

## ***Interactive comment on “Perspectives on contextual vulnerability in discourses of climate conflict” by U. T. Okpara et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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General comments: This is a well-written article, with a clear theoretical orientation. It discusses how different concepts of vulnerability impact on climate conflict relations by demonstrating how the literature is moving towards contextual vulnerability thinking. The article offers an interesting typology on different climate security and conflict discourses, and offers a diagnostic tool to identify different interpretations of vulnerability. Specific comments: More specifically, it is not clear why the author(s) use the rather limited time period from 2007 to 2015 for its inquiry. Rather, the climate change security and conflict issues date back further. For instance, an important article by Miguel et alia on "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach" from 2004 marked the beginning of the, what the article calls "Climate determinism" body of the literature. The same applies to the other two discourses. Expanding the

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time period would also increase the number of observations of the 34 articles found. In addition, it would be also beneficial to consider books and book chapters if feasible for the analysis. The exclusive focus on scientific, peer-reviewed articles may give a skewed impression of the literature on climate conflict links that makes reference to vulnerability. Moreover, some of the causal explanations of climate security and conflict links are missing from the analysis. For instance, the "Climatic determinism" discourse also employs economic opportunity cost theories to explain the outbreak of violence, largely in sub-Saharan Africa. It has been argued in the literature that small-scale farmers that lose their income due to climate shocks join a rebellion against the established political order, leading to violent conflict within a state. Last, there is one discourse on climate change and conflict missing that also relates to vulnerability, the one on climate-induced migration and conflict. This discourse is rather new, and could be also included in the typology mentioned in the article. Technical corrections: On page 2551, line 26, it should read "Füssel" instead of "Fussel".

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Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 6, 2543, 2015.

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