

CLIMATE CHANGE: SPATIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL POLITICS

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University of Brighton

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Panel 1 – National and Transnational Media Publics: How Do We Create Climate Citizens?

Global convergence or national segmentation? The discursive role of the UN Climate Change Conferences in the transnational mediated public sphere

Authors : Antal Wozniak, Hartmut Wessler, & Julia Lück, (University of Mannheim, Germany)

Does a global governance regime help harmonize national media debates on climate change? We investigate the possible discursive effects of the annual UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) by way of large-scale comparative media content analysis of newspaper coverage about climate change between July 2012 and December 2015 in five democratic countries, namely Brazil, Germany, India, South Africa, and the United States. To cope with the amount of raw data (ca. 24,000 search results), we employ methods of machine-learning classification and automated content analysis.

The underlying assumption is that the COPs – as global political media events – drive national media debates in similar directions even though initial debate constellations are quite different in their respective national contexts (due to differing political conditions as well as varying degrees of economic development and vulnerability to climate change). The COPs, therefore, are expected to serve as facilitators of a more global (or 'trans-nationalized') mediated debate on climate change. To test the COPs' assumed role as either a trigger or an amplifier of new framing devices, we conduct a 'framing impetus' analysis, i.e., we identify the emergence (or increased accentuation) of certain idea elements during our period of analysis in the media debate on climate change (e.g., an increase in 'loss and damage' framing between 2011 and 2012). We then track their level of prominence over time in relation to the COPs as well as other possible moments of discursive shifts (e.g., releases of IPCC reports, natural disasters).

This type of analysis will allow us to better understand the significance of global media events in shaping media debates about climate change against distinct national context factors. We are particularly interested in the sustainability of newly introduced idea elements, i.e., whether the COPs (or other focusing events) can lead to shifts in media framing across national borders that also endure over time.

Biography: **Antal Wozniak, M.A.** is a research associate at the Mannheim Center for European Social Research (MZES) and a PhD candidate at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies at the University of Mannheim. He received his Magister Artium in Communication Studies and Political Science at the Technical University Dresden in 2009. His research focuses on political communication, media framing, and media coverage of climate change. He joined the University of Mannheim in April 2012 where he works on the project "Sustainable Media Events? Production and Discursive Effects of Staged Global Political Media Events in the Area of Climate Change." Outside academia he has also worked in public relations and as a music journalist. Email: antal.wozniak@mzes.uni-mannheim.de URL: <http://climate.uni-mannheim.de>

Panel 1 – National and Transnational Media Publics: How Do We Create Climate Citizens?

Blogging about climate change in Russia: activism, scepticism and conspiracies

Author: *Dr Marianna Poberezhskaya (Nottingham Trent University)*

Internet-mediated advocacy organisations already influence states' climate policies in the West (Hestres 2014). Russia is one of the world's largest Greenhouse Gas emitters but since the start of tensions in Eastern Ukraine international attention focusses only on Russia's role in the conflict resulting in its political and economic isolation. This caused further state restrictions on mass media and NGOs (Petkova 2014, Rustamov 2015) making the internet more important in discussing acute environmental problems. This paper explores the role of new media in climate change communication in Russia. By providing an open space for the expression of very diverse points of view, the internet creates a substitute media reality where both climate activists and climate sceptics can question the established discourse. The analysis of 377 blog entries published on the LiveJournal blogging platform has resulted in the identification of four discursive categories: 'conspiracies of climate change', 'climate change apocalypse', 'political games of climate change' and 'online environmentalism'. Each category demonstrates how the same topic can be framed in very different ways, indicating that bloggers' posts aim broadly at articulating the way an environmental problem is incorporated into their worldview, rather than to address specific aspects of the environmental problem, even when this is presumably the reason for the post. Therefore, the blogs act as 'echo chambers' for both climate deniers and climate activists reinforcing their already strong beliefs. Furthermore, whilst the analysis has discovered some unfortunate parallels with the traditional media coverage of climate change in their minimal critique of Russian state policy on the climate, it has also indicated how potentially important internet can be when it is used to overcome the state borders and utilise Russian language in the pursuit of ecological goals which can unite Russian-speaking communities in neighbouring states despite political and economic hostility.

Biography:

Dr Marianna Poberezhskaya is a lecture in International Relations at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). Prior to joining NTU Marianna completed a Postdoctoral Lecturing Fellowship at the University of East Anglia (School of Political, Social and International Studies). She received her PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of Nottingham in Autumn 2013. Marianna has recently published a monograph *Communicating Climate Change in Russia: state and propaganda* (Routledge, 2015).

Panel 1 – National and Transnational Media Publics: How Do We Create Climate Citizens?

Environmental viewertariat in the British General Election: who and what was hot about a frozen subject

Authors: Gabriel Moreno and Tobias Burger (Northumbria University)

Our paper focuses on the ways in which debate on ‘the environment’ was appropriated by citizens via the Twittersphere during the UK General Election in 2015. Contrary to recognised patterns of political communication where traditional opinion-formers such as politicians and journalists control the frames of discourse on controversial issues in the public sphere, preliminary analysis on 40 days of tweeting before and shortly after the British General Election evidence a critical narrative defined by individuals from outside the political and media elite. We assume that the contestatory (as opposed to consensual) character of discussions about the topics of climate change and fracking stems from the fact that the broad topic of ‘the environment’ lacked a hot campaign issue compared to themes as the economy, health, taxation and housing. Consequently, the environment was well-placed to become a topic to be taken up by individuals and groups to whom it **was** important. Our work therefore highlights the significance of Twitter as a proxy to discuss the ways in which issues get onto the public and political agenda outside the mechanisms of formal news flows. This intervention also argues for the importance of analysing low-visibility issues and public opinion processes. Our argument is informed by the suggestion that a low-stakes debate such as the environmental one, which occurs during an election campaign period, may constitute a laboratory for the study of politically contentious issues and their evolution within the context of what Castells describes as the reprogramming communication networks which are formed by social movements and insurgent politics. We suggest that fruitful counter-discursive practices in low-stakes contexts provide a useful training ground for developing arguments for higher-stakes situations.

Biographies

Gabriel Moreno is lecturer in Journalism in the Media and Communication Design department within Northumbria University, where he teaches in the programmes Journalism and Mass Communication. After a 13-year career in journalism he started a life in academia, formalised upon his reception of a PhD awarded by the University of Westminster in the UK. His PhD thesis was based on the study of television news’ roles in the daily life experiences of the Mexican diaspora in the United States.

Tobias Bürger is a PhD candidate in Media and Communication at Northumbria University, UK. His research focuses on political and non-profit communication.

Panel 2 – Affective Engagements: Emotion, Humour and Participation in the Cultural Politics of Climate Change

“Emotions First, Data Later”: Celebrities, Post-Science and the Framing of Affect in Showtime’s (2014) *The Years of Living Dangerously*

Authors: *Mike Goodman (University of Reading), Max Boykoff (University of Colorado, Boulder)*

The Years of Living Dangerously (YOLD), shown in 2014 on Showtime in the USA, was a Hollywood-funded, big-budget, celebrity-presented series of 10 one-hour programmes designed for public engagement around climate change. Presented as a succession of intertwined storylines about numerous ‘real life’, everyday aspects of climate change, these dramatic tales were fronted by the likes of Matt Damon, Harrison Ford, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jessica Alba and Don Cheadle, with each celebrity theatrically performing the duties of a climate change ‘reporter’ or ‘documentarian’. This paper explores the ways that YOLD worked to create an affective landscape in the context of climate change whereby public debate is about its impacts and how we might mitigate its effects. In this, affective relationships amongst the audience, celebrities and the characters/ecologies in YOLD were critical: Celebrities work, through forms of personal activism, drama and spectacle to facilitate affective responses in audiences (to then spur action) rather than continuing to ‘prove’ the scientific realities of climate change. We work to assess how the YOLD—now going forward with a new season in 2016—is creating new cultural, political and, importantly, affective framings through its attempt to shift the storylines, rationale and effects of the politics of climate change.

Biographies

Professor Michael Goodman – University of Reading – Professor of Environment & Development: He is interested in the mediated cultural politics of the discursive and affective framings of food, humanitarianism and the environment. He has produced several books, including *Alternative Food Networks: Knowledge, Practice and Politics* (with David Goodman and Melanie DuPuis), *Food Transgressions: Making Sense of Contemporary Food Politics* (with Colin Sage), *Consuming Space: Placing Consumption in Perspective* (with David Goodman and Michael Redclift) and the forthcoming *Food Geographies: An Introduction* (with Moya Kneafsey, Damian Maye and Lewis Holloway). He is also the series editor for Routledge’s *Critical Food Politics* and Bloomsbury’s *Contemporary Food Studies* series.

Maxwell T. Boykoff is an Associate Professor in the Center for Science and Technology Policy, which is part of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He teaches in the Environmental Studies program and is Adjunct faculty in the Geography Department. In addition, Max is a Senior Visiting Research Associate in the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

Panel 2 – Affective Engagements: Emotion, Humour and Participation in the Cultural Politics of Climate Change

The Importance of Being Elastic: ‘Green Humour’s Intervention into the Rhetoric of Climate Change

Author: *Dr John Parham (University of Worcester)*

Exploring some implications for environmentalism of Henri Bergson’s ‘Laughter: An Essay on the Meaning of the Comic’, I will begin by arguing – via the comedian Sacha Baron Cohen (‘Ali G’) – that environmentalist campaigns around climate change are, more often, the butt of humour, a process that can be understood and counteracted via Bergson.

Bergson makes two points: that humour has a disciplinary function – holding over ‘deviant’ groups the threat of ridicule or humiliation; that the most inherently comic trait is rigidity, ‘automatism’, ‘inelasticity’. In this analysis, environmentalists attract ridicule because a) the earnestness of (most) environmental rhetoric is out of step with a capitalist, consumerist culture in a state of constant ‘carnival’ – of ‘cool’, irony, irreverence. ‘In a culture of fun’, Michael Billig writes, ‘seriousness can operate at a disadvantage’; secondly, that major ‘performative’ modes of environmentalism are often *outmoded*, conventional, and ‘inelastic’, self-imposed types vulnerable to precisely the ridicule Bergson sketches and Cohen, too easily, demonstrates.

Arguing, then, that environmentalism must converse with, adopt, transform, and subvert popular culture – and applying Leah Lievrouw’s argument that ‘Alternative’ or ‘Activist’ cultural forms are nourished by an ‘acute sense’ of both contemporary culture and ‘irony and humour’ – I’ll conclude by examining those relatively rare examples of stand-up comedians who have attempted to re-shape our understanding of climate change by deploying the ironic and irreverent humour of popular cultural forms. Noting a number of examples – likely to include comedians such as Mark Watson, Sean Lock, and Colin Beavan – the paper will end by examining Marcus Brigstocke’s inversion of disciplinary humour to attack climate change denial.

Biography:

Dr John Parham Associate Head (Research and Postgraduate Programmes)/Principal Lecturer Media and Culture, Institute of Humanities & Creative Arts, University of Worcester

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John Parham is the author of *Green Media and Popular Culture: An Introduction* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). He has written on ‘framing’ and romance narratives in environmental popular culture and is co-editing an issue of *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment* on green computer games. He has also published extensively on ‘Victorian ecology’ and is co-editing (with Louise Westling) *The Cambridge Global History of Literature and Environment*. John is co-editor of the Routledge journal *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*.

Panel 2 – Affective Engagements: Emotion, Humour and Participation in the Cultural Politics of Climate Change

Contemporary Treatments of Actuality: Digital and Spatial Turns to Social Change

Author: Mark Terry (York University, Toronto, Canada)

“The UNFCCC is pleased to again partner with UNEP and Neko Harbour to showcase what is happening now so that the research of today can inform the policy of tomorrow...and the new (GIS) map makes it easier than ever to explore the data. I encourage all leaders and global citizens to take a look.”

UNFCCC spokesperson Nick Nuttall (November 20, 2015)

This paper will explore the documentary film and its ability to effect social change with respect to new technological and theoretical advances in contemporary documentary production, presentation, distribution/dissemination and consumption/engagement. In particular, emphasis will be made on what Adrian Miles has identified as the “multilinear” format of documentaries made in the digital space of an interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) map.

Using my own project – the *Youth Climate Report* (YCR) film series – as a case study, I will examine the benefits and drawbacks between the traditional linear documentary and the emerging multilinear documentary. Critical analysis of the two styles will be made from the perspectives of the international climate policymakers of the United Nations.

The YCR film series project is a partnership that began in 2009 between myself and the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its structure, as conceived collaboratively between myself and the environmental policymakers of the UN, is to combine the communities of the world’s youth (as reporters) and scientific researchers (as interview subjects) in a participatory documentary project designed to assist negotiators in creating policy related to global climate change.

The COP21 climate summit in Paris in December, 2015 marked the first year the project presented both a traditional, linear film as well as a multilinear, interactive documentary on a GIS platform to delegates attending the historic conference. How it was received at the conference will be examined.

Biography : After graduating from York University in Toronto, Canada, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1980, **Mark Terry** embarked on 25-year career as a journalist and documentary filmmaker. His climate science films, in particular, have made a significant impact with the policymakers of the United Nations. His work with the UN and the world’s scientific community has been recognized on many fronts. He has been decorated with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Stefansson Medal, the Gemini Humanitarian Award and in August, 2015 was named one of Canada’s greatest explorers by *Canadian Geographic Magazine*. In 2014, he returned to York to pursue his Master of Arts degree in Humanities with a research focus of how film can be mobilized as an instrument of social change. He continues this research today as a PhD candidate specializing in the new technologies of documentary production and dissemination in the Digital and Spatial Humanities. Mark Terry, PhD Candidate, Department of Humanities, York University, Toronto, CANADA. Email: terrma@yorku.ca

Panel 3 – National Media Coverage of Climate Change

Eco-journalism studies and its role in creating environmental awareness of modern societies – the case of Poland

Author: *Ilona Biernacka-Ligieza* (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland)

Due to the studies carried out by the author the paper will try to discuss threats and challenges for the eco-journalism and eco-journalists at the beginning of the 21st century in Poland. An effective response to global environmental challenges requires analysis of communication patterns, processes and approaches. In addition, improving communication through emerging information and communication technologies also must be explored. Understanding recipients' perception of the innovations used in information diffusion is also necessary.

According to a survey on ecological awareness and behaviour of Polish citizens 38% respondents didn't show any ecological behaviour (PBS for the ME 2014). At the same time, the survey shows the influence of the media on ecological awareness -73% stated they learn about environmental issues from the press, 39% - from the Internet, 35%-from the radio. Only 16% mentioned school as the source of such information. This reflects the impact of information provided by the media on raising ecological awareness; reliability is crucial.

Initial research which the author has been following in Poland proved that people employed by the media have limited knowledge on environmental protection. Moreover in regional and local media is nearly non-existent. Even though there are media dedicated to the subject, all of them are niche. In the public media, ecological issues come up very rarely as event coverage, not always reliably provided. So the future media and public sector staff, responsible for provision of information about ecology, has to be educated in this field.

Observing the situation on the media market, we have recognised the need to profile and enrich the studies with the environmental protection subject. Currently there is no media staff educated in the field of eco-journalism. We are responding to a diagnosed problem and preparing a new module of eco-journalism classes. The module includes preparing classes' schedules, scripts, workshops for teaching staff and classes on the created module.

The aim of the paper is to present activities which have been undertaken within the eco-journalism education. The author of the paper is going to discuss main project's results which are directly related to the subject of the environment and climate changes. Moreover the author is going to present the ecological magazine and website which have been designed to improve students' working techniques in terms of creating and providing information about the environment.

The paper aim is also to prove that educating media staff (press, radio, television, electronic media employees) and public sector staff responsible for working with the media in the field of professional provision of information about ecology and environmental protection have a positive impact on public awareness and knowledge, and consequently on eco-oriented behaviour of the society.

Climate Change: Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics

Author: *Ilona Biernacka-Ligieza (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland)*

The paper is based on the content analysis, qualitative, quantitative research and statistics analysis. Qualitative interviews were followed with journalists, editors and media owners at the time of 2014-2016. Quantitative surveys – based on rolling-up questionnaires addressed to the journalism students. Moreover there were used data from National Statistics Bureau and official reports of Polish Media Authorities.

Biography:

Ilona Biernacka-Ligieza is a Professor of Humanities and she works at the Faculty of Political Studies Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland. From September 2008 until October 2011 she has been the research fellow of the Institute of Media and Communication, University of Oslo. Her research interests include: local media; mass communication; new media; cross-cultural communication; environmental communication; journalism studies; eco-journalism; local democracy; globalization; media and politics; media and identity.
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Panel 3 – National Media Coverage of Climate Change

In the name of climate change: Dams in tropical forests

Author: *Adriana Montanaro (University of Vienna)*

This paper investigates the representations of hydro electrical dams as part of the solutions against global warming, which are used to defend –in public sphere- the construction of mega dams in tropical forests of Latin America. Specifically, the government’s representations associated to dams in terms of climate change and the role of the main stream media in this context.

As the discourses on climate change become more popular, its use to argue in favour of mega dams gets more importance too, especially because of the increasing amount of this kind of projects in areas with high levels of biodiversity in indigenous territories of Latin America, which produce social conflicts. One example is the Belo Monte Dam in the Brazilian Amazon, known as the “third biggest dam worldwide”, which is the topic of this case study.

Based on the sociology of knowledge approach to discourse (Keller), this paper analyses selected news from the digital version of the Brazilian Newspaper *O Globo* (during the years 2006-2011) about Belo Monte and its relation with climate change. The results will be compared to scientific statements about the contribution of Belo Monte to global warming.

The comparison shows that while *O Globo* reproduces the discourses of the government, they oversee such scientific statements. In addition, thanks to the mainstream idea that the hydro electrical energy is a “clean” form of energy, the government presents Belo Monte as a sustainable project.

The paper shows too how climate change discourses are used by the Brazilian government to defend the project and to minimize the discourses about the negative and irreversible impacts of Belo Monte on the biological and cultural diversity of the Brazilian Amazon.

Biography:

Adriana Montanaro-Mena is Costa Rican and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Costa Rica and Magister of Communication, University of Costa Rica. Topic of the PhD: Communication structures and discourses: ecological conflicts and indigenous rights. Comparison of the case studies: *Belo Monte* (Brazilian Amazonian) and *El Diquís Dam* (Costa Rica) **E-mail:** adrianamontanaro@gmail.com

Panel 4 – Creating Climate Stories: Refiguring Citizen Engagement Through Narrative and Discourse

‘My true UK drought risk story’: The role of storytelling to understand (mis)conceptions and beliefs that drive behaviours

Authors: Mike Wilson (Loughborough University), Adam Corner (Climate Outreach), Antonia Liguori (Loughborough University)

DRY (Drought Risk and You) is a cross-disciplinary four-year research project launched in 2014 and funded under RCUK’s Drought and Water Scarcity programme, with the aim of developing an evidence-based resource for drought risk management in UK. The project brings together different perspectives on drought science, stakeholder engagement and multiple narrative approaches in order to better understand drought risk and water scarcity.

We are adopting storytelling to investigate perceptions and behaviours in relation to water use and water scarcity within and across seven rivers catchments. Comparing digital stories is a way of uncovering conflicts and dilemmas, and of discovering unexpected common ground in the dialogue between lay and expert narratives due to the authenticity of personal stories and the natural “mess” of the world that storytelling both exposes and helps us navigate.

Furthermore, gathering stories and memories from different sectors of society is revealing a critical tension around the interaction between opinions and facts, and is stimulating a deeper reflection on the beliefs that drive people’s behaviours. Is it what people believe that is important rather than facts *per se*? Stories are a way of beginning a conversation that allows facts to be better engaged with.

If ‘misconceptions’ are perceived to complicate the picture, they also expand the horizon of the debate while we are investigating people’s perceptions: challengeable narratives ‘provoke’ discussions, enable us to elicit counter-narratives and bring different stories together, whilst challenging the notion that there can only be a single truth about a given situation. And this is crucial in DRY, as we are applying digital storytelling to support decision-making and bring together different knowledges. To make effective decisions, policy makers, water companies have to be aware of ‘misinterpreted information’ and they have to engage with people’s perceptions. And stories tell always the ‘truth’ about people’s views.

Biographies:

Professor Mike Wilson

Loughborough University

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Mike Wilson is Professor of Drama and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Arts, English and Drama at Loughborough University. He is a former member of the Programme Advisory Boards for the RCUK's programme on the Digital Economy (led by EPSRC) and a current member of the AHRC's programme advisory boards for Digital Transformations and Connected Communities.

Dr Adam Corner

Climate Outreach

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Adam Corner is Research Director at Climate Outreach, and an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Psychology, Cardiff University. He writes regularly for the national media, including The Guardian and New Scientist magazine.

Dr Antonia Liguori

Loughborough University

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Antonia Liguori is Research Assistant in Applied Digital Storytelling at Loughborough University. Her academic background is in History and Computer Science. She is also a journalist and a SEO manager.

Panel 4 – Creating Climate Stories: Refiguring Citizen Engagement Through Narrative and Discourse

Rosencratz and Gildenstern are otherwise engaged: Using local water resource management concerns to understand why climate change messages become diluted

Authors: *Mary Gearey (University of Brighton), Neil Ravenscroft (University of Brighton)*

Approaches which engage the public with climate change science faces a range of challenges, not least identifying who represents the ‘public’ that are being engaged. This paper utilises findings from empirical fieldwork to understand where climate change narratives sit within a local water resource management context. Using data drawn from research undertaken to explore a rural community’s experience of one facet of climate change impacts, changing water conditions, the paper asserts that engaging with climate change as a term of reference can be contested. Whilst respondents communicated high degrees of engagement with regards to debates around changing rainfall patterns, flooding, water pollution and drainage issues, few were willing to directly ascribe these to a wider climate change portfolio. Responses were articulated around adapting to or mitigating changing water conditions, rather than addressing the practices or behaviours which caused these outcomes. There is an unspoken resignation that responsibility, directionality lies elsewhere, ‘out there’. Using the absurdist allegory in ‘Rosencratz and Gildenstern are dead’, the paper asserts that this unwillingness to self-identify as part of the ‘problem’ and, conversely, as providing potential solutions, is linked with issues of power, agency and who is in control of ‘the script’. Our own perception of our role, our place within the debate, may greatly impact our ability, our willingness, to apply the narrative of the script to our own lives. Whilst the debate, the play, the tragedy, unfolds out ‘there’ within the spotlight, for those waiting in the wings there is a sense of suspension, of hiatus. To make sense of the overarching climate change narrative, those tasked with communicating climate change messages need to rewrite the script to show how these localised knowledges and experiences are central to making positive change happen. Agency needs to be re-appropriated by individual actors, both real and metaphorical.

Biography: **Dr Mary Gearey** is the University of Brighton’s Daphne Jackson Research Fellow, based in the School of Environment and Technology. A social scientist by training, she undertakes empirical qualitative fieldwork to explore the corresponding relationships between practices of community resilience and water resources policy, planning and management in the context of sustainable futures. Her work is inter-disciplinary, orientated around emerging modes of governance within natural resources management informed by her background in International Development. Her current work focuses on the following areas:

Community responses to changing water environments.

Social-ecological systems resilience.

Socio-political dimensions of integrated water resource management.

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Panel 4 – Creating Climate Stories: Refiguring Citizen Engagement Through Narrative and Discourse

Meat meets media - public participation in the environmental news discourse

Authors: [Kajsa-Stina Benulic](#)¹, Annika Egan Sjölander², Anna Maria Jönsson³

¹Södertörn University, School of Natural Science, Technology and Environmental Studies, Flemingsberg, Sweden.

²Umeå University, Department of Culture and Media Studies, Umeå, Sweden.

³Södertörn University, School of Culture and Education, Flemingsberg, Sweden.

Challenges caused by climate change are among the most pressing issues in contemporary societies. We are increasingly worried about what we have done to nature and are grappling with the identification of the most pertinent risks, and actions that can minimize them. In Sweden, meat consumption has been identified as a practice in need of change in order to limit GHG emissions and to increase environmental sustainability. Production and consumption of meat are influenced by political decisions, and by the choices consumers make on a daily basis.

The aim of this paper is to identify and analyse resources for handling climate change in Swedish news discourses about meat production and consumption. The purpose is also to discuss how this is related to how citizens engage with the meat issue and what possibilities there are for reaching the goal of sustainable politics in our everyday choices.

We start from the premise that public participation is a fundamental part of managing climate change, and that media can provide resources necessary for active participation. Participation includes at least some level of agency and is often equalled to concepts like involvement and engagement.

The method and empirical material that we use are content analysis of Swedish newspapers, as well as focus group interviews with Swedish citizens and news consumers. The results show that meat production and consumption has been firmly situated within the mediated discourse on climate change. Citizens are to handle risks as consumers and the news framing provide them with resources to do so, e. g. by consistently suggesting or demanding decreases in meat consumption, motivating the necessity of such changes, and giving concrete advice on how to act as a responsible consumer. We also find a mismatch between the participatory roles suggested to news consumers and those envisioned by themselves.

Panel 5 – New Theories for Change: How Best to Think About and Understand Climate Change

How to change everything: reading Naomi Klein on climate change

Author: Mark Erickson (University of Brighton)

Naomi Klein is a journalist and activist who campaigns for social justice, and is the author of the bestselling *No Logo* and *The Shock Doctrine*. In her latest book, *This Changes Everything* (Klein 2015), she belatedly turns her attention to the threat of climate change. It has been hailed as ‘one of the greatest nonfiction works of all time’ and ‘one of the basic texts of the modern era’. In summary, Klein proposes a grass-roots movement that will implement a programme of struggle and sacrifice to combat climate change.

In this paper I use the work of Friedrich Nietzsche, particularly *The Genealogy of Morals*, to read *This Changes Everything* and expose the moral undercurrents of Klein’s work, particularly those pertaining to asceticism, sacrifice and pain. Revealing these allows us to make connections beyond the topic of climate change, but also between the work of Nietzsche and the social and cultural worlds we inhabit today. In doing so I consider the implications of Klein’s approach for addressing and coping with climate change.

Biography :

Mark Erickson is Reader in Sociology and Director of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Brighton. He is the author of *Science, Culture and Society: understanding science in the 21st century* (2nd Edition, Polity 2015), and co-author of *Myths at Work* (Polity 2000), *Business in Society* (Polity 2009), and *Globalization and Work* (Polity 2014).

Panel 5 – New Theories for Change: How Best to Think About and Understand Climate Change

Embodied entanglements: relating to other species in an age of ecological crisis

Author: *Matthew Adams (University of Brighton)*

The late ecofeminist philosopher Val Plumwood identified an ‘ecological crisis of reason’ (2002) in which ‘the dominant rationalist paradigm overwrites the emotional, experiential and embodied entanglements of humans and their environments’. In the context of ecology and ecological crisis, ‘entanglement’ refers to the human relationship with more-than-human nature. Plumwood, in emphasizing entangled embodiment, is talking about recognizing the affective experience of the interdependence of eco-centrism – a worldview that perceives the human and more-than-human world as fundamentally interdependent. This is normally contrasted with *anthropocentrism* - the assumption that human beings are superior and/or have inherently greater value than other forms of life. For the most part, the experiential dimension of eco-centrism – what it feels like - and related explorations of the significance of this experience for sustainable behaviour, is a missing dimension from mainstream social science.

However, growing attention is being paid to the relationship between species, especially, but not exclusively, between human beings and other species. This burgeoning interest cuts across the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences, academic and popular culture. Much of this interest incorporates a more or less explicit challenge to an anthropocentric and ‘speciesist’ worldview. In some quarters the recognition of our ongoing interdependence – our ‘becoming with’ (Donna Haraway) – is also the basis for meaningfully addressing human responsibility for anthropogenic climate change. Can greater knowledge, and experience, of our interrelationship with other species spark an alternative paradigm, a movement even, that can constructively address anthropogenic climate change? This presentation charts a number of developments that have attempted to address these concerns, such as multispecies ethnography, ecofeminism, trans-species psychology, bio-semiotics, and post-humanism. It considers what value there is in this work for social scientists concerned with climate change and ecological crisis.

Biography: **Dr Matthew Adams** is a Chartered Psychologist and Principal Lecturer in Psychology in the School of Applied Social Sciences. He teaches predominantly social and environmental psychology across the undergraduate and postgraduate programme. Matt co-ordinates the modules SS617 Psychology, sustainability and ecological crisis; and SS509 Psychology, Cognition & Social Worlds. He is the Programme Leader for Undergraduate Psychology. Matthew’s research interests include psychosocial approaches to self and identity formation; consumption and consumerism; environmental problems; and psychological, social and cultural significance of silence. He also works closely with community organisations involved in providing outdoor and nature therapy, as a researcher and consultant.

My *Discover Society* [article](#) on why the climate crisis needs critical social science now published

Panel 5 – New Theories for Change: How Best to Think About and Understand Climate Change

Naming the Epoch: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Ecocene

Author: Dr. Joanna Boehnert, University of Westminster

The Anthropocene is the proposed name for the geological epoch where humanity is dramatically affecting geological processes. The name draws attention to severe environmental problems - but it also does other things. Jason Moore asks: “Does the Anthropocene argument obscure more than it illuminates?” (2014, 4). Donna Haraway argues that the Anthropocene must be “as short/thin as possible” (2015, 160). Moore, Haraway, Salon and Latour claim the concept uncritically imports Western rationality, imperialism and anthropocentrism – and thereby narrows options for the development of sustainable alternatives. It is important to be specific about exactly what ‘*anthropos*’ are doing to destabilise climate systems and other planetary boundaries. There is a particular model of development driving dramatic Earth System change. There are other options. In response to this problem, the Capitalocene is a concept that asserts: “the logic of capital drives disruption of Earth System. Not humans in general” (Salon, 2014). Bruno Latour says the Capitalocene is “a swift way to ascribe this responsibility to whom and to where it belongs” (2014, 139). It is more specific. Consequently it opens space for other opinions. Yet while the Capitalocene is critical, is not creative. Beyond the assumptions of Anthropocene and the critical perspective of the Capitalocene, new ways of understanding social and ecological relations are emergent. Design theorist Rachel Armstrong states “there is no advantage to us to bring the Anthropocene into the future... The mythos of the Anthropocene does not help us... we must re-imagine our world and enable the Ecocene” (2015). New ecologically informed ways of thinking and living must be generated. The Ecocene has yet to be designed. Its emergence depends on a new understanding of ecological-human relations and new types of development that emerge from this perspective. The transformative Ecocene describes a curative catalyst for cultural change necessary to survive the Anthropocene.

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Biography: Dr. Joanna Boehnert

I am a design practitioner and theorist who works as a Research Fellow in Design at the University of Westminster at the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM). My practice is situated at the intersection of design, the environment, and science and technology studies. During my last post as Visiting Research Fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado Boulder I developed a project called 'Mapping Climate Communication'. I completed an AHRC funded PhD at the University of Brighton in 2012. I founded the studio EcoLabs (www.eco-labs.org) in 2006. I am currently writing a book titled *Design/ Ecology/ Politics: Toward the Ecocene* for Bloomsbury Academic. This book bridges social and ecological theory to design. When possible, I am an activist who works with a variety of social/environmental movements.

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KEYNOTE SPEECH: “CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION: RE-WORKING OUR CLIMATE FUTURES”

Julie Doyle, University of Brighton

In reviewing climate change communication research over the last decade, Susanne Moser (2016) argues that whilst there has been an exponential growth in this area, significant challenges for climate communication researchers remain. Moser suggests that researchers must work in *partnerships* to bridge the gap between research and practice, move towards greater *interdisciplinarity*, and explore, amongst other topics, the role of *arts and culture* in communicating and engaging people with climate change. Situated at the nexus of Moser’s reflections, this presentation will explore how research collaborations between communication researchers and creative practitioners can provide novel ways of approaching, producing and disseminating more meaningful forms of climate communication. Through a specific focus upon two collaborative climate arts projects – one that uses visual media as a basis for exploring communication (*It’s the Skin You’re Living In*, 2011), and one that uses creative play as a form of engagement with young people (*FutureCoastYouth*, 2015) – this presentation will explore issues of temporality, embodiment, self-efficacy and the everyday in representing and engaging people with climate change. In doing so, it considers the opportunities and challenges of working collaboratively on creating more culturally meaningful and hopeful climate communication and practice.

Biography

Julie Doyle is a Reader in Media at the University of Brighton, where she is also co-founder and Acting Chair of the Centre for Research in Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics. Author of *Mediating Climate Change* (2011), and with a particular focus upon visual climate communication, her research explores how media and culture shape our understandings of and responses to climate change.

Panel 6 – Communities of Resistance, Marginalisation and Change: Exploring Grassroot Voices and Everyday Practices

Community-led resistance to climate-induced relocation In urban settings

Author: Charlotte Barrow (University College London)

Relocation of communities at risk of climate change induced disaster is increasingly prevalent both in local adaptation practice and in international development policy discourse¹. Many of these policies seek to avoid the problems faced by resettlement attempts resulting from development-forced displacement and resettlement (DFDR) or conflict. Yet the majority of interventions still fail to sufficiently engage and empower the vulnerable groups they target, often resulting in heightened vulnerability and/or return to previous settlements. Communities resisting relocation notwithstanding limited or non-existent recourse to formal justice channels (such as legal input) are forced to respond creatively, through small-scale actions, often at the community level. The cultural dimensions underpinning these actions are critical in improving adaptation and mitigation measures².

However these community-led responses, which could be utilized as a source of understanding of local needs, are often branded as disruptive and inappropriate both by government enforcers and by unsympathetic fellow citizens who may observe the interventions behind the discontent without being personally susceptible to their impacts³.

This paper therefore poses the question: how are local people challenging decisions about climate-induced resettlement, relocation and evictions and communicating discontent through small-scale or more collective resistance? What does this climate activism mean for international policy makers and/or local governments seeking to develop equitable and empowering practices of relocation as part of the urgent process of climate change adaptation?

Evidence is largely drawn from the project 'Reducing Resettlement and Relocation Risk in Urban Areas', led by the Development Planning Unit (DPU) at UCL and funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). The project looks at social, cultural, institutional and political aspects of resettlement and relocation across urban areas in Uganda, India, Colombia, Peru and Mexico. Each city's distinct context encourages a range of responses to the current practices of climate change induced relocation.

¹ E.g. the Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross Border Displacement; the Peninsula Principles for Climate Displacement within States; the Kampala Convention; the World Bank Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement etc.

² Adger, W. N., Barnett, J., Brown, K., Marshall, N., & O'Brien, K. (2013). Cultural dimensions of climate change impacts and adaptation. *Nature Climate Change*, 3(2), 112-117. Available at: doi:10.1038/nclimate1666 [Accessed March 8, 2016]

³ Oliver-Smith, A. (2010). *Defying displacement: Grassroots resistance and the critique of development*. University of Texas Press.

Biography: **Charlotte Barrow** is Research Assistant for the Reducing Relocation Risk project in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London. Since 2013, she has worked in various UCL departments on a range of projects related to climate change and urban governance, including Urban Connections as part of the City Leadership Initiative in collaboration with the World Bank and UN Habitat, the UCLoo Festival of sustainable urban sanitation, and the Engineering Exchange which aims to increase community participation in research projects. She has written chapters on urban governance, urban identity and marketing and sustainable development, and contributed to a conference paper aimed at developing a research agenda for the role of “the urban” in climate change-influenced migration within the SIDS (small island developing states) context.

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Panel 6 – Communities of Resistance, Marginalisation and Change: Exploring Grassroot Voices and Everyday Practices

Emerging ecological subjectivities? An investigation on the opportunities of the economic crisis.

Author: Alice Dal Gobbo (Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences)

Climate change, resource depletion, food emergencies, etc. constitute a radical challenge to capitalism's expansiveness. A second challenge has been the 2008 financial crisis. Together, the two crises call for a redefinition of social priorities, values and lifestyles: a more sustainable social system – one that would bring to the forefront the interests of the *living* (human and non-human) instead of those of dead capital. In the face of the inefficacy we are arguably witnessing at the level of politics, it is important to ask whether such a transition is or could be happening in the near future at “grass-root” level. In particular, I ask whether this is happening at the level of *everyday life* – that mundane and at the same time foundational space where “big” political and economic contradictions are lived, enacted, resisted. This talk presents a reflection about some of the data that I gathered during fieldwork in Vittorio Veneto, a post-industrial town in the North-East of Italy. There, I am investigating everyday energy use in the context of the crisis. Qualitative research in this area has been largely carried out through the lenses of practice theory. I propose, instead, a novel framework for investigation, informed by Gilles Deleuze (and Felix Guattari)'s writings. I take as a starting point the theory of *assemblage*, but also the vitalist premises of the French philosopher – which defy those easy nature-human dualisms that are at the very core of the predatory attitude of modern capitalism. I ask: are the unsustainable desiring assemblages that capitalism induces being de-territorialised and re-shaped by active, positive (and thus *creative*) forces that strive to transgress its borders and affirm *life* over the deadliness of capital? and what agency have historical legacies, practices and objects (understood especially in their being *material*) got in opening the way to more sustainable lifestyles?

Biography: Alice Dal Gobbo, Cardiff University School of Social Sciences

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Italian. Born in Vittorio Veneto, Italy, in 1991. Specialised in the humanities at high school; studied: Latin, Greek, Italian (language and literature), History, Philosophy, History of Art; as well as Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Natural Sciences.

Moved to Cardiff University School of Social Sciences in 2010. Completed a Bsc Social Science (BPS accredited). Got a scholarship from the ESRC for a 1+3 programme Sociology and Social Policy. Since my Msc in Social Science Research Methods I have been interested in the theme of sustainability both on macro and micro scales. Specifically, during the course of the Msc I have studied environmental policies on a discursive level. An article drawing on my thesis' dissertation has just been published by the Italian journal *Sociologia Urbana e Rurale*. Now in my 2nd year PhD.

Panel 6 – Communities of Resistance, Marginalisation and Change: Exploring Grassroot Voices and Everyday Practices

Food Sovereignty, Peasants' Rights, and the Marginalisation of Grassroots Voices

Author: Robin Dunford (University of Brighton)

La Vía Campesina, a transnational Peasant Social Movement, have demanded rights to 'food sovereignty' on an international stage. Food sovereignty is a right for peasants to produce their own food on their own territory. Rights to food sovereignty, the peasant movement say, can help build a world in which peasants, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk and pastoralists simultaneously feed the world and cool the planet through environmentally friendly forms of food production. Food sovereignty is made in particular places through, amongst other things, land occupations and knowledge exchange schemes, but it is also demanded as a global alternative to the current neoliberal, agro-industrial food regime. I explore how the idea of food sovereignty as an alternative model for global food and agriculture has emerged through dialogue across diverse cosmologies, before showing how demands for food sovereignty have been incorporated in to a proposed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. By examining the role of grassroots actors in the global South in the construction of this emerging set of human rights, I militate against tendencies of West-centrism and elitism in existing literature on the way in which human rights 'travel'. By also exploring the way in which the meaning of food sovereignty has changed as the proposed declaration on Peasants' Rights goes through the United Nations Human Rights Council, I am also able to highlight the potential marginalisation of grassroots peasant voices in recent United Nations discussions. This marginalisation of peasant voices suggests that elitist and West-centric tendencies persist in the processes through which human rights instruments are institutionalised. In this instance, these tendencies are constraining grassroots peasant activists in their efforts to develop a less environmentally destructive food system.

Biography: Robin Dunford, Senior Lecturer in Humanities, University of Brighton,
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Dr Robin Dunford is a Senior Lecturer in Humanities at the University of Brighton. His interdisciplinary work cuts across Global Ethics, International Politics, International Political Economy and Development Studies. He has published on peasant resistance, food sovereignty, the politics of human rights, inequality and regional development. Robin is committed to collaborative and interdisciplinary work, and is committed to grounding his research in activist politics.

Selected Publications

Refereed journal articles

'Peasant activism and food sovereignty: decolonising and democratising norm diffusion?'
European Journal of International Relations, DOI: 10.1177/1354066115614382

'Vernacular rights cultures and the right to have rights', *Citizenship Studies* (with S Madhok) 19 (6-7) (2015),

'Autonomous peasant struggles and left arts of government', *Third World Quarterly* 36 (8) (2015)

'Human rights and collective emancipation: the politics of food sovereignty', *Review of International Studies* 42 (2) (2015)

'Regional development, equality and gender: moving towards more inclusive and socially sustainable measures', *Economic and Industrial Democracy* 34 (3) (2013) (With D Perrons)

'Weak intentionalism and the death of the subject', *Intellectual History Review*, 21 (1) (2011)

Single-Authored Monograph:

The Politics of Transnational Peasant Struggle: Resistance, Rights and Democracy, Rowman and Littlefield International, due for publication in June 2016, ISBN: 9781783487813

Edited Collection Under Contract

'Exploring Complicity: Concepts and Cases' (With Afxentiou, A. and Neu, M.), *Rowman and Littlefield International*, due for publication in January 2017

Book chapter

'Power, privilege and precarity: the gendered dynamics of contemporary inequality', in Plomien, A. et al. (eds), (2015) *Handbook of Feminist Theory*, London: Sage (With D Perrons)

Panel 7 – Creative Climate: Art, Visuals and Performance as Spaces of Engagement

The framing effects of polysemic news visuals on climate change

Author: Antal Wozniak (University of Mannheim, Germany)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often draw on symbolic imagery to protest climate change policy and mobilize their own members as well as the wider public (Doyle, 2007; Wozniak et al., 2016). In covering climate change, mainstream media outlets are quite perceptible to NGO-created visuals of colorful protests or elaborate PR stunt installations (Wozniak et al., 2016). However, as Sobieraj (2011) argues, the meaning of such artful protest visuals might be lost to the majority of recipients. What do readers actually learn from such news visuals? Is their 'reading' of such visual images coherent and in line with the common use of visual synecdoches?

This study starts with the basic assumption that news visuals are not exclusively processed on an affective level, but can also function as propositions or arguments (Birdsell & Groarke, 1996, 2007), i.e., they can communicate discrete aspects of an issue. However, visuals lack an explicit propositional syntax (Messaris & Abraham, 2001). Thus, their degree of polysemy offers degrees of freedom for audience members to select and decode certain elements of a given news visual while disregarding others. Such a variety of decoded elements which are used for associative configuration and iterative integration in visual frame processing (see Geise & Baden, 2014) should inevitably lead to diverse individual visual frame conceptions.

An experimental study is conducted to assess **(a)** the effect the degree of polysemy of 'symbolic action' news visuals has on recipients' decoding mechanisms and their resulting visual frame conception (using a 'think-aloud'-design), and **(b)** whether (or to what extent) these conceptions are also moderated by individual-level context factors such as political attitudes, prior knowledge, and issue involvement (measured with a standardized survey design). In my presentation I will present the results of the first round of experiments (to be conducted in early April 2016).

Biography:

Antal Wozniak, MA, is a research associate at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) at the University of Mannheim. He primarily works in the area of political communication research with a focus on mediated public discourse. He received his Magister degree in Communication Studies and Political Science from the Technical University Dresden in 2009. Outside academia, he has worked as a student assistant in the German Federal Parliament, as a public relations assistant, and as a music journalist. Since 2012 he has been working for the DFG-funded project "Sustainable media events" (headed by Hartmut Wessler) which analyses the emergence of cross-border media debates in the context of climate change and the UN Climate Change Conferences, in particular. Project-related papers have been published in *Environmental Communication*, *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, and *Journalism Studies*

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Panel 7 – Creative Climate: Art, Visuals and Performance as Spaces of Engagement

Make time a matter of urgency: the art of revolution and civilisation

Author: *David Haley (Manchester Metropolitan University)*

At the scale of the biosphere, civilisation has changed the chemistry of the atmospheres that all life forms have evolved from and into. This potential geological change we now call the Anthropocene, is largely based on perceptions of recent industrialisation. However, we may find the seeds of this change in the very definition of civilisation that dates back 11,000 years to ‘Fertile Crescent’, or ‘Cradle of Civilisation’, from the end of the Neolithic Revolution. This was marked by the formation of states and a ruling elite. Similar revolutions followed, around 2,000 years later in China, Mesoamerica, and later in other parts of the world.

The first revolution was accompanied by some of the most important developments in human activity, including the invention of the wheel, agriculture, cursive writing, mathematics and astronomy. Nomadism gave way to sedentary settlement, the domestication of grains and animals, and lifestyles that became dependent on the production of surplus that allowed economies of scale. Civilisation began to control and dominate natural frontiers. We have named such revolutions in human history after their technological advances, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and so on. But we may consider such revolutions to be convergences of engineering/technology, agriculture, communication, science/philosophy and cosmic/world view. One factor that has become trivialised in Western cultures since the Axial Age, around 2,000 years ago, is that of art, *erete* (Gk) or *rta* from the Sanskrit *Rig Vedas*, meaning, ‘the dynamic process by which the whole cosmos continues to be created, virtuously’.

This paper considers the revolutionary process by which civilisation has changed over time as an exponential continuum towards entropy, Climate Change and the Anthropocene. Perhaps, it is time to reinvent art to become the next revolution for the regeneration of life? And to do this, we must make time a matter of urgency.

Biography:

Dr David Haley, MIRIAD, Manchester Metropolitan University, d.haley@mmu.ac.uk

Ecological artist, David Haley, believes our ability to survive Climate Change is the enactment of a complex evolutionary narrative. As the dance of creation and destruction, also, demands new opportunities and meanings for the other side of collapse, his inquiries into the nature of water, whole systems ecology, complexity, and integral critical futures thinking inform his arts practice, academic research, education and community developments.

Haley is a Senior Research Fellow in MIRIAD and Director of the Ecology In Practice research group at Manchester Metropolitan University. He is also a Visiting Professor at Zhongyuan University of Technology; Research Advisor to Transart Institute; Vice Chair of the CIWEM Art & Environment Network, Trustee of the Futures’ Venture Foundation, a member of UNESCO UK Man and the

Climate Change: Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics

Biosphere Urban Forum, the Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Ramsar Culture Network Arts Group.

As well as publishing on questions of 'capable futures', climate change, ecological arts and transdisciplinarity, his selected projects include: *In Ginkgo Time* (2015) a poem performed to question the 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima. *A Walk on the Wild Side* 2004-13) / *Walkabout the City* (2015 on-going) urban ecology performed through acts of community walking; *Making Our Futures: the Art of Sustainable Living* (2008- 16) research, learning and teaching to survive Climate Change in China, Taiwan, Spain and Manchester; *Life Support System* (2012-13), for Hong Kongers living with Climate Change; *Meantime... Desert Poetics* (2012-13), a poetic mapping of global desertification from Portugal; *A Dialogue with Oysters: the Art of Facilitation* (2008- on-going), a new creation myth emerging from the mingling of freshwater and rising seas; *Trees of Grace* (2008- cont.), a thousand-year long project for the Mersey Basin becoming an analogue forest.

Panel 7 – Creative Climate: Art, Visuals and Performance as Spaces of Engagement

Heterotopic Happenings: Creating spaces of activism through climate change performance work

Author: *Kate Monson (Lund University, Sweden)*

This research is born from three beliefs. First, that tackling the climate crisis requires radical and progressive transformation. Second, that the climate crisis is primarily a human crisis: a crisis of culture, language, knowledge and experience. And third, that changing these means changing everything, even the stories we tell.

By taking a close and critical look at two pieces of British climate change performance – Katie Mitchell's *2071* (2014) and Platform's *And While London Burns* (2006) – this research (a) explores how dominant norms in the human-ecological relationship can be challenged and subverted through performance; (b) encourages a closer consideration of the way both stories and the imagination play a constitutive and reflexive role in society and, (c) increases the critical relevance of performance in today's late modern world.

The work draws on theoretical concepts such as Elder Vass's norm circles, Foucault's heterotopias, Lefebvre's social space, and Haiven and Khasnabish's radical imagination, and employs a method of heterotopic analysis. It argues that heterotopic performances, and the potentially transformative spaces – both imagined and real – they produce, are a valuable tool for change. By revealing the contradictions that are often disguised or neutralised by the machinations of systems of power, they play an integral role in the invocation of the radical imagination and the inspiration of new human-ecological norms. Through a dual process of revelation and rehearsal, they serve to both equip people with visions of alternatives and the tools with which to achieve them.

Further, by bringing concepts like heterotopias and the radical imagination, which are more readily employed in research on social movements, into the artistic domain, we not only broaden the analytical lens through which the latter can be looked, but offer another way for these two vibrant realms of society to work together in the project of radical and creative change.

Biography: Kate Monson, MSc Human Ecology, Lund University, Sweden Biography

I graduated from the Human Ecology MSc at Lund University, Sweden, in July 2015. My current research interests are climate change communication and using the arts and humanities to create new ways of thinking about and engaging with space, environment and culture. .

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WORKSHOP – NEW CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: EXPLORING VERBAL AND VISUAL VOCABULARY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Climate Outreach is a politically independent, charitable think tank based in Oxford, with over ten years of experience widening and deepening public engagement with climate change. Adam Corner - Research Director at Climate Outreach and Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Psychology at Cardiff University - will describe how Climate Outreach works closely with academic research and theory, at the interface between research and practice, and invite conference delegates to participate in an interactive task exploring verbal and visual vocabulary for communicating climate change across the political spectrum. The presentation will also summarise some of the key findings from Climate Outreach research projects, including seven principles for visual climate change communication taken from the Climate Visuals research programme (www.climatevisuals.org).

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