

# An Ad Hominem Attack

## Last Revised September 7, 2021

<https://watsongallery.ca/ClimateReality/CR/LettersToTheEditor-TrailTimes/2021.08.26.CO2FalselyAccusedOnceAgain.pdf>

In response to Thorpe Watson's letter to the editor of August 26, 2021, Scott Leyland wrote a response on September 3, 2021 entitled, "IPCC authors are peer reviewed scientists, are you?"

<https://www.trailtimes.ca/letters/ipcc-authors-are-peer-reviewed-scientists-are-you/>

An ad hominem attack which is short for argumentum ad hominem means the character of the person making the argument is attacked, not the argument itself<sup>1</sup>.

The parable of the *Emperor's New Clothes* by Hans Christian Andersen also comes to mind<sup>2</sup>. It took a child to point out the obvious fact that the emperor was nude. If peer reviewed scientists believe that CO<sub>2</sub> is bad, perhaps a child or in this case a scientist without conformity to his "peers," is needed to point out that CO<sub>2</sub> is plant food.

The world could do with an increase in temperature because that would increase the growing season and reduce world hunger. The world can also do with more CO<sub>2</sub> because it makes plants grow faster, and it makes them drought resistant.

Thorpe Watson's reply to Scott Leyland is the following.

"Climate change and the role of CO<sub>2</sub> in the environment cover a wide range of scientific disciplines. Any competent engineer or scientist should be able to identify scientific principles that are violated or ignored. If you are interested, Scott, I will be very pleased to discuss the science with you over a cup of coffee. Please be assured that, as a scientist, I may attack the "message," never the "messenger."

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Ad Hominem Attack, Wikipedia, Retrieved September 7, 2021 from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad\\_hominem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad_hominem)

<sup>2</sup> The Emperor's New Clothes, Wikipedia, Retrieved September 7, 2021 from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Emperor%27s\\_New\\_Clothes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Emperor%27s_New_Clothes)