



MORRIS J. WOSK
CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE



2023 REIMAGINING CLIMATE FUTURES: A DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE ON CIRCULARITY



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CONTEXT

As the world gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt for COP27, seven years after the historic Paris Agreement, climate observers noted that the climate crisis is unraveling faster than ever before. With devastating floods and wildfires, communities are seeking innovative solutions that can be scaled quickly, provide resilience and ensure sustainability for a diverse range of lifeforms. With GHG emission continuing to climb, and the latest geopolitical threats making for an ever more complex environment, the pace of transformation of all our systems needs to quicken, all the while ensuring a just and equitable transition for all.

Fragmentation, siloeing, disconnection and political polarization affect a wide range of human experiences and systems and add to the complexity of climate solutions. Research and science have also resulted in very compartmentalized disciplines where trans- multi- inter- disciplinary research, even if more and more active, is still not very well evaluated and funded. As we increasingly realize we operate in complex and interconnected adaptive systems, researching one subject becomes difficult without considering all connected topics, and their dynamics.

There is a strong invitation and a need for a cultural shift towards holistic approaches and principles that can reconcile, rebuild links and relationships within our complex and interconnected systems.

As scholars and practitioners, we are proposing to convene an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and intercultural group of academics, urbanists, public servants, elected officials and citizens to develop a framework for climate-readiness based on a circular model approach from the circularity paradigm (Leporini, 2022). The SFU Indigenous Research Institute highlighted that the circle itself has always been an important image for all Aboriginal groups in Canada and elsewhere. It celebrates and acknowledges continuity, life cycles, and other natural cycles in the universe. It is a symbol of the past, present, and future, representing ongoing research, learning, and discovery.

This approach will be based on the acknowledgement and empowerment of principles of reciprocity, responsabilization (self-determination), and ongoing learning processes (humility). The circularity paradigm embraces the concept of circular cooperation by creating transformative experimental spaces of participation and dialogue, co-creation and embodied practices that ensures equity, justice and inclusion. Decolonization and the metissage of the wide biodiversity of systems thinking are at the heart of the circular paradigm in order to reimagine innovative solutions.

The circularity framework for climate readiness will enable communities to reconnect with hope and develop innovative collaborative ideas and worldviews together with concrete proofs-of-concept, such as in the circular city model currently tested in Europe, and scale efforts to meet the challenges of our changing climate in a relational and community-oriented way.

Project Outcomes

Primary project outcomes include:

- A full report of the deliberations will be prepared by a joint team from CERDI and SFU Centre for Dialogue and shared open-source. The report will offer links to metissage knowledge and artistic products developed through the dialogue.
- Series of interdisciplinary papers produced from working groups, reflecting final deliberations at the dialogue
- A series of policy papers aimed at decision-makers
- Development of a collaborative and inter-disciplinary, cross-sectoral evaluation framework for a circularity model
- Series of media pieces on dialogues with possible collaboration with Massey lectures, Arte, or CBC Ideas
- A series of demonstration projects to apply the learnings of the conference in each of the thematic areas

Secondary project objectives include:

- Build shared ownership, leadership and collaboration among researchers from across represented post-secondary institutions;
- Promote stronger collaboration and partnership between post-secondary institutions and other sectors to accelerate climate-readiness in a variety of territories and locums.

PROPOSED APPROACH

Phase 1 (21-22-23 February 2023) - Deliberative Dialogue Summit

Over three days, at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver, BC. This dialogue will bring together 100 participants: academics and researchers with interdisciplinary approaches to climate solutions, circularity and community engagement, representatives from different levels of government (local, provincial/regional, federal/national, Indigenous), representatives from various economic sectors, labour leaders, civil society organizations, artists, a representative sample of citizens.

Day 1: Morning

- Morning: site and laboratory visits for visiting researchers organized by SFU International and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.

Day 1: Evening from 4:30pm to 7pm

- Formal Welcome to Territory and ceremony
- The first evening will bring groups together to learn about each other and to learn about the concept of circularity for climate with practices to experience the connection between inner and outer transformation
- Artistic performance or exhibit reflecting the concepts of relationship/kinship/rupture&repair as they pertain to climate resilience

Day 2: Full day from 9am to 5pm

- Sharing of evidence and knowledge
- In groups 30 or so, participants will develop a set of criteria to implement circular models for climate-readiness
- Deliberate to refine set of guiding principles for a circular approach to climate-readiness
- In plenary exchange on what the different subgroups developed
- Visiting round to explore each of the rooms and see graphic representations of each of the groups' work.
- Artistic interpretations of work produced so far – Metissage of knowledge products

Day 3: Full day from 9am to 5pm

- Final deliberation and presentation of a draft framework for circularity
- Collaborative space to connect and start defining working groups
- Final witnessing ceremony by Indigenous leaders and Youth representatives

Phase 2 (February-September 2023) - 3 Working Group Roundtable

These roundtables will be convened by partners over the course of 6 months at the rate of 2 to 4 meetings. Each roundtable will bring together 10 to 20 participants from varied disciplines and sectors.

Each roundtable will:

- Offer a space for inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral dialogue
- Share current research and understanding of circularity as it relates to their area of inquiry
- Review approaches and epistememes surrounding circularity – engage in critical analysis
- Develop thematic guiding principles for a circular/kinship approach to climate-readiness
- Select one or two proofs of concept to test out with community partners

Roundtable Themes will be determined from the outcomes of the deliberative dialogue but will focus on implementing and scaling circularity models for climate

Potential Phase 3 (2023/2024) - Developmental Evaluation and Reflection Dialogue

This one to two-day conference will revisit the results of the 2023 engagement and discuss:

- What are the proof of concepts that have emerged and can be scaled?
- What have we learned?
- What has changed?
- What can we transform further?
- What hurdles have we faced?
What new opportunities have we identified?

What are the new epistememes that have emerged?

CO-CONVENORS

Hanna Guttorm, Project Lead for the University of Helsinki

Hanna Guttorm, PhD in Education, is widely interested in life and its possibilities on our planet.

She is especially inspired on Indigenous ontologies and post theories with those she investigates, how we should do and write research in order to make a change towards a more ecological, social and cultural sustainability and solidarity.

She has a position as an associate professor in Sámi teacher education at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences, Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino, and works currently as a HELSUS postdoctoral researcher in Indigenous studies at the University of Helsinki.

Mathieu Leporini, Project Lead for CERDI

Mathieu Leporini holds a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from Clermont Auvergne University (France) and began his career at the CNRS where he worked on European research projects related to climate change. He became during 4 years the Director of the European and International Affairs for Research of Clermont University and Avignon University and was also one of the National Contact Point for the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission, developing an expertise in local, national, European and international strategies for higher education, research and innovation systems.

From 2012, he was the Resident Advisor for the European Union Delegation in Morocco for a European twinning project aiming at strengthening the National Research System of Research and Innovation in Morocco and at increasing cooperation with the European actors of Research Development and Innovation.

He was then a scientific diplomat for the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. First as the Attaché for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France to Canada (Western Canada, in Vancouver) where he notably contributed actively to actions and discussions within the framework of the preparation of the Paris Agreement/COP21 and set up several structuring bilateral programs. Then as the Attaché for scientific and university cooperation at the French Embassy in Finland in Helsinki, where he notably initiated the new PHC-like program "Maupertuis" with Finnish Academies and Foundations, initiated the Chair of Excellence program with the Nokia Foundation in the field of artificial intelligence, and contributed to the bilateral cooperation on the topic of circular economy.

Back in France and before joining the CNRS-Clermont University research unit CERDI, he was the Director of the INRAE (French National Research Organism on Environment, Food and Agriculture) South of France Regional Centre since 2019 and was responsible for missions at the national level on questions of international mobility strategies and sustainable development. From 2022, within the European Centre of Excellence on Sustainability, he works and develops international interdisciplinary research projects around several topics: Theory of Circularity, Complexity, Systemic approaches, Circular Economy, Sustainability Science, Circular Cooperation and Indigenous, Traditional and Local Knowledge.

Expert in cooperation, science diplomacy, management, sustainability and climate related topics, he organized and was a speaker and moderator to several international public events.

Elodie Jacquet, Project Lead for SFU Centre for Dialogue

Elodie Jacquet is the manager of Knowledge and Practice at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. She has been working with the Centre and other clients from all levels of government on a variety of engagement processes for the past 15 years. She has developed and refined her convening and facilitation skills in a wide variety of dialogues, from Canada's World, a national citizen engagement initiative on foreign policy to the National Reconciliation Gatherings, the Citizens' Dialogue on Canada's Energy Future or the community guided dialogues for the National inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. She was the project lead on the Centre's work on Equity in Public Engagement. She holds a Master's on Global Climate and Energy Policy from SOAS, University of London and degrees in behavioural biology from Université Paris XIII Nord. A settler-immigrant to Canada from Mauritius, Elodie identifies as a woman of colour and from a francophone linguistic minority. She is particularly interested in the weight of intersecting identities for under-represented communities in engagement and strives to advance Reconciliation and decolonizing practices in her work.

Carole Zachs, Partnership Lead

Carol Zachs has worked in the field of international education for over 20 years. As Senior Director (Interim), Global Engagement, she is responsible for supporting SFU International's strategic engagement and for promoting and enhancing SFU's profile domestically and internationally through the strategic management of SFU's international partnerships, international visitors, local diplomatic corps, and local international organizations. Prior to joining SFU, Carol oversaw the study and research abroad program at UBC where she was responsible for strategic development of institutional partnerships and co-curricular intercultural learning programs. She has worked abroad in Denmark and for WUSC/Uniterra in Ghana. She holds a Masters of Education from UBC with a focus on globalization and adult learning. She is co-founder and former co-chair of the CBIE International Relations Professional Learning Community.

Nastenka Calle, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Lead

Nastenka Calle Delgado has been the Program Manager of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) at Simon Fraser University since 2010. Motivating students, faculty and the public to act on climate solutions is a key driver behind her work, with a focus on educational and outreach programs that help build knowledge and inspire advances in climate change mitigation and adaptation. She brings eight years of experience working in environmental planning with the City of Guayaquil from her native country Ecuador. She has also served as co-author in peer-reviewed articles on topics related to chemical pollution and wrote two letters concerning the impact of fossil fuel developments and climate change published in the journal Science. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Sciences in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Orleans. She obtained her bachelor degree in Geological Engineering from the Polytechnic School of Ecuador.

APPENDIX A: MISSION AND VALUES OF THE SFU MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

OUR MISSION

To foster shared understanding and positive action through dialogue and engagement.

OUR VALUES

Transparency: We earn trust and legitimacy by proactively disclosing our motives and by transparently communicating the outcomes of our work.

Diversity: We believe that success and innovation require the participation of diverse peoples, perspectives and ways of knowing.

Curiosity: We host respectful conversations without pre-determined outcomes, where collaborative inquiry serves as an alternative to adversarial approaches.

Equity: We support participants in achieving equal voice by removing barriers to participation, reducing power imbalances and counteracting systems of harm.

Impartiality: We hold neutral space for others to express their ideas, while recognizing our responsibility to ground these discussions in evidence-based information.