



Climate Change and Sustainable Futures in Africa

Prof Rob Marchant (University of York, UK) and Prof Sheona Shackleton (University of Cape Town, SA)

About the Speaker

Prof Rob Marchant is Professor at the Department of Environment and Geography, University of York, UK. His research and teaching interests focus on the theme of vegetation dynamics and ecosystem change. He holds a PhD from the University of Hull, UK, and has conducted research on tropical environments in Colombia, Amazonia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. His research has been funded by research councils such as the National Environmental Research Council, UK, and the Netherlands Foundation, as well as international agencies which include the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the European Union. Furthermore, Prof Marchant has been funded by various governments such as that of the UK, and the Netherlands. For more information about his work, visit: <https://www.york.ac.uk/environment/research/kite/>



About the Lecture

In the lecture titled: 'The Mountains and People of Africa: Creating a Sustainable Future from the Past,' Prof Marchant will explain how the mountainous regions of Africa support the majority of its population and, have the highest rainfall, biodiversity and agricultural production. Furthermore, he will explain how these communities are highly threatened by climate change, population growth and land use change. The lecture will provide an in-depth insight into how mountains provide an ideal natural laboratory to investigate the evolution of social-ecological systems. Climate and land use futures will also be discussed, specifically how these future perspectives can be used to inform future sustainability.

About the Speaker

Prof Sheona Shackleton is the Deputy Director of the African Climate and Development Initiative, at the University of Cape Town. She holds an Honorary Professorship from the Department of Environmental Science, Rhodes University. For the past 35 years her work has focused on the interface between rural development, livelihoods and natural resource use and management. Her current research focusses on livelihood and landscape change (social-ecological), with a particular interest in climate change as a driver. This is in relation to how it interacts with other shocks and stressors to influence adaptation, transformation and future livelihood trajectories. Prof Shackleton is on the board of the World Development and Land journals, and is a member of Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF). She has reviewed proposals for a wide range of organisations and has served on several national government and non-government committees. She has a well-established network of international partners and collaborators. Prof Shackleton has published her work extensively in academic books and journals, as well as on popular media platforms. For more information, visit: <http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za/>



About the Lecture

In the lecture titled: 'Rural Livelihood Transformation under Climate Change: Some Perspectives,' Prof Shackleton will base her presentation on a paper developed for the Global Commission on Adaptation 2019 flagship policy report. The paper, 'Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience' <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/report/papers>, was written by a team from various international organisations, including ILRI (Kenya); CIAT/CCAFS (Colombia); CCAFS (Denmark); Madras School of Economics (India); the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (Costa Rica); and the African Climate and Development Initiative at University of Cape Town (UCT) (SA).

Prof Shackleton will delve into how despite decades of attention to agricultural development, food insecurity and rural poverty, continue to persist, especially among rural dwellers in Asia, Africa and Central America. She will give an account of how these challenges are amplified, as climate change driven extreme events and variable weather patterns make small-scale production increasingly difficult. She will argue about how transformational change in rural livelihoods is required for households to cope with mounting climate change impacts, and that this change needs to embrace the broader food system. This will simultaneously address poverty, nutrition, unemployment and the environment, while also taking cognisance of local contexts and household heterogeneity.

Notes: This event will take place in the context of the Peri-Urban Resilient Ecosystems (PURE), a research project which addresses the challenge of representative climate resilient urban strategies in dryland Windhoek, Namibia, as a means to enhance future health, wellbeing and economic development. The project aims to apply an innovative values-based scenario tool to develop urban policy informed by multiple stakeholder value systems (e.g. municipal authorities, urban planners, marginalised and informal communities). Stakeholder scenarios will consider historic and contemporary climate, land-use and rural-urban migration patterns, whilst future scenarios will consider how the City of Windhoek's National Integrated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NICSAP) will perform under urban planning, conservation and governance scenarios. The combination of these novel methods will help decision-makers in addressing the wicked problems arising from the ongoing drought and informal urban growth in Namibia. The project includes the following stakeholders: University of York; African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town; Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI); ICLEI-Africa, Integrated Land Management Institute (ILMI); Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN); the Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG), and the University of Namibia (UNAM).



Date: Wednesday, 29 January 2020
Time: 18:00
Venue: Auditorium 1, NUST Lower Campus

Enquiries

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