Correspondence

Conflict's impact raises costs for Arctic shipping and the climate

Traffic through the Northern Sea Route across the Arctic is likely to be compromised this year by the international sanctions imposed on Russia after it invaded Ukraine. This could affect supplies of crucial commodities to other nations, too.

Russia administers the Northern Sea Route and could limit access for strategic or other reasons. Traffic, already diminished by sanctions, might be further curtailed by legal uncertainties and denial of insurance. Shipping between Europe and Asia would then be forced to use the longer Suez Canal route, at enormous extra cost and an almost 40% increase in emissions.

Last year, total traffic through the Arctic route was equivalent to one or two days of traffic through the Suez Canal, and accounted for roughly US$10 billion in global trade. Using climate models, we have estimated the cumulative extra cost to shippers of closing the Northern Sea Route for political reasons this summer: they would range from US$900 million to $3.3 billion, not including the huge overall costs to global trade (M. Goldstein *et al*. Preprint at Research Square https://doi.org/hwx5; 2022). Closure owing to sea ice would bring the same costs.

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Climate alone won't define future worlds

Zeke Hausfather and his colleagues draw attention to the problem of using 'hot' climate models to assess climate impacts and policy (*Nature* **605**, 26–29; 2022). However, I disagree that the world will largely look "the same at 2 °C, no matter how we get there". Against criteria that matter, not all future 2 °C worlds would be the same — even though the climate might be.

How we get to a global-warming temperature of 2 °C is crucial. Elements such as social cohesion, political freedoms, economic trade and inequality (B. C. O'Neill *et al*. *Glob. Environ. Change* **42**, 169–180; 2017) will play as big a part as the physics of the planet.

The features of future worlds are very much a function not only of how we get there, but of how fast we do so. For example, a world that secured the 2 °C threshold in 2050 through solar geoengineering would be quite different from one that secured it in 2070 by eliminating fossil fuels. The former would still be struggling with the effects of air pollution and ocean acidification, whereas those should be of diminishing concern in the latter.

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The author declares competing interests: see go.nature.com/3nqt35d for details.

Funding: end 'publish or perish' for postdocs

EMBO, which publishes and funds life-sciences research, is changing its criteria for postdoctoral fellowships to help early-career applicants to focus more on scientific progress than on accumulating publications. If adopted by other funders (see go.nature.com/3x25ibd), this move could have a strong ripple effect on postdoc evaluation and open science.

In the pilot scheme, a first-author research paper will no longer be required for a researcher to be eligible for a postdoc fellowship: now, a first-author refereed preprint will be considered equivalent (see go.nature.com/39x7pnq). This means that — faced with the need to secure a fellowship — a postdoc will not have to gamble on whether it is faster to revise their paper for their preferred journal or to have it accepted by a different journal. The scheme will also encourage fellowship assessors to focus on the content of a paper, rather than where it was published.

Authors' demand for refereed preprints is therefore likely to grow. Journals will need to become more transparent to explain why they sometimes reject papers with positive reviews or publish those with negative reviews — ultimately benefiting principal investigators as well as postdocs.

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Complement CVs with curated portfolios

When it comes to influencing decision-makers on selection and promotion, curated portfolios of pertinent academic achievements and productivity are more effective than a complete résumé or CV. They also stimulate wider recognition of the range of criteria needed to fully assess individual or team performance (*Nature* **604**, 203–205; 2022).

In my department, our CVs follow a structured format and are updated monthly. Portfolios are assembled from selected CV content and tailored to meet specific grant-application, job or project requirements. We use public, web-based tools to facilitate this. For example, Publons tracks peer-reviewing and journal-editing experience as well as publications and citation metrics.

The US National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation require brief biographies ('biosketches') to evaluate prospective research investigators before awarding funds. SciENcv and ORCID can automatically generate these biosketches in the required format by data scraping web sources to compile information on practical expertise, employment, education and professional accomplishments.

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