Contesting Loss&Damage

Urban climate justice, grassroots organizations and radical adaptation

Occupy Climate Change!

Stockholm, 5-6 March 2020

Contesting Loss&Damage

Urban climate justice, grassroots organizations and radical adaptation
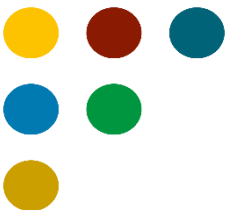
Cover Image:
Photo by [Kayle Kaupanger](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory

The KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory brings ground-breaking humanities and social science research to bear upon socio-ecological challenges of our times, fostering just sustainability. Since 2011, the EHL foments internationally-recognized, transdisciplinary research, training, and public engagement as part of the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment. Today, the EHL is one of the crucial global players in the exciting new field of the environmental humanities, with a network of academic and societal collaborations spreading over all the continents.

The EHL's areas of action are:

Research on: migration and the environment; climate change and social innovations; toxicity and environmental justice; ecological democracy and environmentalist movements; environmental history of authoritarian regimes and colonialism; energy democracy and transition.

Training in: environmental history, political ecology, environmental humanities, and visual studies.

Third mission through: outreaching activities involving civil society organizations, students, policymakers, and the public.

Occupy Climate Change!

OCC! researches two themes which are understudied in the literature on Climate Change: the issue of Loss and Damage and the impact of climate change on cities. In particular, OCC! will address those themes focusing on the practices and experiments of grassroots organizations across different cases in order to identify how their diverse, dynamic, self-organized responses to loss try to undo or embrace the damage. OCC!'s team will delve into the practices of self-organization and solidarity experimented by grassroots groups, researching which kind of knowledge is being produced and whether these practices can be scaled-up beyond "militant particularism" (Harvey & Williams 1995) and the specificities of the single case.

The project will produce both a global database (The Map of the other worlds) documenting cases of grassroots initiatives that tackle climate change and an in-depth case study analysis on urban experiments from Europe (Malmö, Naples, Istanbul), the US (New York City), and Latin America (Rio De Janeiro). OCC!'s key objective is to test which grassroots responses to loss and damage have been successful, why, and on what scale. This comparison includes a focus on rethinking the role of expertise, knowledge production, and progressive experiments of local actors.

Methodologically, OCC!'s team is grounded in the two overarching interdisciplinary fields of environmental humanities and political ecology.

Call for Workshop Proposals

Recent body of work on climate change adaptation increasingly refer to the limits of adaptation, which denotes a cut-off line where loss and damage becomes inevitable. This notion of limits of adaptation, according to Michael Watts (2015), was the "very ground on which political ecology emerged during the 1970s and 1980s". Translating the global debates on loss and damage as if people matter (Tschakert et al, 2017) requires attention not only to national but also to local scales and therefore lays at the heart of critical political ecology inquiry today (Roberts and Pelling, 2018). Bridging different temporalities of loss and damage and searching for their roots requires attention not only to ongoing phenomena but also to different historical contexts. Historical analysis has indeed been central to political ecology since its emergence (Offen, 2015; Mathevet et al. 2015). These histories, however, must be reinterpreted under current circumstances, in a context, as Watts (2015) reminds us that "what is on offer now is something unimaginable until relatively recently: namely abrupt, radical life-threatening shifts framed in the language of uncertainty, unpredictability, and contingency." Such uncertainty, predictability and contingency are the basis of living dangerously in the age of planetary urbanization (Evans and Reid, 2014). Consequently, exploring present and past adaptation and resistance as the basic tenets of urban climate justice is tempting insofar as it allows framing equity and fairness in adaptation as a process and not solely as an outcome.

Studies on new climate urbanism (Long and Rice, 2019), Do-It-Yourself adaptation (Cloutier et al, 2018), Transition Movements (Feola and Nunes, 2015), direct action (Vandepitte et al, 2019) and multi-scalar and multi-sited politics of climate change all attest that despite an increasing attention on the actions of local governments and non-state actors, grassroots mobilizations still receive scant attention when it comes to mobilizing on adaptation with a view to instigate political change (Chu, 2018).

Recent research also calls for a more thorough engagement with issues of multi-scalar power as important determinants of adaptation (Woroniecki et al, 2019) as well as centering of community-driven, transformative just adaptation initiatives (Schlosberg et al, 2017) and subjectivities (Tschakert et al, 2019). Moreover, contributions from environmental humanities have also recently enriched this policy-oriented scholarship with a wide range of new perspectives and different layers (Dawson, 2017; Solnit, 2010).

This workshop will bring together contributions from both early-career and established scholars on the broadly defined field of urban climate justice that dare to look beyond the myth of self-regulating markets of private insurance schemes and liberal technocratic functionalism of engineering interventions. As such, it seeks to amplify grassroots voices from the global South and global North alike on issues including but not limited to

• radical adaptation (Dawson, 2017),

• bottom-up citizen initiatives (Shi et al, 2016),

• heterotopias (Edwards and Bulkeley, 2018),

• climate gentrification (Anguelovski et al, 2016),

• humans and other species (Gillard et al, 2016),

• financialization of climate adaptation (Bigger and Millington, 2019),

• co-production of socionatures (Nightingale et al, 2019),

• hybrid, creative and cosmopolitical experiments as well as transformational radical adaptation practices (Steele et al, 2015)

• historical dynamics of socio-ecological change in urban landscapes (Naiman, 1992; Ernstson and Sörlin, 2019)

The workshop organisers
Marco Armiero, Ethemcan Turhan,
Roberta Biasillo, Salvatore Paolo De Rosa

Workshop Information

Location and Lodging

The workshop will be located on the KTH campus in the premises of the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment.
Address: Teknikringen 74D, Stockholm
Phone: +46 8 790 62 63

We arranged for lodging at the Elite Hotel Arcadia, walking distance to the workshop venue.
Address: Körsbärsvägen 1, Stockholm
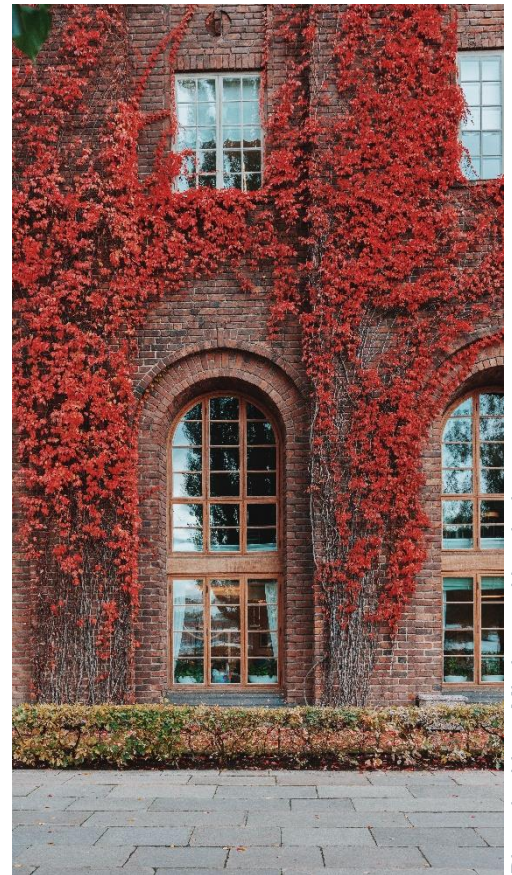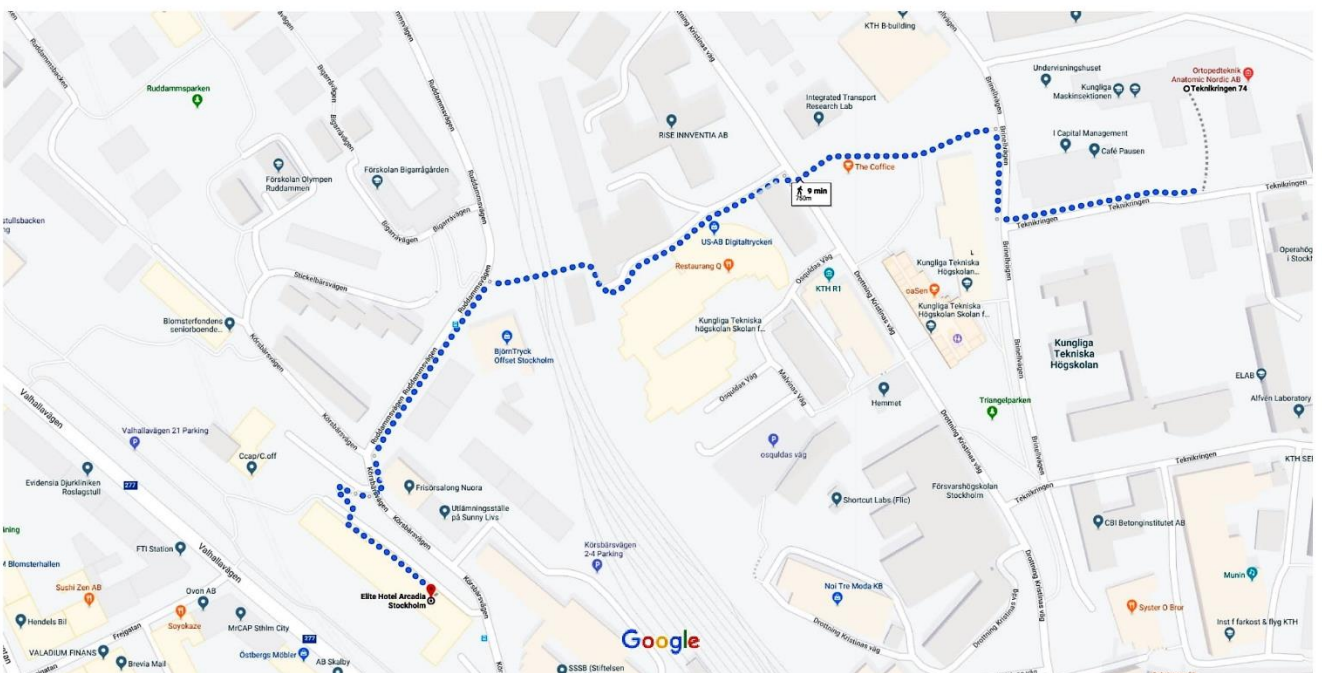Phone: +46 8 566 215 00
Email: info.arcadia@elite.se

Photo by Linus Mimietz on Unsplash

Transportation

<u>From Arlanda Airport to Stockholm City</u>

- Airport coach Flygbussarna
  Departures every 10-20 minutes between Arlanda Airport and the City Terminal (located next to Stockholm Central Station). Duration: 35-45 mins. Price: SEK 99 (online) / SEK 119 (offline).
  <u>Download the app</u> or <u>buy your ticket online</u>

- The Arlanda Express train
  Departure: every 15 minutes (most hours of the day). Duration: 20 mins. Price: single SEK 299; return SEK 579.
  <u>Timetable and tickets</u>

- Local transportation by Public transport – commuter train
  Departure: the commuter trains depart from Arlanda Station (SkyCity). Duration: 38 min. Price: regular SL ticket + airport passenger fee. Total, SEK 157.
  <u>Plan your trip</u>

<u>From Stockholm Central Station to KTH campus</u>

Stockholm central station, T-centralen or the City terminal is where long-distance and commuter trains, underground trains, buses and taxis connect. This is also where the airport coach will drop you off. From here you can easily access all of KTH campuses.

KTH main campus is just 5 minutes away from Stockholm Central Station by metro. Take the red line in the direction of Mörby Centrum and get off at the stop Tekniska Högskolan. <u>KTH Entré</u> is the central meeting point and service desk on campus, and can help you with guidance and contact, general queries and more.

<u>From Stockholm Central Station to the Elite Hotel Arcadia</u>

By Metro: red line to Mörby Centrum and the station Tekniska Högskolan. Follow signs to Körsbärsvägen and the hotel is about a hundred metres from the exit.

By Bus: There are bus stops at Tekniska Högskolan and Valhallavägen, both are just a hundred metres from the hotel.

Presentation Instructions

The length of oral presentations is 40 minutes, which must include time for Q&A. Hence, your presentation should last no longer than 20 minutes.

The workshop room at the division will be equipped with an LCD projector and a connector cable. The workshop will supply computer and speakers.

Please send your presentation and coordinate in advance with the organizers.

We recommend that you bring your presentation on a USB drive as a backup. Mac users must bring their own adaptors for the digital projectors.

Climate Strike in Stockholm. 15 March 2019. Photo by Roberta Biasillo.

Questions? Contact:

- Travel and lodging arrangements:
  Salvatore Paolo De Rosa
  salvatore.paolo.derosa@abe.kth.se +45 52601119

- Workshop programme and content:
  Ethemcan Turhan
  ethemcan.turhan@abe.kth.se

- Presentations and other requests:
  Roberta Biasillo
  roberta.biasillo@abe.kth.se +46 (0)729434732

- Occupy Climate Change! project and KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory:
  Marco Armiero
  marco.armiero@abe.kth.se

STOCKHOLM

Programme

March 5

Session 1 | 9:00 – 10:30

Opening: Marco Armiero and Ethemcan Turhan
Keynote: Isabelle Anguelovski – *Moving beyond the 'green and resilient city' to urban environmental and climate justice*

Coffee Break | 10:30 – 11:00

Session 2 | 11:00 – 12:30

Chair: Salvatore Paolo De Rosa
Ashley Dawson – *Popular Planning for Climate Action in New York City*
Cristina Visconti – *Practices of resilience: questioning urban adaptation in the Chilean social upsurge*

Lunch | 12:30 – 13:45

Session 3 | 13:45 – 16:00

Chair: Marco Armiero
Aysem Mert – *Plasticity after Nature: Urban climate adaptation and the negotiation of climate related loss*
Giuseppe Feola – *Unmaking capitalism in transformation to sustainability: the politics of loss and sacrifice*
Henrik Ernstson – *Saying it out aloud! Occupying is something we do together; voicing a genealogy of racial capitalism*

Coffee Break | 16:00 – 16:30

Session 4 | 16:30 – 18:00

Chair: Henrik Ernstson
Nate Millington and Suraya Scheba – *Situating Day Zero: Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Inequality in Cape Town's Water Crisis*
Aurash Khawarzad – *Critical maps of climate change displacement in New York City*

Dinner | 19:00 – 20:30
Restaurang Cypern, Valhallavägen 50, Stockholm

March 6

Session 5 | 9:00 – 10:30

Chair: Roberta Biasillo
Daniel Aldana Cohen – *Follow the Carbon: Urban Climate Justice in the Age of the Green New Deal*
Gerald Aiken – *The importance of orientation in community action for urban climate justice*

Coffee Break | 10:30 – 10:50

Session 6 | 10:50 – 12:20

Chair: Aysem Mert
Vanesa Castán Broto – *Climate Change Action and the Power of the Mundane*
Salvatore Paolo De Rosa – *Against Climate Consensus. Varieties of Grassroots Climate Activism in Malmö*

Lunch | 12:20 – 13:30

Session 7 | 13:30 – 15:00

Chair: Ethemcan Turhan
Lise Sedrez – *The many voices of an urban forest: active listening to community initiatives in Babilonia Hill, Rio de Janeiro*
Maria Federica Palestino and Gilda Berruti – *Turning urban fragilities into resources for a just climate adaptation*
Lorenzo Chelleri – *Disrupting the grid(s) and its management: a pilot model of co-designing and co-managing a decentralized and self-sufficient urban green district in practice*

Coffee Break | 15:00 – 15:20

Session 8 | 15:20 – 16:50

Chair: Marco Armiero
Ethemcan Turhan – *Lost and Found: Reclaiming the climate-just Istanbul*
Josefin Wangel – *Exploring radical adaptation and urban climate justice through design speculations*

Conclusive Discussion | 17:00 – 18:00
Chair: Ashley Dawson

Isabelle Anguelovski
Barcelona Laboratory for Urban
Environmental Justice and
Sustainability

*Moving beyond the
'green and resilient city'
to urban environmental
and climate justice*

Large cities worldwide are increasingly deploying urban greening interventions to address socio-environmental and health challenges and harness widespread benefits for citizens, industries, and investors, while protecting existing urban ecosystems, resources, environmentally-sensitive areas, and built infrastructure and settlements. Many urban greening interventions are further supported or encouraged by policy and research schemes. While those schemes promote city efforts to experiment with and replicate urban greening in neighborhoods through a city, I argue that few of them begin with an equity lens and include concrete measures for ensuring that greening solutions benefit all residents, and in particular residents and communities who are historically vulnerable to environmental racism and/or displacement. For the most part, there is an implicit assumption of "green" trickle-down effects spreading to benefit all. Thus, even if green practitioners and managers have the best social intentions, the broader urban greening orthodoxy leaves aside important urban tensions, contradictions, and trade-offs between different social groups and their relations to urban greening. I first illustrate this argument by quantitatively and qualitatively examining the extent to which urban greening creates equity in accessing the benefits of urban nature projects or, in contrast, perpetuates or produces urban inequities

through processes of green and, in the specific context of urban climate adaptation, green infrastructure (GI) and other greening interventions are increasingly used for the management of certain climate risks in urban environments, such as storm management and flooding mitigation, mudslides or landslides prevention, or reduction of heat island effects. Yet, emerging research is showing these numerous adaptation or resilience benefits tend to reproduce or exacerbate socio-spatial inequalities and reconfigure landscapes of vulnerability and security in the context of climate impacts. Here, equity seems side-lined in the deployment and marketing of green infrastructure interventions for climate adaptation and resilience. In the final part of this presentation, I thus question the ability of such interventions to recognize and protect the needs, values, interests, and identities of traditionally marginalized groups in view of climate risks and impacts. In this process, I highlight a new form of injustice for the urban poor and minorities: They are those most likely displaced – both in the short and mid-term, physically and socially – by green climate infrastructure and investments through processes of what I and others have recently called "green climate gentrification."

There is thus much need for climate change researchers to demystify the so-called win-win benefits of GI climate interventions and identify how the green resilience turn increasingly adopted by cities produces new forms of climate injustice both in the Global North and South. There is also a need to recognize emerging activism for resident-centered adaptation and resilience, one that can bring about greater social and climate justice in cities under climate change stress.

Isabelle Anguelovski is the director of BCNUEJ (Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability) and ICREA Research Professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) within the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA). Situated at the intersection of urban planning and policy, social inequality and development studies, her research examines the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighborhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies. In the ERC EU-funded project GREENLULUS, she and others explore how environmental gentrification processes can lead to new forms of locally unwanted land uses, Green Locally Unwanted Land Uses in communities of color and lower-income neighborhoods.

Session 2

Ashley Dawson
The Graduate Center /
City University of New York

*Popular Planning
for Climate Action
in New York City*

This presentation will look at two examples of popular planning for climate action in contemporary New York City: The East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) plan, and the rezoning of Brooklyn's waterfront Industry City development. Both case studies exemplify the flawed and iniquitous handling of climate adaptation in a city where gentrification and redevelopment for the rich is rampant and the priorities of top-down city planning overpower true community benefits.

The first of case study, the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) plan, is the center of climate justice struggles in the contemporary city. With the support of Mayor Bill de Blasio, the ESCR is a poorly designed plan that would destroy the East River Park, a 58-acre civic amenity located in the heart of Manhattan's Lower East Side. The City's plan is being fought by thousands of New Yorkers who question the way in which New York City is choosing to redevelop coastlines for rising sea-levels and future resiliency in the face of the climate crisis. In a city where inequality is steeply rising, the fight over the City's East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) plan is more than a fight over the future of East River Park. NYC's stark inequalities have given rise to vast community suspicion

of the motivations of the plan. In particular, community activists suspect that the park redevelopment will provide a lucrative deal for big money construction companies with political ties that would come at a cost of $1.45 billion in federal and city money with no legally binding benefits to the community. As new facts emerge and more aspects of the plan are identified as unfeasible, not fully fleshed out, and not adequate in combating rising sea-levels, flooding and today's climate emergency, community mobilization has intensified.

The second case study, the rezoning of Industry City in the waterfront Brooklyn neighborhood of Sunset Park, demonstrates the capacity of communities to develop vibrant alternate plans to top-down development. Sunset Park-based environmental justice organization Uprose worked with allies in the planning community to generate a proposal for a Green Resilient Industrial District (GRID). Driving the proposal was a strong sense that the community needs good jobs that will help fight off the tide of gentrification that threatens so many working-class neighborhoods in the city. Rather than another city-funded high-end condo development, GRID called for the creation of production facilities in Industry City to build wind turbines destined for a wind farm off the coast of nearby Long Island. GRID would help build community resiliency in the fullest possible sense of the term, guaranteeing the economic and social stability of the predominantly East Asian and Latinx residents of Sunset Park while helping to construct the renewable energy infrastructure that NYC needs so badly. The surprise approval of elite redevelopment plans by the City has caused an uproar in the community and across the city. The period of public review of the redevelopment proposal during the next few months will determine whether Industry City becomes a paradigm of community-based resiliency planning, or yet another example of feckless elite development that disregards place, people, and climate change.

Ashley Dawson is Professor of Postcolonial Studies in the English Department at the Graduate Center / City University of New York and the College of Staten Island. He is the author of numerous books, including the forthcoming *People's Power: Reclaiming the Energy Commons* (O/R, 2020), as well as *Extreme Cities: The Peril and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change* (Verso, 2017) and *Extinction: A Radical History* (O/R, 2016). A member of the Social Text Collective and the founder of the CUNY Climate Action Lab, he is a long-time climate justice activist.

Cristina Visconti

Faculty of Architecture /
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de
Chile

***Practices of resilience:
Questioning urban
adaptation in the
Chilean social upsurge***

On November 1st 2019, Chile, the appointed host country for the COP25 summit, cancelled the event after weeks of street protests. Chile's protests had initially began over the suspended price hike for subway tickets in Santiago but have since expanded, revealing anger among ordinary Chileans, who felt they had been excluded from the nation's economic rise. Protests paralyzed the country and were exacerbated by the declaration of the state of emergency, repression and curfew. The call for democracy, education, health, reduction of poverty, justice, protection of natural resources as commons, shift of an extreme neoliberal model, freedom of expression and respect of human rights represented the platform for civil disobedience. This social upsurge is giving place to a movement of self-organized assemblies (*cabildos*) spread all over the country as form of bottom-up action and advocacy responding the severe socio- political crisis. The overlap of the social and environmental agendas is becoming a central issue in relation to the major demand for a new Constitution and such convergence has revealed itself instrumental in bringing about policies and actions of several grassroots movements. Among the others, "Cumbre de los Pueblos", recently formed in response to

the COP25, aims at outlining alternative transformation pathways for climate adaptation based on communities and justice.

In Chile, disaster risk culture and resilience framework follow top-down, technocratic and market-driven logics that tend to reproduce socio-spatial inequalities and to exclude from adaptation measures the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups that are also the more exposed to risk (Anguelovski et al. 2016). Therefore, the insurgence of forms of activism, in combination with the emerging demand for far-reaching socio-environmental reforms leading to self-determination and empowerment is generating a unique space for reflection about how grassroots movements are challenging institutional climate discourses and strategies.

The presentation will focus on emerging trajectories of a community-driven agenda for the adaptation represented by the case of the *ECO-BARRIO* initiative born during the last decade in different neighborhoods of the Metropolitan Area of Santiago de Chile. These bottom-up actions led by community organizations question the mainstream acceptation of "Eco-neighborhood" creating self-organized practices that redraw the concept of a green district through a transformative interpretation. The discussion will illustrate how the Chilean case can contribute to translate resilience discourses in contested and vulnerable urban spaces into practices (Petrescu et al. 2016).

Cristina Visconti is an architect with a Ph.D. in Architectural Technology and Environmental Design at University of Naples Federico II about community-based adaptation strategies in context of socio-environmental vulnerability. Sha has been visiting Ph.D. student at the Habitat Unit, Technische Universität Berlin. From 2013 she is a member of the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN)and she is contributing author of the chapter "Urban Planning and Design" in ARC3.2 Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities. She carried on several action-research projects in Italy and Chile for the co-production of resilience practices both as academic and activist. Cristina is currently post-doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Architecture of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Santiago de Chile and she a team member of the project "Multi-dimensional resilient design: Coupling Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Action".

Session 3

Aysem Mert
Department of Political Science /
Stockholm University

*Plasticity after Nature:
Urban climate
adaptation and the
negotiation of climate
related loss*

Environmental governance narratives often discuss loss in an economic framing (as loss and damage), or in a non-human environment framing as loss of 'nature' (e.g. erosion, destruction of forests, melting of glaciers, extinction of species). In urban environmental governance loss is rarely references outside of the economic/financial context and this often happens when a disaster strikes: Then, we hear about loss of livelihoods and infrastructure, or in more dire cases loss of lives. Loss in urban contexts seems outside of the purview of environmental governance research altogether. Urban climate governance often focuses on political protests, municipal action plans, investments and even transnational networks to prevent potential disasters and facilitate adaptation. Yet loss is felt deeply, and grief takes many forms ranging from self-harm and suicide among young adults (Andreotti 2018), to narratives of parental sacrifice in the context of climate change (Chella Rajan 2013), to initiatives of remembrance (e.g. Istanbul Remembers 2019), and local protests (e.g. high school strikes across the western world). Still, loss is poorly theorized or addressed in studies of climate politics and governance, particularly in the urban scale.

This paper aims to address this gap in literature by investigating loss and grief in urban contexts, experienced as individuals and communities. I employ Marilyn Strathern's (1992) conception of plasticlass, which conceals "the social division between those with flexibility and those without" and apply it to communities' capacity to survive climate disasters. Modern cities across the world are increasingly stratified, which means that certain populations and zones of the city are effectively abandoned when disaster strikes leaving their residents to provide for themselves. The potential to survive climate change therefore is increasingly dependent on how quickly one can move, how flexible one can be in relocating elsewhere and how easily one can rebuild a new life in the aftermath of the disaster.

Municipalities and climate action plans often conceive disaster relief as bringing communities back to the conditions that characterized them before the disaster stroke, but a return to the earlier status quo is far from desirable for the majority of the citizens, let alone the residents of these cities. I call this condition plasticity after Nature and argue that climate change can be occupied by way of changing the way loss is negotiated (as represented by the municipal climate action plans), by insisting on a just recovery and transition (Graham et al., 2016) while simultaneously refusing to return to an earlier and deeply unjust status quo in the aftermath of disasters.

Ayşem Mert is Associate Senior Lecturer at the Political Science Department of Stockholm University. Her research focuses on the discourses of democracy and environment, post-structuralist and interpretive methods, discourse theory, democracy and democratic governance in the Anthropocene, and public-private cooperation in sustainability governance. Thematically, she has been working increasingly on climate related political emotions such as urgency, loss, and fear, the fantasies these emotions produce regarding the future of human and more-than-human societies, and the ways in which practices and institutions are affected by them. Her work on the FORMAS project *Occupy Climate Change!* has challenged her to think more innovatively about climate emergencies and their influence on human and non-human societies. She regularly collaborates with artists and non-scientific contributors to communal life and public debate in projects pertaining to climate change and environmental politics. She is a member of the Shadow Places Network and the Earth System Governance Network.

Giuseppe Feola
Copernicus Institute of
Sustainable Development /
Utrecht University

*Unmaking capitalism
in transformation to
sustainability:
the politics of loss and
sacrifice*

The current social-ecological crisis is largely an outcome of the capitalist modern development project, which has been pursued through the production of sacrifice zones and the dispensation (loss) of human and non-human bodies, and cultures. Yet, discursive and material strategies of transformation to sustainability, which have become a ubiquitous approach – if only nominally – to the social-ecological crisis, largely fail to engage in a reconfiguration of loss and sacrifice. In fact, they tend to reproduce the silences on loss and sacrifice and the promises of progress and development that are at the root of the crisis itself.

The aim of this paper is to reveal how different discursive and material strategies of transformation to sustainability articulate notions of loss and sacrifice, or fail to do so. The paper builds on recent critiques of transformative mitigation and adaptation, which have emphasised the inherent, but often overlooked political character of transformation, and the contested nature of supposed transformative 'solutions'.

This paper aims to make a novel contribution to that debate by specifically examining the transformative strategies of selected prefigurative grassroots movements and,

within those, the role of strategies of deliberate unmaking of existing social-ecological configurations as a condition for the establishment of alternatives.

Such deliberate strategies of unmaking reconfigure loss and sacrifice – who loses, who sacrifices, and who is sacrificed. They also foreground and thus politicize loss and sacrifice, which contrasts with the ways in which these aspects are silenced and hidden in predominant discursive and material strategies of transformation to sustainability.

Giuseppe Feola is Associate Professor of Social Change for Sustainability at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University (the Netherlands). He works on social-ecological change in modern societies with a primary empirical focus on agri-food systems. His research is currently funded by and ERC Starting Grant and a Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research Vidi Grant, and focuses on processes of 'unmaking' of capitalism in agri-food social movements. His most recent book is: *Climate and Culture: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on a Warming World* (Cambridge University Press).

Climate Strike in Stockholm. 15 March 2019. Photo by Roberta Biasillo

Henrik Ernstson
Department of Geography /
The University of Manchester

Saying it out aloud! Occupying is something we do together; voicing a genealogy of racial capitalism

Starting with Premesh Lalu's notion of the "settler public sphere," and arguing that this is our general condition under neoliberal capitalism, I want to recognise those who have struggled and thought before us and use this session to elaborate a collective process of reading out aloud a genealogy of critique of racialized capitalism that threads through Frederick Douglass, CLR James to Sylvia Wynter and Leigh-Ann Naidoo. Inspired also by Kathryn Yusoff's critique of "White geology" and her development of a political geology, I want to see if we can occupy a space through reading out aloud. What does it mean to occupy a space by collectively reading out aloud a critique of racialized capitalism at a seminar room at KTH in Stockholm?

Henrik Ernstson is Lecturer in Human Geography at The University of Manchester and Honorary Associate Professor at African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. He has held research positions at KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University with Postdoctoral Fellowships at Stanford University and University of Cape Town. He is developing a situated approach to urban political ecology with a special focus on southern and postcolonial urbanism. He combines urban political ecology, urban studies, STS, and social movement studies, alongside interdisciplinary research in urban and landscape ecology. He is also developing film-based research practices using cinematic ethnography, montage and essay film to engage in the texture, embodiment, and situatedness of political and environmental practices, knowledges and politics. He has published two books that spans several of these interests: *Urban Political Ecology in the Anthropo-obscene* (Routledge 2019, edited with Erik Swyngedouw) and *Grounding Urban Natures: Histories and Futures of Urban Ecologies* (MIT Press 2019, edited with Sverker Sörlin). He has also released the cinematic ethnography film One Table Two Elephants (2018, with Jacob von Heland) that deals with race, nature and knowledge politics in the postcolonial city.

Cape Town, Rhodes memorial. Photo by Henrik Ernstson.

Session 4

Nate Millington
University of Manchester
Suraya Scheba
University of Cape Town

*Situating Day Zero:
Infrastructure, Climate
Change, and
Inequality in Cape
Town's Water Crisis*

From 2015 to 2018, Cape Town, South Africa, was marked by fears of a water crisis during which the city's taps threatened to run dry. While the city was ultimately able to avoid citywide rationing, Cape Town's experience of crisis raises profound questions about the politics of water governance and infrastructural provisioning in an era of climate change. In this paper we argue that Cape Town's crisis is critical for understanding how climate change is reconfiguring existing governance dynamics at a planetary scale, and offers insights into what form urban climate change adaptation may take in the future. We focus on relationships between existing inequalities and the arrival of climate change as both a series of material processes as well as discourses. In Cape Town's case, we argue that the experience of water scarcity was a product of the convergence of ongoing contradictions in South African water governance that intersected with shifting infrastructural priorities associated with the arrival of climate change. In responding to the possibility of reduced revenues brought on by reduced water usage, the city moved further into commercialization and valuation practices in the context of restricted monetary flows.

In Cape Town, a generalized infrastructural unevenness was resolved through the displacement of a citywide crisis onto the city's most marginalized residents. While

understood as an environmental crisis, Day Zero was also a potential financial crisis due to its impact on water tariffs but also its implications for the city's tourism industry and luxury real estate sector. We argue that the city of Cape Town effectively rendered the crisis solvable by shifting the responsibility for the city's financial health onto the city's most vulnerable residents through technologies of demand management linked to debt recovery. The result was that the twinned threats brought on by Day Zero – water scarcity and a potential financial crisis – were mediated by changes to the water tariff structure that disproportionately affected the city's most marginalized residents. We ultimately suggest that these changing relationships between urban residents and the financial dynamics of climate response have implications for the nature of climate change adaptation more generally, in South Africa and beyond. As the fallout from Day Zero continues to mark Cape Town's economy, the city's experience of water scarcity offers insight into the broader relationships between climate crisis, debt, and risk at the planetary scale.

Nate Millington is a Presidential Fellow in Urban Studies in the Geography Department and the Manchester Urban Institute at the University of Manchester. His research is focused on the politics of the urban environment in an era of climate crisis, with particular interests in the governance of water and waste. He was previously a postdoctoral fellow with the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town and a visiting researcher at the University of São Paulo. His current research is dedicated to understanding the relationships between climate change and infrastructure in cities marked by intense inequality, and he is especially interested in contemporary engagements with the politics and practices of repair and maintenance.

Suraya Scheba holds a PhD in Human Geography (University of Manchester). In her work, she aims to understand the dynamics and processes that shape urban environments, with a focus on cities of the south. As her theoretical entry point she uses urban political ecology, which argues for the necessity to examine power relations and politics in making sense of urban forms, infrastructure development and socio-economic inequalities in contemporary society. Drawing on this lens allows her to explore the contested political processes underlying urban challenges, with a focus on questions of access, as well as the possibilities that support more just, sustainable and equitable futures.

Aurash Khawarzad
the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn /
New York

Critical maps of climate change displacement in New York City

Aurash Khawarzad will be presenting a series of critical maps and illustrations regarding climate change displacement in New York City. Building on his book titled "The Upper Manhatta(n) Project", and more recently a large-format map commissioned by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Aurash will be presenting detailed findings on who will be most likely to be displaced in the future given current trends in climate change, economic development, and demographic growth, among other things.

Work being presented will be of all five boroughs and a closeup of Lower Manhattan. The maps calculate the displacement threats by analyzing: 1) flooding during hurricane Sandy/hurricane evacuation zones; 2) income data, i.e., those making under $50,000 per year; and 3) cost of housing, i.e., those spending over 50% of their income on housing expenses. Displacement Zones are areas where all three layers overlap. The map depicts who will suffer the greatest from floods, including in the outer boroughs, because of the relationship between their geographic location and socio-economic status. Locations most at-risk include East New York in Brooklyn and Harlem in Manhattan, where hundreds of thousands are at a high risk of displacement.

Aurash's work will connect current displacement threats with the historic displacement and oppression of indigenous people and communities of color throughout the past 100+ years. Including the intentional decision to locate low-income public housing within an environmental condition that predisposes it to extreme suffering in the climate area.

Aurash Khawarzad is an Artist, Educator, and Urban Planner. His work uses a combination of research, creative practice, and multi-disciplinary collaboration, as a means of visioning communities. He currently teaches at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and has recently completed design commissions for the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and The POINT CDC. He is also the author and publisher of The Upper Manhatta(n) Project, an international model for climate change planning. Aurash is originally from Virginia and has been practicing in New York City since 2009.

Source: https://www.aurashkhawarzad.com/

Session 5

Daniel Aldana Cohen

Department of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania

***Follow the Carbon:
Urban Climate
Justice in the Age of
the Green New Deal***

In *Follow the Carbon*, I will argue that carbon is the decisive material shaping human social life, and I will use qualitative and quantitative research to suggest ways that critical social science can integrate carbon emissions into a study of political contestation over climate politics. I will argue that an (egalitarian) politics of decarbonization must be central to accounts of urban climate politics in all but the poorest (and thus low-carbon) places, even when the focus is adapting to extreme weather.

I will draw on fieldwork conducted in São Paulo and New York on low-carbon policy and housing politics, which in New York has culminated in legislation informally called "A Green Dew Deal for New York." Throughout, I will detail how actors' divergent understandings of carbon emissions shape the ways that they connect environmental, social, and economic policy projects. I will show that the adaptation framework, post-disaster, threatens to undo the promise of low-carbon urbanism.

I will also carbon footprint data produced by my collaborator Kevin Ummel, a data scientist and environmental economist; and I will show early results of our new big data

project on whole community climate-mapping: sophisticated quantitative techniques can inform narratives of simultaneous adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, I will very briefly sketch how I have attempted to bring some of this perspective into the Green New Deal policy process, closing with a reflection on my work researching and helping to write the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act proposed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders on November 14, 2019.

Daniel Aldana Cohen is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he directs the Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative, or (SC)2. He is also a Senior Fellow at Data for Progress. In 2018-19, he was a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey (2018-19). He is the co-author of A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green Deal. His research and writing have appeared in Nature, Public Culture, The International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, The Guardian, The Nation, Jacobin, Dissent, and elsewhere.

Gerald Aiken

Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

The importance of orientation in community action for urban climate justice

This presentation and chapter analyses the importance of 'orientation' in grassroots community-based movements for urban climate justice. I take up the question of community because it's my contention that togetherness, and specifically community, is crucial to finding a way to live well in an ecologically damaged world. However, the forms that community takes is a beguiling notion. Community, at times concurrently, is used in a wide array of meanings, both progressively and regressively. Community can be used as a carapace, to exclude difference and to produce a homogenous, exclusive sense of belonging. Community, concurrently, can be used with a sense of porosity, a heterogeneous and amorphous feeling of belonging which is defined not by identity but by an orientation, and a desire to pursue certain tasks.

I want to hold onto this difference in this presentation by analysing the ways in which community can be put to use pursuing different tasks, or orientations. Specifically, I see the translation of community action into community policy as a moment where certain aspects of community which are often latent, pre-reflective, invisible, can be grasped and understood. It is in the tracing and analysing of how community transforms that this presentation focuses its analytical lens. Specifically, I examine what happens when

community—and community's orientations—is translated from a mode of action to a form of policy.

To that end, I rely on extensive ethnographic work with urban eco-community movements in Edinburgh and Luxembourg, and also the policies that they regularly rub up against.

Gerald Aiken is Research Associate at the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER). His research interests focus on the role of community in the transition to low-carbon futures. These include: the way community is used to guide, arrange, and discipline top-down populations; the ways organising and acting as a 'community' can increase agency; why community as a form of togetherness is treated differently, including why community has such unswervingly positive policy and academic associations; and the geographic peculiarities that emerge when community and environment are co-implicated—one obvious example being the assumed semantic link between community and local as opposed to environment being linked with global. Last publication: Taylor Aiken, G., Schulz, C. and Schmid, B. (2020), The community economies of Esch-sur-Alzette: rereading the economy of Luxembourg, *Voluntary Sector Review*, vol xx, no xx, 1-19.

Session 6

Vanesa Castán Broto
Urban Institute /
The University of Sheffield

Climate Change Action and the Power of the Mundane

This paper will report on the initial insights from the ERC project Low Carbon Action in Ordinary Cities (LOACT). LOACT explores the hypothesis that citizens are already adapting to climate change through mundane actions in everyday life.

To reflect upon this hypothesis this presentation will consider, first, what do 'change' and 'transformation' mean within urban environments. I will argue that rather than looking for radical, measurable and controlled change, we should be looking for the forms of change that transform cultures and societies in a manner that prevents society members to observe the change until it is accomplished.

Second, I will reflect on the forms of agency that can accelerate such forms of change. Building upon examples of insurgent urbanism that seek to reclaim the urban commons, I will argue for a theoretical notion of agency anchored in feminist neo-materialism, which deliberately locates it away from the agent in-between the relationships between people and things. The possibility to action change emerges from the opportunities afforded by socio-material linkages.

Third, I will explore the practical implications of this understanding of change and agency, arguing for an approach to urban climate governance that recognises the unpredictability of urban environments and societies as a means to advance urban climate justice.

Vanesa Castán Broto grew up in a little village in the Pyrenes but somehow ended up studying and loving cities. Her favourite cities in no particular order are Maputo, Kampala, Bangalore, Havana, Zaragoza and Rosario. Among other things she loves writing, reading, listening to live music, hiking, and laughing out loud with her daughter. She dreams of becoming a poet and a fiction writer. Her favourite book is 2666 by Roberto Bolaño. Vanesa lives with her partner and her daughter in a village in Hertfordshire called Baldock which was founded centuries ago by the Knight's Templars.

Berlin. Reclaim Your City. 30 June 2018. Photo by Roberta Biasillo.

Salvatore Paolo De Rosa

Environmental Humanities Laboratory /
KTH Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

Against Climate Consensus. Varieties of Grassroots Climate Activism in Malmö

Sweden is hailed for being at the forefront of climate action. Indeed, it has some of the most ambitious emissions reduction plans in the world and devotes a large budget to research on innovation, besides boosting specific cities, like Malmö, as symbols of sustainability transitions. However, Swedish grassroots climate movements increasingly challenge such representations through a variety of strategies that open up physical and symbolic spaces of contestation against the consensual politics of Sweden's techno-managerial approach to the climate crisis.

This chapter aims to interrogate such grassroots responses in the context of Malmö in order to detect how the multiple socioecological relationships intersecting the climate issue are (re)politicized by climate activists. By looking at the ways in which different grassroots movements are addressing issues of mitigation, adaptation, justice and democracy, I aim to inquire the underlying ideas of socio-environmental change informing activists' practices and their potential openings towards genuinely political spaces vis a vis the consensus surrounding municipal and national climate governance.

When and how the climate is rendered political by climate activists and to what degree do they challenge the socio-ecological dominant order? The aim, by integrating activists' discourses and practices with theories of transformation and urban climate justice, is to devote analytical attention to those expressions of bottom-up organizing that contest the consensual politics of technological solutions, produce counterhegemonic interventions and perform transformative political openings.

Salvatore Paolo De Rosa is a postdoctoral researcher at the Environmental Humanities Lab of KTH. He holds a PhD in Human Geography from Lund University, Sweden, and is among the founders and editors of the political ecology platform Undisciplined Environments. His research areas are political ecology, geography and anthropology while his work focuses on environmental conflicts, socioecological metabolisms and grassroots eco-politics. Currently, he is investigating the climate politics of municipal administrators and grassroots movements in Malmö and Sweden. He collaborates with the Italian independent magazine Napoli Monitor and his work has appeared on scientific journals, popular magazines, research blogs, collective books and NGOs websites.

Session 7

Lise Sedrez

History Department /
Universidade Federal do Rio de
Janeiro

The many voices of an urban forest: active listening to community initiatives in Babilonia Hill, Rio de Janeiro

Babilonia Hill, a *favela* near the famous Copacabana Beach, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the site of a successful project of urban reforestation, since 1995. The project results from an alliance between community, local government and a large retail center located in the area. After 20 years, the results are impressive both regarding the blossoming of a young forest, the return of native biodiversity, but also regarding the pride and the reshaping of identity that took place within the community. By interviewing workers, residents and public officers who important actors at the moment of the establishment of the project, from both the community and the government, we compare their different expectations and frustrations, as well as their own trajectory of discovery of the potentialities of the project. Local officers hoped for a way to prevent the growing of the *favela* in landslide-prone area; the community hoped for income alternatives in area with dangerous crime path for their youth. Both sides had to readjust their own prejudices to carry one the project.

Drawing on the work of Briam Williams and Mark Riley (2019) and Katie Holmes and Heather Goodall (2017), this paper explores how the intertwining of oral history and

environmental history unearths "voices" of human and non-human communities that share that space, as the reforestation project has created new parameters of sociability in a multi-species ecology. Fauna and flora, exotic and indigenous, reclaim urban areas that had long suffered biodiversity losses, while the community reforestation claims urban nature back to the communities, and offers alternatives for carbon storage in the current climatic crisis. Finally, we analyze how the reshaping of urban nature encourages the reshaping of urban narratives, i.e., the *favela* community can now reject narratives that have framed the favela simple as "a problem" for the city. Instead, the residents highlight their connection with the urban forest, for its beauty, microclimate regulation and environmental education.

Lise Sedrez currently teaches at the Instituto de História, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she has been an associate professor at California State University, Long Beach. She moved back to Brazil in 2010, after 14 years in the US, where she received an MS in Environmental Policy Studies from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, earned a PhD in History from Stanford University, and drove across the country twice. She is the co-editor of the book series Latin American Landscapes (University of Arizona Press). Lise has been teaching in one way or another since she was 18; it is her only addiction, other than chocolate. She has also worked for environmental non-profit organizations in Brazil, such as Greenpeace, IBASE, and WWF. Lise has published her work in Italy, Colombia, Brazil, and the USA. In 2010 she was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in Brazil she was the chief editor of the academic journal *Topoi* from 2011 to 2015. She is a proud founding member of SOLCHA (Sociedade Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental) and coordinates the Laboratório História e Natureza in Rio de Janeiro, together with José Augusto Pádua.

Maria Federica Palestino
Gilda Berruti
Department of Architecture/
University of Naples, Federico II

Turning urban fragilities into resources for a just climate adaptation

Mitigation and adaptation strategies designed to face CC impacts on cities can produce "climate urbanism". While addressing the needs of competitive capital cities protecting global markets and building new gated communities of climate gentrification, climate urbanism does not consider uneven urban constellations of exclusion, which are typical of planetary urbanization processes. CC affects more strongly the less valuable part of the building stock, public spaces, and facilities, where the patchwork of disused areas combines with waste infrastructure, transforming the urban landscape into wastescapes. Therefore, we argue that the objectives of a plural theory and practice of justice can be better faced on a sub-regional scale. There are even cities that, being in the middle of depressed areas, remain outside the entrepreneurial power of global coalitions. Here CC is not considered a priority, due to the "readiness argument" that hypes the perception of local deficiencies.

Our case study refers to the urban region of Naples, at the heart of Southern Europe. The city is the driver of an area with a high land consumption rate and a pervasive administrative informality. Looking at CC from Naples, the main challenge is to

understand how fragile cities can incorporate and address global concerns. In this perspective, considering CC not a technical problem, "but an opportunity to radically rethink and rebuild social, ecological, and economic relations", could be the appropriate strategy. We argue that Naples has the opportunity to take advantage of public policies and grassroots practices as alternative drivers of environmental transition, and show how the symbolic dimension of CC can support the sensitivity of both public actors and citizens.

The "Social Garden of Health" experience (an urban garden in a working-class neighborhood) is adopted to test the power of insurgent socio-ecological transitions. In the beginning, this process unconsciously produced the effects of "do it yourself adaptation". Today, it suggests radical agendas for a just climate adaptation, betting on collaborative inventories of urban gardening as a crucial step for improving further community-based adaptation.

Maria Federica Palestino is associate professor of Urban Planning at the University of Naples Federico II, Italy. Her main research interest is the design of inclusive action-research processes aimed at the social construction of urban plans, programs and policies. Her specific focus is on how to enhance local identities and public images through community participation and involvement. In her latest research project she is exploring the empowerment of fragile communities and places to recover from socio-ecological decline.

Gilda Berruti is architect and post doc researcher in Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Architecture, University of Naples Federico II, Italy. Her research interests include: public spaces between urban form and social dimension, the social construction of urban plans, the sustainable city as an aspect of the new urban question. She is currently investigating into the relationship between formal planning and urban informalities.

Lorenzo Chelleri

URNet, International University of Catalunya, Barcelona

Disrupting the grid(s) and its management: an Urban Self-sufficient Green District Model

Urban systems are usually referred as the sources of local and global environmental and climate (although indirect) impacts, and at the same time potential hubs for innovations and solutions to those unsustainable dynamics. Nowadays declarations of climate emergency should help in leveraging and supporting disruptive approaches and solutions to re-shape our (unsustainable) urban metabolisms. However, the local level fights for which would be the chosen path toward carbon neutrality and climate resilience could be played at different levels from a variety of players, and some solutions could bring social justice within the equation, others could reinforce business as usual development approaches.

This contribution wishes to bring at light and discuss one of the central issues of urban sustainability transition: the opportunity and practical implications to decentralize current infrastructure networks and co-implement their design and management toward a more self-sufficient and sustainable urban district. Herewith we introduce the critical analysis of an Urban Self-sufficient Green District Model, promising a more decentralized, green and just pattern of development to be up-scaled at urban level.

The case study from where hypothesis and evidences for such a model are illustrated is the Barcelona Metro area, of selected industrial districts and small municipalities which signed agreements to undertake such a decentralization route. This is a model based on local enterprises pushing for decentralizing the energy network, and co-designing with the support of institutions and the civil society, a new energy co-production, sharing and co-management system. Such an energy transition is paving the route toward the simultaneous re-designing and management of: i) the mobility network (enhancing the EV use and sharing), ii) the green infrastructures network (while working on rooftops and local infrastructures of Int. recharging stations the opportunities to re-design and enhance green infrastructures is an easy to exploit synergy) and iii) the water management (opportunity to recollect rainwater from rooftops and store-reuse it for green infrastructures). Because this model could be run through energy block-chain technology, if supported from institutions with appropriate financing mechanisms and adequate licenses, it could enhance social justice and actual people empowerment – shifting the inhabitants' role from consumers to prosumers – and providing the opportunity for co-designing and co-managing a decentralized network of infrastructures.

Lorenzo Chelleri is the Chair of the Urban Resilience Research Network (URNet) and Director of the Int. Msc. Degree in City Resilience Design and Management, at the International University of Catalonia (UIC Barcelona). With a background in urban and regional planning and a Ph.D. in Urban Geography, his research currently focuses on the interplay between urban sustainability and resilience. After having worked for the European Environment Agency (EEA), and been involved in several European Projects, he published both theoretical and empirical research papers in leading journals, contributing to the development and advances of urban resilience theory. He developed consultancy and research activities across Mexico, Bolivia, Morocco, Europe and Asian cities.

Session 8

Ethemcan Turhan
Environmental Humanities
Laboratory /
KTH Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

*Lost and Found:
Reclaiming the
climate-just
Istanbul*

Urban rage is at it once again. From *Chile despertó* in Santiago de Chile to *gilet jaunes* in Paris, sporadic revolts against technocratic neoliberal rule continue to sweep the planet. What adds flavor to these urban revolts today, however, are their emphases on the urban climate justice manifesting itself in the urban space by the actions of social movements. These movements act from, act on and act in spaces eventually leading to the making of new insurgent spaces (Dikeç, 2001). By communing the urban and reclaiming the climate-just city, they expand our scalar imagination towards territorial belonging not least in megacities, increasingly at risk of major loss and damage due to irreversible climate impacts. This study focuses on the shared viewpoints and overlapping subjectivities of social movement actors regarding climate change adaptation in Istanbul, a megacity undergoing rapid urban transformation despite vocal resistance from right-to-the-city groups. Using Q-methodology to reveal the diverging and converging shared discourses of 26 activists from these movements with a focus on fairness and justice in adaptation to climate change, the study suggests that basic needs, rights and political processes are central to the calls to reclaim the climate-

challenged city against one based on technocratic, green smart city narratives. Based on fieldwork undertaken during the politically contentious municipal elections in spring 2019, the preliminary findings of this study suggests that Istanbulite social movements are only beginning to frame their political claims towards transformative adaptation.

Ethemcan Turhan is a researcher at KTH Environmental Humanities Lab. Previously, he was a Mercator-IPC postdoctoral fellow on climate change in Istanbul Policy Center, Sabanci University. He received his Ph.D. in environmental studies in 2014 from the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). His research interests are international climate change regime (UNFCCC), Turkey's national climate change policy, climate change adaptation, ecological conflicts, environmental movements, energy democracy and migration in the context of climate change. His scholarly work appeared in academic outlets such as Sustainability Science, WIREs Climate Change, Global Environmental Change, Ecological Economics, Capitalism Nature Socialism, New Perspectives on Turkey and Journal of Political Ecology.

Flood in Üsküdar, Istanbul in Early June, 2014. Source: https://cityofistanbul.net/

Josefin Wangel
Department of Urban and Rural
Development / Swedish University
of Agricultural Sciences

***Exploring radical
adaptation and
urban climate
justice through
design speculations***

This contribution aims to further the discourse on radical adaptation and urban climate justice through revisiting three research projects in which these issues were present but have not yet been explicitly articulated: Sensing Energy, Empowering Energy Futures, and Beyond Efficiency. Radical adaptation is here understood as addressing the root causes of climate change and reducing socio-ecological stresses, i.e. mitigating climate change. The reason for talking about 'mitigation' in terms of adaptation is a perceived need to highlight that the changes required to arrive at a more sustainable and just society are of a fundamental character, requiring a radical transformation of 'our' modern civilization as we know it.

We see urban climate justice (and climate justice in general) as a necessary part of any radical adaptation proposal or practice. The three projects are all carried out using a research-through-design methodology, meaning that a substantial part of the research process takes place through design experiment in which questions and posits are given material form. Through these design experiment, possible re-configurations of urban environments, material flows and everyday practices are explored and re-presented.

The design experiments address both radical adaptation and urban climate justice through being premised on an ecofeminist understanding of 'sustainability', and exploring how this might play out in practice. In line with critical and speculative design, the artifacts coming out of the design experiments are not intended as solutions but as re-presentations of possible societal transformations.

Josefin Wangel is an undisciplined researcher and educator driven by a combination of curiosity and frustration over the state of the world. Her research focus on exploring drivers and barriers for the transition to a more sustainable and just society, typically with focus on lifestyles, urban development and energy systems. She is very fond of transdisciplinary and popular science meetings, workshops, lectures and writing.

She is associate editor for Futures and senior advisor for the thinktank Global Utmaning. During 2020, she is leading the SLU Futures Lab - a novel initiative designed to support interdisciplinary exploration of future challenges.

Her background includes Earth Sciences (MSc from Stockholm University) and the multi- and interdisciplinary field of Planning and Decision Analysis, in which she did her PhD on Making Futures. She is Associate Professor (sv. docent) in Landscape Architecture (SLU).

Chairs

Marco Armiero
Environmental Humanities Laboratory / KTH Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

Roberta Biasillo
Environmental Humanities Laboratory / KTH Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

Marco Armiero is the Director of the Environmental Humanities Laboratory (EHL) at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, where he is also an Associate Professor of Environmental History. He is the Principal Investigator of *OCC!*

He has published two monographs, one handbook, five edited volumes, and numerous articles and book chapters. His research interests span from environmental justice to climate change, from migration to the nationalization of nature.

Marco Armiero is a senior editor of *Capitalism Nature Socialism* (T&F) and associate editor of *Environmental Humanities* (Duke UP). He also serves on several boards of journals, centers, and professional associations.

He is the President of the European Society for Environmental History.

Roberta Biasillo is an environmental historian and she is conducting a research on fascist colonialism, particularly in North Africa, besides *OCC!.*

In 2017-2018 she has been a fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich (Germany). In 2016, she was a visiting scholar at the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory with a project on a nineteenth-century Italian flood and the analysis of related intervention policy and practice.

She holds a PhD in Modern European History from the University of Bari, Italy. Her doctoral dissertation explores the interaction between forests and modernization in Italy in the nineteenth century. Her research areas also cover political ecology and environmental humanities, and research interests include property regimes, territorial and forest issues, and natural disasters.

Roberta Biasillo is a member of the European Society for Environmental History and serves as representative of young scholars in the fields of environmental history and humanities (ESEH NEXT Generation Action Team).

Workshop Participants

Gerald Aiken | Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

Daniel Aldana Cohen | University of Pennsylvania

Isabelle Anguelovski | Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Marco Armiero | KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Gilda Berruti | University of Naples Federico II

Roberta Biasillo | KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Vanesa Castán Broto | The University of Sheffield

Lorenzo Chelleri | International University of Catalonia (UIC), Barcelona

Ashley Dawson | City University of New York

Salvatore Paolo De Rosa | KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Henrik Ernstson | The University of Manchester

Giuseppe Feola | Utrecht University

Aurash Khawarzad | The Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York

Aysem Mert | Stockholm University

Nate Millington | University of Manchester

Maria Federica Palestino | University of Naples Federico II

Suraya Scheba | University of Cape Town

Lise Sedrez | Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Ethemcan Turhan | KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Cristina Visconti | Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

Josefin Wangel | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences