RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Paul Behrens
Title of clinic:	Prove me wrong! (fact-check my popular science book!)
Number of students:	No limit but it would be nice if we could work in a team of 2 or more.
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	EES
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	A willingness to delve into the research and find interesting things. Note: The book has very little maths in it – so don't worry about that. The mathematics that are there are simple algebraic calculations.

Research context

Fact checking is a vital part of research and the scientific method. It teaches us a tremendous amount about the process of building knowledge. Facts can be as simple as short equations (and checking the assumptions), to making sure of the scientific consensus. Researchers can make substantial contributions to society by pointing out issues in other's work.

This research clinic will be b fact checking the newly available manuscript for a popular science book on the environment and the future of humanity: https://www.thebookseller.com/news/indigo-lands-lucid-sapiens-style-environment-book-behrens-973156

The book will take a journey through pessimistic and hopeful perspectives of food, energy, climate change and the economy, picking apart the assumptions of the techno-optimists and the ecological dystopians.

Students' tasks and activities

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.

Students will fact check the book manuscript and suggest changes where needed. If there are issues with what the scientific consensus suggests they will make annotated bibliographies outlining the controversies. I'm very open to creativity too, if student's want to come up with their own suggestions that will be fun to discuss.