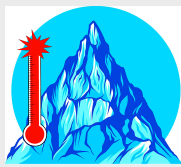


Shifting Baseline - the transformation of the glaciers of Zillertaler Alps (Austria)

Isabella Leonhard



Postcard (Olperer Hut), 28 June 1981



Olpererhütte, 2389 m, der Sektion Berlin des DAV
Blick auf Mäsel, 3470 m, Breitnock, 3215 m,
Wiesent, 3271 m, Hochfeiler, 3510 m, und Weißstein
Zillertal/Tirol



27/6/81

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"Glaciers - global thermometers of our planet" (Rudi Anschöber, regional environment secretary)

Photograph Olperer Hut, 29 August 2019



gr.Greiner (3201 m)
Spiegelkamp kl. Greiner (2959 m) großer Möseler (3480 m)
Breitnock (3215 m) Hochfeiler (3510 m)
Hochsteiler (3908 m) kl. Hochsteiler (2854 m)

Austria's glaciers under observation are thinning out by 50 cm up to 1.4 m each year - two to three times more than the 20th century average (Michael Zemp, glacier scientist)

A few years ago, I watched the netflix documentary "[Chasing Ice](#)". The photographer James Balog and his team from the Extreme Ice Survey documented the effect of climate change on the Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland, showing the glacier calving event in fast motion. We do not have to travel to Greenland to see the impact of climate change - it is not even a 2 hour drive away: The summits and glaciers of the **Zillertaler Alps** (See above the shifted snow line between the year 1981 and the year 2019; Postcard provided by Gerd Frischmuth).

Shifting Baseline Syndrome: In case of our Austrian glaciers, the phenomenon of the Shifting Baseline can be taken almost literally: our next generations of adventurers, hikers and trailrunners will experience a different view from above the hut: summits without snow line, probably ice and snow-free...

