

OF DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE AND DANGEROUS EMISSION REDUCTION

Richard S.J. Tol

Hamburg, Vrije and Carnegie Mellon Universities

At an individual level, danger is seen as a non-negligible chance of a serious loss of welfare. At a global level, danger is also seen in welfare terms. However, a global welfare function cannot be defined (Arrow, 1951), one reason why the 15 year debate on “dangerous interference” has been so fruitless. Alternative *hypothetical* global welfare function give conflicting advice on appropriate stabilisation targets (cf. the “burning embers” diagram of IPCC TAR). Using Monte Carlo analyses of the FUND model, I explore the emission reduction implications of alternative definitions of *dangerous climate change* (e.g., a 10% loss of income with a 10% probability for 10% of the population). Lower stabilisation targets also point to *dangerous emission reduction*: Reduced economic growth would increase vulnerability to climate change.