

FONDAZIONE PRADA PRESENTS "EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER – PUBLIC PROGRAM", A TWO-DAY SIMPOSIUM IN VENICE ON 5 AND 6 OCTOBER 2023

Venice, 29 September 2023 – "Everybody Talks About the Weather – Public Program" is a two-day symposium taking place at Fondazione Prada's Venetian venue, the historic Palazzo Ca' Corner della Regina, on 5 and 6 October 2023. Organized in collaboration with THE NEW INSTITUTE Centre for Environmental Humanities (NICHE) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, it investigates the topics and complex questions related to the global environmental emergencies.

The symposium's themes arise in the research exhibition "Everybody Talks About the Weather", curated by Dieter Roelstraete and including scientific spotlights developed in collaboration with NICHE. The show, on view in Venice until 26 November 2023, explores the semantics of "weather" in visual art, taking atmospheric conditions as a point of departure to investigate the climate crisis emergency. More than fifty works by contemporary artists and a complementary selection of historical artworks trace how climate and weather have shaped our histories and how humanity has dealt with our everyday exposure to meteorological events.

"Everybody Talks About the Weather – Public Program"

On 5 October, the symposium will open with a welcome speech by Chiara Costa (Fondazione Prada's Head of Programs) and Francesca Tarocco (Director of NICHE and Full Professor of Buddhist Cultures, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice), followed by a conversation between Lesley Lokko (architect, professor, Founder and Director of the African Futures Institute (AFI) in Accra, Ghana, and Curator of the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale) and Dieter Roelstraete (Curator at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago) moderated by Barbara Casavecchia (writer and curator of The Current III for TBA21-Academy, Ocean Space). Afterwards, Markus Reymann (Co-Director of TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary / Ocean Space) will introduce a lecture by Alex Jordan (scientist and Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Konstanz, Germany) titled "If we could ask them, what would they say? Inquiries into the animal experience."

The afternoon session, moderated by Cornelia Mattiacci (Fondazione Prada's curator), will feature three lectures. The first one, titled "Everything you needed to know about climate change and were afraid to ask – Latest findings from the IPCC," will be held by Debra Roberts (scientist and Co-Chair, Working Group II, IPCC, South Africa). In the second lecture, titled "The Climate Crisis and Human Responsibility: Navigating the Anthropocene," Carlo Barbante (Scientist, Director of the Institute of Polar Sciences of the CNR and Full Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics, and Statistics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) will delve into the pivotal role that humans play in addressing the

pressing environmental challenges of our time. Giancarlo Comi (Honorary Professor of Neurology at the Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele in Milan and President of Fondazione Prada's "Human Brains" Scientific Board), in the third speech titled "Environment and Neurodegenerative Disease: A Call to Action," will underline that acting on modifiable risk factors, taking care of the environment, promoting educational activities, involving all society bodies and policymakers is mandatory to protect from the explosion of neurodegenerative diseases.

The morning session of 6 October will be moderated by Cristina Baldacci (Curator and Associate Professor in History of Contemporary Art, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, NICHE, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and includes two speeches. The first online lecture, titled "1.5° To stay alive: The climate reality of the Marshall Islands," will feature Selina Neirok Leem, a climate change activist from the Marshall Islands. In the second lecture, titled "Rethinking the climate from Hawai'i: Indigenous science and transformations," Roberta Raffaetà (Anthropologist and Associate Professor of Socio-cultural Anthropology, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, NICHE, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) will discuss the emergence of "native indigenous science" in the Hawaii Islands and what scenarios this opens for thinking about the climate and social challenges of the 21st century.

Introduced by Mario Mainetti (Fondazione Prada's Head of Research and Publications), the final session will include two speeches and an artistic performance. The lecture by Bjorn Stevens (Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany) will be titled "Everyone's talking about... its high time to do something about it." Macarena Gomez-Barris (Chair of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University, Providence) will hold a speech titled "Thinking with the Elements," drawing from recent work on the sea's edge to describe the intimate sea and weather scapes of more than humanistic inquiry. Chicago-based artists Beate Geissler / Oliver Sann will present the performance *How Does the World End (for Others)?* closely connected to the exhibited work with the same title. It consists of a score composed of literary texts of the cli-fi genre, a subgenre of science fiction that concerns itself with the effects of climate change on human society.

The public program will be anticipated by a closed-door seminar on "Speculative Imaginaries for Future Worlds: Climate-Fiction in the Arts and Literature," addressed to students and scholars, organized at NICHE, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, on 4 October 2023.

The exhibition "Everybody Talks About the Weather"

The title "Everybody Talks About the Weather" derives from the slogan "Alle reden vom Wetter. Wir nicht" (Everybody talks about the weather. We don't) reproduced in a poster created in 1968 by the Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund (Socialist German Student

Union) and depicting Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin. In 2019, German artist Anne-Christine Klarmann designed a variation on the original poster representing Judith Ellens, Carola Rackete, and Greta Thunberg, twisting the original slogan to: “Alle reden vom Wetter. Wir auch” (Everybody talks about the weather. So do we).

As underlined by Dieter Roelstraete, “The message broadcast by the Socialist German Student Union was clear: while other political parties engaged in idle chatter ‘about the weather,’ socialists, and leftists more generally, were committed to addressing the issues and questions that really mattered to the men and women in the street. ‘The weather’, in short, was the last thing a true progressive spirit should be caught talking about. Fifty-odd years on, it is hard to imagine a slogan as politically suicidal as this one, so defiantly claiming that ‘we don’t’—for ‘the weather’ is simply the single most important fact of life everyone is either talking about already, or should really be talking about instead. ‘Everybody is talking about the weather’—or everybody should be talking about the weather’—for the simple reason that the current and ongoing climate crisis may well be the single greatest existential threat humankind has ever had to face in its 100,000-year history’—and as such is well on its way to becoming the only thing we ever talk about anymore. For all that, however, climate change remains a subject that is oddly absent, curiously enough, from the broad sweep of mainstream art world attention.”

Here, Roelstraete seconds the argument of Indian writer and anthropologist Amitav Ghosh, who, in his 2016 book *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, exposed the broader failure of contemporary culture to adequately address the threat of climate change as a legitimate source for high-profile content from the perspective of literature. What Ghosh called the cultural world’s “great blindness” is partly due to both the enormity and complexity of our current climatological predicament’—the cause of an expansive sense of paralysis among many contemporary authors and artists.

“Everybody Talks About the Weather” develops on two levels, the ground floor and first floor of Ca’ Corner della Regina, intertwining the two dimensions of research, the artistic and the scientific. The exhibition begins with a large LED wall that loops weather forecasts from a plurality of traditional and online media worldwide. The rooms of the Venetian building host historical and contemporary artworks which reveal artists’ long-standing interest in “talking about the weather,” from allegorical and *en plein air* paintings to recent multimedia installations and transnational activism. A selection of the exhibited works are combined with texts and infographics including brief introductions to the artists and their works alongside scientific graphs, images, and data. This alternate reading offers an in-depth insight into physical phenomena and environmental processes implicitly evoked or explicitly addressed by the artists and relating to different times in human history (from the Little Ice Age from the 16th to the 19th centuries to the future of Venice at the end of the 21st century) and to distant geographic areas and cultures (from the desertification and expansion of Sahara to the impact of receding Arctic ice on Inuit life).

A series of “research stations” features more than five-hundred books, scientific publications, and articles, and a selection of video materials and interviews with scholars and activists. They allow the audience to freely consult the various bibliographic sources of the extensive research behind this project and delve deeper into the scientific and cultural issues addressed by the exhibition.

An illustrated book published by Fondazione Prada accompanies the exhibition. It includes an introduction by Miuccia Prada, President and Director of Fondazione Prada; an essay by the exhibition curator Dieter Roelstraete; an interview by Roelstraete with Amitav Ghosh; a timeline conceived by Geissler & Sann; seventeen short essays by author, editor and curator Giovanni Aloj, contemporary art historian and critic Cristina Baldacci, editor and curator Shumon Basar, curator of Climate Change Soren Brothers, visual art and media scholar Giuliana Bruno, fashion historian Amber Jane Butchart, historian of architecture Barnabas Calder, architect and curator Pippo Ciorra, activist Selina Neirok Leem, curator Cornelia Mattiacci, linguist Andrea Moro, meteorologist Luca Mercalli, creative director, writer and teacher Michael Rock, curator and art critic Lucia Pietroiusti, scientist Björn Stevens, ecofeminist and climate activist Jennifer Uchendu, and environmental journalist Gaia Vince; and a collection of poems by artist, author and activist Cecilia Vicuña. The book also contains the fundamental bibliography on climate dynamics consisting of nearly five-hundred texts accompanied by maps, diagrams, and other graphic representations.

“Everybody Talks About the Weather”: list of exhibited artists

Sophia Al-Maria, Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Shuvinai Ashoona, Anonymous from Veneto, Ursula Biemann, Nina Canell, Vija Celmins, Paolo Cirio, Gustave Courbet, Vittore Grubicy de Dragon, Jason Dodge, Ayan Farah, Theaster Gates, Beate Geissler / Oliver Sann, Antony Gormley, Hans Haacke, Ichoryusai Hiroshige, Katsushika Hokusai, Jitish Kallat, Anne-Christine Klarmann, Zdeněk Košek, Goshka Macuga, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Santu Mofokeng, Plinio Nomellini, Carlo Francesco Nuvolone, Alix Oge, Richard Onyango, Chantal Peñalosa, Dan Peterman, Nick Raffel, Raqs Media Collective, Gerhard Richter, Thomas Ruff, Tiffany Sia, Himali Singh Soin, Vivian Suter, Fredrik Vaerslev, Pieter Vermeersch, Pae White, Tsutomu Yamamoto, Yang Yongliang.

“Everybody Talks About the Weather”: two digital projects

Fondazione Prada recently developed two digital projects to accompany the exhibition and disseminate its contents in a wider public arena.

On 27 September, a data visualization project was launched for its Instagram account in collaboration with Accurat, a data-driven research, design and innovation company based in New York and Milan. The goal is to emphasize the connection between the scientific

apparatus and the exhibits through the language of social media. Starting with graphs, images and data presented in the exhibition space, the project transformed this massive body of information into five series of animations that combined the artistic and scientific components of “Everybody Talks About the Weather.” Each gallery explores a specific and urgent issue, such as human impact on climate change, rising global gas emissions, ocean plastic waste, desertification and dryland expansion, and new environmental activism.

The second project is a media partnership with Rai Pubblica Utilità (a branch of the Italian public broadcasting company), which devoted six special episodes of the podcast series “La Temperatura della Terra” (The Temperature of the Earth) to “Everybody Talks About the Weather.” Available on the Rai Play Sound platform from October, the program, hosted by Claudia Adamo (Head of Rai Meteo – Rai Pubblica Utilità), delves into some of the issues addressed in Fondazione Prada’s research project featuring interviews with Chiara Costa (Head of Programs, Fondazione Prada), Francesca Tarocco (Full Professor, Delegate of the Director to Faculty Integration Director of the NICHE Center, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Cristina Baldacci (Curator and Associate Professor in History of Contemporary Art, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, NICHE, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Enrica de Cian (Full Professor in Environmental Economics, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, and Member of the Scientific Committee of NICHE), Lucia Pietroiusti (Head of Ecologies, Serpentine Galleries, London) and Giorgio Andreotta Calò (Artist).

“Everybody Talks About the Weather – Public Program”: information for the public

The two-day symposium, organised by Fondazione Prada in collaboration with THE NEW INSTITUTE Centre for Environmental Humanities (NICHE) at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, is open to the public upon reservation at fondazioneprada.org.

Dates: 5 and 6 October 2023

Location: Fondazione Prada, Venezia - Ca’ Corner della Regina - Santa Croce 2215, Venice

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Media Partner



In collaboration with

**THE NEW
INSTITUTE**

**Centre for Environmental
Humanities (NICHE)**

at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice

“EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER – PUBLIC PROGRAM”

5-6 OCTOBER 2023

FONDAZIONE PRADA, VENICE

The program is organized in collaboration with THE NEW INSTITUTE Centre for Environmental Humanities (NICHE) at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Scientific coordination: Prof. Cristina Baldacci)

5 OCTOBER 2023

10:30 – 10:40 AM | Opening greetings

Chiara Costa (Head of Programs, Fondazione Prada)

Francesca Tarocco (Director, NICHE, and Full Professor, Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

10:40 AM – 12:45 PM | Session 1

10:40 – 11:45 AM

Moderator: Barbara Casavecchia (Writer and Curator, The Current III for TBA21-Academy, Ocean Space)

Conversation between

Lesley Lokko (Curator, 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale, Founder and Director of the African Futures Institute in Accra, Ghana)

Dieter Roelstraete (Curator of “Everybody Talks About the Weather” exhibition, Fondazione Prada, and Curator at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago)

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Moderator: Markus Reymann (Co-Director, TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary / Ocean Space)

If we could ask them, what would they say? Inquiries into the animal experience

Alex Jordan (Scientist, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, Konstanz)

2:30 – 5:30 PM | Session 2

Moderator: Cornelia Mattiacci (Curator, Fondazione Prada)

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Everything you needed to know about climate change and were afraid to ask – Latest findings from the IPCC

Debra Roberts (Scientist and IPCC Co-president, South Africa)

3:30 – 4:30 PM

The Climate Crisis and Human Responsibility: Navigating the Anthropocene

Carlo Barbante (Scientist and Full Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

4:45 – 5:30 PM

Environment and Neurodegenerative Disease: A Call to Action

Giancarlo Comi (Honorary Professor of Neurology, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan)

6 OCTOBER 2023

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Session 3

Moderator: Cristina Baldacci (Curator and Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, NICHE, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

10:30 – 11:30 AM

1.5° To stay alive: The climate reality of the Marshall Islands

Selina Leem (Climate Change activist, Marshall Islands)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Rethinking the climate from Hawai'i: Indigenous science and transformations

Roberta Raffaetà (Anthropologist and Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, NICHE, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

2:30 – 4:30 PM | Session 4

Moderator: Mario Mainetti (Head of Research and Publications, Fondazione Prada)

2.30 – 3:30 PM

Everyone's talking about... its high time to do something about it

Bjorn Stevens (Director, Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg)

3:30 – 4 PM

Thinking with the Elements

Macarena Gómez-Barris (Chair of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University, Providence)

4 – 4:30 PM

How Does the World End (for Others)?

With Josephine James and Vivienne James

A performance by Beate Geissler / Oliver Sann

In collaboration with

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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Lesley Lokko

Professor Lesley Lokko OBE is the founder and director of the African Futures Institute (AFI) in Accra, Ghana. She holds a BSc(Arch), MArch and PhD in Architecture from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. She was the founder and director of the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg (2014—2019) and the Dean of Architecture at the Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture (2019—2020). She is the editor of *White Papers, Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2000) and the editor-in-chief of FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture. In 2004, she made the successful transition from academic to novelist with the publication of her first novel, *Sundowners* (Orion 2004) and has since followed with twelve further bestsellers, which have been translated into fifteen languages. She is a founding member of the UN-Habitat Council on Urban Initiatives; was a member of the 17th International Jury of the Venice Architecture Biennale; is a trustee of the London-based Architecture Foundation, The Clean Air Fund and the London Centre for Humanities. She has lectured and published widely on the subject of 'race' and its relationship to architecture, particularly architectural education. In 2021, she was awarded the RIBA Annie Spink Award for Excellence in Education and in 2021, the Ada Louise Huxtable Prize for Contributions to Architecture. She is a Guest Editor of the UCL Design Research in Architecture publication series and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. She was recently awarded France's Grande Médaille de l'Académie d'Architecture.

She is currently a Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College Dublin and has held visiting professorships at The Cooper Union, NYC and University of Virginia. She was appointed Curator of the 18th International Architecture Biennale at La Biennale di Venezia, which opened on 20 May 2023. In January 2023, she was awarded an OBE 'for services to architecture and education' in King Charles' New Year's Honours List.

Dieter Roelstratete

Dieter Roelstraete is Curator at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago. Prior to this appointment, he was as a member of the curatorial team for Documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel in 2017. From 2012 until 2015 he was the Manilow Senior Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, where he organized "Goshka Macuga: Exhibit, A" (2012); "The Way of the Shovel: Art as Archaeology" (2013); "Simon Starling: Metamorphology" (2014); "The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music 1965 to Now" (2015, co-curated with Naomi Beckwith); and "Kerry James Marshall: Mastry" (2016, co-curated with Ian Alteveer and Helen Molesworth). From 2003 until 2011 he was a curator at the Antwerp Museum of Contemporary Art (MuHKA). A former editor of

After all and cofounder of the journal *FR David*, Roelstraete has published extensively on contemporary art and related philosophical issues in numerous catalogues and journals including *Artforum*, *Art Review*, *e-flux journal*, *frieze*, *Metropolis M*, *Mousse Magazine*, *Parkett*, and *Texte zur Kunst*.

Alex Jordan

Alex Jordan is a permanent Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, heading up the Comparative Behavioural Evolution Research Group. Alex Jordan's research group uses quantitative approaches to study the evolution and adaptive value of animal behaviour in natural contexts. He is interested in how behaviour has evolved, what the adaptive value of behaviour is, and what the mechanisms that underlie behaviour are. Jordan borrows computational approaches developed for model laboratory systems like *Drosophila* and Zebrafish, and employs them in settings where animal behaviour has evolved – Lake Tanganyika, the Mediterranean Sea, coral reefs, and tropical rainforests. Using techniques like computer vision and machine learning, automated tracking of behaviour, and 3D reconstruction of environments, he aims for a quantitative assessment of the expression and value of behaviour in the places it naturally occurs. Using many different taxa, Jordan seeks to understand how social interactions are modified by current context, how animals perceive and process social cues, and how environments – both social and physical – change and are changed by behaviour. He takes a broad approach, combining studies of proximate neurobiological and genetic mechanisms, with analyses of the physics of interactions, up to broad evolutionary and ecological studies of social influence and behaviour.

Alex Jordan has also held editorial positions at *The American Naturalist* and *Movement Ecology*. He is active at the interface of science, art, and community engagement, working with artists and academics like Tabita Rezaire, SUPERFLEX, TBA-21, and Tomás Saraceno. Previously, Alex was the Integrative Biology Fellow, working in collaboration with Mike Ryan, Dan Bolnick, and Hans Hofmann at UT Austin, and before that a JSPS fellow in Osaka working with Masanori Kohda. He completed his PhD with Rob Brooks at the University of NSW, and did his undergraduate honours thesis with Madeleine Beekman and Ben Oldroyd at the University of Sydney.

Debra Roberts

Prof. Debra Roberts holds a PhD in urban biogeography and is currently head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekweni Municipality (Durban, South Africa). She was a lead author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) and a contributing author to Chapter 12 (Africa) of Working Group II's contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She was elected Co-Chair of Working Group II in 2015. Under her co-leadership Working Group II published the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) in 2019 and contributed to the Special Reports on "Climate Change and Land" and "Global warming of 1.5°C in 2018. She was a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the IPCC co-

sponsored International Conference on Climate Change and Cities in 2018 and IPCC-IPBES co-sponsored workshop on “Biodiversity and Climate Change” in 2020. Prof Roberts co-led the Scientific Steering Committees of the IPCC-UNHabitat-GCom co-sponsored Innovate for Cities Conference and the IPCC-ICOMOS- UNESCO international co-sponsored meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change, both held in 2021. Prof. Roberts is an Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Life Sciences and has been an advisor to the Global Commission on Adaptation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Secretary General’s 2019 Climate Summit. She was a member of the South African United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating team until December 2015, and has sat on various international advisory bodies focused on climate change issues in cities (e.g., the Rockefeller Foundation’s Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network and UN-Habitat’s 2011 ‘Cities and Climate Change’ Global Report). In 2019 she was included in a list of the World’s 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy.

Carlo Barbante

Carlo Barbante is director of the Institute of Polar Sciences of the CNR and Professor at the Ca’Foscari University of Venice, where he works on paleoclimatic reconstructions in Polar regions. He has participated in several expeditions in polar regions and in the Alps. Professor of Earth’s Climate at Ca’ Foscari Harvard Summer School, he has been granted by the European Research Council with a prestigious Advanced Grant. He has been professor at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and is an elected member of the Accademia delle Scienze detta dei XL and of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti.

Giancarlo Comi

Giancarlo Comi is Honorary Professor of Neurology at the Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele and President of the scientific committee of “Human Brains,” the multidisciplinary neuroscience project founded by Fondazione Prada in 2018. He is founder and director from 2004 to 2020 of the Institute of Experimental Neurology at the IRCCS San Raffaele in Milan. From 2013 he is the President of the European Charcot Foundation, the world’s leading foundation operating in the field of Multiple Sclerosis and related diseases. From 2012 to 2021, he co-chaired the Steering Committee of the Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Alliance and its Industry Forum, an organization that brings together the major pharmaceutical and technology companies interested in Multiple Sclerosis. During his career, he has been president of various national neurological, clinical neurophysiological, and psychophysiological societies, as well as of the European Neurological Society. He is an honorary member of the French Neurological Society, the Romanian Society of Neurology, the Russian Neurological Academic Society, the Spanish Society of Neurology (SEN), the Bulgarian Society of Neurology and the BCTRIMS, Brazilian Congress of Multiple Sclerosis. He has received multiple awards, such as the Marinescu Honorary Award given by the Romanian Society of Neurology and the Charcot Award for MS research from the MS

International Federation (MSIF). In 2016 he received the Gold Medal of Benemeranza Civica from the City of Milan, in 2018 he was appointed Officer of the Italian Republic and in 2021 he was made Commander of the Italian Republic for his scientific merit. He has been the Principal Investigator in numerous phase II and III neurological clinical trials, mainly in the field of multiple sclerosis. He is the author of more than 1000 scientific articles, with an h-index of 132, published in the most renowned international journals; he is also an editor of scientific books. He has organized and been a lecturer at more than 600 scientific conferences. He is co-editor of the review *Neurological Sciences* and a member of the editorial boards of leading scientific journals.

Selina N. Leem

Selina N. Leem, is a climate justice warrior and poet from the Marshall Islands. Crediting her grandfather for her deep awareness of the fate of her home, she has made it her missions to globally raise awareness on the climate crisis. Representing the Marshall Islands at 18, Leem was the youngest delegate at the COP21 and delivered the closing statement of their country alongside then Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Tony deBrum. Leem went on to many other global stages to speak on behalf of her people, using storytelling and spoken word. Most recently, becoming a TED speaker at the 2021 TED Countdown Summit.

Roberta Raffaetà

Roberta Raffaetà is an anthropologist and professor of socio-cultural anthropology. Her research stays at the intersection of medical anthropology, environmental anthropology and science & technology studies. She studies how to live well and caring for each other in an entangled and more-than-human planet. In last years, she has explored how biocomputational scientists produce knowledge about microbes and why this matters ('Antropologia dei microbi' CISU 2020 – eng translation by Routledge, 2022). She received a PhD in Social Sciences at the University of Lausanne in 2008 as member of the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Culturelle et Sociales. She has been granted a Marie Curie (Trento University and Monash, 2010-2013) and a Fulbright (UCLA, 2018) fellowship and she has worked in several universities in Italy (Milano-Bicocca, Bolzano, Bologna, Trento, Verona) and abroad (Monash Melbourne, Lausanne). Roberta is the Principal Investigator of the ERC Starting Grant Project HealthXCross, a multi-sited, comparative ethnographic study of how technoscience is reconfiguring practices and ideas of health by aggregating microbial data across time, space and species.

Bjorn Stevens

Prof. Bjorn Stevens is the Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology where he leads the department Climate Physics. He is also a professor at the University of Hamburg. He is interested in how atmospheric water vapor, and clouds, shape climate — globally and regionally. Understanding how turbulent mixing and cloud microphysical

processes influence cloud amount are instrumental in quantifying how clouds respond to warming, and how radiative forcing responds to aerosol perturbations. His research has identified different ways in which clouds organize themselves, how varied processes — such as precipitation, air sea interaction, and radiative cooling — influence this organization, and how clouds couple to larger-scale circulation systems to help determine the pattern of climate change. These interests have led him to advance observational techniques and to expand the frontiers of simulation science to develop and test theories developed by himself and others.

Macarena Gómez-Barris

Macarena Gómez-Barris is a writer and scholar with a focus on the decolonial environmental humanities, authoritarianism and extractivism, queer Latinx epistememes, media environments, racial ecologies, cultural theory and artistic practice.

She is author of four books including, *The Extractive Zone: Social Ecologies and Decolonial Perspectives* (Duke University Press, 2017) that examines five scenes of ruinous extractive capitalism. *Beyond the Pink Tide: Art and Political Undercurrents in the Américas* (UC Press 2018), a text of critical hope about the role of submerged art and solidarities in troubled times. She is also author of *Where Memory Dwells: Culture and State Violence in Chile* (2009), and co-editor with Herman Gray of *Towards a Sociology of a Trace* (2010). She is series editor with Diana Taylor of *Dissident Acts* at Duke University Press.

Her forthcoming book is *At the Sea's Edge* (Duke University Press) that considers colonial oceanic transits and the generative space between land and sea. She is on the Social Text Collective, co-Director of the Queer Aequi Project at Columbia University, and on the Executive Editor Board of GLQ. She received the Pratt Institute Research Recognition Award (2021-2022) and the University of California, Santa Cruz Distinguished Alumni Award (2021-2022). She is the author of dozens of essays and curatorial events. She was founder and director of Global South Center, NYC. She organizes a new series called *Writing Media Now* hosted by the Department of Modern Culture and Media.

Beate Geissler / Oliver Sann

Beate Geissler / Oliver Sann, mainly educated as photographers, photo designers and video artists, among others by Thomas Struth, Candida Höfer and Hugh Ashley Rayner, in Germany and the UK in the 90s, have been active as an Artist couple since 1996. Being currently Associate Professor of Art (University of Illinois, Chicago) resp. Assistant Professor (School of The Art Institute, Chicago) and artists at the same time, they both have been granted since years. Their work like e.g. "Methadone" (2016) is represented in the MOCP, Chicago, Illinois, USA and other public and private collections. Their work concentrates on inner alliances of knowledge and power, their deep links in western culture and the escalation in and transformation of human beings and environments through technology like shown in the series "Volatile Smile" (2011), "The Real Estate" (2009) or "Personal Kill"

(2007) series. Within their collaborative contemporary art space the artists' work spans (political) science, anthropology, sociology, philosophy.