

Enhancing the Paris Ambition: Universities, Science, Humanities and Arts Interfaces 4 Future Life

Creating alternative, visionary solutions for knowledge production, climate justice, education and engagement to enhance and accelerate the Paris ambition. The social crisis as climate crisis in Chile, the Knowledge, Culture, Climate Action Symposium and the UC-CSU NXTerra platform and HSS 4 Future.

Lead applicant: **University of Western Sydney (UWS)**, Dr Fiona Cameron

Co-applicant: **University of California**, Dr Richard Widick

Time and Date:

Tuesday 3rd December 2019, 18.30-20.00 pm

UNFCCC Conference Center, Feria de Madrid, IFEMA in Av. Del Partenón, No 5, 28042, Madrid, Spain

Side Event Area 4, Room 6

This event will be scheduled in advance for live broadcast via Skype Meeting Broadcast (Central European Time CET) on all devices along with a stand-by video and will be available on-demand for a limited time after the event via the following link:

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/side-events-webcast-page>

Program:

Currently there is a significant gap between the aggregate effect of the signatories' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions and attempts to keep the rate of warming below 2 degrees. Failure to achieve this goal will make worldwide efforts to secure a habitable planet for all, end poverty and alleviate inequalities more difficult, even impossible to attain. The ongoing social crisis in Chile is strongly connected with the climate emergency which, in the case of no action, could make the situation even worse by intensifying water scarcity, increasing natural resource competition, and ecosystems degradation. In such a complex scenario, the Knowledge, Culture Climate Action symposium (a joint event between the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University Australia and the Climate Resilience Research Center, University of Chile (CR2), with partners Millennium Research Nucleus on Energy and Society (NUMIES) and Center for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Reduction (CIGIDEN) has a twofold goal. On the one hand, to highlight the interconnection between social crises and climate emergency by sharing experiences, scientific evidence and traditional knowledge from different perspectives – to dig deep into the importance of addressing social demands along with environmental and climatic challenges. On the other, to help accelerate the decarbonization of economies while promoting a fair, habitable world that honors the rights of human and non-human stakeholders. This requires alternative solutions that can complement, work with, and enhance the ambition of existing implementation strategies in the Paris Agreement and national programs. Reporting live from the Knowledge, Culture, Climate Action symposium, presenters will reflect on the connections between social and environmental demands from their different perspectives connected with the global climate change negotiations. Issues covered include:

- The potential for deep decarbonization, energy transition schemes and diverse economies to complement carbon market and emission exchange mechanisms to enhance emission reduction.
- Climate injustice, climate impacts and how indigenous, citizen and feminist leadership can be mobilized to enable societies to respond to climate variability and just transitions.
- The engagement of civil society through the Action for Climate Empowerment and the potential for bolstering climate ambition through the opportunities and creative practices offered by non-party stakeholders such as women, youth, indigenous communities and museums.

Presenters:

Associate Professor Maisa Rojas Corradi, Director, Climate Resilience Research Center, University of Chile (CR2). *The Chilean social crisis as climate crisis.*

Dr Fiona Cameron (chair) and **Dr Ben Dibley**, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia. *Climate justice, the non-human world and museums as cultural infrastructure for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.*

Dr Cecilia Ibarra, Climate Resilience Research Center, University of Chile (CR2). *Deep decarbonisation, energy futures and environmental justice.*

Bhavya Chitranshi, Ph. D Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Australia, *Diverse economies, post-extractive possibilities and feminist leadership.*

Knowledge, Culture, Climate Action website and program

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/events/knowledge_culture_series/climate_action_2019

Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/home>

In the second half of this event, scholar-activists from the University of California will discuss the climate crisis as social crisis, in solidarity with Chilean civil society; the future of education and research ethics in the dawning era of climate change; and how educators can scale up our efforts and build global networks to serve our students and young people in general, inside and outside the classroom. Sustainability expert Dr. Michael K. Dorsey will discuss the Sunrise Movement and energy transformation.

Dr. Richard Widick, Sociologist & Visiting Scholar at UCSB's Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, will discuss the urgency of climate education and building the community of climate justice research and education at California's two big public university systems announce the launch UC-CSU NXTerra, California's new climate emergency teaching tool; and the launch of HSS4F—Humanists and Social Scientists 4 Future (HSS4F) Statement in Support of the Global Youth Uprising for Climate Action.

Dr. John Foran, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, and activist in the global climate justice movement, will introduce UC-CSU NXTerra, a network of scholars and digital platform for sharing

resources for educators, students, and the general public on the themes of the climate crisis, critical sustainabilities, and climate justice studies. Here you will find seventeen topics curated by faculty in the University of California and California State University systems, under the auspices of the UC Office of the President's (UCOP) Carbon Neutrality Initiative, including course syllabi, readings, videos, and many more innovative teaching materials. The global launch takes place here at our Side Event, and all are welcome to participate in making NXTerra the go-to site for teachers to scale up the urgency of climate education in the face of the escalating climate emergency in the year to come.

Dr. Elisabeth Weber, Professor of German Culture and Comparative Literature, University of California, Santa Barbara, will speak on the important role the Humanities have in scaling up the urgency of climate education, and the educational context in which to situate the Humanists and Social Scientists 4 Future Statement in Support of the Global Youth Uprising for Climate Action (HSS4F) [pre-recorded].

Dr. Michael K. Dorsey, Sustainability Expert, Club of Rome Full Member, and co-founder Sunrise Movement, will discuss the origins of Sunrise and the role of universities, civil society, renewable energy as pillars of the deep culture shift and industrial revolution-scale social transformation already underway to deliver a just transition to a liveable, desirable future.

Open floor opportunity for audience input, brainstorming, and building networks for the coming year – let's see what we can do together to make that happen!