



# Field Notes from a Catastrophe Man, Nature, and Climate Change

By Elizabeth Kolbert

Freshman Connections Common Reader 2008 – 2009  
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## Why should climate change matter to college students?

Climate change impacts every aspect of our lives from the weather we experience to the food that we eat. An effective response to climate change will require that we all work together to make individual as well as collective changes. This year the Freshman Connections program will be exploring the topic of climate change in order to not only understand the science behind the changes but also the social and cultural causes, implications, and responses.

## About the Author

Elizabeth Kolbert studied literature at Yale University (1979-1983) and then was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Universitat-Hamburg in Germany (1983-1984). Upon returning to the U.S. from Europe, Ms. Kolbert wrote for the *New York Times* for 14 years (1984-1999), and in 1999 she joined the *New Yorker*.

*Field Notes from a Catastrophe* grew out of an influential, three-part series on global warming Elizabeth Kolbert wrote for the *New Yorker*. Authoritative, compelling and scientifically grounded, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* describes her experiences and reports what she learned while on expeditions to such remote places as Greenland, Iceland, and Alaska with world renowned climate scientists

Elizabeth Kolbert's series on global warming won the American Association for the Advancement of Science's magazine award and National Academy of Sciences Communication Award in the newspaper/magazine category. Her writings have been anthologized in "The Best American Science and Nature Writing" and "The Best American Political Writing." Several of her pieces have been compiled in "The Prophet of Love and Other Tales of Power and Deceit" (2004).



Elizabeth Kolbert, Author  
Photo Credit: Rebecca Bolte

## Kolbert's Most Recent Work

Elizabeth Kolbert's most recent book, *The Ends of the Earth: An Anthology of the Finest Writing on the Arctic and the Antarctic*, was published in 2007.

## Biographical Information Sources:

Information was gathered from the following website:  
[http://journalism.nyu.edu/pubzone/bullpen/elizabeth\\_kolbert/backgrounder/](http://journalism.nyu.edu/pubzone/bullpen/elizabeth_kolbert/backgrounder/)

## Official Website for the Book:

([www.bloomsburyusa.com/media/fieldnotesrgg.pdf](http://www.bloomsburyusa.com/media/fieldnotesrgg.pdf))

## Other Website Resources on Climate Change:

[www.WeCanSolveIt.org](http://www.WeCanSolveIt.org)  
[www.StopGlobalWarming.org](http://www.StopGlobalWarming.org)  
[www.fightglobalwarming.com](http://www.fightglobalwarming.com)  
[www.bluemarble4us.com/](http://www.bluemarble4us.com/)  
[www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1700189,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1700189,00.html)  
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[www.Rainforest2Reef.org](http://www.Rainforest2Reef.org)  
[www.CampusClimateChallenge.org](http://www.CampusClimateChallenge.org)  
[www.realclimate.org](http://www.realclimate.org)