



NISANSA



# ARUA NISANSA Research Forum 2024

‘Pathways of change in the social response to climate change in unequal societies in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America’

**13 - 15 March 2024**

## PROGRAMME



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



**This transdisciplinary forum aims to advance the understanding of pathways of change in social responses to climate change.** Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America are not only highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change but also among the most multi-dimensionally unequal. Social responses to climate change are as diverse as the two regions themselves. Yet they share elements of innovation that can provide a better understanding of transformative change in climate resilient development pathways.

The forum includes researchers and practitioners at all career stages and will discuss the concept of pathways and how it can inform change in the social response to climate change. The concept guides the two and a half days of engagement between diverse participants from academia, and public and private sectors with a strong focus on the building blocks of innovation, transformation, and positive change. The meeting format caters for in-person exchanges with partial online streaming at the conference facilities at the **University of Cape Town's Conference Centres at the Graduate Business School in South Africa** and an (un)sustainable campus tour on UCT's main campus.

**Guiding questions for the research forum include:**

- How do societies respond to climate change in unequal societies in the Global South?
- How do different perceptions and societal actors shape social responses to climate change?
- How do societal actors change rules and build innovative institutions in the governance of climate change?
- How can existing pathways be inclusively transformed towards a good life and sustainable livelihoods for all?
- How can common approaches such as “nature-based solutions”, “integrated water management”, and “just transitions” contribute to changing pathways?

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# PROGRAMME

**Note:** The research forum language is English. The event will be partially streamed online.

Day 1: 13 March 2024

Time	Theme	Notes & Speakers
<b>08h30 – 09h00</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	
09h00 – 10h30 <i>Rooftop</i> <b>Session 1</b> Opening Plenary: Innovation, knowledge and theory of change	Pathways of Change – the role of collaboration in science and transformative innovation in a climate crisis	<b>Introductions and welcome</b>  <i>Scene setting inputs:</i> Simone Strambach, <i>University of Marburg</i>  Erika Mbula, <i>University of Johannesburg</i>  <i>Facilitation:</i> Ruth Beukman
<b>10h30 – 11h00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
11h00 – 12h30 <i>Rooftop</i> <b>Session 2</b> El buen vivir – climate change and human well-being	Pathways of livelihoods and a “good life” in a climate crisis in unequal societies	David Lam, <i>University of Michigan</i>  Representatives of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment South Africa (DFFE)  Belynda Petrie, <i>One World</i>  Fabio Andres Dias Pabón, <i>African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research, University of Cape Town</i>  <i>Facilitation:</i> Ruth Beukman
<b>12h30 – 13h30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
Parallel Session		Janek Riedel, <i>University Marburg</i>
13h30 – 15h00 <i>Rooftop</i> <b>Session 3</b>	Pathways of Change in Water governance	Simone Strambach, <i>University Marburg</i>  Anna Taylor, <i>University of Cape Town</i>

Water

Themba Gumbo, *Cape-Net Organisation*

Aadrian Kurtz, *Wynlandwater*

Nkululeko Mabila, *Green Cape*

Jessica Wilson, *Environmental Consultant*

*Facilitator:* Ruth Beukman

Parallel Session  
*Breakaway Venue*

**Session 4**  
Earth

Local Pathways and Initiatives –  
From Daily Live Experiences to  
Strategies and Networks

*Session lead:* Michaela Meurer,  
*University of Marburg*

Ernst Halbmeyer, *University of Marburg*  
Boitumelo Malope, *Stellenbosch University*

Stephanie Borchards, *Stellenbosch University*

**15h00 – 15h30**

**Health break**

15h30 -17h00

*Rooftop*

**Session 5**  
Energy

Pathways of change in energy  
systems and just transitions

*Session lead:* Michelle Pressend,  
TRAJECTS UCT/DAAD

Rasigan Maharaj, *Tshwane University of Technology*

Julia Schwab, *University of Giessen*

Megan Cole, *University of Cape Town*

17h00 – 18h00

*Rooftop*

**Session 6**  
Reflection

Linking unconnected actors,  
sectors and scales in pathways of  
change

Wrap up – panelists and rapporteurs

**18h15 – 18h45**

**Documentary film screening**  
*Rooftop*

19h00

Conference Dinner  
*Stonebreakers Restaurant*

**Day 2: 14 March 2024**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Notes &amp; Speakers</b>
<b>08h00 – 08h30</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	
Plenary 08h30 – 09h00 <i>Rooftop</i>	Welcome and introduction to the second conference day: how to change pathways	Ruth Beukman, <i>WWF</i>  Evan Lieberman, <i>MIT</i>
Parallel Sessions 09h00 – 10h30	<b>Session 7</b> Pathways of change: vote and political representation in climate governance in unequal societies  <i>Rooftop</i>	Malebo Seleetse, <i>DFFE</i>  Britta Rennkamp, <i>University of Cape Town</i>
Participation and discourse		Mpfunzeni Tshindane, <i>Western Cape Government</i>  Elisabeth Alm, <i>University of Giessen</i>
	<b>Session 8</b> Pathways of Change and the Ambivalences of Sustainability  <i>Breakaway Venue</i>	Aida Terblanché, <i>North West University</i>  Joern Ahrens, <i>University of Giessen</i>  Gabriel Fauma, <i>University of Botswana</i>
<b>10h30 - 11h00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
Parallel Sessions 11h00 – 12h30	<b>Session 9</b> Facilitating innovations, institutional and behavioural change  <i>Rooftop</i>	Meed Mbidzo, <i>Namibian University of Science and Technology</i>  Bjoern Vollan, <i>University of Marburg</i>
Concepts and contestation		Thomas Falk, <i>University of Marburg</i>  Martine Visser, <i>EPRU, University of Cape Town</i>

Maaïke Bader, *University of Marburg*

### Session 10

Nature based solutions as a means to changing pathways of sustainable development

*Breakaway Venue*

Anulisa Claire Adhiambo, *University of Nairobi*

Mark New, *University of Cape Town*

Bessy Kathimbi, *University of Nairobi*

*Facilitation:* Ruth Beukman

**12h30 – 13h30**

**Lunch**

Plenary  
*Rooftop*

13h30 – 14h30

### Session 11

Interactive poster presentations, discussion and vote

Marieke Norton, *University of Cape Town*

### Hub 1

The role of Universities (HEIs) to foster social innovation and sustainability transformation –Places, Processes and Pathways

*Rooftop*

Simone Strambach, *University of Marburg*

*Facilitation:* Ruth Beukman

Parallel sessions:  
14h30 – 16h00

Facilitated thematic hubs

### Hub 2

Pathways of Change in Science Communication - Beyond well-trodden paths

*Breakaway Venue*

Janek Riedel, Sara Luetlich, *Universities of Marburg and Giessen*

*Facilitation:* Lavinia Perumal, *University of Cape Town*

**16h00 – 16h30**

**Health break**

Plenary  
*Rooftop*

Closing session  
16h30 – 17h30

Closure and poster award

Day 3: 15 March 2024

Please RSVP for walk and lunch to [yonela.arosi@uct.ac.za](mailto:yonela.arosi@uct.ac.za)

If you wish to be part of the synthesis working group please contact [britta.rennkamp@uct.ac.za](mailto:britta.rennkamp@uct.ac.za) and join the meeting at 11h30.

Time	Theme	Notes & Speakers
09h00 for 09h30: Meet at Sarah Baartman Steps, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch		
09h30 – 11h00	(Un)sustainable Campus Tour University of Cape Town, Rondebosch	Tour guided by Marieke Norton, <i>ACDI, Manfred Braune, Sustainability Manager UCT.</i> (Disclaimer: this walk and talk tour involves climbing stairs and unsteady surfaces, wear solid footwear, note that some of the terrain is not wheelchair friendly, use sun protection and bring water)
11h00 – 11h30	<b>BREAK</b>	
11h30 – 13h00	Synthesis working group meeting: reflection and experience sharing and ways forward	ACDI Seminar Room, Geological Sciences Building 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
13h00	<b>Lunch &amp; End</b>	