

Snow and Ice Research Group – New Zealand

Monthly video seminar

The Shrinking Glaciers of Kilimanjaro: Can Global Warming Be Blamed?

Nicolas J. Cullen

Department for Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin

Glaciers in tropical regions have retreated drastically since the 19th century, with glaciers on Africa's highest mountain being no exception. The precise age of existing glaciers on Kilimanjaro is uncertain, though reconstruction of the climatic history of East Africa indicates that decades immediately preceding 1880 coincided with a glacier maximum. The areal extent of the glaciers just prior to this has been estimated to be 20 km², which is reduced today to 1.8 km². Rather than changes in 20th century climate being responsible for their demise, glaciers on Kilimanjaro appear to be remnants of a past climate that was once able to sustain them. Understanding the variations in ice extent on Kilimanjaro in the context of climate change in East Africa remains essential in efforts to better understand the broader impacts of global climate change.



Wednesday, 5th October 2011, 1pm-1:50pm

All interested are welcome to attend.

Video meetings are held every month over the Access Grid. Video rooms are sited at most universities. The locations of the video conference rooms for each campus are:

Massey: Room 4.40, Social Sciences Tower.

Auckland: Room 429, School of Geography, Geology and Environmental Science.

Canterbury: Room 164, Level 1, Geography-Psychology Building.

Otago: Teaching Facilities South West corner, Information Services Building.

Victoria: Library RB106.

<http://www.sirg.org.nz>