



CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND
PSYCHOLOGY
Interest Group

NEWSLETTER



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Invitation to Join PsySSA's Climate, Environment and Psychology (CEP) Interest Group

This Earth Day, we invite members to join the newly formed Psychology Society of South Africa (PsySSA) Climate, Environment and Psychology interest group. Internationally, there is a growing number of ecopsychology, climate and environmental psychology groups, and as PsySSA, we identified a need for an African response. Mental health practitioners and researchers in South Africa have a wealth of knowledge and experience. The Climate, Environment and Psychology (CEP) interest group held its inception meeting on 17 March 2021 and is currently recruiting new members.

CEP Scope

Members of the CEP Interest Group are interested in studying, assessing, teaching, researching, communicating, advocating or therapeutically involved in the psychological dimensions of climate change, the environment and society. Furthermore, many are specifically involved in eco-therapeutic interventions, teaching graduate environmental psychology curriculum, working on social impact assessments, involved in research on environmental justice issues, and engaged in community-based struggles. Members are working in different settings, but are grounded in the particularities of South Africa, including the social and environmental injustices that are rooted in apartheid histories.

Climate change and the environment places additional stressors on individuals and communities. Centering climate and environmental issues in our work calls for plurality of thinking and interdisciplinarity. As an interest group, we therefore welcome the cross-pollination of ideas between psychologists, other professionals, government, civil society and anyone else with an interest.

The way forward from the CEP inception meeting

Those joining the first meeting expressed sentiments of foregrounding climate and environmental justice in their psychological practice work and within CEP. This is encouraging, as there is much that we could do together. Some of the ideas emerging included joint trainings with the public and PsySSA members, public awareness raising and the possible creation of a resource hub for climate, environment and psychology focusing on particular issues that affect those in South Africa and other countries from the Global South.

Participants prioritized the psychological dimensions of climate change and the environment with an ambitious goal of becoming a division by the end of 2021. We call on you to join us in building and co-creating this space.

Benefits of CEP membership

As a member you have the benefit of:

1. Being involved in setting the direction and agenda for CEP
2. Being a part of a group that is action-orientated and actively participating in the co-creation of meaningful projects
3. Having access to the CEP listserv where you are able to shape the conversations taking place.
4. Being informed about research and collaboration opportunities
5. Receiving discounts for continuous professional development opportunities
6. Being added to our database of psychologists focusing on climate and environment

How do I join CEP?

To join the CEP special interest group, you will need to become a member of PsySSA online: <https://www.psyssa.com/membership/membership-2021/> or by emailing : membership@psyssa.com with PsySSA.CEP@gmail.com in copy.

Getting involved in CEP

Colleagues, we are excited to launch this interest group with the plan of becoming a division within PsySSA. We value your insights and look forward to welcoming you on board as members of CEP. Once you've signed up to CEP, we would really appreciate your collaboration in co-creating what could be a meaningful and dynamic space.

1. Please share this newsletter with friends and colleagues and encourage them to sign-up to CER.
2. Sign up to the Listserv by emailing the subject "subscribe": psyssaclimateenvironment+subscribe@googlegroups.com
3. Join the team of people that are working towards organising a symposium for the PsySSA Congress
4. Consider sharing your research for our "featured publications" section or promote an event in our "events" section.
5. As the newsletter develops, we'd also like members to contribute short pieces (1000 words) on a topic of their choice that is of relevance to CEP. If you would like to continue something this year, please reach out to Garret Barnwell on garretbarnwell@gmail.com and CC PsySSA.CEP@gmail.com
6. We're also looking for people who would like to be part of our webinar series

You can express your interests by emailing the co-conveners on PsySSA.CEP@gmail.com





Earth Day

This first edition of the CEP newsletter has been launched on Earth Day. Every year, April 22 marks the Earth Day. The anniversary coincides with the birth of the environmental movement in the 1970s.

The environmental movement was inspired by anti-war student movements and “emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution” in the United States¹.

Groups that had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values².

Today, Earth Day is global and the widest recognised day of observance and action. Although Earth day emerged in Northern America, communities in the global South have used the day to draw attention to the climate crises that will disproportionately affect the global South and the put a spotlight to the threats and killings of indigenous peoples and land defenders.

In addition to joining CEP, this Earth Day you can learn more about the actions taking place across the country and consider supporting groups like the [Climate Justice Coalition](#) that has been focusing on campaigning for not procuring further greenhouse gas-emitting energies and transitioning to renewable energies, while safeguarding jobs through the framework of a [just transition](#). Additionally, campaigns to follow this Earth Day are [Asina Loyiko](#), which is a civil society society campaign that discourages the use of litigation to silence and intimidate activists. Another organisation that is doing good work across the country is [EarthLife](#) that

- 1 <https://www.earthday.org/history/>
- 2 <https://www.earthday.org/history/>

envisioning a "society living within the ecological limits of sustainable development with an equitable distribution for all, respect for all living things, and the end of social, economic and political exploitation".

CEP Events

Next Climate, Environment and Psychology (CEP) Meeting

The next CEP meeting will take place in May. More information will be shared soon.

CEP Webinar: Water Must Fall

By Nick Wood

CEP member, Nick Wood's *Water Must Fall* is a gripping saga of human struggle, political intrigue, corporate fraud and murder in a near future where water is worth killing for.

The year is 2048. Climate change has brought catastrophe and water has become the most precious commodity on Earth. Water companies play god and determine the fate of millions.

In Africa, Graham Mason struggles to come to terms with the changing world and save his marriage to Lizette, who is torn between loyalty to their relationship and to her people.

In Northern California, Arthur Green battles to find ways of saving water and root out corruption, even when his family are threatened by those he seeks to expose. Determined to uncover the truth on two continents, Graham, Liz, and Art are caught up in a new uprising, a desperate attempt to challenge those set on appropriating the world's remaining water for their own gain. In the FreeFlow Corporation

they face a common enemy, but do they have any hope of prevailing against a power that is so ruthless and so entrenched? As the planet continues to thirst and slowly perish, will water ever fall?

WEBINAR: Nick will be speaking about his book at one of the special interest group's first webinars. **More information will be shared soon.**



Other Events

2021 Planetary Health Annual Meeting and Festival Virtual | Free

Planetary health is a transdisciplinary and solutions-oriented frame for understanding and addressing the greatest challenges of our time: the transformation and degradation of Earth's biodiversity and natural systems, and its interconnected impacts on human health and all life on our shared planet. The 4th Planetary Health Annual Meeting aims to bridge communities to achieve the Great Transition by highlighting collective planetary health values; showcasing change-making science, stories, solutions, and communities; and building systemic solutions across economics, governance, and civil society. Join us for this virtual convening of scientists, youth, policymakers, educators, private sector, artists, and more to learn about the complexities of planetary health science, find community, seek solutions, and build skills for action and change.

Popular News and Discourses

Habitat and special loss leaves just 3% of the world's land ecosystems intact [News]

Nnimmo Bassey discusses climate colonialism with Oxford Climate Society [Presentation]

George Marshall and Matthew Nisbet speak about communicating climate change and ways to engaged in the public [Panel]

South Africa's Battle with Coal, Climate Change and moving towards renewable energy [Reuters Documentary]

Featured Publications

Community Psychology in Global Perspective - Special Issue: Communities in the face of climate change

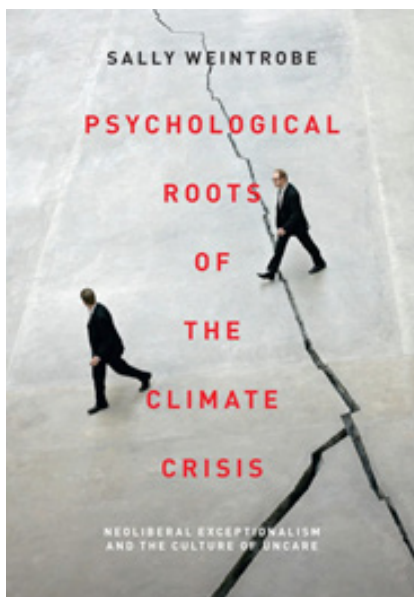
Edited by Maria Fernandes-Jesus, Brendon Barnes, and Raquel Farias Diniz

As the climate crisis accelerates and disproportionately affects marginalised communities and countries in the global South, the need for power and social justice approaches is particularly important. Community psychology, with a long interest in the impacts of power discrepancies on the well-being of groups and communities, can offer theoretical and practical tools for addressing climate change and environmental problems without reproducing or intensifying existing inequalities and injustices. This special issue looks at communities' struggles for climate and environmental justice by focusing on how they resist, contest and overcome power inequalities. The issue consists of one perspective and six empirical articles. Most contributions come from high climate vulnerable countries and regions in the global South. Authors address current and relevant environmental and climate change issues such as renewable energy and natural resource extraction,

social transformations and extreme weather events, the links between poverty, rurality and climate change, youth empowerment, and racism in climate activism. Inspired by their contributions, community psychology approaches and interdisciplinary research on environmental and climate justice, we discuss a research and intervention agenda for a community psychology of climate change.

Psychological Roots of the Climate Crisis: Neoliberal Exceptionalism and the Culture of Uncare

By Sally Weintrobe



Psychological Roots of the Climate Crisis tells the story of a fundamental fight between a caring and an uncaring imagination. Sally Weintrobe - one of the creators of the Climate Psychology Alliance - argues that achieving the shift to greater care requires us to stop colluding with Exceptionalism, the rigid psychological mindset largely responsible for the climate crisis. People in this mindset believe that they are entitled to have the lion's share and that they can 'rearrange' reality with magical omnipotent thinking whenever reality limits these felt entitlements. The book's tone is reflective, ironic, light and at times humorous. It is free of jargon, and full of examples from history, culture, literature, poetry, everyday life and the author's experience as a psychoanalyst, and a professional life that has been dedicated to helping people to face difficult truths.

Climate Change, Fragmentation & Collective Trauma: Bridging the Divided Stories That We Live In by

By Steffi Bednarek

This article explores psychological responses to climate change with the lenses of brain hemisphere imbalance, the fragmentation process of collective trauma and the Jungian maturation theory of two halves of life, which views suffering as a necessary component in the move towards a ripened culture. The perspective of climate trauma is widened to an inter-generational aspect. The article argues that the disowned and marginalised aspects of society need to be re-integrated, bridging cultural compartmentalisation and balancing the unequal representation of left and right hemisphere attributes. The writing itself aims to demonstrate this by weaving in and out of different paradigms.

Research Opportunities

Call for Papers: Psychological Science and Global Health

(Submission close: 01 October 2021)

We are opening submissions for consideration for a special issue titled “Psychological Science and Global Health”. This special issue is part of an innovative journal, titled *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, co-sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS).

Over the last few decades, it has been increasingly recognized that the natural environment is facing unprecedented global threats due to human influence with a range of ethical issues. A range of solutions that have been proposed to mitigate and adapt (i.e., decrease vulnerability and increase resilience) to the threats. Psychologists have increasingly contributed to these topics.

“Psychological Science and Global Health” in the eighth year of the journal, due out in December 2022.

For this special issue, the editors welcome both empirical and review papers that address three major topics:

Social and psychological impacts of climate change

Examples: disparities in impacts, projected impacts especially tied to different climate change scenarios, intended and unintended impacts of solutions on social and psychological issues, politicization of climate science, endorsement of climate change conspiracy theories.

Cognitive and affective responses to climate change impacts

Examples: public’s understanding of climate change in terms of “one health”, perceived connections between climate change and other environmental threats (e.g., biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, plastic pollution), personal and collective affective responses to climate change (e.g., fear, hope, grief, anger, guilt, boredom), effective and ineffective science communication strategies, and politicization, Temporal changes, and Cross-cultural comparisons

Solutions that engage individuals (e.g., households) and groups (e.g., corporate social responsibility, community responses, collective action)

Examples: interventions that target specific types of psychological processes (e.g., systems thinking, values, empathy); comparing public preferences for different climate change solutions, examples of psychological contributions to interdisciplinary efforts to address climate change

Manuscripts submitted to *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* must be co-authored by at least one psychologist in training (graduate student, postdoctoral fellow), should be written concisely for a broad audience, and focus on the practical implications of the research presented in the manuscript.

For more information about the journal, including detailed instructions to authors, visit the *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* website.

Call for Papers: Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption

(Submissions close: 01 April 2022)

Addressing the most pressing environmental concerns to society—climate change, biodiversity loss, and fresh water access, to name a few—will necessarily involve radical adjustments to global rates of consumption in energy, water, and natural resources. However, identifying strategies to achieve sustainable consumption, and whether consumption-focused solutions are universally appropriate in the first place, draws heated debates within academic communities.

To foster transdisciplinary exchange on these issues, SSHO is issuing a call for papers to contribute to “Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption”. We seek full-length articles from the social sciences and humanities, and warmly welcome interdisciplinary interventions and novel methodologies. Possible topics in the thematic selection include:

- The possibilities for and limitations of circular economies in the Global South and North
- Research from projects focused on addressing Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Critical perspectives on low-waste movements and consumption, including discussions of neoliberalism, “greenwashing”, gentrification, and inequality
- Impacts of government policies to reduce resource consumption at national, regional, and local levels
- Inequality in consumption-based approaches to sustainability, including perspectives addressing historical emissions and pollution contributions, colonialism, and rights to develop
- Corporate social responsibility research, including emissions accounting, life cycle analysis and supply chain research
- Intersectional analyses on plastic pollution, specifically addressing issues around plastic policy and disability, class, gender, and race
- Media and discursive analyses of the language of sustainability and ethical consumption in academic, political, corporate, and/or popular spheres
- Textile and fashion sustainability with a focus on human rights and environmental impacts
- Sustainability in the arts, including material waste and the environmental impacts of digital art production and consumption (i.e. cryptoart)
- This list of possible topics is non-exhaustive and should be considered a prompt to encourage creative and robust scholarship. Articles submitted should be between 7,000 and 10,000 words in length and contribute to academic debates on the chosen topic. We will not be accepting commentary articles or book reviews in this collection.

If you would like to add anything to the next newsletter or join the team that is putting these things together, please reach out to [Garret Barnwell](#) on garretbarnwell@gmail.com or email the co-conveners on PsySSA.CEP@gmail.com