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NEW YORK ECO-RAPPER RELEASES VIDEO INDICTMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CLIMATE CHANGE LEGACY, ONE YEAR IN

TRUMP DUBBED THE "NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN OF TEMPERATURE CHANGE" IN RAP TRACK THAT WAS SCIENTIFICALLY PEER-REVIEWED BY IPCC ECONOMIST AND OBAMA CLIMATE ADVISOR DR. GARY YOHE

Listen on Soundcloud: <https://goo.gl/5j61tp>

Watch on YouTube: <https://goo.gl/1QzRUX>

Rapper Baba Brinkman is no stranger to climate science communication, having developed a one-man show "Rap Guide to Climate Chaos" in 2016, which was performed off-Broadway to rave reviews in 2016 ("Smart, funny, well-sustained" ★ ★ ★ ★ – Times). And in 2017 he was commissioned by Dr. Gary Yohe, Wesleyan Professor and co-chair of Obama's 2014 National Climate Assessment, and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the IPCC, to produce a rap music video taking Trump to task on his record of public climate denial. That [video, entitled "Erosion"](#), was released on January 20, 2017, and now Brinkman and Yohe have combined forces again to produce a sequel, "Destruction", which updates the state of climate politics in America one year later, shining light on the disastrous policies of the Trump Administration and the inspiring resistance that has developed in response.

*What's the deal? You keep tellin' me the threat isn't real
But I'm beginnin' to feel you got something to conceal
Credible people tell us emissions are lethal
You're just tryin' to give investors in 'em a better yield*

Dr. Yohe has spent decades compiling a record of the scientific evidence for past and current human and economic impacts of climate change, both within the United States and around the world. He has written several op-ed responses to President Trump's dangerous climate change policies, but to reach an audience that doesn't necessarily read economic policy analyses, he recruited Baba. Dr. Yohe said: "We really made an impact last year with 'Erosion' and I felt the story needed updating. People need a wake-up call, and sometimes that information hits harder in the form of a rap than in the form of a lecture." The new song, which reprises Barry McGuire's "Eve of Destruction" chorus over a hip-hop beat, is addressed directly to President Trump:

*What's the message you're sending the American people
Swearing to weasel out of the Paris Agreement?
Did you notice the 2017 hurricane season?
It was extreme, for the very same reason*

Findings detailed in "Destruction" (with [links to the sources](#)) focus on the intensity of hurricanes, flooding, drought, and wildfires in the USA over the past year, which was one of the worst for

extreme weather and natural disasters in history, as well as one of the hottest years ever recorded. Scientists are able to attribute the intensity and frequency of these events more and more confidently to the influence of climate change, a view that is shared by the federal government's own recently released "[Climate Science Special Report](#)". However, President Trump rejects the assessment of his own scientific advisors, downplaying the threat.

*Congratulations, you're the Neville Chamberlain
Of temperature change, 'cause instead of facin' it
You deliver craven misinformation
With a straight face to the nation*

Dr. Yohe has previously taught an entire course on the economics of climate change vulnerability using Baba Brinkman's peer-reviewed rap album *The Rap Guide to Climate Chaos* as coursework. In 2016 he assigned students to listen to Baba's songs and present a critical analysis of the scientific findings that inform the lyrics, including our level of confidence in each specific conclusion. Baba's *Climate Chaos* album, which [Scientific American](#) calls "a phenomenon" and "smart, really smart" is the seventh in a series of "Rap Guides" he has produced, covering such scientific subjects as medicine, evolution, psychology, and the cognitive science of religion. The latest addition, *Rap Guide to Consciousness*, is set to [open off-Broadway](#) in March, 2018.

"Climate change is the challenge of our time, and few voices capture its urgency and its scientific intricacies with as much rigour and panache as Baba Brinkman. Baba is the science rapper supremo!"

– **Tim Flannery**, *author of The Weather Makers and Chief Commissioner, Australian Climate Council*

Baba Brinkman performed his climate-themed rap songs at the COP21 conference in Paris in 2015, and made a fan of Bill Nye, who called his off-Broadway performance "Amazing". Of his latest song, Baba says: "Future generations will look back on this time and ask what each of us did about climate change, the single most lethal consequence of human activity. Donald Trump has cemented his shameful legacy, which will embarrass his descendants for generations. This song is for the rest of us in the resistance, to inspire hope and steel resolve."

ABOUT BABA BRINKMAN

Baba Brinkman is a New York-based Canadian rap artist and award-winning playwright. To date, Brinkman has written six hip-hop plays, which have toured the world and enjoyed successful runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and off-Broadway in New York. He has also released ten original rap albums on his independent label Lit Fuse Records. Brinkman is a pioneer in the genre of "lit-hop" or literary hip-hop, known for his adaptations of *The Canterbury Tales*, *Beowulf*, and *Gilgamesh*. He is best known for his "Rap Guide" series, the first of which, *Rap Guide to Evolution* ("Astonishing and brilliant" - NY Times), won a Scotsman Fringe First Award and a Drama Desk Award nomination, and was featured on US national



TV on The Rachel Maddow Show and at the Seattle Science Festival opening for Stephen Hawking. Baba is a recent recipient of the National Center for Science Education's "Friend of Darwin Award" for his efforts to improve the public understanding of evolutionary biology.

His latest play, *Rap Guide to Consciousness*, was a hit at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe and is scheduled to open off-Broadway in March. His clever and distinctive style has earned him the attention of the New York Times, Time Out New York, The Village Voice, NPR, Macleans, CBC and BBC. When he is not on tour, Baba Brinkman resides in New York with his wife, neuroscientist and Discovery TV host Dr. Heather Berlin, and their two children.

ABOUT DR GARY YOHE

Gary W. Yohe is the Huffington Foundation Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies at Wesleyan University; he has been on the faculty at Wesleyan for more than 30 years. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, and received his PhD in Economics from Yale University in 1975. He is the author of more than 175 scholarly articles, several books, and many contributions to media coverage of climate issues. Most of his work has focused attention on the mitigation and adaptation/impacts sides of the climate issue. Involved since the early 1990's with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that received a share of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, he served as a Lead Author for four different chapters in the Third Assessment Report that was published in 2001 and as Convening Lead Author for the last chapter of the contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report that was published in 2007.



Professor Yohe serves as a member of the New York City Panel on Climate Change and currently participates as a member of several panels of the National Academies of Science, including the Decadal Survey for NASA. He has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the "Hidden (climate change) Cost of Oil" on March 30, 2006 (where he fondly remembers his younger daughter kicking his chair to tell him that he could not then Senators Biden and Lugar that they were wrong; the Senators spent another 2 hours in conversation, so all turned out well), the Senate Energy Committee on the Stern Review on February 14, 2007, and the Senate Banking Committee on "Material Risk from Climate Change and Climate Policy" on October 31, 2007. He served as a member of the Adaptation Panel of the National Academy of Sciences' initiative on America's Climate Choices and as a member of an Academy Committee on Stabilization Targets for Atmospheric Greenhouse Gas Concentrations that was chaired by Susan Solomon. Professor Yohe is currently, along with Michael Oppenheimer, a co-editor-in-chief, of the journal *Climatic Change*.

In April of 2011, Professor Yohe was appointed Vice Chair of the National Climate Assessment Development and Advisory Committee by Under-Secretary of Commerce Jane Lubchenko for a term of three years.