



CITIES AND ECO-CRISES

SPEAKER BIOS

Rachel Armstrong

Rachel Armstrong is Co-Director of AVATAR (Advanced Virtual and Technological Architectural Research) in Architecture & Synthetic Biology at The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Senior TED Fellow, and Visiting Research Assistant at the Center for Fundamental Living Technology, Department of Physics and Chemistry, University of Southern Denmark. Her research investigates a new approach to building materials called living architecture that suggests it is possible for our buildings to share some of the properties of living systems.

Paper Title: "Living materials for the Built Environment"

Dana R. Fisher

Dana R. Fisher is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University. The major aim of her research is to understand the ways that social actors engage in decision-making processes and the successes and failures of such efforts, studying environmental policy, civic participation and activism more broadly. She has focused much of her attention on non-state actors, looking at them at multiple scales, including the international comparative level, the national level in multiple nation-states (primarily the United States, Japan and countries of the European Union), and the local/grassroots level in the United States. Fisher is currently researching the climate policy network in the United States as part of the US National Science Foundation-funded Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks (COMPON) project. Fisher is also the Lead Investigator of "Understanding the Dynamic Connections Among Stewardship, Land Cover, and Ecosystem Services in New York City's Urban Forest," which is funded by the US National Science Foundation. This project aims to understand the relationship between civic stewardship and re-greening efforts in New York City.

Paper Title: "Environmental Activism in the Urban Ecosystem"

Lindsey Hoshaw

Lindsey Hoshaw is Communications Director for the SENSEable City Laboratory, a new initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology aimed at studying transformations in the way we describe and understand cities, and the tools we use to design them and impact on their physical structures.

Paper Title: "Senseable Spaces: Ubiquitous computing in the natural and built environment"

Klaus Jacob

Dr. Jacob, has been part of Columbia University for more than forty years. He started as a research associate at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University (1968-73). From 1973 to August 2001 he was a senior research scientist at LDEO, a position from which he retired in 2001. Presently, Professor Jacob is a part-time special research scientist at the Earth Institute's LDEO, which he combines with his position as an adjunct professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs where he teaches Disaster Risk Management (2001 to present). He also taught at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Barnard College (1999-2005), and Columbia's Graduate School for Architecture, Planning, and



Preservation (2001-2003). Dr. Jacob has authored or coauthored more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific and technical publications and book chapters. His ongoing research includes the effects of global climate change, related sea level rise and coastal storm surge inundation primarily on major coastal cities and their infrastructure.

Paper title: "Rise or Fall of Megacities (Rich or Poor), in the face of climate Change and Natural Disasters"

Greg Lindsay

Greg Lindsay is co-author of *Aerotropolis: The Way We'll Live Next*, with John D. Kasarda. Scheduled to be published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in March 2011, *Aerotropolis* examines how and where we live in a globalized world -- in cities orbiting airports, and not the other way around. He also speaks frequently about the future of cities, having most recently addressed the Summer 2010 session of Singularity University. He is a contributing writer for *Fast Company*, and has written for *Fortune* and *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*. His writing has also appeared in *Time*, *Wired*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, and other publications.

Paper Title: "Smart Cities and Climate Change: Crusade or Cynical Exercise"

Richard A. Matthew

Richard A. Matthew (BA McGill; PhD Princeton) is Associate Professor of International and Environmental Politics in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science at the University of California at Irvine, and founding Director of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs. He studies (a) the environmental dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding; (b) climate change adaptation in conflict and post-conflict societies; and (c) transnational threat systems. He has done extensive field work in conflict zones in South Asia and East, Central and West Africa. In addition to his positions at UCI, he is also the Senior Fellow for Security at the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Geneva; a senior member of the United Nations Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding; and a member of the World Conservation Union's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy. Dr. Matthew has received Certificates of Recognition for his research and service activities from the U.S. Congress, the California State Legislature and the City of Los Angeles. He has over 130 publications including six books and co-edited volumes.

Paper Title: "Avoiding a Global Environmental Catastrophe"

P. Michael Pelken

P. Michael Pelken is a Designer and Registered Architect in Germany and the UK. He has extensive design experience working on projects ranging from product and furniture design to large scale architectural structures. In his design work he investigates energy efficient solutions in diverse project scales and the transfer of design principles between different disciplines. As a Research Fellow at the Syracuse Center of Excellence, he has collaborated with SU Prof. T. Dang from the L.G. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Since 2007, he and Prof. Dang have explored the integration of wind technologies into the built environment at various scales,



ranging from product design to high-rise structures.

Paper Title: "Performative Wind Technology and the Built Environment"

Irwin Redlener

Irwin Redlener, M.D., is professor of Clinical Population and Family Health and director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, and is one of ten members of the congressionally-established National Commission on Children and Disasters. Dr. Redlener speaks and writes extensively on national disaster preparedness policies, pandemic influenza, the threat of terrorism in the U.S. and related issues.

Dr. Redlener is also president and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund and has expertise in health care systems, crisis response and public policy with respect to access to health care for underserved populations.

Paper title: "Disaster preparedness: public health and large-scale catastrophic events"

Ties Rijcken

Ties Rijcken works at Delft University of Technology on 'integrated water infrastructure development' for two groups established to connect different faculties and conduct projects with institutions outside university. Rijcken studied in Utrecht, Delft and at Stanford. Since he graduated in 2003 in Industrial Design Engineering (with a rare '10') he has worked simultaneously both in university and in the 'field'. As a designer-engineer, he brought a balancing product for floating houses to market and he registered a patent on a modular floating foundation concept. As a researcher on 'living with water', he wrote many popular articles, two books, consulted the housing ministry and received five awards, among which the European 'Leonardo da Vinci Art and Science Award'. In 2008 the national 'Delta Committee' adopted his proposed concept to protect the Rhine Delta from flooding during the 21st century. He is currently elaborating on this idea with researchers and professionals from various disciplines, using both advanced hydraulic modeling and new media.

Paper title: "Cities and Floods; Living on a 'Water Machine'"

Shiv Someshwar

Shiv Someshwar directs the Asia and Pacific Regional Program of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, and the Adaptation Program of the Earth Institute's Global Network for Climate Solutions. An expert in climate change adaptation and development policy, Dr. Someshwar has led numerous multidisciplinary projects that build resilience to climate risks in developing countries. He advises governments in identifying adaptation priorities, and serves as an advisor to UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery to integrate climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts. He helped develop Columbia's graduate program in Climate and Society, where he also teaches. Previously, he was at the Rockefeller Foundation and at the World Bank. Dr. Someshwar received his Ph.D. in environment and public policy from the University of California, Los Angeles, and was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University.

Paper title: "Adapting to Climate Risks: Comparing Approaches"



Amit Srivastava

Amit Srivastava is the Coordinator of India Resource Center and the Director of Global Resistance. For the last eight years, Amit has coordinated the International Campaign to Hold Coca-Cola Accountable for mismanagement of water resources in India. Prior to his work on Coca-Cola, Amit directed the International Programs and Climate Justice Initiative at CorpWatch, a leading corporate accountability organization in San Francisco. Amit initiated the Climate Justice Initiative (CJI) in 2000, the first ever program on climate justice which redefined climate change from a human rights and environmental justice perspective. His writing has appeared in various outlets including The Economic Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, CounterPunch and Alternet, and Amit has appeared on various radio and TV outlets, including CNN and BBC. His work has also been featured in the Wall Street Journal and other publications.

Paper Title: "Coca-Cola or Drinking Water? The Growing Water Conflicts Between Industry and Community in India"

Noah Toly

Noah Toly is Assistant Professor of Politics & International Relations and Director of Urban Studies at Wheaton College. Prior to joining the faculty at Wheaton, Noah served as Policy Fellow at the University of Delaware's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy. His research interests are at the intersection of urban and global environmental politics. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters and co-editor of three books, including *Transforming Power: Energy, Environment, and Society in Conflict*.

Paper Title: "Transnational Municipal Networks and Climate Change: From Global Governance to Global Politics"

Arthur H. Westing

Arthur Westing is a former Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. He has been a consultant on issues of environmental security to the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and other international and national agencies. He is also a member of the European Peace University and a former captain in the United States Marine Corps.

Paper Title: "War and Its Consequences on Environments and People"

