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Societal Challenges

Virtual Lecture Series &
Early Career Networking Hour
2021–2022 Academic Year



In these times of climate change, pandemic, forced migration and increasing economic and political alienation, crisis talk is ubiquitous. While the world's problems are unquestionably urgent, the current discourse of emergency risks aggravating them by privileging quick but ineffective reaction over the calm, reflexive analysis that is a necessary first step in combatting the woes besetting us.

The objective of this **lecture series** is to provide an antidote to impulsive disaster talk through perceptive academic analysis. Outstanding researchers within the Aurora University Alliance will give engaging online lectures during the 2021–2022 academic year on cutting edge research within two broad domains, **Sustainability & Climate Change** and **Culture: Diversity & Identity**.

Each lecture will be followed by a **virtual social hour for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers** which will allow them to network with peers across the Aurora Alliance and start building the research teams that will deal with the challenges of the future.

Take the opportunity to meet your peers as well as renowned researchers from the Aurora partner universities. Expand your network and maybe even start new collaborations in your research area!

Organizers: Dr. Toby Erik Wikström, University of Iceland &
Dr. Estefania Velilla, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Supported by: Graduate Center Plus, University of Duisburg-Essen



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The lectures will take place on Zoom and the networking sessions on the interactive Wonder platform. You can register for individual dates or the entire series. You will receive a certificate for your participation.



Learn more and register at <https://auroraearlycareer.wordpress.com/>

OCTOBER



13 October 2021, 17:00–18:30 CET

Circular innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship

Prof. Dr. Ir. Bart Bossink (Sustainability and Innovation, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)



27 October 2021, 17:00–18:30 CET

Ignorance, ritual, abuse, and competition: The politics of Holocaust memory in the 21st century

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Dirk Rupnow (History, University of Innsbruck)

NOVEMBER



11 November 2021, 17:00–18:30 CET

Have you ever loved someone without housing? Houselessness and fundamental rights in a welfare state

Dr. Luisa Schneider (Social and Cultural Anthropology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)



18 November 2021, 17:00–18:30 CET

Insect declines in the Anthropocene: Framing is everything

Prof. Dr. Jeff Harvey (Animal Ecology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

– WINTER BREAK –

FEBRUARY



16 February 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

Historical and literary perspectives on pandemics: The need for a gendered response

Prof. Dr. Patricia Plummer (Postcolonial Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen)



17 February 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

Places to intervene in a system in crisis: Paradigm shift through Wellbeing Economy and Ecocide Law

Prof. Kristín Vala Ragnarsdóttir (Sustainability, University of Iceland)

MARCH



23 March 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

Measuring sustainability

Doc. Mgr. Miroslav Syrovátka (Development & Environmental Studies, Palacký University Olomouc)



24 March 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

Is there something new in 'neo-nationalism'? Right-wing populism in historical perspective

Prof. Guðmundur Hálfðánarson (History, University of Iceland)

APRIL



7 April 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

The importance of early climate mitigation for future glacier change

Dr. Fabien Maussion (Atmospheric and Cryospheric Sciences, University of Innsbruck)



19 April 2022, 17:00–18:30 CET

Decolonial approaches to laïcité as a mode to re-think contemporary Islamophobia

Prof. Nadia Kiwan (French and Francophone Studies, University of Aberdeen)