



Research Institute for Sustainability
Helmholtz Centre Potsdam

Rethinking Freedom, Justice and Democracy in an Age of Climate Change

Hosted by Research Institute for Sustainability-Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (RIFS)

Programme

Arrival and coffee

8:00-8:30 Arrival and coffee

8:30-9:00 Welcome and housekeeping (Louis Kotzé and Kathleen Mar)

Session 1

9:00-9:15 Tabea Lissner

Where do we stand with UNFCCC negotiations on loss and damage? A brief history and perspectives for COP28

9:15-9:30 Tobias Müller

Loss and Damage or Planet Repairs? Epistemic, Ecological and Reparatory Justice in the Climate Movement

9:30-9:45 Shota Gelovani

A review of empirical studies on climate change-related polarization in the United States

9:45-10:15 Q&A

10:15-10:45: Comfort Break

Session 2

10:45-11:00 Carole-Anne Senit

Does democracy fail to deliver sustainability? Towards reconciling democratic practices and transformative climate action

11:00-11:15 Emilie D'amico

Cities' net-zero pledges: signaling ambition and gaining influence in the post-Paris climate regime

11:15-11:30 Sander Chan

The promises and risks of the 'groundswell' of non-state voluntary climate action

11:30-11:45 Cara Daggett

Freedom and Fuel

11:45-12:15 Q&A

Interactive lunch

12:15-13:30

Speaker Profiles

Sander Chan

Sander Chan Ph.D. is a political scientist specializing in international environmental governance. He is an assistant professor at Radboud University, and associated researcher at IDOS - German Institute of Development and Sustainability. He is also principal investigator in the Synergies of Planetary Health Research Initiative at the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research, York University. Sander obtained his Ph.D. from VU University Amsterdam, authoring his thesis on the emergence and effectiveness of Partnerships for Sustainable Development in global and local implementation contexts. His research interests include global governance, the role of transnational actors in developing countries, global environmental politics, sustainable development and climate governance. He is currently investigating the role, effectiveness and legitimacy of non-state and subnational stakeholders in global climate and biodiversity governance.

Cara Daggett

Cara New Daggett is a writer and scholar with an interest in the politics of energy and the environment, feminist approaches to science and technology, and histories of empire. Since 2017, she has been a faculty member of the Department of Political Science at Virginia Tech, where she is now an associate professor. Her book, *The Birth of Energy: Fossil Fuels, Thermodynamics, and the Politics of Work* (Duke, 2019), was awarded the Clay Morgan Award for best book in environmental political theory and the Yale H. Ferguson Book Award from the International Association Northeast and has been translated into multiple languages. Her work has been published in journals including *Environmental Politics*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. She has also enjoyed public-facing writing, podcasting, and engagements with artists and architects around questions of energy - especially how human and nonhuman activities are organized and valued as energy.

Emilie D'Amico

Emilie D'Amico is currently associated researcher and Ph.D. candidate in the research cluster CLICCS ('Climate, Climatic Change and Society') at Universität Hamburg (UHH), where she contributes to interdisciplinary research on climate governance, norms and policies, with a focus on cities. She has also contributed to publications on global climate governance, transnational regulation and climate litigation. Emilie has a background in political science, public administration and environmental law.

Shota Gelovani

Shota Gelovani is a postdoctoral researcher with a focus on Internet and social media at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies at the University of Mannheim. At the doctoral stage, he worked as a research and teaching assistant at the Chair of Digital Governance, Technical University of Munich. His doctoral thesis is titled “Bridging Social Cleavages via (Social) Media? A Comparative Study of how Social Media Influence Inter-Group Attitudes”. He is currently a fellow at the New Institute in Hamburg, in the program Depolarizing Public Debates: Developing Tools for Transformative Communication.

Tabea Lissner

Tabea is Research Director of the Global Solutions Initiative in Berlin. Prior to her appointment, she was Head of Vulnerability and Adaptation and Head of Programme Strategies at Climate Analytics, Berlin. During the academic year 2022/23, she spent a sabbatical year as an invited research fellow at The New Institute in Hamburg as part of the Research Group on Socio-Economic Transformation. Tabea studied Geography, Political Science and Environmental Management in Berlin and Porto and holds a PhD in Geography from Humboldt University of Berlin. She developed the work for her thesis at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and was awarded the “Outstanding Young Scientist” Award by the European Geosciences Union for her work. Tabea was also a lead author of the chapter “Water” and a drafting author of the “Summary for Policymakers (SPM)” of the recently published IPCC 6th Assessment Report of Working Group II. She has published in a number of high-ranking peer-reviewed journals on topics around climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation as well as loss and damage. Her current academic work focusses on quantitative approaches in adaptation research.

Tobias Müller, The New Institute Hamburg

Dr Tobias Müller is Principal Investigator of the project “Democratic Futures: Climate Change, Coloniality and State Legitimacy”, funded through a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellowship at The New Institute, Hamburg. Previously, he held research and teaching positions at Oxford, Munich, Leiden, Yale and Cambridge, where he received his PhD in Politics and International Studies. His research interests include political and social theory, the politics of climate change, secularism and Islam in Europe, and decolonial and feminist theory. His research has been funded by the European Research Council, the DAAD and the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. His recent work has been published in *Political Theory*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Social Compass*, *Religion, State and Society* and *Review of Faith & International Affairs*. He has published various op-eds, including in *Nature*.

Carole-Anne Senit

Carole-Anne Sénit is Assistant Professor of Inclusive Sustainability Governance with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. She is a political scientist by training, with a career spanning both research on and practice in the civil society sector. Her research explores the integration of the Global South within global change science, global civil society, and global institutions. She is a senior research fellow of the Earth System Governance Project, co-convenor of the project's taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals and managing editor of the *Earth System Governance* journal. She obtained her PhD from Utrecht University, in joint supervision with IDDRI. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked as a research fellow at CEVIPOF and IDDRI. She holds a 5-year integrated MSc in Political Science and Sustainable Development from Sciences Po Paris, and speaks French, English, and Spanish.