

# Sustainability Education Collective

Conference and Workshop Series

September 15, 2023

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

### Agenda

#### 8:00 Registration, Pastries & Coffee

Room 314AB, Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana

#### 8:30 Welcome

Dr. Samantha Lindgren, Dr. Luis Rodríguez, Dr. Jon Hale – Conference Organizers

Dr. Sarah McCarthey, Interim Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students

Dr. Yoon Pak, Department Head, Education Policy, Organization & Leadership

#### 9:00 Keynote

##### Dr. Oren Pizmony-Levy, Teachers College, Columbia University

*Dr. Pizmony-Levy is an Associate Professor of International and Comparative Education at Teachers College, Columbia University as well as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Futures. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology and comparative and international education from Indiana University. Prior to graduate school in the US, Dr. Pizmony-Levy worked in the Education Department of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (an NGO) and was involved in the development of new environmental education curriculum and professional development for K-12 schools. At Teachers College, his scholarship centers on the intersection of education and social movements. Specifically, he is interested in the emergence of movements that challenge schools and education systems worldwide, the role of both transnational and domestic actors in the development of these movements, and the intended and unintended consequences of movements. Much of his work focuses on three educational movements: International assessment of student achievement, environmental and sustainability education, and sexual orientation and gender identity education. His recent work examines the global diffusion Teach For America (Teach For All), and the Opt Out movement in the United States.*

#### 10:00 The Future of Public Sustainability Education: Teacher Education and Learning Across the Lifespan

##### Panelists:

##### Dr. Asli Sezen-Barrie, University of Maine and the National Science Foundation

*Dr. Sezen-Barrie received her Ph.D. in Science Education from the Pennsylvania State University and is currently the program director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) 's Division of Research on Learning and is co-leading the Discovery Research preK-12 program. In this role, Dr. Sezen-Barrie leads efforts related to science teacher education and justice-oriented climate change education and represents her division at interagency and cross-directorate programs on climate change, such as the Wildland Fire Initiative. Dr. Sezen-Barrie is currently on a temporary assignment at NSF from her institution, the University of Maine (Orono), where she is an Associate Professor in the School of Learning and Teaching and is affiliated with the RiSE (Research in STEM Education) Center at the University of Maine. She will join the UCI School of Education in Fall 2024 as the Stacey Nicholas Endowed Chair Professor of*

*Environmental and Climate Change Education. Sezen-Barrie's research aims to provide theoretical, empirical, and practical contributions to designing meaningful and equitable science learning environments where multiple ways of doing and knowing science are represented. Her publications in well-known science and environmental education journals focus on promoting epistemic justice for students and teachers in transdisciplinary science and engineering practices to understand the science behind grand environmental challenges (e.g., extreme weather, wildfires, and ocean acidification). Her research interests in grand challenges also extend to exploring how youth and educators can take justice-oriented action in evidence-informed mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to Earth's changing climate.*

### **Dr. Alberto Arenas, University of Arizona and Editor-in-Chief *Journal of Environmental Education***

*Alberto is a Professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Sociocultural Studies within the College of Education at the University of Arizona. He has played a pioneering role in shaping the field of environmental and sustainability education, both in the US and abroad, most notably by researching and teaching in four different national contexts (the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil); by having over 80 academic publications and presentations in renowned journals and settings; by being awarded two different Fulbright Fellowships, one as a Ph.D. student (in Colombia) and one as a senior scholar (in Mexico); by serving in the International Scientific Committee of the World Environmental Education Congress in Morocco, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates; and by leading the *Journal of Environmental Education (JEE)*, a premier educational journal and the oldest journal on environmental education worldwide in continuous operation.*

### **Dr. Marek Oziewicz, University of Minnesota**

*Marek Oziewicz is the Sidney and Marguerite Henry Professor of Children's and Young Adult Literature and Director of the Center for Climate Literacy at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. His studies the Anthropocene as a challenge to our story systems and coordinates international efforts to develop universal climate literacy education. Dr. Oziewicz is the Senior Editor of Climate Literacy in Education and Editor-in-Chief of *Climate Lit: a resource hub for teaching climate literacy with children's literature and media*. Some of his recent publications include a special issue of *The Lion and the Unicorn on Children's Literature and Climate Change* (2021), a collection *Fantasy and Myth in the Anthropocene* (2022), and book chapters in *Pedagogy in the Anthropocene: Re-Wilding Education for a New Earth* (2022), *Literature as a Lens for Climate Change: Using Narratives to Prepare the Next Generation* (2022), and *Youth Created Media on the Climate Crisis* (2023).*

### **Dr. Elin Kelsey, author of *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis***

*Elin Kelsey, PhD is an award-winning author, speaker and thought-leader for the evidence-based hope and climate justice solutions movement. Kelsey's influence can be seen through the popularity of her book, *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical For Solving The Environmental Crisis* (2020) and in the hopeful, solutions-focus of her clients, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and other powerful institutions where she has served as a visiting fellow including the Rachel Carson Center for the Environment and Society, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Kone Foundation, the Salish Sea Institute, the Cairns Institute and Stanford University. She co-created the viral twitter campaign #OceanOptimism and is currently leading intergenerational collaborations with climate influencers to make evidence-based hope more shareable online. She is an Adjunct Faculty member of the University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies, and Western Washington University's School of Environment. She regularly serves as an author/artist in residence for international schools. She is a best-selling children's book author, podcast host, and film writer. For more, please visit <https://www.elinkelsey.org>*

## **11:45 Closing Plenary**

### **Dr. Megan Bang, Northwestern University**

Megan Bang (Ojibwe and Italian descent) is a Professor of the Learning Sciences and Director of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Dr. Bang studies dynamics of culture, learning, and development broadly with a specific focus on the complexities of navigating multiple meaning systems in creating and implementing more effective and just learning environments in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics education. She focuses on reasoning and decision-making about complex socio-ecological systems in ways that intersect with culture, power, and historicity. Central to this work are dimensions of identity, equity and community engagement. She works closely with Indigenous communities. She conducts research in both schools and informal settings across the life course. She has taught in and conducted research in teacher education as well as leadership preparation programs. Dr. Bang currently serves on the Board of Science Education at the National Academy of Sciences and is a member of the National Academy of Education.

## **12:45 Lunch and In-Person Working Group**

## **2:00 Field Trip: Solar Farm 1.0**

### **Conference Organizers:**

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