

Video Presentation by Freeman Dyson

Was Obama right or wrong on Climate Science?

Students and all interested persons are invited

Where?

Centre for Language Learning/Critical Thinking Institute Building
Room 3, Top Floor

When?

Thursday 9th February, 2017

2.00 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Who is Freeman Dyson?



Freeman Dyson, in full Freeman John Dyson (born Dec. 15, 1923, Crowthorne, [Berkshire](#), Eng.), British-born American physicist and educator best known for his speculative work on extraterrestrial civilizations.

Freeman Dyson.

The son of a musician and composer, Dyson was educated at the [University of Cambridge](#). As a teenager he developed a passion for [mathematics](#), but his studies at Cambridge were interrupted in 1943, when he served in the Royal Air Force Bomber Command. He received a B.A. from Cambridge in 1945 and became a research fellow of [Trinity College](#). In 1947 he went to the [United States](#) to study [physics](#) and spent the next two years at [Cornell University](#), Ithaca, N.Y., and [Princeton](#), where he studied under [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#), then director of the Institute for Advanced Study. Dyson returned to [England](#) in 1949 to become a research fellow at the University of Birmingham, but he was appointed professor of physics at Cornell in 1951 and two years later at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he became professor emeritus in 2000. He became a U.S. citizen in 1957.

A longtime advocate of exploration and colonization of the solar system and beyond, Dyson studied ways of searching for evidence of intelligent extraterrestrial life. In the 1950s he was a member of the Orion Project research team that developed a working model of a spacecraft meant to carry humans to Mars. He wrote several books, including *Disturbing the Universe* (1979), an autobiography; *Weapons and Hope* (1984); *Origins of Life* (1985); *Infinite in All Directions* (1988); *Imagined Worlds* (1998); and *The Sun, the Genome, and the Internet* (1999).

A fellow of the British [Royal Society](#) and a member of the American [National Academy of Sciences](#), Dyson received the Wolf Prize in physics in 1981, the [Lewis Thomas](#) Prize, awarded to scientists for artistic achievements, in 1996, and the [Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion](#) in 2000. In his Templeton Prize address he warned of the dangers of a “free market in human genes,” arguing that it could lead to the splitting of humanity into hereditary castes and a return to a society of masters and slaves.

[in electromagnetic radiation: Quantum electrodynamics](#)

...elegance of the QED theory, it proved difficult to calculate the outcome of specific physical situations through its application. Richard P. Feynman and, independently, Julian S. Schwinger and Freeman Dyson of the United States and

Tomonaga Shin'ichirō of Japan showed in 1948 that one could calculate the effects of the interactions as a power series in which the coupling constant is...