens up avenues for further research. Promising

directions include expanding the analysis of international institutions combating disinformation, deepening the study of the economic interests of denialist corporations, and incorporating new empirical data on the impact of disinformation on Ukrainian society in the context of war.

In conclusion, the monograph by Y. Tykhomyrova and A. Tykhomyrova, *Information Disorder: The Political and Psychological Dimension of Climate Change*, represents a high-quality interdisciplinary study that makes a significant contribution to the development of both Ukrainian and international scholarship in the fields of climate policy and communications, information security, and political psychology. It is distinguished by the depth of its analysis, originality, relevance, and practical significance. This publication is recommended for use in educational, research, analytical, and practical activities by a wide range of specialists working in international relations, climate policy, strategic communications, disinformation counteraction, and information resilience.

**Conflict of Interest:** Olena Shevchenko is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal. The manuscript was subjected to an independent evaluation process, and the final decision was made without the author's involvement.