

Interactive comment on “On deeper human dimensions in Earth system analysis and modelling” by Dieter Gerten et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 16 January 2018

This is an interesting and important area that needs to be included in Earth System modelling. The authors have given a good overview of religions and how the belief systems can influence the way humans are using and impacting the earth system, and the biosphere in particular. I agree with the three approaches suggested to further this area, but I think the last one – c) distillation of deeper humanitarian questions from religious viewpoints that can inform and guide model applications and scenario building — needs to be done at the start or in conjunction with the others. This relates to the main area that needs expansion: The authors refer several times to how religions are interpreted, and the extent to which this makes the inclusion of religion in modelling worthwhile. They mention it again in the last paragraph. The use of religion to achieve personal or group aims is widely acknowledged. It's not only USA evangelicalism. All

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religions interpret the divine messages to suit their purposes. Does this enhance or modify the effect the group is having on the environment? Or does it just make (that) religion irrelevant? The paper needs expansion of this area, with some indication of how it should be approached from a research perspective.

I note a number of typos, but have not recorded them. The paper needs editing.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-2017-125>, 2018.

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