

“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

THE NEW
INSTITUTE

Centre for Environmental
Humanities (NICHE)

at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice

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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.