

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP SERIES

Bringing science, people,
and policy together



Climate Change hangs threateningly over our heads and the heads of our children and future generations. All of us can respond in many ways, including in the choices we make in our daily lives, in our social networks, and our professional lives. Responses are also necessary from the commercial world as well as from the state.

The United Nations Environment Programme report – “Making Peace with Nature” – was released in mid-February this year. It again reveals the urgent need for **leadership** in tackling climate change and how expertise and knowledge from various disciplines and perspectives must be brought together and acted on.

Ultimately, we all need to become leaders in responding to climate change in all the different roles we play, and we need to be informed to make good decisions. However, there are so many different approaches and opinions on climate change, how do we understand the phenomenon and what should we do about it?

In an exciting new initiative, researchers from universities in Johannesburg are collaborating to host a free on-line seminar series of leading speakers and panellists with a range of expertise and perspectives demonstrating the approaches that different disciplines and sectors take. The seminar series will cover **what climate change is, why it matters, and what must be done to address it**. Through the carefully designed topics, we delve into science, law, policy, and social justice and expose participants to the key debates that occur in these areas.

The seminar series is being hosted by the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), a centre in the Faculty of Law of the University of Johannesburg on behalf of an organising team which comprises of:

- **Prof David Bilchitz**, Director of SAIFAC, a Centre of the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg
- **Prof Kitty Dumont**, Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of South Africa
- **Dr Jenny Hall**, Department of Procedural Law, University of Johannesburg
- **Prof Diane Hildebrandt**, Director of the Institute for the Development of Energy for African Sustainability (IDEAS), University of South Africa
- **Prof Lwazi Ngubevana**, Director of the African Energy Leadership Centre (AELC), Wits Business School
- **Prof Coleen Vogel**, Distinguished Professor, Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand.

THE SERIES BEGINS WITH TOPIC 1 ON 15 APRIL 2021. SAVE THE DATE!

Below are the full list of topics that will be covered together with provisional dates:

TOPIC 1:	What is climate change all about? Issues and implications for sub-Saharan Africa	15 April 2021
TOPIC 2:	The discomfort of uncertainty and the certain uncertainty of scientific research	6 May 2021
TOPIC 3:	How do people and societies respond (or not) to climate change? Navigating the complexities of human behaviour	27 May 2021
TOPIC 4:	Looking back, looking forward - can law change the climate change trajectory?	17 June 2021
TOPIC 5:	Who produces CO2 and why? What are the options and technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?	8 July 2021
TOPIC 6:	Increasing pressure, increasing implications for business?	29 July 2021
TOPIC 7:	We, the people - climate change and civil society responses	19 August 2021
TOPIC 8:	Jobs or the environment? How can climate change responses address the interests of labour?	2 September 2021
TOPIC 9:	Preparing for COP 26 - What does South Africa want from the COP negotiations?	30 September 2021
TOPIC 10:	Where to from here? The role of the next generation and their views on a safe and human world for all	14 October 2021

To find out more about these topics and the presenters, please check the SAIFAC Facebook page as well for programme updates (see <https://www.facebook.com/SAIFACOnline>).

To join any seminar, please RSVP to naomi@saifac.org.za to receive the Zoom link. The seminar will also be streamed on Facebook.

