

Sustainability Education Collective

Conference and Workshop Series

August 17, 2023

Sustainability Education, the Global South, and Social Justice

Agenda

8:00 Registration, Pastries & Coffee

Room 4035, Campus Instructional Facility, 1405 W. Springfield Ave., Urbana

8:30 Welcome

Dr. Madhu Khanna, Director iSEE and ACES Distinguished Professor in Environmental Economics

9:00 Place-Based and Participatory Approaches to Sustainability Education and Evaluation in the Global South

Dr. Sirkka

Sirkka Tshiningayamwe holds a PhD in Environmental Education. She is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Namibia in the School of Education. Sirkka has years of facilitating pre-service and in-service programmes for teachers focusing on Environmental Education (EE)/ Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). She has also supervised undergraduate and postgraduate research focusing on EE/ESD and Science Education (which is her other area of specialisation). Sirkka has participated in different collaborations at regional and international level focusing on capacity building of teachers and teacher educators on ESD. Amongst other collaborations is the Sustainability starts with Teachers- a capacity building on ESD for teacher/ TVET educators in southern Africa. Her research interests are in EE/ESD and Science Education. She has been an Editor of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) Bulletin since 2016 to date. Her other capacities that fall in her background include coordinating and evaluating ESD programmes.

Dr. Christina Ting Kwauk

Christina Kwauk is a social scientist and policy analyst with expertise on girls' education, 21st century skills and youth empowerment, and the intersections of gender, education, and climate change. She is co-editor of Curriculum and Learning for Climate Action: Toward an SDG 4.7 Roadmap for Systems Change and co-author of What Works in Girls' Education: Evidence for the World's Best Investment. She has published numerous policy papers, including "The new green learning agenda: Approaches to quality education for climate empowerment." Christina is an education consultant, founder of Kwauk & Associates, and research director at Unbounded Associates.

Mr. Khalil Bitar

Khalil Bitar is the co-founder and former Chair of the EvalYouth Global Network and co-founder and former co-leader of the Eval4Action global campaign. He is also the founder and former President of the Palestinian Evaluation Association (PEA), a board member of the Middle East and North Africa Evaluation Network (EvalMENA), and a founding trustee and former board member (& former chair of the Fellowship Committee) in the International Evaluation Academy (IEAc). Currently, Khalil is the Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Lead of the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern in Switzerland; Senior Evaluation Advisor in the Evaluation Methods Advisory Panel of the World Food Programme (WFP); and faculty member and instructor with EnCompass Learning Center (ELC), teaching about equity and social justice consideration in evaluation.

10:30 Global and Social Representations of Climate Change and Resiliency Education

Panelists:

Dr. Rosa Guadalupe Mendoza Zuany

Dr. Rosa Guadalupe Mendoza Zuany is a researcher at the Educational Research Institute of the Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico. She is a member of the National System of Researchers and is a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences. She is chairholder of the UNESCO Chair "Education for Eco-Citizenship and Sustainability," based in the Universidad Veracruzana. Her research project focuses on situated learning for sustainability based on narratives, concerns, knowledges and practices and its articulation to the curriculum, particularly in rural and indigenous schools. She has a PhD in Politics from the University of York in the United Kingdom, a master's degree in Anthropological Sciences from the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán in Mexico, and a bachelor's degree in international relations from the Tecnológico de Monterrey in México.

Mr. Michael Fernandez-Frey

Mr. Fernandez-Frey is the Director of Caras con Causa, an organization dedicated to promoting community development to eradicate poverty through education, the environment, and economic development with the communities of Cataño and Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Understanding that sustainable development encompasses a wide variety of factors that make it possible, Caras con Causa created a work plan that not only addresses the most explicit needs of the communities, but also those that allow their transformation, such as education and the maintenance of their environmental resources. Caras con Causa promotes education as a liberating tool to achieve the social transformation we need and the environment as a healing resource and economic stimulus.

Ms. Joan Namaggwa & Ms. Clare Nassanga

Joan and Clare are climate and gender activists from Kampala, Uganda. They are students at Makerere University, where Joan is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in industrial art and design while Clare is pursuing a Bachelor's of veterinary medicine. As siblings, they work together to make a positive impact on their community and beyond, striving for a more equitable and sustainable future. They share a deep-rooted commitment to social and environmental justice. Their journey as activists began with a shared understanding of the interconnectedness between gender equality and climate change.

Currently, they have a project of bringing reusable pads to girls in rural areas in Uganda. Additionally, they have worked on organizing climate strikes and tree planting projects in Uganda. They work with climate activists, Vanesa Nakate, and the Vash green schools project that brings solar panels and eco-friendly stoves to schools in Uganda. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities, particularly women and girls, they have made it their mission to amplify their voices and advocate for their rights. As part of their efforts, they have organized educational workshops, awareness campaigns, and community events to engage individuals of all ages in meaningful discussions surrounding gender equality and climate justice. As sisters and activists, they have found strength in their collaboration and complementary skills.

11:45 Break

12:00 Keynote: Gender and Climate Justice in the Caribbean

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon (she/her) is a Black queer feminist writer, scholar, and activist. Born and raised in the Bahamas, she is currently based in Trinidad and Tobago. She is a sought after speaker and facilitator on intersecting issues related to social and climate justice, migration, and sexual and LGBTQI+ rights, among others. She is a social justice educator and community worker with two decades of experience and leadership in community-based organisations and academic institutions. Her research and creative work are available widely; she is author of two books – the poetry and art chapbook titled Saltwater Healing and the scholarly award-winning book titled Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture.

Dr. Nixon is a senior lecturer and researcher at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her research and teaching areas include Caribbean and postcolonial studies, African diaspora literatures, gender and sexuality studies, tourism and diaspora studies, and transnational migrations. She earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida in 2008, where she specialised in postcolonial and gender studies. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Africana Studies at New York University in 2009 and has held academic posts at University of

Connecticut (2009-2011) and Susquehanna University (2011-2014). She joined The UWI IGDS in 2014 as a Fulbright scholar and in 2015 as a lecturer, where she is now a tenured faculty and coordinator of graduate studies. Her current research investigates race, sexuality, migration, and climate crisis at the crossroads of Caribbean freedom, social movements, and decolonial poetics.

Angelique is very active in Caribbean movements for human rights and social justice and has developed several community-based projects to facilitate social change, notably the healing collective Ayiti Resurrect, which organised programmes in Leogane, Haiti (2010-2017) through annual delegations focused on arts, environmental sustainability, and women's empowerment. Since 2009, Angelique has been co-director of the Caribbean IRN (digital resource network on diverse genders and sexualities), which published two multi-media collections and organised digital archives/spaces to support Caribbean LGBTQI+ visibility and knowledge. Further since 2016, she has served as a working director of the feminist LGBTQI civil society (non-profit) organisation CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice in Trinidad and Tobago, where she spearheads operations, resource mobilisation, and community engagement, as well as coordinating various programmes. Angelique is fiercely committed in all her work to intersectional queer feminist praxis, decolonial politics, climate justice, and Black liberation.

1:30 Field Trip: Red Oak Rain Garden

The Red Oak Rain Garden was constructed in 2006 by Prof. Tony Endress and his NRES 420 class, the garden renovation honors this original effort and gives it a future. The new planting palette installed Fall 2019 has earned recognition from several conservation organizations. As part of Illinois Extension, the Red Oak Rain Garden Team believes in providing excellence in educational programming and providing accessible programs that help people solve problems. The rain garden does both! The Team creates service-learning opportunities for students and community volunteers and inspires visitors to find out how they can create healthier landscapes where they live.
redoakraingarden.org

Upcoming Conference Dates

Friday, September 15, 2023

Resisting Climate Change and Injustice with Sustainability Education in Colleges of Education

Keynote: Dr. Oren Pizmony-Levy, Teachers College, Columbia University

Closing Plenary: Dr. Megan Bang, Northwestern University

Field Trip: Solar Farm 2.0

Register:

sustainabilitycollective.education.illinois.edu



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Conference Sponsors:

College of Education

Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

Forum for the Future of Public Education

