



Abstract Booklet

[GSA-NA / EPSM-TNS Conference 2022](#)

Co-hosted by

The Global Studies Association of North America
The New School Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management and Global Studies Programs

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CONFERENCE DAY 1: TUESDAY, Aug 9, 2022

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Keynote

THEME: Global Capitalism: It's Impact on Nature, the City, and Health

Moderator: Jerry Harris

- **Eve Darian-Smith: Rising Antidemocracy and the Climate Crisis**

Global and International Studies, University of California Irvine

This talk explores the connections between a global rise of antidemocratic politics and the escalation of climate change, manifested through catastrophic wildfires. As political leaders and big businesses work together in the pursuit of profits and power, anti-environmental policies (including science denial) have become essential political tools enabling the rise of extreme right governments. Exploring this process through fires in Australia, Brazil and California, I argue that wildfires facilitated by far-right leaders in recent years connects the political erosion of liberal democracy with the corrosion of the environment, in turn threatening the collective future of humanity.

Eve Darian-Smith worked as a corporate lawyer in Australia before coming to the United States to pursue a PhD in sociocultural anthropology. Trained as a lawyer, historian and anthropologist, she is a critical interdisciplinary scholar interested in issues of postcolonialism, human rights, legal pluralism, and sociolegal theory. Her current work focuses on authoritarianism and crises of democracy with research supported by five grants from the National Science Foundation, as well as grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, American Philosophical Society, and the UC Center for New Racial Studies. Eve has published widely, including thirteen books, edited volumes and special issues. Her first book *Bridging Divides: The Channel Tunnel and English Legal Identity in the New Europe* (2009) was the co-winner of the Law & Society Association Herbert Jacob Book Prize.

- **Leslie Sklair: Beleaguered City, Beleaguered Planet**

This talk sets out to analyze the connections between three different but related phenomena (capitalist globalization, the Anthropocene, and the Coronavirus epidemic) through the lens of iconic buildings and spaces and the cities in which they are mostly found. What all icons have in common is that they thrive by attracting visitors. My argument is that all iconic architecture is an increasingly influential part of neoliberal capitalist city planning, via global tourism, local and national place-branding, and “best city” rankings. I argue that the transnational capitalist class uses cities as competitors in a global system of lucrative investment opportunities. Capitalist globalization is widely implicated in the Anthropocene (signifying human impacts on the Earth system, usually destructive) and together they facilitate the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic. The concept of “administrative evil” is mobilized to highlight the ethical dimensions of city planning and neoliberalism, and the increasingly “beleaguered city”.

Leslie Sklair is Professor Emeritus in Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He received his PhD from LSE, and his thesis, *Sociology of Progress*, was published by Routledge in 1970 and was then translated into German. In 1973 he published *Organized Knowledge: Sociological View of Science and Technology* (which was translated into Spanish). In the 1980s he carried out field research on the developmental impacts of foreign investment in Ireland, Egypt and (more intensively) China and Mexico. He published *Assembling for Development: the Maquila Industry in Mexico and the United States* in 1989, with a second updated edition in 1993. These works provided the material basis for *Sociology of the Global System* (published 1991, second updated edition in 1995, translated into Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, Persian and Korean).

- **Victor Wallis: Climate, COVID, Class, and Capital**

The environmental crisis reflects capitalism's agenda of dominating Nature. The associated practices affect human health directly, as biodiversity loss destroys both soil and marine life, leading, along with industrial food production, to impoverishment of the human diet, which is among the factors undermining resistance to COVID-19 infection. The official US response to COVID, emphasizing vaccination and suppressing non-patented remedies, shows a parallel proclivity to dismiss natural processes and instead promote marketable products. Mainstream censorship has created an undeserved platform for right-wing forces which, while justly criticizing vaccine mandates, denounce universal healthcare yet advocate for state interference in women's reproductive decisions

Victor Wallis is an author, teacher and activist with a PhD in political science from Columbia University, 1970. He is a professor in the Liberal Arts Department at the Berklee College of Music and the author of *Red-Green Revolution: The Politics and Technology of Ecosocialism* (Political Animal Press, 2018), *Democracy Denied: Five Lectures on U.S. Politics* (Africa World Press, 2019), and *Socialist Practice Histories and Theories* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) along with many more articles on topics including Marxism, socialism, globalization, technology, ecology, capitalism, and so on.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Panel: *Environmental Crisis in the Global South*

Moderator: *Francis Adams*

1. **Jaime F. Cárdenas-García: Cuba - Public Health, Biotechnology, and the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maryland – Baltimore

Cuba, a poor country that suffers under a continuing embargo by the United States since October 16, 1960, has not only survived but prospered. Many consider it a shining light on a hill for its pursuit of a socialist way of life that is forbidden fruit in many parts of the world. Its development encompasses all aspects of a successful and self-sufficient country that takes pride on its many accomplishments achieved under the banner of socialism and internal and external solidarity. This paper examines the development of its comprehensive public health system that has allowed Cuba to assist countless countries around the

world; the motivations leading to the development and impact of a world-class biotechnology sector; and the internal and external response to the COVID-19 epidemic leading to the independent development of several vaccines. The vaccine names are reflective of the pride and self-sufficiency of a country that achieved the goal to have its population fully vaccinated by the end of the summer 2021. This unique achievement cements the reputation of Cuba as a Biopharma Juggernaut.

2. Julio C. Capeles: Energy Crisis in Puerto Rico

Oakton Community College

The Puerto Rican government struggled to recover their electricity grid from a major hurricane in 2017 and from a series of earthquakes in 2020. While natural disasters can easily gain all the credit for this, a deeper understanding of Puerto Rican infrastructure reveals that the energy problems are a product of a lack of maintenance of an obsolete system that relies on fossil fuels, and a lack of sustainable and renewable alternatives. This presentation reviews the danger of fossil fuel reliance and explores the renewable energy alternatives that can be used to address Puerto Rico's energy crisis.

3. Marek Hrubec: Post-Crisis Scenarios - Global South Environmental Alternatives

PhD., Centre of Global Studies IP CAS, Prague

Societal trajectories do not unfold smoothly but through crises and disasters and their overcoming. Based on historical experience, we know that human civilization is unlikely to avoid further disasters. We have to be prepared for what to do after a deep environmental crisis. We can learn from past disasters of technocratic pathologies and previous humans. It is relevant to understand that our alternative forms of living are more about post-disaster scenarios, than prevention of the deep environmental crisis. In the first wave of the environmental disaster, developing countries of the Global South may be hit the hardest because they are already extremely vulnerable to any instability. However, the Global South is better prepared for disaster from the long-term perspective because it is not overly dependent on the most sophisticated technical characteristics of human civilization. It is more sustainable. Post-crisis scenarios based on civilizational philosophies of the Global South are the hope of humanity.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Panel: *Environmental Social Movements: Social Ecologies and Systemic Change*

Moderator: *Lauren Langman*

1. Lauren Langman: Generational Change Meets Climate Change

Loyola University Chicago

One of the most important aspects of social movements, and often given little attention, is the differential impact of the social, historical material context on each generation. More specifically, for Karl

Mannheim, the events and conditions that transpire as every cohort comes of age, has a major impact in shaping the values and attitudes of that cohort, or segments within that cohort, that tend to endure. If we consider the progressive movements of the last few decades, major political economic context has been neoliberalism and while some generations, especially older, and whiter cohorts found job security, economic mobility and enjoyed the “goods” life of consumerism, the younger cohorts of today, are more likely to face economic stagnation and precarity, facing enormous amounts of college debt, compounded by the worst pandemic in 100 years. At the same time, given the general trends of industrial societies, especially among the educated segments, the youngest cohorts, consider the Z generation, the largest generation in American history, tends to be the most liberal politically, socially, sexually, etc. valuing and appreciating people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or gender orientation. Moreover, it is not surprising that the current generation of youth, roughly late teens to late 20s, are not simply most aware of the adversities of climate change- in many cases, having personally experienced the externalities of fossil capital from air pollution and global warming to rampaging forest fires, droughts, the evaporation but are most likely to become activists seeking to forestall if not end the despoliation of the environment. Let us just note that for many environmentalist groups such as 350.org, Sunshine, or Just Stop Oil, the frontline activists, think Keystone pipeline, are mostly the young. While fossil capital garners vast profits, growing numbers of the population, especially the youth, are winning more and more victories, while encouraging alternative energy production. The nature of cohort flow suggests that the progressive values of this generation, almost half support socialism, while gaining numbers and power be the ones who save the planet. Given the alternative, they better be.

2. Zehra Yaşın: The Socio-ecological question and the Anti-Systemic Environmentalism

Assistant Professor of Sociology, ASBU

The global ecological crisis of the capitalist world system or ‘the sustainability crisis’ has manifested the ecological contradictions and limits of the capitalist expansion and the hegemony of economic rationality. Yet, it has also signaled the blind spots of the historical materialism and of the value episteme construed on the basis of capital-labor relation at the expense of the value of ecological relations. In this paper, I will argue two central contentions. First, I will contend that we can understand the current phase of anti-systemic movements predominantly through the globally expanding forms of resistance centered on environment, food, climate, soil, water and so on as a collective critique of the global capitalist relations of production, rather than through the collective agency of the “working class”. Second, I will contend that we should understand the global environmental justice movement as the most potent anti-systemic social force at present expressing “the second contradiction of capitalism”. In making these arguments, I will introduce what I call the socio-ecological question in establishing the historical link between the global environmental justice movement and the capitalist world system. I will argue that the current historical moment of the social question has taken the form of the socio-ecological crisis, and the critique of the capitalist world-system needs internalizing the socio-ecological relations of production by understanding these relations through capital-nature relation in order to understand the socio-ecological movements as the central constituents of the anti-systemic movement wave in the current conjuncture.

3. David Barkin: Shaping a Communitarian Ethos in an Era of Ecological Crisis

Professor, Departamento de Producción Económica, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City, Mexico

In response to the deep social and ecological crisis for which the international community is proving incapable of attenuating, many Peasants and Indigenous peoples in Mexico, and in other parts of the Global South, are transforming their visions of their futures, shaping a new ethos of self-management and conviviality, consistent with a responsible relationship to their territories. From the vantage point of the Global South, these peoples constitute a social and economic force that is altering the social and productive dynamics in many countries, proposing models of organization and building alliances among themselves regionally and internationally to exchange information, develop common strategies, and provide political support. In Mexico, many continue to produce traditional crops, while modifying their techniques to incorporate agroecological experiences from other communities, diversifying output and protecting the environment. Recently, they are enriching local practices with a systematization of their inherited traditions and cosmologies, creating effective models of social, political and environmental organization that lend authority to their claims to be able to manage their territories autonomously. There is a growing body of scientific literature that substantiates this capacity, demonstrating that the collective knowledge of the global networks of local communities is more effective in protecting biodiversity and attending to their own basic needs while improving their quality of life than that of societies more fully integrated into the global economy. In conclusion, we describe how these visions are shaping international networks, defining new channels for collaboration, improving the quality of life for people in these communities, while protecting them from the continuing incursions of capital.

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Keynote

THEME: The Intersections of Indigenous Rights and Climate Justice (with [Indigenous Climate Action](#))

Moderator: Eriel Tchekwie Deranger

Panel:

- **Rebecca Sinclair**
- **Breanne Lavallee-Heckart**
- **Jayce Chiblow**

Indigenous experts will explore the intersections of Indigenous rights and climate justice. At Indigenous Climate Action we center Indigenous knowledge, rights and culture to reinforce the vital role of Indigenous peoples in leading and driving climate justice movements. Climate justice requires systemic and transformative shifts that go beyond reducing global emissions by addressing root causes - colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy and extractivism. Through uplifting Indigenous peoples rights and cultures as a critical pathway to climate justice we can counter hegemonic politics moving towards decolonization that ultimately protects biodiversity, bolsters land, food and energy security and sovereignty leading to collective liberation.

Eriel Tchekwie Deranger is a Dēnesų́liné mother from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and the Executive Director and co-founder of Indigenous Climate Action (ICA), an Indigenous-led climate justice organization in so-called Canada. Deranger is a member of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, and sits on various boards including Bioneers, It Takes Roots Leadership Council, Climate Justice Resiliency Fund Council of Advisors, and WWF Canada; and was a founding member of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

Deranger's work focuses on Indigenous rights and building intersectional dialogue between Indigenous rights, climate justice and other social justice movements. She is recognized for her role as the spokespersons for her community (ACFN) in the international Indigenous Tar Sands Campaign and developing the Tar Sands Healing Walk. This included developing one of the first Indigenous rights-based divest movements; lobbying government officials in Canada, the US, the UK and the EU; supporting and leading mass mobilizations against the fossil fuel industry & climate change; and bringing international recognition to issues in her territory with celebrities and politicians alike.

Deranger has written for the Guardian, Yellowhead Institute, The National Observer, Red Pepper Magazine; has been featured in documentary films including Elemental (2012); and is regularly interviewed for national and international media outlets including Democracy Now!, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), and CBC.

Rebecca Sinclair (Merasty) is a nēhiyaw-iskwēw, wife and mother of three, she is originally from Barren Lands First Nation (Treaty 5) and a member of Little Saskatchewan First Nation (Treaty 2). She moved to Winnipeg, a guest on Treaty One territory, to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Native Studies from the University of Manitoba. Rebecca holds multiple positions in land defence, cultural revitalization, research, and acting board member of Akiing Onji Foundation (From the Land) and Waterways. Actively reclaiming her native language, Rebecca pursues higher learning that comes from the land and through learning alongside knowledge keepers and Elders. Her childhood spent on the land in northern Manitoba, has shaped her understanding and guided her efforts to protect and preserve the great gifts of our sacred Earth.

Rebecca started with ICA in 2020 providing research support to the Decolonizing Climate Policy phase one report. Rebecca moved into a full time role with ICA in 2021 in research and policy supporting the creation and implementation of Phase 2 of the Decolonizing Climate Policy project. Currently she sits as Director of Education and Programming.

Breanne Lavallée-Heckert is a Michif woman with German settler ancestry from Red River and Treaty 1 Territory. Her Michif family is from the Métis community of St. Ambroise, Manitoba, located on the southern tip of Lake Manitoba. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights from the University of Winnipeg, as well as a Bachelor of Civil Law and Juris Doctor from McGill University. Breanne is committed to decolonizing understandings of law and governance through the active embodiment of Métis sovereignty. She is a proud member of Red River Echoes, a collective of Métis people who are reclaiming culture, laws, and languages across our Homelands. Breanne enjoys writing, spending time with the land, and telling stories with friends and family.

Jayce Chiblow (she/her) is Anishinaabe from Garden River First Nation, Ontario. She has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology and a Masters of Environmental Studies. Jayce's Masters research was conducted in her community where she brought together youth, community leaders, and knowledge keepers in a workshop-style gathering focused on climate action through an Indigenous food sovereignty lens. Jayce started with ICA in 2020 and has worked as the Community Engagement Lead and Toolkit Lead where she supported the creation, dissemination and implementation of ICA's Toolkit and Climate Leadership Program. Currently, she sits as the Education and Training Manager where she will continue to support ICA's development of education and training programs/materials.

CONFERENCE DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, Aug 10, 2022

10:00 am - 11:30 am

1. Bridging the Gap Between Academia and Public Engagement – the Work of the [Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung](#) on Climate Justice

Panel:

- Nadja Charaby (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Berlin)
- Roland Ngam (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Johannesburg)
- David Williams (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, New York City)

According to the latest report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the beginning of 2022, we have 3 years left to stay within 1.5°C global warming. While any public engagement to advocate for climate justice must appeal to human emotions, it must also be grounded in scientific evidence. Nadja Charaby (RLS Berlin), Roland Ngam (RLS Johannesburg), and David Williams (RLS NYC) will present their route from academia to public engagement, the work of RLS on climate justice, and the new international climate justice program of RLS in New York City.

12:00 pm - 1:45 pm Keynote

THEME: Power, Resistance & Transformation in Global Environmental Politics: Governance Crisis and Counterhegemonic Pathways

Moderator: Leonardo Figueroa Helland

- **Carmen G. Gonzalez: Racial Capitalism and the Anthropocene**

Morris I. Liebman Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law

In recent years, interest in racial capitalism has exploded in several disciplines, including history, political theory, political ecology, and cultural studies. The concept of racial capitalism has been embraced by scholars and activists as a means of exploring the common roots of seemingly unrelated contemporary phenomena. These include extreme economic inequality; the resurgence of right-wing authoritarian ethno-nationalism; increasingly militarized and racialized policing and border control; the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous peoples and others racialized as inferior; the expulsion to the margins of society of growing numbers of humans, including persons who are unemployed, incarcerated, or homeless; and the unprecedented degradation of the ecological systems that support human and non-human life. This presentation will introduce the concept of racial capitalism and discuss its relevance to the intersecting socio-ecological crises of the Anthropocene.

Carmen G. Gonzalez is a Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She is a world-renowned expert in international environmental law, environmental justice, human rights and the environment, and food security. Professor Gonzalez has taught at numerous prestigious academic institutions around the globe and has participated in environmental law capacity projects in Asia, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina, a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge in the UK, a visiting professor at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in China, and a US Supreme Court Fellow. She later served as the George Soros Visiting Chair at the Central European University School of Public Policy in Budapest, Hungary, and as the Norton Rose Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Houston Law Center.

- **Patrick Bond: “Fix it or Nix it”: Hegemonic Reformist Reforms versus Counterhegemonic Delegitimization in Global Environmental/Climate Governance**

Reform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is overdue for not only institutional credibility and broader potentials for global governance during multiple world crises, but also survival of organized social life on the planet. However, especially since the 1997 Kyoto Protocol emphasized carbon markets and offsets, and since the 2009 Copenhagen Accord privileged the power of large emitters - from both the West and the BRICS+ economies - demands made by the Climate Justice movement have failed to gain more than rhetorical traction. The presentation illustrates this by focusing on climate financing debates, including compensation demands (Loss & Damage, adaptation and payments for not emitting due to lack of available atmospheric space), drawing lessons from South Africa's Rain Bombs (that killed 500 in the Durban area), concluding with six core CJ approaches to COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The essential question for scholars, activists and anyone involved in climate advocacy, is whether UN reforms - especially in relation to finance - strengthen the logic of the hegemonic, market-centric system and thus slow or even prevent meaningful progress on the one hand, or whether meaningful strategies to demand climate reparations (such as "Debt for climate!") might prevail on the other.

Patrick Bond is a political economist, political ecologist and scholar of social mobilization. From 2020-21 he was Professor at the Western Cape School of Government and from 2015-2019 was a Distinguished Professor of Political Economy at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Governance. From 2004 through mid-2016, he was Senior Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Built Environment and Development Studies and was also Director of the Centre for Civil Society. Patrick also

served as visiting professor at Gyeongsang National University, South Korea and as an associate of the Leverhulme Centre for the Study of Value at the University of Manchester.

- **Bhumika Muchhala: From the New Green Imperialism to A Feminist & Decolonial Global Green New Deal: Global Economic Justice, Intersectional Decoloniality and Structural Change for Climate Justice**

Third World Network, The New School

A feminist and decolonial Global Green New Deal resists the socially constructed hierarchies of racial, gender, class, caste sexuality and ability based inequalities which underpin colonial, neoliberal, and capitalist structures, systems and discourses. It recognizes that the ecological collapse we are experiencing in climate change is the direct result of an unequal social contract in which these hierarchies shape our social and economic relations. A decolonial stance means that we cannot deny that we live in a world where black, brown, feminine, queer and working-class people endure acts of dehumanization. A feminist and decolonial GGND creates a new paradigm that forges active links between climate change, racialized and gendered labor exploitation, trade rules and economic structures that reproduce inequalities both within and among nations. It is critical for a feminist and decolonial GGND to be global, as no country or region exists in isolation in a world that is inextricably interdependent through trade, human, capital and climate flows. An internationalist, intersectional, global justice and decolonial historical lens and consciousness is indispensable to a future that is ecologically, economically and socially just.

Bhumika Muchhala is a political economist, activist, and educator on international financial architecture, feminist economics, decolonial political economy and global economic justice with over 20 years of experience in global justice organizations. This includes her work at Third World Network where she has been engaged in advocacy and research on UN processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Financing for Development, as well as on the policies of the Bretton Woods Institutions. Her works on a feminist economic justice and a feminist and decolonial green new deal are key and timely interventions in contemporary global debates, such as in relation to the Feminist Economic Justice for People & Planet Action-Nexus. She is currently working on her PhD in political economy of global inequalities and decolonial and feminist theory at The New School in New York and consults with various organizations on advancing economic justice and rights.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Panel: *Racial Justice and Earth Crisis*

Moderator: *Mia White*

1. **Rose Brewer: Imperial Racial Monopoly Capitalism and Black World Resistance: Centering the Environmental Imperative**

Ph.D., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

One of the most powerful revolutionary visions of Black life across Africa and the African diaspora is the defeat of white world supremacy and racial monopoly capitalism. From the struggles against colonialism and drive for Black Power of the 20th century to the Black Lives Matter movement today, we are in a period of uprising for fundamental social change. Indeed, at the core of the contemporary fight is dismantling imperial global monopoly capitalist extractivism. The system drives environmental devastation and catalyzes the demand for self-emancipation and determination in the Black world. In this very difficult period of resurgent white nationalism, police murders, and in the wake of deep resistance to these realities, climate disaster, capitalist extractivism and environmental devastation are core imperatives for social transformation. The environmental imperative drives Black struggle in the context of the expropriation of land, labor, minerals, desertification, a planet on fire - death. Imperial racial monopoly capitalism articulates a world system where the poorest people on the face of the earth are Black, Brown, indigenous, young, female, children, and human and nonhuman forms face extinction. This social reality is expressed in a set of complex social relations involving multiple sites of oppression. In this paper the analysis centers on today's theory and practice for radical change across Africa and the African diaspora given the environmental imperative. The transformational demand is for sustaining life, land, dignity, livelihood and the earth.

2. Carl Davidson and Dan Swinney: Advanced Manufacturing, Racial Justice and the Green New Deal

Manufacturing Renaissance

High-road, advanced manufacturing is fundamental to addressing progressive goals. While many environmentalists dismiss manufacturing as irrelevant or anti-green, the climate crisis still requires a Green New Deal to transform our energy sources into renewables, design and build new infrastructure, and manufacture hardware. But for a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future, we need to manufacture new equipment and products with new supply chains, new skills, and new relations of production. Public investment in advanced manufacturing that is democratic, inclusive, and well-funded can offer solutions for a just transition and the foundation for more significant transformations, building popular unity and momentum for change. Without fundamental rethinking of how such a transformational GND will work, however, the default outcome is a system that, while it may be less damaging to the environment, reinforces racial and economic inequality. Neoliberal assumptions and institutions would remain in control of our future. Only a Green New Deal that demands a different approach to power relations in the economy will create new wealth for the working class and people of color, shift control of production, and move toward a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

3. Cynthia Golembeski: Political and Contextual Determinants of Health and Vulnerability to Incarceration and Climate Change

The New School

Harms associated with incarceration and climate change disproportionately impact under-resourced people who are Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), and those living with disabilities. Limited empirical evidence exists regarding the joint health effects of both climate change and mass incarceration, which occur in cascading and overlapping categories, and result in "processes of reciprocal causality across multiple subsystems" (Williams et al., 2019, pp. 106). Both anthropogenic climate

change and hyper-incarceration also are rooted in historical and current structural choices that result in political-economic and racial injustice. The political determinants of climate vulnerability and health impacting incarcerated people, whereby existing inequities and marginalization are exacerbated, amplify negative health effects (Dawes, 2020). We outline how the political determinants of health and contextual vulnerability inform the twin forces of incarceration and climate change, independently and interdependently amidst climate-society interactions involving people who are incarcerated.

Cynthia Golembeski will be presenting on behalf of a research team that also includes Andrea Armstrong, Ans Irfan, Michael Méndez, and Nicholas Shapiro

Cynthia Golembeski is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar completing her PhD at The New School Milano School of policy, Management, and Environment. She uses mixed methods to analyze how policy, law, ethics, and management operate at the nexus of criminal legal and health systems. Related research focuses on social safety net policies as determinants of health and safety.

Andrea Armstrong, MPA, JD, is a professor at Loyola University, New Orleans, College of Law.

Ans Irfan, MD, EdD, DrPH, MPH, is a faculty member at George Washington University, director of Climate and Health Equity Practice Fellowship, an inducted member of the Harvard Climate Entrepreneur's Circle, and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar.

Michael Méndez, PhD, is assistant professor of environmental planning and policy at the University of California at Irvine, and a visiting scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

Nicholas Shapiro, DPhil, is an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, Institute for Society and Genetics, and director at Carceral Ecologies.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Panel: *Examining the Impact of Production, Energy, Technology, and Media*

Moderator: *Lee Artz*

1. Oleg Suša: Environmental Crisis, and Global Production of Risks - Some Important Aspects

Center of Global Studies, Czech Academy of Sciences, Praha, Czechia

Neoliberal globalization started to reproduce manifold crises, which -with many risks and consequences - have negative impact on local societies. Transnational forces weakened many states and destabilized their societies. Weak states and societies, including the post socialist ones, are more vulnerable to social and environmental dangers. Worldwide globalization and capitalist transnational power brought worsening of social and environmental problems including global climatic change with serious ecological and socio-economic implications, migration and poverty, social inequalities, unemployment and work exploitation and degradation, accumulation by dispossession, rent and resources extraction. The global danger to peace is multiplied by current militarization, warfare proliferation and legitimization of wars and military interventions.

2. Lee Artz: US Media Framing of Conflict in the Middle East: Human and Environmental Consequences

Ph. D. Professor, Media Studies. Chair, Graduate Faculty Committee, Communication, Director, Center for Global Studies

This presentation outlines commercial media frames of US occupations and interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and across the Middle East. For US media, fighting terrorism explains each US assault, while any popular resistance to US occupations is also labeled terrorism. Comparing Trump and Biden administration bombings of Syria indicate that recurring US media frames of the geo-politics of conflict ideologically legitimize US sanctions and military actions with little political or historical context. The same media frames that normalize US interventions omit coverage of the environmental effects of war, with scant or no reporting on pollution, destruction of the infrastructure for clean water, destruction and contamination of agriculture, and the inadequate resources available for environmentally-sustainable recovery.

3. [Shehla Arif](#): Energy, Epistemology, and Sustaining Life: Averting the Energy Crisis Using Green Technologies?

Ph.D. Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. University of Mount Union

The promise of Green technologies for energy generation offers optimism in the face of severe multiple, intersectional crises (ecological, environmental, economic, social, political, racial, gender, health). We first examine the feasibilities and potential of the promise from a technical standpoint. By exploring their shortfalls and harmful impacts on the vast majority of people, we show how these promises are false solutions to the above-mentioned crises brought on by climate change induced by oppressive relations among humans and between humans and nature. We then examine the Knowledge/ Power relationships that reproduce these oppressive hierarchies and unjust distribution of resources, sometimes unbeknownst to the actors, even when it offers a “Just Transition” from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources. Lastly, we present a few possibilities for a sustainable future whose seeds are ancestral, on the verge of extinction, and we must plant now!

6:00 – 7:30 Keynote

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Beyond Green Colonialism in Global Environmental/Climate Politics: Towards Decolonial Solidarity with Earth's Revolt

- **Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice
*in conversation with***
- **Leonardo Figueroa Helland, PhD (Chair & Assoc. Professor of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management, The New School)**
- **Moderator: Pratik Raghu**

Beyond prevalent social and environmental movement framing, an unfolding history of epochal upheavals already upon us compels us to ask: what does it mean, in terms of knowledge, vision, strategy, and movement praxis to embrace the disruptive horizon of systemic change through active solidarity with the revolt of Mother Earth? As the patriarchal technocracy, state-centric governance and imperial mode of living which created the crisis seek to perpetuate themselves through the climate-disaster capitalism of a (neo)colonial green economy, we instead reframe climate upheavals as a potential portal, window, and invitation, for disaster decolonization-- a multispecies struggle for the liberation of all relatives, human and nonhuman peoples, waters and lands. Join the [Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice](#) in conversation with Prof. [Leonardo Figueroa Helland](#) to explore in a roundtable discussion these and other urgent questions.

- **Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice**

- Leslie Quintanilla, Assistant Professor- Women & Gender Studies San Francisco State University
- Amrah Salomón, Assistant Professor- English Department UC Santa Barbara
- Emma Harrison, Post-Doctoral Fellow- Department of Oceanography Dalhousie University
- Marlene Brito-Millán, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Northwestern University.
- Janin Guzmán-Morales, Post-Doctoral Fellow- Department of Geography UC Santa Barbara

The Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice is a collective of activists, academics, scientists, and artists working for decolonial environmental justice efforts trans-locally. Their members are in San Diego, CA, San Francisco, CA, El Paso, TX, and Guerrero, MX. They align themselves with Indigenous struggles for land, water, and life. These take many forms in many places, but are connected through resistance to capitalist/colonial extractivism and restoration of land relations. In the San Diego-Tijuana border region, they stand with the Kumeyaay Nation to protect the last undisturbed stretch of the San Diego River from sand mining and to protect sacred burial grounds from border wall construction/destruction. In the broader U.S. Southwest and Chile/Argentina region, they stand in solidarity with communities fighting lithium mining.

- **Leonardo Figueroa Helland**

Leonardo E Figueroa Helland (PhD) is Chair and Associate Professor of the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management graduate (MS) program at The New School university (Lenapehoking/Manahatta/New York City). He leads the Indigeneity, Decolonization and Just Sustainability Section of the Tishman Environment and Design Center. A decolonizing scholar of mix-blood/mestizo heritage (Indigenous Mesoamerican and Euro-American), his work underlines the centrality of Indigenous resurgence and revitalization in addressing planetary crises, achieving climate justice and materializing systemic change. His writings appear, inter alia, in the *Journal of World Systems Research*, the journal *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*, the volume on *Social Movements and World-System Transformation*, and the volumes on *Anarchist Political Ecology*, on *Contesting Extinctions: Critical Relationality, Regenerative Futures*, as well as the forthcoming *NYU Environmental Law Journal (ELJ)--Special Volume on "Free the Land—Land Tenure and Stewardship*

Reimagined". His current projects include a manuscript prospectively titled "*Anthropocene*" Collapse / *Indigenous Resurgence: From Planetary Crises to Decolonization*.

CONFERENCE DAY 3: THURSDAY, Aug 11, 2022

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Keynote

THEME: Anti-Patriarchal and Anti-Racist Environmental Politics: Black, Indigenous and Global South Feminist Approaches

Co-Moderators: Abigail Perez Aguilera & Mia White

- **K. Melchor Quick Hall: A Transnational Black Feminist Approach to Food Sovereignty**

Resident Scholar, Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University

Engaging a Black feminist scholar-activist praxis, Hall applies a transnational Black feminist (TBF) framework (Hall 2020) to a mapping of gendered ecologies (Hall and Kirk 2021) that connects Honduras and Tanzania in a food sovereignty project. The Transnational Black Women's Food Sovereignty Project that brings together the struggles of two women's groups—one in each country—is funded by the Institute of International Education, through a Centennial Fellowship. Discussing the TBF principles of intersectionality, scholar-activism, solidarity, attention to borders/boundaries, and radically transparent positionality, Hall explores the challenging work of an anti-capitalist land steward engaging the politics of property, food, water, gendered violence, and taxes.

K. Melchor Quick Hall is a faculty member in the Human and Organizational Development doctoral programs in Fielding Graduate University's School of Leadership Studies. She is also a 2019-2020 visiting scholar at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center, and has recently been an instructor for Boston University's Prison Education Program. Outside of the academy, she speaks out against racism in the food system as a member of the Soul Fire Farm Speakers Collective and the Northeast Farmers of Color (NEFOC) network. Her book is *Naming a Transnational Black Feminist Framework: Writing in Darkness*, which was published as a part of Routledge's "Worlding Beyond the West" international relations series.

- **Gladys Tzul Tzul: Gladys Tzul Tzul: Voluntad de vida. Mujeres indígenas y reconstrucción después del genocidio. (Will to Life: Indigenous Women and Reconstruction After Genocide)**

Gladys Tzul Tzul is a Maya K'iche' activist, public intellectual, sociologist, and visual artist who was one of the first to study indigenous communal politics and gender relationships in Guatemala. She earned a master's degree from the Alberto Hurtado University in Chile and a PhD in sociology from Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla in Mexico. Her scholarly work focuses on the relationships of indigenous women within their communities and with larger political structures, such as federal

governments. In many of her articles, Tzul Tzul describes how indigenous women resist domination and exploitation through communal democracy in the Andes and Mesoamerica. Indigenous land ownership is also one of her key beliefs.

- **Abigail Pérez Aguilera: Cuerpo-Territorio and Multispecies Cosmopolitics**

Drew University (Women and Gender Studies); The New School (Global Studies)

As discussed by Nelson (2020) “nonhuman nature offers more intelligent and resilient models” for change and survival. However, as part of the embodiments from the colonial continuum, our -human- notions of cooperation and survival are mediated through a capitalist, colonial, patriarchal and anthropocentric lens. Hence, the colonial continuum understood as the ongoing process of colonization transgressing time and spaces, is inserted within institutions, bodies, and imaginations. Therefore, the complex interactions between species are limited by our humanity, presenting our (radical) ideals as possible solutions being our human interactions, the ones limiting other non-human species.

Is it possible to build affective relations with non-humans? Should we renounce and neglect our own constitution as humans and “learn from others”? Then, what would a multi-species affect theory look like? and most importantly what are the embodiments (or lack thereof) derived from this type of non-Anthropocentric affectivity?

In this chapter I discuss how is it possible to create a multi-species resistance based on a critical approach to affect theory, based on the Global South feminist conceptualization of *cuerpo-territorio* as well as a affective multi-species approach that does not focus (and even rejects) discussions on (climate) grief or anxiety but focus on a deeper and critical reflection on how multi-species resistances are based on a non-Anthropocentric affectivity, including one that moves beyond a Eurocentric idea(l) of (human) corporeal politics.

Abigail Pérez Aguilera is an Assistant Teaching Professor in Women and Gender Studies at Drew University. She is affiliated to the Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School., where she has also taught in the Global Studies and Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management programs. Her most recent work is a co-authored piece titled “Decolonize,,: Planetary Crisis, Biocultural Diversity, Indigenous Resurgence, and Land Rematriation.” (2022) Other publications by Abigail are: *The Tangibility of Maize: Indigenous Literature, Bioart, and Violence in Mexico* (2016); *Mining and Indigenous Cosmopolitics: The Wirikuta Case* (2016) Her work and teaching ranges from environmental humanities, ecofeminism, anti-colonial practices and movements, Indigenous and global studies, feminist anti-colonial theory and theories of the body and territory. She is part of the Latin American Observatory of the Humanities for the Environment observatories (HfE).

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Panel: *Subaltern Approaches to Education, Gender, Environment, and Justice*

Moderator: *Sabrina Chapa*

1. Coraina de la Plaza, False Solutions to Climate Change from the Ecofeminist Perspective (Global Forest Coalition: Forest & Climate Campaign)

Social Media Officer, [Global Forest Coalition](#)

This presentation will address how environmental, social, gender and climate justice cannot be disconnected from each other, which is illustrated through stories from activists from different parts of the world. We will address unjust and false climate solutions such as carbon market-based ones, which endanger the collective rights and food sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples, women, and local communities. We will also showcase examples of what gender-just and transformative climate solutions really look like.

2. Felicia Graham and Chris Wegemer: Earth-centered and Healing: Decolonizing Pedagogies Through Global Studies

Radical pedagogies are needed to both rectify the reproduction of neoliberalism in our education systems and mobilize youth to be leaders in counter-hegemonic movements. The field of Global Studies offers perspectives that are distinct from other disciplines and may inform new liberational pedagogical strategies. Specifically, Global Studies is inherently (1) trans-boundary, (2) decentering, (3) reflexive, (4) temporally conscious of the *longue durée*, (5) confronting otherness, which can guide a humanizing ethics of love, and (6) embracing of the commons that emancipatory education aspirationally advances. Our work addresses a glaring gap in the education literature by articulating the implications of Global Studies perspectives for intersectional, anti-oppressive, and transformational learning.

3. Katherine Funes: Salvadoran LGBTIQ Liberation Meets Environmental Justice: Lessons from La Marcha del Orgullo

Dept. of Global and International Studies, University of California Irvine

El Salvador's Marcha del Orgullo, which began in 1997, has been a key tool in Salvadoran LGBTIQ liberation movements. The marchas have protested the HIV/AIDs epidemic, violence against trans women, and discriminatory state identification policies. Following this historical precedent, I examine the presence of climate and environmental concerns at the 2022 marcha given worldwide environmental precarity. While this precarity exists at a global scale, its impact is distributed unevenly across systems of marginalization. The marcha illuminates the specific ways LGBTIQ Salvadorans not only experience environmental suppression but also how they mobilize around these issues through a queer liberatory politic.

4. Manjun Hao: Queering Climate Justice: Namibian Anti-sodomy Laws and Prison as Colonial Legacy

The New School, Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility

Gender and sexual minority in Namibia are more vulnerable to climate risks. Navigating a postcolonial and post-apartheid urban space, gender and sexual minority in the Namibian capital city Windhoek endure socioeconomic disadvantages such as housing or employment discrimination, fear of gender or sex-based violence, threat of incarceration, inadequate health care and infrastructure in prison. Environmental exposure and the inaccessibility of social services weaken gender or sexual minority's ability to mediate climate vulnerability. Taking a queer feminist and intersectional approach, the paper reviews Namibian politicians' speech acts that politicize queerness to be a Western invention, urban planning documents, and Namibian queer activists' statements to argue that the climate justice movement should challenge anti-sodomy laws and the colonial prison/criminal justice system as part of the decolonizing effort.

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Panel: *Indigenous Struggles for Climate Justice*

Moderator: *Pratik Raghu & Claudia Tomateo*

- 1. Pratik Raghu: Uncommoning Solidarity: Strategies for Engaging Non-anthropocentric Ontologies Illuminated by Indigenous Struggles in Jharkhand, India, and Oaxaca, Mexico**

University of California Santa Barbara

Many false solutions to late capitalism's mounting climate / environmental crises crucially reinforce the anthropocentric—or, rather, capitalocentric and Eurocentric—separation of humans and other-than-human beings when calling for a renewal of the commons. In this paper, I take up the provocation of the uncommons proposed by Marisol de la Cadena and Mario Blaser in response to these restrictive and counterproductive commoning agendas. Drawing upon my participatory action research with frontline Indigenous communities in Jharkhand, India, and Oaxaca, Mexico, I argue that reckoning with the “entangled excess” of commoning is essential for recognizing and valorizing non-anthropocentric ontologies in anti-capitalist coalition-building.

Keywords: Anthropocene, commons, India, Indigenous peoples, Mexico, uncommons

- 2. Alex Scrivner & Sisto Dos Santos: This is a Slow Revolution:” The Sakulolo Pala Agroecology Project and Everyday Resistance to Bare Life under Post-Conflict Transition**

Syracuse University; HAK Dili, Timor-Leste

The ways civil conflict impacts cultivated ancestral ecologies remains under-researched from a critical perspective. ‘Sakulolo Pala’ is a landholding located within the far East of Timor-Leste and was a semi-consistent base for FRETILIN guerilla fighters during the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Today, indigenous and migrating residents from other Timorese districts intend to reclaim and cultivate the area as a permanent home. The scope of this paper evaluates how rural marginalization has impacted the

community of Sakulolo Pala's choices in accessing its basic needs and how conflict during the Indonesian era has left residual effects on social ecology and agricultural knowledge and biodiversity. Speaking to how violent conflict and forced migration impact rural farming projects and livelihoods during a post-conflict transition, this paper will draw upon the theoretical perspectives of critical agrarian and development studies, social-ecological systems, and necropolitical theory, while also being supplemented by understandings of neoliberal market integration and development schemes, current and past legal tenure for land privatization in Timor-Leste, and studies of cultural memory.

3. James V. Riker: Re-Mobilizing the Environmental Movement in Indonesia: Balancing Democratic Governance, Climate Justice and Environmental Sustainability

Independent Scholar, Democratic Approaches to Global Governance (DAGG) Initiative

This paper examines the historical evolution and strategic articulation of the environmental movement in Indonesia from the 1980s to the present day. Specifically, this study analyzes the environmental movement's capacity to respond to Indonesia's multifaceted environmental crisis and to address climate action and environmental sustainability. Indonesia represents a pivotal country to solving the global climate crisis. As the world's fourth largest democracy and the fifth leading contributor of global greenhouse (GGH) emissions, Indonesia raises important questions for understanding the structural dynamics affecting environmental movements, state-NGO relations, and democratic governance in the developing world. With its origins under an authoritarian government, the modern environmental movement in Indonesia emerged in the 1980s as a spearhead for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote local participatory governance and sustainable development. Linking development from below to the transnational environmental movement in the late-1980s and the 1990s, Indonesia's environmental movement focused its advocacy on grassroots environmental activism and resistance while engaging in collective action at the national and regional levels to protest large-scale development projects that threatened communities' livelihoods, natural resources and the environment. The deforestation and burning of tropical rainforests in Borneo and Sumatra led to the expansion of palm oil plantations in the late-1990s and 2000s giving rise to transnational networks and campaigns to mobilize advocacy to challenge the environmental policies and practices of the Indonesian government and transnational corporations. The need for concerted climate action is critical as Indonesian forest fires in 2013 accounted for 25 percent of all global carbon emissions worldwide. Since the 2000s, the state has sought to undercut the environmental movement's transnational linkages and to de-mobilize the environmental movement within Indonesia. This analysis explores the implications for re-mobilizing the environmental movement in Indonesia to advance sustained action on climate justice and environmental sustainability.

4. Claudia Tomateo: Indigenous Land Systems and Emerging of Green Infrastructure Planning in the Peruvian Coastal Desert: Tensions and Opportunities

Urban Systems Lab, The New School

For many, Green Infrastructure (GI) is a modern ecological planning concept focusing on stormwater runoff. This paper argues for the importance of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in GI planning and policy

through the case study of the Tumbes Basin. The Basin serves as home to a diverse array of Pre-Hispanic Indigenous networked agro- ecological practices and landscape interventions guided by a worldview marrying humans and landscapes dating back to immemorial times of human habitation in the Americas (~36,000 BP). By 900 BCE–1100 CE this planned regional network was actively managing landslides, stormwater runoff, and riverine flooding, all challenges are currently being exacerbated by climate change and urban development. Today, this landscape-level network is one of the biggest GI systems in Peru and yet remains unacknowledged in emergent GI policy and planning. By examining existing Peruvian scholarship on landscape practices, and visualizing Pre-Hispanic landscape networks in the Tumbes Basin, this study makes the case for Peruvian GI policy to be guided by Indigenous Knowledge and governance systems. Such a transformation requires a deeper integration of Indigenous conceptualizations of GI with other infrastructure systems and regional urban planning and design.

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Keynote

THEME: The Crisis of Hegemonic Climate Politics: Challenges and Pathways Beyond

Moderators: Leonardo Figueroa Helland & Ying Chen

- **Jason W. Moore: Beyond Climate Justice: Good Science, Bad Climate & the Environmentalism of the Rich**

How are today's dominant conceptions of climate crisis, climate history, and climate politics – even among ecosocialists – shaped by capitalism's long history of Civilizing Projects and its meta-logic of "Man and Nature"? In this presentation, environmental historian Jason W. Moore reconstructs the hegemonic influence of mainstream Environmentalism since 1968 as it entangled with the neoliberal project. This is situated within a long-run assessment of the relation between "bad climate" and civilizational crisis that offers a more nuanced – and hopeful – reckoning of climate crises and political possibility in the last days of the Holocene.

Jason W. Moore is an environmental historian and historical geographer at Binghamton University, where he is professor of sociology. He is author or editor, most recently, of *Capitalism in the Web of Life* (Verso, 2015), *Capitalocene o Antropocene?* (Ombre Corte, 2017), *Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism* (PM Press, 2016), and, with Raj Patel, *A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things* (University of California Press, 2017). His books and essays on environmental history, capitalism, and social theory have been widely recognized, including the Alice Hamilton Prize of the American Society for Environmental History (2003), the Distinguished Scholarship Award of the Section on the Political Economy of the World-System (American Sociological Association, 2002 for articles, and 2015 for Web of Life), and the Byres and Bernstein Prize in Agrarian Change (2011).

- **Ying Chen: Confronting the North-Centric Western Climate Consensus**

The New School

The capacity of the wealthy countries in the Global North to steer the mainstream discourse into one that benefits and privileges themselves at the expense of the Global South suggests that, in addition to ecological imperialism in the pure economic sense, analysis should also be applied to the uneven power relations in the political and ideological arena that serve to reproduce the overarching ecological imperialism. In this talk, I will discuss how researchers and global institutions in the Global North frame the narratives of climate change culpability through selective presentation of emission statistics that tends to minimize the accountability of the North while inflating that of the developing and emerging economies in the South. Such narratives also contain the Malthusian perception that economic development and population growth in the Global South, among all, should be taken as a major threat to climate change solutions. This type of reasoning again serves to justify and maintain the current hierarchical global system and reinforce ecological imperialism.

Ying Chen is Assistant Professor of Economics at the New School and holds a PhD in economics from University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her work explores the contradictions within capitalism and how they exhibit themselves. Topics she has studied include economic development, labor, and climate change, with a special focus on the global south. She has published in journals including *Environment and Development Economics*, *Economics and Labor Relations Review*, *Journal of Labor and Society*, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, *International Review of Applied Economics*, and so on. She was also consulted for the working of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2021.

- **Tobita Chow: Great Power Conflict and Climate Change**

Overcoming the global challenge of climate change requires greater international cooperation and structural changes to the global system. At the same time, the world is at risk of falling into a period of great power conflict between the US and China. In this talk I will discuss how great power conflict threatens climate politics, and the prospects for building an alternative of climate internationalism. I will also address the most common objection to this line of argument: that it means sacrificing concerns over human rights in China.

Tobita Chow co-founded and is Director of Justice is Global, a project organizing to resist the rise of nationalism. To do this, they are promoting a new vision for internationalism that aggressively tackles global inequality and climate change. Tobita has been organizing campaigns for corporate accountability and racial and economic justice in Chicago since 2009. He was a key leader in bringing Moral Mondays to Illinois, served as Chair of the Board of Directors of The People's Lobby, and has led trainings on the global economy and globalization on three continents. He holds a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

CONFERENCE DAY 4: FRIDAY, Aug 12, 2022

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Panel: *The Human Cost of Earth Crisis*

Moderator: *Lizander Oros*

1. Dafne Yeltekin & Zainab Koli: Abolishing the War on Climate: Movements for Collective Ecological Security

The New School

The climate crisis has been increasingly approached by powerful global actors as both a national and international security threat, rather than a matter of ecological security. Such a framework is promoted by global military institutions (NATO, the US Pentagon, etc) transnational defense corporations, and global governance (UNSC), that ultimately benefit the status quo. This paper outlines the role of these three groups in creating more insecurity, categorizes false solutions behind the climate security approach, and presents four intersection ways forward for climate justice. By highlighting the work of local and transnational movements, this paper aims to center truly alternative and systemic approaches rooted in decolonization, abolition, transnational feminism, de-growth and ecological security seeking to demilitarize and abolish a War on Climate, while returning land to Indigenous communities and building alternative institutions and relationships that foster collective wellbeing for human and non-humans.

2. Florence Molk: Migration Crisis in the Context of the Terminal Predicament of the Capitalist System

St Lawrence University

The securitization and militarization of the US/Mexico and EU borders in place to thwart migration are actually indicative of the unprecedented terminal crisis of historical capitalism. Migration, displacement of people, and the control of mobility are integral to the making of the modern world-system. The systemic phenomenon of movement of people is discernible only as a concrete instance in eco-socio-historical context. The basis of approaching the contemporary migration crisis by means of either paired opposites (voluntary/involuntary, sudden/gradual, economic/political) or apparent trigger points (war/political turmoil, economic hardships, and/or climate change) is to camouflage the systemic magnitude of the crisis, which is the waxing economic and environmental costs impairing capital accumulation.

3. Marcel Llaveró Pasquina: The Political Ecology of TotalEnergies - A Colonial Legacy of Socio-Environmental Exploitation to Fuel the Industrial Economy

Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Industrial economies require a steady supply of cheap energy to reproduce and grow. Oil companies fulfill the socio-economic function to extract, transport and concentrate cheap energy, thus facilitating accumulation of wealth and power in industrial societies. But the steady production of cheap fossil fuel resources requires the constant expansion of extraction frontiers and the exploitation of the environment and local communities. This leads to conflicts where local environmental justice organizations fight for their life and companies defend their profits. Big Oil companies thus become the vector of oppression that bridges the societies enjoying the benefits of cheap energy, and those that

suffer the impacts. Here we systematically analyze the environmental conflicts related to the oil major TotalEnergies and compare the organisational behaviour at the extraction sites with its rhetoric in the energy-consuming societies to unmask the true social and environmental cost of the energy resources that power industrial economies.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Keynote

THEME: What Does Internationalist, Anti-Imperialist Degrowth Look Like in Practice?

- **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation: BOOK LAUNCH! *The Future is Degrowth* by Aaron Vansintjan, Mattias Schmelzer & Andrea Vetter**
 - **Jamie Tyberg**
 - **Erica Jung**
 - **Aaron Vansintjan**
- **featuring Mariko Frame on “Degrowth, World-Systems Theory, and Anti-Ecological Imperialism: Towards Synthesis and Solidarity”**

What does internationalist, anti-imperialist degrowth look like in practice?

The theory of degrowth offers a vision for postcapitalism beyond growth and charts a path forward through policies that democratise the economy, “now-topias” that create free spaces for experimentation, and counter-hegemonic movements that make it possible to break with the logic of growth. But what does degrowth imply for on-the-ground organizing, and anti-imperialist, international solidarity?

In this panel discussion, co-hosted by The New School, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation NYC, and Verso Books, panelists will discuss how degrowth can systematically reform the global economy to dismantle ecological imperialism. Panelists will also share how movements for social and environmental justice, such as the movement for the Green New Deal and energy democracy, must integrate internationalist degrowth perspectives in their organizing.

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Panelists:

Jamie Tyberg: Jamie Tyberg (she/her) is an organizer, writer, and fundraiser from the Republic of Korea who is currently based in occupied Canarsie lands. In 2021, she co-founded DegrowNYC to develop local degrowth organizers of color. Her latest essay ‘Notes on degrowth and the dictatorship of the proletariat’ can be read [here](#).

Erica Jung: Erica Jung is a co-founder of DegrowNYC, a collective of organizers of color currently based in occupied Lenapehoking who view degrowth as a form of ecological reparations and a revolutionary process.

Aaron Vansintjan: Aaron Vansintjan holds a PhD in urban geography from Birkbeck College, University of London, during which he studied green gentrification in Montreal and Hanoi. He is a co-editor of *Uneven Earth*, a website on environmental politics. He is co-author of *The Future Is Degrowth* and editor of *In Defense of Degrowth* by Giorgos Kallis. He lives in Montreal.

Degrowth, World-Systems Theory, and Ecological Imperialism: Toward a Concrete Research Agenda

Mariko Frame

Merrimack College

Degrowth, or the reduction in material throughput of economies, has emerged as a crucial concept for envisioning future sustainable societies. This presentation overviews a preliminary

research agenda- how to incorporate the concerns of world-systems theory and ecological imperialism into the degrowth discourse. Advanced industrialized countries in the Global North are overwhelmingly responsible for many of the global ecological crises through their unsustainable consumption of the Earth's resources and pollution of sink-capacity. As previous research from the author has uncovered, these trends occur through the mechanisms of ecological imperialism underpinning the capitalist world-system. Consequently, the degrowth discourse, which has largely focused on the reduction of material use through domestic changes within the economies of the Global North, needs to systematically envision reforming the aspects of the global economy that enable ecological imperialism.

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Panel: *Food and Water Sovereignty*

Moderator: *Susan Austin*

1. Lucy Phillips: Neoliberal Capitalism and the Struggle for Food Sovereignty

The New School

This paper argues that the current convergence of global crises emerged from a system rooted in colonialism and neoliberal capitalism. These systems have imperiled our food system; the need for more resources, land, and labor have exacerbated climate change and worsened its effects—particularly for the Global South. The Global North's answers are false solutions masquerading as "sustainable development" and "poverty alleviation." Instead, "pluriversal" paths forward rooted in Indigenous knowledges, agroecology, and food sovereignty are needed. Using IPES-Food and ETC Group's "A Long Food Movement" framework, various organizations embodying alternative food system pathways are explored in-depth, showing that this framework can and does work.

2. Francis Adams: Climate Change and Global Food Security

Ph.D. Depart. of Political Science and Geography, Old Dominion University

Climate change poses a significant threat to global food security. This paper describes how increases in the earth's air, surface, and ocean temperatures are undermining the production, distribution, and consumption of food worldwide, especially in the Global South. Climate change is causing land degradation, water scarcity, extreme weather events, insect infestations, the spread of crop diseases, and the decline of fish populations. Reduced food availability and higher food prices have disproportionately adverse impacts on those communities that are already the most food insecure. The paper then advances a series of measures to reduce the causes of climate change (mitigation) and manage its adverse impacts (adaptation). Emphasis is placed on the adoption of agroecology and promotion of food sovereignty.

3. Bramsh Khan: Water is economy - Channeling Water from Necessity to Privatized Projects

Syracuse University

Water, because of its multifaceted nature, is a debatable natural resource, it is a public need that is scarce yet is pursued by corporate agencies as a commodity profitable to be privatized. This paper, by using discourse analysis, questions how water is regarded by different sectors of a developed or developing society and critically examines different neoliberal discourses on water. It takes the example of Gwadar Port (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), to perceive what happens to the socio-economic livelihood of the people who solely rely on waterways when the state legitimizes seeing water merely as a tool for profit maximization?

4. Terran Giacomini: Re-Valuing Women's Activism for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice

University of Toronto

This paper is based on my PhD research with women and non-binary food providers in the La Via Campesina movement for food sovereignty and agroecology. I throw light on the significance of women's contributions to emerging movements for climate justice, which I see as requiring deep transformation in power relations to move beyond capitalism, patriarchy, colonization and white supremacy. Women's struggles against exploitation and for life and the commons are crucial to transforming our relationships with one another and the earth. The women's activism contrast with mainstream labour and environmental organizing for which climate justice is overcoming the divide between waged workers and ecologists, and introducing modest reforms to the capitalist system.

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Panel: *Ecofascism and Neoliberalism*

Moderator: *Marcel Llaveró Pasquina*

1. Carl Boggs: Corporate Globalization, the Great Reset, and the Coming Food Crisis

[Abstract coming soon]

2. Cassidy Thomas: The Urgent Study of Right-Wing Environmental Thought and “Ecofascism”

Syracuse University

In the wake of worsening climate crises, increasingly polarized and extremist politics, and a slew of mass shootings by self-avowed “ecofascists”, the study of far-right environmentalism has rapidly grown in importance. Within this context, several distinct schools of thought have started to broach the topic. These varied scholarly camps include the following: the historiographic and anarchist-influenced analyses emanating from the Institute of Social Ecology and associated scholars/activists; feminist analyses concerned with the neo-Malthusian rhetoric of “overpopulation” frequently cultivated by these far-right environmentalist subcultures; and lastly, those approaching the topic from a peace and conflict studies or national security perspective, often leaning in “big data” gleaned from the various social media spaces these groups frequent. This discussion will outline these three distinct approaches to the study of ecofascism, their occasional convergences, and opportunities for further integration. Then, to conclude, the notable lack of engagement between the burgeoning field of far-right environmental studies with the more established field of comparative fascist studies will be explored—noting what each can potentially contribute to the other in the process.

3. Jerry Harris: The Origins of Ecofascism in Neoliberalism and Evangelicalism

National Sect. GSA

Neoliberalism went into deep political crisis after the 2008 crash. With challenges from the left and right the capitalist class is seeking a new hegemonic bloc that can stabilize their system. Two projects have emerged: authoritarian capitalism of far right nationalists, with a neo-fascist and ecofascist wing; and a green accumulation bloc whose mission is to modernize the means of production. But this project includes a wide range of forces from neoliberals to leftists in the Green New Deal. What strategy should the left pursue to affect the balance of forces, and be in a position to make an ecosocialist transformation?

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Keynote

THEME: Indigenous & Decolonizing Approaches to Global Environmental/Climate Justice: Pathways beyond the “Anthropocene”

Discussant: Leonardo Figueroa Helland

- **Deborah McGregor: “Storytelling, Climate Justice and Self-Determined Futures”**

What does it mean to “live well” with the Earth in face of climate/ecological crisis? What does a self-determined climate future look like for Indigenous communities and peoples? Indigenous knowledge systems inform Indigenous derived solutions in support of all life. I will explore how can learn from the past through storywork that can in turn informs our collective and sustainable future.

Deborah McGregor, Osgoode Hall Law School and Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University. Professor Deborah McGregor is Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation. She joined York University’s Osgoode Hall law faculty in 2015. She is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice. Professor McGregor’s research has focused on Indigenous knowledge and legal systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including water and environmental governance, environmental justice, health and environment, and climate justice.

- **James Fenelon: “Indigenous Models to Combat Global Climate Change in the Anthropocene”**

Swarthmore College; California State University, San Bernardino

Indigenous Peoples have resisted colonial invasion and domination for some 500 years, about the same time that European invasions and colonization created the modern world-system and capitalism which maximized extractive and plantation economies that destroyed regional and continental ecospheres, employed fossil fuel systems to build industrial capitalism exploding environmental climate change, stratifying inequalities and racial/ethnic injustices, and induced the Anthropocene. Resistance and Revitalization movements of Indigenous Peoples have linked with environmental organizations to offer alternatives to the globalization strategies of transnational corporations and capitalist countries, which include ways and means to maintain healthy social / environmental societies within broader worlds. We have identified Indigenous models of social development that interacting with the earth and the world, provide non-capitalist modes of living, which can combat the ongoing decimation of human, animal, plant and mineral ecological systems. After identifying the global capitalist models taking over earth, we present the Lakota Oyate and other Indigenous societies as model alternatives to social constructions needed for survivance in these times of threat convergence. Our futures on planet earth depend on collective movement and cooperative philosophy inspired by Indigenous Nations.

James Fenelon is Professor and Director of Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies, California State University, San Bernardino, and currently Lang Visiting Professor for Social Change at Swarthmore College. He published three books: *Culturicide, Resistance and Survival of the Lakota* (Sioux Nation) (1998, Routledge); *Indigenous Peoples and Globalization* (with Thomas Hall, Paradigm [Routledge] 2008); and *Redskins?: Sports Mascots, Indian Nations, and White Racism* (2017) along with numerous journal articles, chapters/essays, and professional reviews. He has and has just finished *Indian, Black and Irish: Capitalism, Colonization and Racism in America* (Routledge). Professor Fenelon works on Climate Change, Environmental, War, Peace & Conflict engaged scholarship, publishing on related social sciences topics (ethnic and urban studies, Indian education, migration, genocide...) in numerous journal articles and book chapters (40+). James is Dakota/Lakota, (Standing Rock); Gaelish Irish, French and Scandinavian descent, advocates for social justice, Indigenous critiques and respect for all life on earth.

CONFERENCE DAY 5: SATURDAY, Aug 13, 2022

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Panel: *Disasters of Fossil Fuel Capitalism*

Moderator: *An Li*

Julian Parodi: Capitalist Modernity and the Environmental Crisis

The New School

To understand why climate change has started and is worsening notwithstanding the profusion of carbon markets and reduction goals, it is crucial to analyze its economic and moral roots and spiral. The drive toward capital accumulation that started 200 years ago has been accompanied by colonialism and a modernist view that sees nature as a commodity for human prosperity. To appraise this, I focus on modern thought and its spread through two examples: the World Bank knowledge erasure of cosmovisions and embodiments of the outcasts of modernity, and the stranglehold of agrochemical companies on the world food and crop market. In the final part, I discuss what to do to contrast continuous exploitation and reproduction of asymmetrical power systems and extend those existential questions to strategies necessary for transformative change.

An Li: Financialization and the energy transition in the United States: A Political Economy Analysis

Sarah Lawrence College, New York

An energy transition such as the Green New Deal has been considered a solution to climate change and inequality, which are the most important challenges of the 21st century. A key question is whether the current financial system is compatible with the visions of the green and just transition. This paper provides an empirical analysis of the question. Focusing on the relationship between financialization and the energy transition, the paper shows the clean energy sector has become another arena of predatory value extraction, contributing to more inequality in the economy and slowing down the energy transition.

Jordan Dyett: In the Name of Prohibition - The Intersection of Militarization, Neoliberalism, and Environmental Catastrophe

SUNY Albany

The global war on drugs, largely waged by western imperialistic states and corporations, has had devastating impacts on communities, lives, and the environment. While dominant discourse typically

frames the global war on drugs as an operation and web of policies to mitigate drug trafficking in the global south, a more critical look at the situation reveals the environmental degradation, community destruction, and violence that is upheld and perpetuated by western military and militia powers. The intersection between the prohibition of substances, the military industrial complex, and hyper-capitalism has led to a convergence of multiple global crises. Driven by imperialist, white supremacist capitalistic patriarchy (hooks, 1984), the United States has been a major proprietor at the intersection of this catastrophe. This research seeks to unveil the ways in which hegemonic global powers continue to consume, extract, and occupy land around the world, in the name of the war on drugs, with the hopes of creating space for new imaginations and uplifting existing resistance and revolution.

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Panel: *Indigenous Women and Land Defenders*

Moderator: *Elisa Soto-Dansecó*

- 1. Eleanor Mallett: Comparing Case Studies of Indigenous Land Knowledge and Climate Adaption Techniques Led by Women in Rural India**

Wellesley College, Women's and Gender Studies Department

Environmental activism must reach beyond its current scope to embrace the intersectional gender inequalities that are brought on by climate change. In this paper I compare the Indigenous traditions of sustainability in North American tribal communities with the innovations that have come from women-led organizing in rural India. This comparison upholds a transnational feminist framework wherein I acknowledge how the differences between two cultures create a stronger trans-border conversation about ecofeminism and climate survival. My research reveals several underrecognized climate adaptation techniques such as the Mohawk tribe's fight against toxification of the Saint Lawrence River and the installation of renewable energy infrastructure in Gujarat, India. I finally propose a forward-looking view of how elevating subaltern voices will revolutionize the current approach to climate justice.

- 2. Dalena Tran: Beyond Women and Men: How Extractive Projects Perpetuate Gendered Violence Against Environmental Defenders Across Southeast Asia**

Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona; [EJ Atlas](#)

Discussion of gendered violence during environmental conflicts often centers on women's issues without situating them within broader discrimination affecting all people. This cross-regional analysis compares violence in 25 Southeast Asian environmental and land-grabbing conflicts. In this paper, I argue that women, men, and gender-diverse people experience differently gendered and contextual manifestations

of violence, which in turn influence how they mobilize their diverse environmental knowledges. Extractivist encroachment intensifies or introduces dynamics stratifying power unevenly across gender and other marginalities. Such extractive intensification is inseparable from colonial legacies. Ensuing hegemonic gender violence is partly caused by rigid definitions of who can have a voice and whose ecological wisdoms are validated. These hegemonies typically concentrate power among white or white-favoring male elites. Thus, subverting hegemonic narratives can mitigate violence.

3. Paige Kloss: Indigenous Women and Environmental Justice

The New School

Indigenous women are among those who have contributed the least to the climate crisis, yet experience the worst effects. Colonial and capitalist pursuits work in conjunction to simultaneously exploit both the Earth and Indigenous women through extractive neoliberalism and false solutions. When speaking out against these injustices they face the risk of further violence, often times resulting in assassination. Indigenous women are incredibly knowledgeable of the Earth's systems and should be prioritized in environmental justice efforts. In pursuing Indigenous women's recommended solutions such as rematriation of land, degrowth, deglobalization, decentralization, and pluriversal worlds it can lay the foundation for a society that is community led prioritizing people, justice, and planet over profit.

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Keynote

THEME: Ripe for Creative Disruption: Frontline Environmental Justice Leaders Design Solutions Beyond the Crisis

Moderator: Ana Baptista

Fellow-Leaders in the Inaugural [Ripe for Creative Disruption; an Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Fellowship](#) launched by the [Tishman Environment and Design Center](#) with the EJ Movement.

- **Jesús Vásquez**, National Coordinator, Organización Boricua of Ecological Agriculture of Puerto Rico
- **Moñeka De Oro**, Member Representative, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
- **Jade Begay**, Climate Justice Campaign Director, NDN Collective

False solutions are a result of neoliberal strategies that center carbon and are based on a “design for” methodology that has failed the people and the planet time and again and is ripe for disruption. **How does Environmental Justice (EJ) disrupt design to build power and scale solutions by those most impacted and impactful?** *Ripe for Creative Disruption* has a total of 20 EJ leaders working beyond their organizations, and imaginary borders to critically examine decolonized methodologies, EJ

lived-experiences, and a set of “EJ Design Mindsets” that get communities to innovate through crisis and beyond. Together these leaders practice co-design methodologies that are ripe for power and scale in the era of Environmental Justice.

These subset of EJ leaders represent the most vulnerable cultural populations on Mother Earth given their geographical climate vulnerability as well as their complicated history with the United States of America that uses their Territories as sacrifice zones to advance US power in the global extractive economic and military systems. Indigenous people on Turtle Island, and peoples from Puerto Rico, and the Mariana Islands are working on reclaiming decolonized design to put forth biocultural diversity, sustainable food systems, food sovereignty, water and land politics that take into consideration island carrying capacity, population displacement, and the power of building across Islands and Diasporas.

Indigenous people account for 2% of the population on Turtle Island as a result of one of the most violent genocides recorded in history. Jade Begay, Diné and Tesuque Pueblo, is part of a powerful Indigenous #LANDBACK movement that has inspired Indigenous people from the Pacific to the Amazon to reclaim their relationship to land and Territory. In her role as Climate Justice Director, she harmonizes Anthropocene shifts and changes with Indigenous imaginations of the future that will be. She shares examples of organizing that include: a strategic inside/outside game to build Indigenous power in the here and now to inspire a growing women and youth Indigenous movement.

In the Caribbean, there is a tropical archipelago that has demonstrated the far reaching impacts and variability of climate disasters; with multiple hurricanes, and earthquakes, stressing the physical limitations of Puerto Rico’s capacity to care for its people in a neoliberal economic structure. Any possible future vision led by communities needs to take into consideration the profound understanding and respect for physical constraints, as well as the realities and limits of Territories while upholding the Rights of Mother Earth. This can not only be a narrative that is for Puerto Ricans it needs to be shared by the movement.

The lowest point on the Earth's crust, the [Mariana Trench](#), is located within the Mariana Islands. The volcanic archipelago of islands in the Pacific were the first islands settled by humans in [Remote Oceania](#). The people of the Mariana Islands have been subjected to a colonial relationship with the United States that has led to a military lockhold that is tearing apart the cultural fabric and history of the Chamorro people of Micronesia and increasing the risk of a localized power struggle between the US and China. Leaders of the Micronesia Climate Change Alliance have been examining how to center ancestral culture to transform identity division predominant on the Islands and incorporate climate justice solutions that unite people across the Islands, youth and the Diaspora.

Dr. Ana Baptista is an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Program. She is also an Associate Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center. She has nearly two decades of work within the EJ movement and her research and professional practice focuses on environmental justice policies and community based strategies for tackling environmental injustice. Dr. Baptista’s research extends to a wide range of issues; zero waste and anti-incineration, climate justice, urban air pollution mitigation policies, and the impacts of the

global goods movement. She is the co-creator and principle faculty on the Ripe for Creative Disruption Fellowship.

Moñeka De Oro is an Indigenous Chamoru mother, climate/peace activist, educator and dedicated community organizer based in the Mariana Islands. She is a former Just Transition Fellow with Climate Justice Alliance, where she co-coordinated community based solutions with member organization Micronesia Climate Change Alliance. She is deeply involved in efforts uplifting the experiences of Pacific Islanders on the front lines of the climate crisis. She has wide academic, professional and volunteer experiences in social justice, historic preservation, environmental protection and cultural perpetuation.

Jade Begay, Diné and Tesuque Pueblo, is an Indigenous rights and climate justice organizer, narrative strategist, and filmmaker. Jade has partnered with organizations and Tribal Nations from the Arctic to the Amazon to develop strategies, create stories, and build campaigns to mobilize engagement and impact around issues like climate change, Indigenous self-determination, and environmental justice. Jade is the Climate Justice Campaign Director at NDN Collective and serves on White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Jesús Juan Vázquez Negrón is a Puerto Rican organizer, advocate, popular educator and activist that works in the intersections of environmental justice, agroecology, food sovereignty and climate justice at the national and international level. He has been working collectively for the past 12 years with rural, urban and coastal communities organizing mutual support efforts, political education workshops, dialogues, capacity trainings and just recovery initiatives with family farms and communities where people work and live. He is the National Coordinator of Organización Boricúa of Ecological Agriculture of Puerto Rico, a 32 year old national grassroots organization composed by farmers, peasants, farm workers, and food sovereignty activists that promote and practice agroecology as a tool to achieve food sovereignty and social justice on the archipelago. He works and collaborates internationally in CLOC, LVC, PAP, USFSA & CJA.