

## Research Council Webinar Series: Our Planet and Us

The first webinar of our series opens up both the series and the year with a topic that is at the heart of the 5th ISA Forum that will be held in July in Rabat, Morocco: human-nature relations that are the foundations of our societies.

The ways in which humans interact with the material and natural world within which we are embedded both structures and conditions planetary and human wellbeing, livelihoods, identities, and social relations.

In this webinar, scholars from RC24 (Environmental Sociology) and RC40 (Sociology of Agriculture and Food) have joined together to present current research and thinking that is investigating the current climate crisis through alternative ways of knowing and organizing around nature and food in local communities.

The webinar will also engage with collapse and hope as emerging features of contemporary relations between people and nature. Collapse is experienced materially and discursively as a way of understanding the present and anticipating the future, while hope refers to the affect and emotion that is increasingly recognized as central to understanding how we approach nature.

**Agenda: 24 March 2025 | 20:00 – 22:00 GMT**

### **Setting the Stage: Contending with Hope and Despair in the Anthropocene**

Debra Davidson, Professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, Canada

### **Cultivating Hope through Landscape Restoration**

Stewart Lockie, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Australia

### **Finding Hope in Food: Territorial Innovations for Sustainability**

Allison Loconto, Research Professor, Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Science, Innovation and Society (CNRS-INRAE-Université Gustave Eiffel), France

### **Discussants:**

- Jo Lindsay, Professor of Sociology, Monash University, Australia
- Katharine Legun, Assistant Professor, Knowledge Technology and Innovation Group at Wageningen University, Netherlands



## About the Speakers



**Debra Davidson** is Professor of environmental sociology at the University of Alberta, where her research and teaching are focused on social responses to climate change, and energy and food transitions. Recent work includes analysis of the role of emotions in climate change perceptions and actions, featured in recent articles in *WIREs Climate Change* and *Socius*, and in *Feeling Climate Change: How Emotions Govern our Responses to the Climate Emergency* (2024, Routledge).



**Stewart Lockie** is an environmental sociologist whose research focuses on climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, agriculture, and resource development. He co-leads the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program's Stakeholder and Traditional Owner Engagement Subprogram, served as Foundation Chair of the Cairns Port Douglas Reef Hub, and contributed to the establishment of the Wet Tropics Restoration Alliance. Professor Lockie is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Environmental Sociology* and the author of “*Failure or Reform? Market-Based Policy Instruments for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management*,” published in 2020 by Routledge, London.



**Allison Loonto** is a sociologist of science and technology focusing on the governance of transitions to sustainable food systems, specifically on the metrics, models, standards and systems of certification that constitute emerging institutional innovations. She is the ISA's Vice President for Research, a founding member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network (UN Environment) and a member of the French National Committee on Organic Agriculture. Professor Loonto is Chief Editor of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Rural Studies*, Associate Editor of *Science as Culture* and co-editor of *Agrifood Transitions in the Anthropocene: Challenges, Contested Knowledge, and the Need for Change* (2024, Sage).



**Jo Lindsay** is a Professor of Sociology at Monash University in Australia. Her research focuses on sustainability, consumption, families, and households. She is currently working on several collaborative projects on household innovation, the transition to a low-waste city, communities, recycling, and walkability in cities. She teaches Global Consumption and *Imagining Tomorrow: Climate change and social futures*. Jo is president of the International Sociological Association RC24 Environment and Society and co-lead of the Climate and Sustainability Cluster in the School of Social Sciences at Monash.



**Katharine Legun** is Assistant Professor in the Knowledge Technology and Innovation Group at Wageningen University. Her work focuses on social effects of science and technology in agriculture. Her current projects include research on the social implications of automation in high-value horticulture, the effects of plant breeding practices on the geopolitics of crop production, and data justice in food security. She is currently president of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Agriculture and Food in the International Sociological Association (ISA-RC40).