



What do “Vertigo” and “Blue Velvet” tell on carbon cycle and climate change?

Timo Vesala (1,2)

(1) Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (timo.vesala@helsinki.fi), (2) Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland (timo.vesala@helsinki.fi)

I have created a series of three lectures/popular talks based on short excerpts on feature films. The titles of the talks are “Clouds and drops in films”, “Is wind beautiful?” and the latest one, “From Vertigo to Blue Velvet – Connotations on movies and climate change”. Related to excerpts, during the talks, I am telling on the movie itself – personal thoughts and opinions, status in film history, anecdotes – and on the scientific items - wind, storms, micrometeorology, turbulence, rain, fog, clouds, climate change, greenhouse gases, forests, inland waters, wetlands, energy, aerosols. I stress that the movies do not represent classical catastrophe movies or science fiction but they vary from silent comedies via war films to contemporary art house, from Keaton via Elem Klimov to Béla Tarr. Many of the excerpts are elusive related to the actual scientific point. The total amount of the movie titles is 32. In my presentation I discuss the benefits of this format to popularize science, tell on feedback I have gained and show few illustrative examples. Beside public science events, scientific conferences and summer schools I have presented the latest lecture in “Lens Politica Film & Art Festival, Helsinki” and in “Midnight Sun Film Festival, Sodankylä, Finland”. The format utilizing films gives also possibility to express more polemic messages than would be appropriate in a normal scientific, although meant for the public at large, speech.