“We no longer live in the Holocene, we live in the Anthropocene—in an era shaped by the actions of humankind,” says Paul Crutzen, atmospheric chemist and Nobel Prize winner. Evidence of this new geological era of humans can be found in the atmosphere. For instance, the Michelson Interferometer for Passive Atmospheric Sounding, a Fourier transform spectrometer onboard Europe’s environmental research satellite ENVISAT, can detect 30 different trace gases in the atmosphere, which could provide information on global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer. In the 1980s, the findings of Crutzen and his team were used as the basis for the Montreal Protocol’s ban on the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), identified as the primary cause for the hole in the ozone layer. Without this ban, the ozone layer, which absorbs most of the sun’s UV radiation, would likely be completely depleted within the next 40 years.

MIPAS
Text and images by Martyna Zalalyte
University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin
Super Paul vs. CFC
Paul Crutzen – The Hero
The Ozone Layer – The Victim
CFC – The Bad Guy

Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte, 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.
1987, somewhere in the atmosphere
“Help!!!”

Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte, 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.
Meanwhile, in Paul Crutzen’s office
“Chlorofluorocarbons!! I knew it!”
Caution! Ozone layer in danger!

Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte, 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.
“The ozone layer needs me! It is time for... SUPER PAUL!”

Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte, 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.
Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte; 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

"Thank you, Paul!!"  
The End  

Drawn by Martyna Zalalyte; 2014. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

Artist’s comment
I think my story is gratifying: a scientist discovers a hole in the ozone layer caused by CFCs. Although dire consequences lay in the distant future, he managed to initiate the right steps and prevented the problem from worsening. My story of a modern superhero plays with a hyperbole, which, in this case, is actually the truth.

---

**How to cite**


This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

---

**Further readings:**

- Sources and Literature for the Anthropocene Milestone Comics

**Related links:**


**Websites linked in image captions:**