

Research Council Webinar Series: Our Planet and Us

The first webinar of our series opens up both the series and the year with a topic that is at the heart of the 5th ISA Forum that will be held in July in Rabat, Morocco: human-nature relations that are the foundations of our societies.

The ways in which humans interact with the material and natural world within which we are embedded both structures and conditions planetary and human wellbeing, livelihoods, identities, and social relations.

In this webinar, scholars from RC24 (Environmental Sociology) and RC40 (Sociology of Agriculture and Food) have joined together to present current research and thinking that is investigating the current climate crisis through alternative ways of knowing and organizing around nature and food in local communities.

The webinar will also engage with collapse and hope as emerging features of contemporary relations between people and nature. Collapse is experienced materially and discursively as a way of understanding the present and anticipating the future, while hope refers to the affect and emotion that is increasingly recognized as central to understanding how we approach nature.

Agenda: 24 March 2025 | 20:00 – 22:00 GMT

Setting the Stage: Contending with Hope and Despair in the Anthropocene

Debra Davidson, Professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, Canada

Cultivating Hope through Landscape Restoration

Stewart Lockie, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Australia

Finding Hope in Food: Territorial Innovations for Sustainability

Allison Loconto, Research Professor, Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Science, Innovation and Society (CNRS-INRAE-Université Gustave Eiffel), France

Discussants:

- Jo Lindsay, Professor of Sociology, Monash University, Australia
- Atakan Büke, Associate member, Center for Studies in Food Security (CSFS), Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada



About the Speakers



Debra Davidson is Professor of environmental sociology at the University of Alberta, where her research and teaching are focused on social responses to climate change, and energy and food transitions. Recent work includes analysis of the role of emotions in climate change perceptions and actions, featured in recent articles in *WIREs Climate Change* and *Socius*, and in *Feeling Climate Change: How Emotions Govern our Responses to the Climate Emergency* (2024, Routledge).



Stewart Lockie is an environmental sociologist whose research focuses on climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, agriculture, and resource development. He co-leads the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program's Stakeholder and Traditional Owner Engagement Subprogram, served as Foundation Chair of the Cairns Port Douglas Reef Hub, and contributed to the establishment of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance. Professor Lockie is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Environmental Sociology* and the author of *Failure or Reform? Market-Based Policy Instruments for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management*, published in 2020 by Routledge, London.



Allison Loonto is a sociologist of science and technology focusing on the governance of transitions to sustainable food systems, specifically on the metrics, models, standards and systems of certification that constitute emerging institutional innovations. She is the ISA's Vice President for Research, a founding member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network (UN Environment) and a member of the French National Committee on Organic Agriculture. Professor Loonto is Chief Editor of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Rural Studies*, Associate Editor of *Science as Culture* and co-editor of *Agrifood Transitions in the Anthropocene: Challenges, Contested Knowledge, and the Need for Change* (2024, Sage).



Jo Lindsay is a Professor of Sociology at Monash University in Australia. Her research focuses on sustainability, consumption, families, and households. She is currently working on several collaborative projects on household innovation, the transition to a low-waste city, communities, recycling, and walkability in cities. She teaches Global Consumption and Imagining Tomorrow: Climate change and social futures. Jo is president of the International Sociological Association RC24 Environment and Society and co-lead of the Climate and Sustainability Cluster in the School of Social Sciences at Monash.



Atakan Büke based in Vienna, is an associate member of the Center for Studies in Food Security (CSFS) at Toronto Metropolitan University (Toronto, Canada). Grounded in the sociology and anthropology of food, agrarian studies, and rural sociology, his work examines food regime and agrifood system analysis, emerging alternative socio-ecological agrifood movements, the agrarian/peasant question, and the digitalisation of agriculture and food systems. Büke currently serves as an Executive Committee member of the Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC40) under the International Sociological Association (ISA).