

Interactive comment on “The early Spörer Minimum – a period of extraordinary climate and socio-economic changes in Western and Central Europe” by Chantal Camenisch et al.

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I recommend that the authors reconsider their use of the term "early Spörer Minimum" as a name for a period of relatively cold climate.

The authors invent the term "early Spörer minimum" for the "cold period in Europe from around 1430 to 1445 CE". This clearly makes a link to the later period of low solar activity between 1460-1550, called the "Spörer Minimum" [1]. The "Spörer Minimum" is not a name for a period of cold (or warm/wet/dry/regional/global) climate change.

As the authors conclude that "...the increased occurrence of extremely cold winters during this decade can be attributed to unforced, internal variability and the resulting

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atmospheric conditions.", the use of a name that is associated with a later period of low solar activity is inappropriate.

Even if a causal association was suggested, the use of a name from astronomy to describe a climate period is confusing. Different names should be used.

The authors also confuse the "Maunder Minimum", a name for another period of low solar activity [1], with a period of climate. e.g., On page 2 between lines 20-22, "While more recent cold events, such as ... the so-called Maunder Minimum in the 17th century..."

If the authors need to create a name for the climate period 1430 to 1445, they should consider a neutral name that does not imply a cause or exaggerate the climatic conditions at the time.

[1] Eddy, J.A., The Maunder Minimum, Science, 1976

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