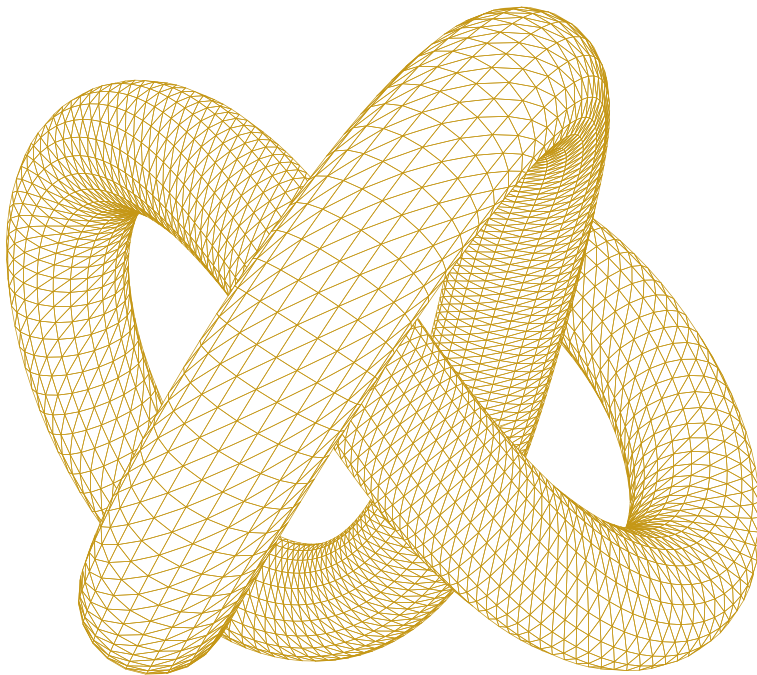


**Twenty-First International Conference on
Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability**

**XXI Congreso Internacional sobre
Sostenibilidad Ambiental, Cultural, Económica y Social**



Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet:
Lessons, Priorities, and Solutions

Desarrollo sostenible para un planeta dinámico:
Lecciones, prioridades y soluciones

23-25 January 2025

Florida International University, Miami, USA

Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability Conference Proceedings

<https://onsustainability.com/about/history/2025-conference>
<https://lasostenibilidad.com/acerca-de/historia/congreso-2025>

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Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

International Independent Interdisciplinary Scholar-led Non-Profit
Research Networks Conferences Journals Books Media Lab Since 1984



Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability.

Founded in 2005, the On Sustainability Research Network is brought together by a common concern for sustainability from a holistic perspective, where environmental, cultural, economic, and social interests intersect. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities, and Solutions," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Leslie Paul Thiele, Tayba Hatimy, David Randle, Ed Chiles, T.H. Culhane, Carter Henne, Doug Heske, Enrique Ugalde Vargas, conference chair Carolin Lusby, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner Florida International University, for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip' followed by a stylized surname.

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Chief Social Scientist
Common Ground Research Networks

Dear conference participants,

A very warm welcome to the Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability. It is a pleasure to welcome you. In the days ahead I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you, either via Common Ground's Scholar conferencing technology or here in the beautiful city of Miami.

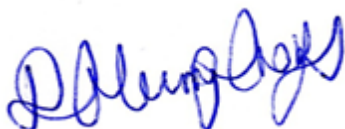
I would like to extend a very sincere thank you to our conference hosts, Florida International University. Many thanks to our local conference chair, Dr Carolin Lusby, and her colleagues in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. They have done a tremendous job in arranging the venue and facilities here in Miami. We are deeply indebted to them.

We live on a planet that is constantly evolving and changing in many ways; economically, politically, culturally, socially and, of course, ecologically. These processes of change have inspired our thinking for this year's special focus: Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities and Solutions. This year for the first time our conference is joining forces with Common Ground's International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses. It makes sense for us all to work together this week as climate change and sustainability are interrelated concepts both of which deal with the need to change systems and human actions that impact upon the long term ecological viability of the global biosphere. It is vital that we understand the relationships between global heating and other forms of environmental change if we are to design systems and policies that are effective over the long term.

There has been much debate on what a Green New Deal will look like. Many scholars argue that the state must figure prominently in any Green New Deal in order to effect the transition from the old high carbon economy structured around oil rigs, petroleum refineries and coal mines to the new low carbon economy. Energy companies have made some impressive investments in wind-powered and solar energy technology, but businesses will invest only where the risks are relatively low and the likelihood of profits relatively high. That leaves a whole range of actions that must be taken to decarbonise the economy but where the private sector is unwilling to venture.

A major unexamined question is: Can our global society meet our growing energy needs by transitioning to low, or no, carbon energy sources, or does decarbonisation of the economy necessarily and unavoidably require us to reduce our per capita energy consumption? This is one question that we may like to consider at this conference, along with related questions such as what an environmentally healthy and sustainable society will look like and how will it function?

Wishing you a productive and enjoyable conference.



David Humphreys
Emeritus professor of environmental policy, The Open University

Dear Delegates,

A warm welcome to the Common Ground Research Network's (CGRN) 21st International Conference on Sustainability, which this year incorporates the 17th International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses. While we continue to explore the critical themes of sustainability, the overarching focus of this year's conference is Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities, and Solutions. We are delighted to host this event at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, USA.

This year marks a significant transition. David Humphreys, who has been instrumental in shaping this conference and supporting its growth, concludes his distinguished tenure. I am honored to step into David's shoes, and I thank him for inspiring me to join Common Ground Research Networks and for his dedicated work for our members over the years.

The conference will feature a rich program of plenaries and presentations, showcasing a wide range of research across all CGRN sustainability themes, including climate change. I encourage you to explore the submissions available on our portal here: [insert link].

We are privileged to welcome two outstanding plenary speakers this year.

- **Dr. Tayba Hatimy**, a former dentist, embodies the power of individual action in addressing global challenges. After surviving a near-death experience caused by hazardous waste, she delved into the systemic issues underlying our unsustainable practices and founded an enterprise to tackle these problems.
- **Dr. Leslie Paul Thiele**, a Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida, focuses on the responsibilities of citizenship and opportunities for leadership in a rapidly changing world. Their insights promise to be both thought-provoking and inspiring.

This year's conference adopts a format, which allows participants from around the globe to engage meaningfully, whether attending in person or online. CGRN has long been at the forefront of online research collaboration, ensuring a rewarding experience for all attendees.

As we collectively confront the **Unsustainability Emergency**, our hope is that this conference inspires you to act decisively in your professional and personal lives. Through engaging discussions and shared learning, we aim to help you develop the leadership skills necessary for driving urgent change. Additionally, we encourage you to explore the diverse offerings of CGRN's 20+ interdisciplinary research networks.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting event. Let's lead, learn, and grow together for a more sustainable future.

Warm regards,



Victoria Hurth



Chaplin School of
Hospitality & Tourism
Management

Dear Conference Attendees,

As local conference chair and on behalf of the organizing committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **25th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability**, hosted in the vibrant city of Miami, Florida, and held at Florida International University (FIU), a global leader in sustainability and innovation.

Miami, known as the “Gateway to the Americas,” is a fitting location for this year’s conference. Its unique blend of cultural diversity, dynamic ecosystems, and economic significance provides a living laboratory for the themes we will explore together. From the stunning beauty of Biscayne Bay to the bustling cultural districts, Miami offers an inspiring backdrop for conversations about creating a more sustainable world.

Our venue, the **Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Florida International University**, is renowned for its commitment to addressing global challenges through research, education, and community engagement. Located in one of the most environmentally dynamic regions of the United States, FIU stands at the forefront of efforts to promote sustainability, resilience, and innovation. You will see firsthand some of the efforts by our students who will interact with you.

This conference is not only a gathering of global thought leaders, researchers, and practitioners but also an opportunity to forge meaningful connections, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today.

We’ve planned an exciting lineup of keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities that will empower you to deepen your expertise, share your insights, and connect with like-minded professionals.

While you are here, I encourage you to explore Miami’s rich cultural tapestry, enjoy its world-class cuisine, and experience the city’s vibrant arts and natural beauty. From the iconic beaches to the nearby Everglades, Miami’s landscape reflects the intricate balance between human activity and the environment—a balance we are all here to learn from and contribute to.

Thank you for joining us at this important event. Together, we can innovate, collaborate, and drive meaningful progress toward a more sustainable future. I look forward to meeting each of you and sharing this transformative experience. Welcome to Miami, and welcome to Florida International University!

Warm regards,

Dr. Carolin Lusby
Associate Professor, Global Sustainable Tourism & Conference Chair
25th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability
Florida International University



On Sustainability **Research Network**

Founded in 2005, the **On Sustainability Research Network** is brought together by a common concern for sustainability from a holistic perspective, where environmental, cultural, economic, and social interests intersect. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Environment

Nature is a dynamic thing in and of itself, and sometimes convulsively so. Humans are its beneficiaries and, at times, its victims. They are also increasingly agents, interacting in and with natural processes. Over several millennia, the human species has become one of the forces of nature, a critical part of its destiny, and ever more so today and tomorrow. Perhaps even, the human species may be a catalyst in another convulsion in the course of natural history. As nature more and more becomes an object of human artifice, its prospects move to the forefront of human consciousness. "What have we done with nature?" we may well ask ourselves. What have been the forms and effects of our interventions? What are the implications of our species-role as a force of nature, and what are the responsibilities that accompany this role? How can we create a viable home for ourselves alongside the other lifeforms of the planet?

Culture

Culture is the representation of our human natures, our subjectivities, our shared meanings, and our memories. Culture is the glue of similarity ("identity," literally) that grounds our sociability. It is also a matter of difference or cultures in the plural, the multilayered combinations of which form persons in the plural: ways of seeing, ways of thinking, ways of meaning, ways of relating to each other, ways of connecting with nature. The challenge of culture is as much to forge a productive diversity for the human species (ethnos, gender, eco-systemics) as it is to nurture the sources of cohesion and commonality.

Economy

Here we consider the dynamics of our material life, where in our social relations and using our tools we mix our energies with the natural world to meet our human needs. The challenge is to create economic systems that are environmentally viable, not destroying or damaging our life sources as natural beings. Such systems also need to be culturally viable, not harming our identities and ultimately what is humane in our natures. And they need to be socially viable, not creating destructive tensions and unsustainable injustices around axes of inequality of access to material and social resources.

Society

To these perspectives we need to add our systems of regulation, governance, and resource distribution. What allows for all our participation as autonomous yet social beings? What makes for good citizenship? How do we create, manage, and propagate knowledge? How do we ensure justice? How do we integrate the four fundamentals of environment, culture, economy, and society so we can address our human futures and live to the full our human potentials? The On Sustainability Research Network seeks to offer a space to engage these questions, and others, to provide an epistemic community in which we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic and cultural boundaries.

Theme 1: Ecological Realities

How do Ecological Realities Necessarily Frame Our Planetary Existence?

Living Tensions:

- Common spaces: Ecological footprints, atmospheres, biospheres, eco-spheres
- Shared danger signs: rising sea levels, desertification, soil degradation
- Relations of human and ecological value: static or dynamic
- Biological diversity: its past and prospects
- Universal and variable impacts on environments

Theme 2: Participatory Process

Whose Sustainable Future?

Living Tensions:

- Who or what deserves equal concern?
- Can we act locally without thinking globally?
- Living personally without knowing politically?
- Politics of boundaries: natural, public, private resources?
- Women and men; children and the elderly; families and villages
- Wellbeing and quality of life
- Public knowledge: the role of the media and government

Theme 3: Economic, Social and Cultural Context

What are the Pressing Demands of Our Time?

Living Tensions:

- Diversity and Meanings: cultural sustainability and sustainable heritage development
- Reconfiguring the economic equation: contesting “financial years” and “instant gratification”
- Changing patterns and cultures of consumption
- Science and technology vs environmental sustainability?
- Free trade and fair trade
- Urbanization and the sustainability of human settlement
- Climate change: impacts and responses

Theme 4: Education, Assessment and Policy

Framing Responsibility to Act?

Living Tensions:

- Balancing good governance and responsible citizenship
- Negotiating the hidden hand of personal self-interest
- Biotechnology and its critics
- self-government, self-management, and cultural autonomy.
- Accountability: beyond financial years and bottom lines
- Poverty and its eradication
- Measuring impacts: environmental assessment
- Environmental education in a time of eco-systemic crisis

David Humphreys

Professor of Environmental Policy, The Open University, United Kingdom



Dr. David Humphreys, Professor of Environmental Policy at The Open University, United Kingdom, is proud to work teaching and researching sustainability and environmental policy at what he regards as the world's leader in distance university teaching. He began his career specializing in international forest policy on which he has written two books, *Forest Politics: The Evolution of International Cooperation* (1996) and *Logjam: Deforestation and the Crisis of Global Environmental Governance* (2006). His interests in heritage include the natural and built environments, with a particular interest in the reconstruction of Beirut. He has also published on climate change politics, geoengineering, the democratic regulation of transnational corporations, and the emerging jurisprudence of rights of nature. With Spencer Stober he edited the Common Ground volume *Transitions to Sustainability: Theoretical Debates for a Changing Planet* (2014). His academic awards include the International Studies Association's Harold and Margaret Sprout Award (2008) and an Honorary Fellowship from the Institute of Chartered Foresters (2015).

José Gutiérrez-Pérez

Professor, Educational Research Methodology, Faculty of Science Education,
Universidad de Granada, Spain **(Spanish)**



José Gutiérrez-Pérez is a Full Professor in Educational Research Methodology at the Faculty of Science Education, Universidad de Granada (Spain), where he teaches program evaluation and research methodologies in environmental education. He is head of the Area of University Evaluation and Institutional Accreditation of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency. Director of PGC of Training Secondary Teachers & Environmental Education Master Degree. Head of the Environmental Education Research Group, awarded the second prize of national educational research in 2004 by the Science & Education Spanish Ministry. His research focuses on the quality criteria evaluation of environmental education centers, educational programs, and climate literacy. He is the Main Researcher of the RESCLIMA Research Project (<http://www.resclima.info/>). He played a key role in the development of the Spanish National Strategy for Environmental Education. He has published a number of books and is a member of the editorial board of several international environmental education journals. Author of 152 articles indexed in international journals and professional journals of the field of educational research, and more than 100 contributions to International Conferences. He is a member of International Committees and Reviews in Indexed Journals such as the International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health (Q1), Environmental Education Research (Q1), Comunicar (Q1); Journal of Cleaner Production (Q1), Games & Culture (Q1); Frontiers in Psychology (Q1), Sustainability; Evaluation & Program Planning; Psychology: Bilingual Journal of Environmental Psychology; International Journal of Sustainability Education, RIE, RELIEVE, Ecozon@, Mexican Educational Research Journal... Member of International Committees and Review in Congresses: American Educational Research Association, Worl Congress on Environmental Education, AIDIPE-Interuniversity Association of Pedagogical Research, Ibero-American Congress of Environmental Education.

The **On Sustainability Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

- **Jonathan Barton**, Pontifical Catholic University in Santiago de Chile, Chile
- **Jessica Budds**, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- **Michael Cameron**, University of Waikato, New Zealand
- **Peter Cole**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- **John Dryzek**, University of Canberra, Australia
- **Carolyn Fonyo Bogges**, Oregon State University, United States of America
- **Maria Fragkou**, University of Chile, Chile
- **Amareswar Galla**, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, India
- **Suzanne Grant**, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
- **Steve Hamnett**, University of South Australia, Australia
- **Björn Hassler**, Södertörn University, Sweden
- **Charles Hopkins**, York University, Canada
- **David Humphreys**, The Open University, UK
- **Shino Koda**, Tottori University of Environmental Studies, Japan
- **Stewart Lockie**, James Cook University, Australia
- **Claudia Loggia**, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- **Helena Norberg-Hodge**, The International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC), United Kingdom
- **Pat O'Riley**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- **Philipp Pattberg**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **Rafael Robina Ramírez**, University of Extremadura, Cáceres, Spain
- **Spencer S. Stober**, Alvernia University, United States of America
- **Lyuba Zarsky**, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, United States of America
- **Marta Ferreira Dias**, University of Aveiro, Portugal
- **Daniella Tilbury**, Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations, HM Government of Gibraltar, Gibraltar



Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability

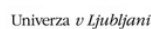


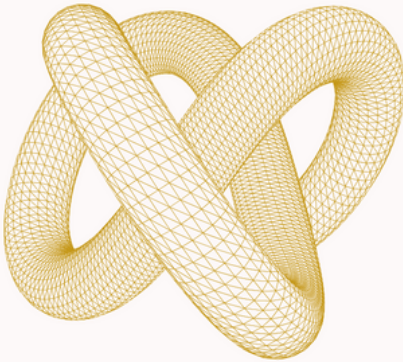
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Past Events

- 2005 – University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Island of Oahu, Hawai'i, USA
- 2006 – Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
- 2007 – University of Madras, Chennai, India
- 2008 – Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
- 2009 – University of Technology, Mauritius
- 2010 – University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador
- 2011 – University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
- 2012 – UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 – International Conference Center, Hiroshima, Japan
- 2014 – University of Split, Split, Croatia
- 2015 – Historic City Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 – Portland State University, Portland, USA
- 2017 – Fluminense Federal University, Niterói, Greater Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2018 – The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia
- 2019 – UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2020 – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile & University of Chile, Santiago, Chile
- 2021 – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands (Virtual)
- 2022 – University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2023 – University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2024 – University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal

The **On Sustainability Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.





Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities, and Solutions

January 23-25, 2025 Florida International University, Miami, USA



Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities and Solutions

We inhabit a dynamic planet where the effects of global environmental degradation, economic inequality and sociocultural injustices are increasingly manifested over time and space. In that way, the challenge of sustainable development is to craft and implement innovative solutions that are flexible and adaptive so that life can continue to flourish and thrive as both the Earth and human society respond to changing circumstances. Achieving sustainable development is therefore an interdisciplinary challenge embracing social, political, cultural, economic and technological change, as well as planetary scale ecological change.

The Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability will explore the multidimensional challenge of identifying and implementing resilient, durable and regenerative sustainable development solutions that bring well-being to both people and planet. From a sociocultural perspective, a key challenge is addressing entrenched inequalities, both within the present generation (intragenerational inequity) and between the present generation and those that will follow (intergenerational inequity). In what ways can we create well-being for all without it costing the earth? Creative and imaginative economic responses to environmental issues are coming to the fore, such as the circular economy, carbon neutrality and the need to generate bottom-up governance structures that are just, inclusive and equitable while engaging with planetary scale change. We warmly welcome proposals from all stakeholders for papers, parallel sessions, colloquia and focused discussions that address the challenges of generating a culture of long-term well-being for nature and culture on a dynamic planet.

Carolyn Lusby

Associate Professor and Co-director Global Sustainable Tourism, Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, Florida International University, USA



Dr. **Carolyn Lusby** is an Associate Professor and Co-direction of Global Sustainable Tourism at the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate-level courses in tourism, research methods and leadership. She received her doctoral degree in Tourism Recreation and Sport Management from the University of Florida in 2007. Furthermore, Dr. Lusby holds a master's degree in Tourism and the Environment from the World Leisure Center of Excellence at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Prior to beginning her career in academia, Dr. Lusby worked in the tourism industry where she found her passion for approaching touring and using tourism as a tool for personal transformation. Among others, Dr. Lusby was a youth travel guide for Europe's biggest teen travel company, worked for a teen adventure travel company and developed skills and training in adventure and experience-based learning. Ultimately, she became a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer and a Ropes Course Facilitator.

In her first academic teaching endeavor at California State University Long Beach, Dr. Lusby assumed the role of head of the tourism program. As a lifelong learner, Dr. Lusby became interested in the topic of sustainability and became a Green Globe-certified auditor. Seeing tourism's potential for negative impacts on people, culture and the environment, Dr. Lusby focused on the sustainable development of tourism and incorporated community-based tourism in her study tours. Dr. Lusby speaks German and French and firmly believes in the value of meaningful study-abroad experiences to foster the development of global citizens.

Leslie Paul Thiele

Distinguished Professor, Political Science; Director, UF CAIRES and UF Sustainability Studies, USA



Leslie Paul Thiele is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Florida, where he directs the Sustainability Studies program and the Center for Adaptive Innovation, Resilience, Ethics and Science (UF CAIRES). He serves as the Specialty Chief Editor of the Politics of Technology section of *Frontiers in Political Science*. Professor Thiele's interdisciplinary research and teaching focus on sustainability, emerging technology, and the intersection of political philosophy and the natural sciences. His central concerns are the responsibilities of citizenship and the opportunities for leadership in a world of rapid technological, social, and ecological change. Dr. Thiele's has published scores of journal articles across many fields, and nine books, the latest of which are *Sustainability*, 3rd edition (Polity 2024) and *The Art and Craft of Political Theory* (Routledge 2019).

Enrique Ugalde Vargas

Profesor, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, Costa Rica



Enrique es el Coordinador Institucional del Proyecto "Aequilibrium Sostenible," el cual sustenta el modelo de sostenibilidad de la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, donde ha trabajado por más de cinco años. Su rol también incluye la coordinación de los proyectos de Extensión Académica de la institución, integrando una visión más amplia enfocada en modelos de desarrollo sostenible. Es máster en Comunicación y Mercadeo de la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, docente universitario en la carrera de licenciatura de Comunicación y Mercadeo Digital y graduado en Diseño Gráfico de la Facultad de Bellas Artes de la Universidad de Costa Rica. Enrique ha sido docente de maestría en la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica por más de 12 años y ha fungido como tutor de proyectos finales para la licenciatura en Comunicación de Mercadeo por 10 años. Ha desempeñado los cargos de Coordinador de la Licenciatura de Comunicación de Mercadeo, Coordinador de la Escuela de Publicidad y Coordinador de Relaciones Institucionales en la Universidad Latina de Costa Rica.

Como egresado de Bellas Artes, mantiene un fuerte vínculo con las artes visuales, en especial la pintura y el diseño gráfico. Enrique cree firmemente en el primer axioma de Paul Watzlawick: "Todo comunica." Actualmente, está muy comprometido con los procesos de desarrollo sostenible, visualizando esta alternativa como la base de los acuerdos mundiales en la era postmilenial.

Tayba Hatimy

Distinguished Professor, Political Science; Director, UF CAIRES and UF Sustainability Studies, USA



Dr Tayba Hatimy is a dentist by profession and a passionate award-winning Social- Enviropreneur with 7 years of experience in fusing Business Development and Social Impact. She is an Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (White House led initiative) 2019 Alumna and pitch awardee, Mandela Washington Fellow, United Nations Institute of Training and Research Pitch Awardee and Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund grantee (U.S Department of State). Dr Hatimy is a Board Director at the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) - Mombasa Chapter and also a member of the National Climate Change & Energy Committee of the KNCCI, Chair of Environment Committee at Rotary Club of Mombasa and the Coast Regional Representative for Rotary District 9212 Environmental Team for Clubs in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Eritrea.

She is the co-founder and executive director of Baus Taka Enterprise; a tech integrated waste management enterprise based in Mombasa County on a mission to combat marine plastic pollution while providing green job opportunities for youth and women from vulnerable communities.

Baus Taka Enterprises (BTE) offers a smart digital system that guarantees high-quality and sustainable waste management solutions for residential, commercial and industrial clients in Mombasa County. The Baus Taka App, a first of its kind in Kenya, it was launched in November 2021 and leverages on technology to offer a variety of innovative services to households/businesses, waste collectors and the county government to support strategic decision making, enhance zero waste communities and combat the problem of illegal waste dumping in Mombasa.

Recently, Dr. Hatimy was honored as one of Kenya's 17 women driving SDG progress by The United Nations Office at Geneva & Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Kenya, during the 17 Faces of Action Exhibition at the University of Nairobi in February 2024. This prestigious recognition highlights her leadership in promoting sustainable development goal 14 - Life Below Water, through Baus Taka Enterprise's efforts to safeguard marine ecosystems and combat marine plastic pollution. The 17 Faces of Action initiative, led by the first woman Director-General of the United Nations Geneva, H.E. Mrs. Tatiana Valovava, in partnership with the Association of Swiss Women Empowerment (ASWE), showcases the pivotal role of women in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



David W. Randle

Profesor, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, Costa Rica



Dave holds a B.A. from California Lutheran University, an M-Div. from the Iliff School of Theology, and a doctorate in Spiritual Disciplines, Wellness and Environmental Concerns from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. He currently serves as President and CEO of the WHALE Center, a member of the UNEP Major Stakeholders Group, UNWTO Affiliate, host of the Blue Community Sustainable Tourism Observatory, and organization with Special Consultative status at the United Nations.

Dave is a PM4SD Certified Practitioner, and Managing Director of the Blue Community Consortium. He served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, and currently is on the board of directors for the Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism.

Ed Chiles

Profesor, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, Costa Rica



Ed Chiles is a graduate of the University of Florida. He owns and operates three waterfront restaurants in Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key Florida, The Sandbar, Beach House and Mar Vista restaurants. He has been in this business since 1979 when he was part of a partnership that purchased and renovated the Sandbar.

In 2007, he initiated and became the managing partner for the Pine Avenue Restoration Project in the city of Anna Maria which is now known as "The Greenest Little Main Street in America".

In 2012 he was awarded the Champion of Tourism Award for the project by the Bradenton area CVB.

In 2015 he along with Richard Jordan and Dr. David Randle co-founded the Blue Community Consortium that is now a UNWTO Affiliate.

In recent years he has become a pioneer in the sustainable tourism industry.



T.H. Culhane

Associate Professor, Patel College of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida, U.S.A



Dr. T.H. Culhane is an Associate Professor at the Patel College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida. He is the Director of the Climate Change concentration and teaches courses in the Food and Climate concentrations. He is also the co-founding director of the not-for-profit educational corporation "Solar CITIES Inc." which helps community stakeholders solve urban ecology and development issues surrounding waste-water, solid waste, food security and decentralized clean energy production.

For the previous five years Culhane was a Visiting Faculty Researcher and full professor at Mercy College New York, teaching courses in Environmental Sustainability and Justice, Environmental Psychology and Urban Ecology and leading students on "service learning" and "voluntourism" trips to share environmental technologies in impoverished parts of the Middle East, and the Caribbean.

Culhane has been a Google Science Fair Judge for 6 years and has worked with the US Office of Naval Research and UCLA on STEM science education projects with at risk-youth. In 2010 Culhane and the Palestinian Wildlife Society introduced small-scale biogas technology to stakeholders in the West Bank and Gaza through funding from the US Embassy, US AID and private foundations, and he has been working with the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Alumni Network, Engineers without Borders Palestine, Al Najah University, and the Eco-village Network Global Campus, and the HomeBiogas company in Palestine and Israel on a yearly basis since 2006, working to help ensure "peace through prosperity and permaculture".

Culhane got his Ph.D. from UCLA in Urban Planning, living with and working on solar energy and waste management projects with the trash recycling communities of Cairo Egypt, and his Master's in Regional and International Development working on urban agroforestry issues in Guatemala. His undergraduate work at Harvard included a year in the primary rainforests of Borneo, working on community ecology issues with hunter-gatherer tribes. His mission is to empower communities to regain ecological self-sufficiency and economic security through regenerative systems integration, believing that we have all the puzzle pieces to make thriving societies, and just need to come together and put them together.



Carter Henne

President, Sea & Shoreline, U.S.A



Carter is a biologist and is responsible for scientific research and innovative solutions to address water quality and coastal resiliency. He is a native Floridian with a passion for creating self-sustaining natural aquatic ecosystems through scientifically validated restoration methods. Carter completed undergraduate studies in Biology at the University of South Florida and held positions with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Seagrass Recovery where he was Chief Biologist and Project Manager for some of the largest and most successful Florida seagrass projects to date.

Doug Heske

Chief Executive Officer, Newday Financial Technologies, Inc; U.S.A



Heske is a game changing and awards winning business leader with a consistent record of transforming new businesses for rapid expansion. He brings more than 25 years of investment management, Impact, and leadership experience to the industry and his individual accomplishments include building and leading several wealth management organizations in California. Prior to joining Newday as CEO, he ran the Private Client business for Stone & Youngberg, LLC a leading responsible public finance organization which was acquired by Stifel Nicolaus & Company in 2010. Doug was previously President and CEO of Nollenberger Capital Partners, Inc. (NCPI), a San Francisco-based broker/dealer and registered investment advisor. He was instrumental in developing NCPI's wealth management business and orchestrated the firm's sale to Sterne Agee in 2011. Prior to NCPI, he was the California Regional Director of Piper Jaffray, and a member of the firm's Operating Committee. During his thirteen years with Piper Jaffray, he launched the firm's wealth management business in San Francisco, led significant growth for the business across California, and created the firms impact and responsible investment platform. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's (SIFMA) Western District since 1996 and was acting chairman from 2002–2004. He is currently a member of SIFMA's Regional Wealth Management Round Table and has served on FINRA's District 1 Committee. In addition, he is a past board president of The Edgewood Center for Children and Families, where he was a board member for eight years. currently, he serves as a Director for Safe and Sound, and a board trustee for the Oakland Museum of California

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2025 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Malcolm Roy Weaich

University of the Witwatersrand,
South Africa



Prince Dacosta Aboagye

Nagoya University, Japan



Rohana Swihart

Prescott College, USA



Claudia Ribeiro Pereira Nunes

Universidad Complutense de Madrid,
Spain



Christopher Ashley Burkett

School of Social Work at California
State University, USA



Tracy Mae Ildefonso

Dublin City University, Ireland



Walter Spezzano

University of Palermo, Italy



Francis Ayensu

Jiangsu University, China



Gloria Schmitz

Northeastern University, USA



Alessia Vacca

University of Lincoln, UK



Mark Akrofi

United Nations University Institute for the
Advanced Study of Sustainability, Japan



Rita Saleh

Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture,
Switzerland



**Presentations, Presenters,
Participants**

Assessing the Impact of Social Media User-Generated Content and Online News on Sustainable Destination Branding: The Case of Spring Break in Miami Beach

Walter Spezzano, PhD Candidate, Department of Economics, Business, and Statistics, University of Palermo, Italy
Carolyn Lusby, Associate Professor, Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Florida International University, United States

The rapid growth of tourism supply and demand has contributed to overtourism, resulting in environmental, social, and economic strain on many destinations. Among these, Miami Beach has been notably affected during spring break, prompting actions to address overcrowding, increased crime and violence rates, and pressure on local resources. To counter these challenges, the destination has been rebranded for the 2024 spring break season through a targeted marketing campaign aimed at mitigating overtourism, promoting sustainability, and discouraging disorderly behavior. A key component of this campaign is a video featuring residents breaking up with spring breakers, which has generated significant online discussion and engagement. Destination branding is a co-creation process involving destination marketing organizations, tourism stakeholders, intermediaries, residents, and consumers. Therefore, this work examines user-generated content across social media and online news about spring break in Miami Beach to explore their combined influence on the destination image. Relying on Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), this research investigates how online discourse from these sources shapes public perceptions of the destination and seeks to assess the impact of these perceptions on the effectiveness of the rebranding efforts. Understanding the role of online discourse in destination branding is essential for refining destination brand positioning. By examining the interplay between social media content and news coverage, this work aims to provide valuable insights into how sustainable destination branding can be refined by aligning with evolving public opinion.

Attendance List

Naser Abughazaleh, Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait, Kuwait
Namrata Agrahari, IIT Delhi, India
Mark Akrofi, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Japan
Asabu Alamineh, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
Haris Alibašić, University of West Florida, United States
Amanda Almond, CUNY- New York City College of Technology, United States
Mohammad Alsager Alzayed, Kuwait University, Kuwait
Luis Alvarez, Citromax Group, Argentina
Constanza Amezcuita Quintana, Institución Universitaria Colombo Americana - ÚNICA, Colombia
Francheska Antoinette Anzures, Bulacan State University, Philippines
Francis Ayensu, Ghana Communication Technology University, Ghana
Elena Bastidas, Nova Southeastern University, United States
Lochan Kumar Batala, Henan University, China
Chandni Bedi, TERI School of Advanced Studies, India
Michael Berkowitz, University of Miami, United States
Tulsi Ram Bhusal, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, Thailand
Lorna Bravo, UF/IFAS Extension Broward County, United States
Niki Budhathoki, Environment and Resource Management (P.) Ltd. ERM, Nepal
Elena Bulmer, Antonio de Nebrija University, Spain
Amanda Burke, Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, United States
Erin Burke, Florida International University, United States
Christopher Ashley Burkett, California State University, Long Beach, United States
Hatice Camgoz Akdag, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Olivia A Carye Hallstein, Edible Nest Studio, United States
Marcos Casillas, Universal Insurance, Inc., United States
Leonides Castellanos, Pamplona University, Colombia
Juan Manuel Castellanos, University of Pamplona, Colombia
Laura Elena Castro Sánchez, TecNM, Mexico
Serdar Celik, Southern Illinois University, United States
Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation, United States
Danielle Charles, Georgetown University, United States
Bingdi Chunyu, The Michael J Fox Foundation, United States
Lee Concha, Rosalind Franklin University, United States
Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Tufts University, United States
T.H. Culhane, University of South Florida, United States
Prince Dacosta Aboagye, Tokai National Higher Education and Research System, Japan
Vishal Dagar, Great Lakes Institute of Management Gurgaon, India
Rona Delgado, Bulacan State University, Philippines
Caroline D. Ditlev-Simonsen, BI Norwegian Business School, Norway
Elizabeth Emanuel, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility SPC, United States
J.R. "Jones" Estes, Portland State University, United States

Attendance List

Maximilian M. Etschmaier, Florida State University, United States
Janne Fengler, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Katryn Furnmston, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom
Alejandro Garcia, Florida International University, United States
Diana García Orellana, Universidad del Azuay, Ecuador
Hana Ghiloufi, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
Caroline Glowka, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom
Ricardo Gomez, Rosario University, Colombia
Fabio Gabriel Gomez Lorenzo, Florida International University, United States
Brookelynn Gotschall, Florida International University, United States
Stefanie Greubel, Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, Germany
Hamidreza Harati, RMIT University, Australia
Chris Harris, Blue Community Consortium, United States
Laura Hatcher, Southeast Missouri State University, United States
Carter Henne, Sea & Shoreline, United States
Doug Heskie, Newday Financial Technologies, Inc, United States
Hanayo Hirai, Otemon Gakuin University, Japan
Lihua Huang, Grand Valley State University, United States
Laura Humphrey, ThreeCubed, United States
David Humphreys, The Open University, United Kingdom
Victoria Hurth, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, United Kingdom
Kim Huynh, University of Calgary, Canada
Tracy Mae Ildefonso, Dublin City University, Ireland
Ciro Incoronato, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, United States
Akinwale Ishola, Eastern Illinois University, United States
Md. Nurul Islam
Justin Andres Jean-Baptiste, Florida International University, United States
Elizabeth Joseph, Jackson Health System Climate Committee, United States
Yana Judah, Florida International University, United States
Sreya Juras, McGill University, Canada
Ford Kern, Hydrologic Associates USA Inc, United States
Michaela Kiermeier, University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt, Germany
Amber Kim, Victoria and Albert Museum/Royal College of Art, United Kingdom
Shino Koda, Tottori University of Environmental Studies, Japan
Noémi Krátki, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Glen Kuecker, DePauw University, United States
Bongs Lainjo, Cybermatrice International Inc., Canada
Hyunyoung Lee, Ehime University, Japan
Meinrad Haule Lembuka, The Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania
Lee Lines, Rollins College, United States
Jordan Lipner, University of Central Florida, United States
Carolin Lusby, Florida International University, United States
Sean Mac Donald, CUNY- New York City College of Technology, United States
Jan Machace, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, University of Florida/IFAS Extension, United States
Osama E. Mansour, Western Kentucky University, United States
Michaela Marincic, Three Cubed, United States
Rhett Martin, University of Southern Queensland, Australia
Dennis Mc Clellan, Florida International University, United States
Jane McQuitty, Alberta University of the Arts, Canada

Attendance List

Hossain Md Razzaque

Peter Mecca, University of Maryland Global Campus, United States

Hitesh Mehta, HM Design

Jeronimo Mejia, Streetlife, Netherlands

Gabriela Membreno, Florida International University, United States

Carlos Mendez, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

Virginia Mercurio, Florida International University, United States

Candace Miller, Fanshawe College, Canada

Siti Khadijah Mohammed Yusof, PETRONAS Research Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia

Gabriel Montecchi, Florida International University, United States

Crystal Neumann, American College of Education, United States

Alexandr Novacek, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Ikechukwu Nwabufu, Drexel University, United States

Esther Onyinye Nwigwe, Southwest University, China

Ekpen Owie, University of Findlay, United States

Suman Pandey, Gujarat Law Society University, India

Adrah Niccolo Parafiniuk, Northern Arizona University, United States

Mario Marcello Pasco-Dalla-Porta, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Peru

John Pauley, Simpson College, United States

Jacqueline Pecker, Florida International University, United States

Bria Pope, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, United States

German Prieto, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia

David Randle, Blue Communit Consortium

Asmae Rashidi Mohammadi, Victoria university of Wellington, New Zealand

Claudia Ribeiro Pereira Nunes, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Stephen Sachs, Indiana University Indianapolis, United States

Rita Saleh, Agroscope, Switzerland

Jacqueline Salmond, Florida Gulf Coast University, United States

Javier Salvador Pallares, University Jaume I, Spain

Tamira Samuel, The Urban Leaders Fellowship, United States

Harsha Sapdhare, Space Down Under, Australia

Gloria Schmitz, Northeastern University, United States

Andrea Schurmann, James Cook University, Australia

Mary Hope Schwoebel, Nova Southeastern University, United States

Kenton Seaver, University of Texas at Dallas, United States

Luis Seco, University of Toronto, Canada

Fafa Sene, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Japan

Mordechai Shechter, University of Haifa, Israel

Samira Shiridevich, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, United States

Rafal Soborski, Richmond American International University, United Kingdom

Walter Spezzano, University of Palermo, Italy

Alicia H. Sprow, Alvernia University, United States

Adriana Angelica Staco, Florida International University, United States

Rohana J. Swihart, Prescott College, United States

Yasean Tahat, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait

Bisera Tankoska, Florida International University, United States

Sahba Tavakoli, Eastern Mediterranean University, Turkey

Leslie Paul Thiele, University of Florida, United States

Lily Tsay, Florida International University, United States

Henry Ugah, International Human Rights Commission Ghana, Ghana

Attendance List

N Jonathan Unaka, Wentworth Institute of Technology, United States
Alessia Vacca, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom
Angel Rose Valenzuela, Bulacan State University, Philippines
Sandra Valnes Quammen, Duke University, United States
Gretchen Vanicor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, United States
Andrenelyn Varona, De La Salle Lipa, Philippines
Gargi Vats, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India
Laura Verderame, Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC, United States
Enrique Villamor, IoE-FIU, United States
John Walsh, University of Guelph, Canada
Kai Wang, Ocean University of China, China
Malcolm Roy Weaich, University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa
Christopher Weilage, Munich Business School, Germany
Andrew Welch, Kennesaw State University, United States
Ondine Wells, University of Florida/IFAS Extension, United States
Lisa Wester, University of Paderborn, Germany
Perry Wisinger, Florida State University, United States
Ray Wu Rorrer, Meridian High School / Mary Ellen H, United States
Sabariah Yaakub, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia
Shan Yang, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
John Yang
Qianlai Zhuang, Purdue University, United States



Common Ground Research Networks



Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org



The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab



Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

Proceedings of the Twenty-first International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability, hosted by the Florida International University, Miami, USA, 23-25 January 2025. The conference featured research addressing the following special focus: "Sustainable Development for a Dynamic Planet: Lessons, Priorities, and Solutions" and annual themes:

- **Theme 1: Ecological Realities**
- **Theme 2: Participator Process**
- **Theme 3: Economic, Social and Cultural Context**
- **Theme 4: Education, Assessment, and Policy**

