

Geology 'On the Box'

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Today, television and other forms of popular mass culture provide the main means by which most people embed their knowledge and understanding of planet Earth. But can geology really make good primetime entertainment. Combining research experience in contemporary hazard science and practical experience in developing and hosting major television geology programmes (BBC, National Geographic, and Discovery), this presentation explores how best we can tell a geoscience story that's interesting and exciting for a lay audience without making it too simple, childish or 'popular'? And at its heart is the question: is a popular fascination with climate chaos and geophysical death and destruction ('geo-porn'?) ultimately detrimental to public understanding of geological risk and uncertainty in an uncertain global future?

References

Stewart, I. & Lynch, J., 2007. Earth: The Power of the Planet, BBC Books.