

Climate Action Week @ The New School Executive Summary



(Photo courtesy of Red Dog Productions)

December 2014

Foreword

Climate Action Week at the The New School began as a request for endorsement and grew to a robust expression of our university's commitment to climate change issues and to being part of the solution.

In May 2014, Bill McKibben issued a striking call to arms in *Rolling Stone Magazine*, inviting all the world to come to New York City ahead of the United Nations Climate talks on September 23rd 2014. The New School heeded this call to action and after the historic *People's Climate March* where our community joined in the hundreds to march for action - The New School reinvigorated our commitment to going beyond the march to carry forth the spirit of collective, long-term, sustained responses to this climate crisis.

The New School is looking ahead to building on the partnerships forged and deepened during Climate Action Week to catalyze dialogue and action across sectors, communities and disciplines. Through our interdisciplinary research that shapes decision-making and scholarship, our students' passionate involvement as well as our collaborations with communities and organizations on the frontlines – The New School stands at the ready to continue to be a force for change and solidarity for climate justice.

This Executive Summary not only documents the events that took place during the week of September 16th to 24th at The New School, but also seeks to go beyond the September 21st, 2014 People's Climate March. Its goal is to understand the impacts and lessons learned in the aftermath of this historic event so that we – as a community and society as a whole – can carry the momentum forward for action.

Michelle DePass, Dean

Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy

Acknowledgements

The New School would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors, partners, organizations and individuals who helped make Climate Action Week a success.

Partners & Sponsors

- The New School
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 - The Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy
 - Observatory on Latin America
 - Center for New York City Affairs, Feet in Two Worlds
 - Parsons The New School for Design
 - The School of Constructed Environments
 - The Tishman Environment and Design Center
 - The Sustainable Cities Club
 - School of Media Studies
- Grist (www.grist.org) *Grist is a source of intelligent, irreverent environmental news and commentary founded in 1999. The website covers climate, energy, food, cities, politics, business, and green living.*
- The Nation Institute
- The Nation Magazine
- The Working World
- 350.org
- The Durst Organization & CUNY (*Building Product Ecosystems series*)
- Kelly Nyks and Jared P. Scott, PF Pictures
- New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
- Climate Justice Alliance
- Idle No More and Frack Action (#Frack Off event)
- Indigenous Environmental Network
- Union Square GreenMarket
- Rachel & Nick Caccese, Forefront Pictures
- Paloma Pavel & Carl Anthony, Breakthrough Communities

A special thank you for all their hard work and contributions to Climate Action week to Ana Baptista, Beatrice Mauger, Molly Johnson, Pamela Tillis, Minerva Muzquiz, Amanda Ghanooni, Muhammad “Bud” Ismail, Red Dog Productions, the volunteers of the Sustainable Cities Club, and many others who participated in the organization, documentation and overall success of Climate Action Week at The New School.

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Introduction

This Executive Summary is organized along three themes, which aim to highlight The New School's unique contribution to the conversation on climate action and climate justice during the lead up to the People's Climate March. These themes are:

- Collaborating with Frontline Communities for Climate Justice
- Mobilizing a Call to Action
- Strategies for Sustainability

These themes reflect the richness and diversity of The New School's contributions to the most pressing issue of our time, climate change. As our society grapples with how we will live and thrive in the midst of a changing climate, institutions like The New School can play a critical role. As a school that is serious about learning embedded in the complexities of the real world, commitments to social justice and scholarship that is interdisciplinary and engaged – there is no better place to launch initiatives that reflect these practices in the context of climate change.

One of the most remarkable aspects of preparing the series of events for Climate Action Week was the support & prioritization for collaborating with frontline communities who are often the most marginalized voices in the official decision making policy and academic arenas. The experiences, ideas and innovation from communities around the world who are the hardest hit by climate change offer a dearth of insight and opportunities for learning. It was a real privilege to partner with groups like the Climate Justice Alliance, The New York City Environmental Justice Alliance and the Indigenous Environmental Network to raise the voices and stories from the frontline to the forefront of the climate agenda. This practice was also demonstrated in the mobilization of frontline communities at the front of the march with hundreds of thousands of people at the People's Climate March.

Our passion for social justice, meaningful collaborations, and innovation across sectors and disciplines will guide us well as The New School looks ahead to the future. Climate Action Week stands as a catalyst for sustained efforts to be achieve climate justice.

The New School's Climate Action Week

In Context



Handouts (Photo courtesy of Amanda Ghanooni)

The Call for a People's Climate March

On May 21, 2014, Rolling Stone magazine published an article by environmental activist and 350.org founder, Bill McKibben entitled, “A Call to Arms: An Invitation to Demand Action on Climate Change.” In this article, McKibben invited “*Anyone who’d like to prove to themselves, and to their children, that they give a damn about the biggest crisis our civilization has ever faced*” to come to New York City at the end of September.¹ This invitation was the rallying call for what would become the world’s largest mass mobilization of people focused on climate change.

The People’s Climate March was set to take place on September 21, 2014, two days before the U.N. Climate Summit during which Ban Ki Moon would be gathering U.N. member states’ high level officials to begin mobilizing for the Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21) in Paris in December 2015. The hope was that during COP21, world leaders would agree on a new and binding climate agreement to help prevent further climate change-related damage to the planet.² In order to prepare for and pressure member states to make binding agreements, a large mobilization would be needed to send a strong message to world leaders about the urgency for action.

The People’s Climate March brought together an estimated 400,000 people in New York City to demand immediate action from the 190 heads of state in town for the U.N. Climate Summit. Over 700 organizations spanning labor, faith, environmental justice, youth, health, and first responders endorsed the march and dispatched their members to attend. The local host committee began planning in earnest well ahead of the march and one of their planning meetings was hosted by The New School and attracted more than 600 participants to meeting in July 2014. The march exceeded expectations for participation and demonstrated to the world the consensus for climate action.

¹ Bill McKibben, “A Call to Arms: An Invitation to Demand Action on Climate Change,” Rolling Stone, May 21,

² “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992 and has since been ratified by 195 Parties. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 to implement the UNFCCC and entered into force in 2005. It laid down targets for the reduction or limitation of greenhouse gas emissions only in developed countries and transition economies. In 2007, the Parties initiated work aimed at drawing up a post-2012 climate agreement, applicable to all emitters of greenhouse gases.

The Copenhagen political accord of 2009, the Conferences of Cancun (2010), Durban (2011) and Doha (2012) laid the foundations of this new international regime, supplementing the existing instruments in the framework of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. In 2011, the Parties affirmed their will to conclude this new climate agreement in 2015, with entry into force planned for 2020.” French Government website, accessed October 8, 2014, <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/sustainable-development-1097/21st-conference-of-the-parties-on/>.

The Call to Action @ The New School: Climate Action Week

The New School demonstrated its commitment to climate action and its solidarity with people converging on New York City for the People's Climate March with a weeklong series of events focused on climate change.

Climate Action Week began with the idea of capitalizing on the fact that so many of the groups converging on New York City ahead of the March and UN talks were looking to meet with their members and feature talks or workshops. Many of the faculty at The New School had links with several groups such as the Climate Justice Alliance and from the collaboration of these few first groups, a whole week of events were developed.

A New School call for action went out university wide in July seeking events, speakers, and collaborations related to climate change that would contribute to The New School community's efforts. A very diverse series of events emerged from leading activists like Naomi Klein and Bill McKibben, cross school collaborations like the Pop up classes and design project with the Parsons School of Constructed Environments and Milano School professors and community collaborations with groups like the Climate Justice Alliance's to co-host the People's Climate Justice Summit event.

As a leader and official endorser of the People's Climate March, The New School's *Climate Action Week* included a diverse set of programming directed towards the university and wider community for enriched learning and engagement opportunities, scholarship, innovation and creativity, solidarity and collective action. Furthermore, the events highlighted The New School's values around climate justice and action.

The New School's Climate Action Week

Event Highlights



(Photo courtesy of Red Dog Productions)

Collaborating with Frontline Communities for
Climate Justice

REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE: A WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS

Details:

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Klein Conference Room, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall,
66 West 12th Street, Room A510 New York, NY 10011³



Partners/Sponsors:

- Feet in 2 Worlds (www.fi2w.org), Center for New York City Affairs

Presenters:

- Iván J. Ramírez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Health, The New School
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, Uprose
- Dr. Efleda Bautista, Global Climate Ambassador, Chairperson of the Leyte Rural Assistance Program and the Leyte Center for Development
- Raquel De Anda, Independent Curator, Art Writer, Creative Director and graduate student in the Design and Urban Ecologies program at Parsons, The New School



(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)

Public opinion polls show that climate change ranks as the top international threat in much of Latin America and Asia when compared to other issues such as international financial instability and terrorism.⁴ Climate change is also a serious threat to immigrant communities in the New York City region, as illustrated by the impacts of Superstorm Sandy or of weather-related disasters in immigrants' home countries. Feet in 2 Worlds, a media project of the Center for New York City Affairs at The New School, offered a free workshop for journalists who serve immigrant communities to assist them in covering climate change, environmental and sustainability issues to help their audience gain a deeper understanding of these critical issues.

The workshop's goal was to support reporters and editors in covering these environmentally related themes or events particularly as they relate to New York City's infrastructure, and impacts on immigrant communities and communities of color, with the aim of increasing the quality and quantity of climate change reporting in the ethnic media sector. The event consisted of a series of short presentations by invited panelists on topics related to climate change's effects on local populations abroad and in the US followed by a moderated discussion and a Question & Answer session with the audience.

³ To find the event details go to,

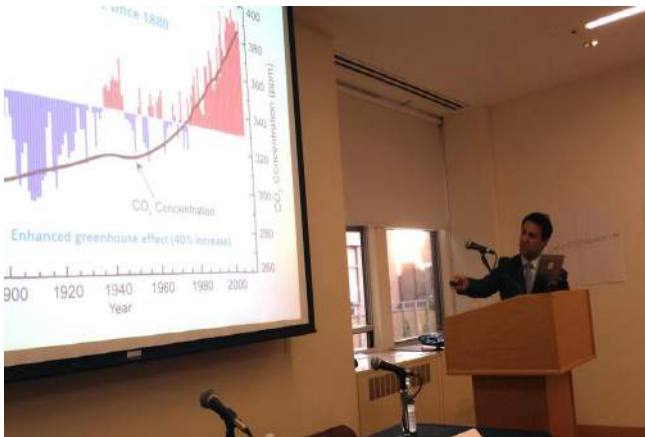
http://events.newschool.edu/event/climate_action_week_telling_the_stories_of_todays_immigrants#.VHNu30uVj-Y

⁴ "Climate Change and Financial Instability Seen As Top Global Threats," Pew Research, June 24, 2013, accessed October 22, 2014, <http://www.pewglobal.org/2013/06/24/climate-change-and-financial-instability-seen-as-top-global-threats/>

Professor Ivan J. Ramírez began the panel presentations by focusing on the scientific consensus around climate change and on the ways in which it intersects with global health, environmental studies, geography, and social justice. Ramírez was followed by Efleda Bautista's talk on her work around Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines and her involvement with 350.org, as part of their global climate change ambassadors program in anticipation of the People's Climate March. Elizabeth Yeampierre, then discussed building an environmental justice movement in New York and described her Brooklyn-based organization's work in organizing, conducting advocacy and developing intergenerational, indigenous leadership through activism. Finally, Raquel de Anda discussed her work managing the Mayday Artspace as part of the preparations for the People's Climate March and offered a look into how immigrant artists were challenging prevailing narratives through their art.

Workshop takeaways included:

- A basic understanding of the science of climate change.
- Suggestions on ways to report on the subject including story ideas and strategies for covering the U.N. conference, the Climate March, and climate issues in New York.
- An understanding of the environmental justice issues related to climate change faced by immigrant communities and communities of color.
- Contact information (phone numbers, email addresses, etc.) for key sources including climate scientists, NGOs represented at the U.N. conference, organizations leading the climate march, national delegations to the climate conference, and local organizations that focus on climate policy and sustainability and the impact of climate change in New York.⁵



Iván J. Ramírez, Ph.D. (Photo credits: Aaron Leaf/Twitter)



Dr. Efleda Bautista. (Photo credits: Sahadev Poudel/Twitter)



Elizabeth Yeampierre. (Photo credits: Aaron Leaf/Twitter)



The panel. (Photo credits: Aaron Leaf/Twitter)

Text provided in part courtesy of Aaron Leaf, Feet in 2 Worlds.

ON THE RISE: FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES & THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Details

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall,
66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011⁶

For video of the event go to, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRg1Qrotm7s>

Partners/Sponsors:

- 350.org
- African Services Committee
- ALIGN
- Alliance for a Just Rebuilding
- Arab American Association of NY
- Center for Third World Organizing / CTWO
- Centro Comunitario CEUS
- Episcopal Diocese of Long Island
- Good Old Lower East Side / GOLES
- Ironbound Community Corporation
- Make the Road NY
- Mothers on the Move / MOM
- New York Immigration Coalition
- North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition / NWBCCC
- Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrants' Rights
- NYC-EJA
- Raul Ayala, Ropavejeros
- ROC-United
- Unite HERE Local 100
- UPROSE



Presenters:

- Faron McLurkin, Center of Third World Organizing, Moderator

350.org ambassadors

- Juan Pedro Chang (Peru)
- Vaishali Patil (India)
- Issa Nihmei (Pacific Islands)
- Goksen Sahin (Turkey)

New York City Activists

- Thanu Yakupitiyage, New York Immigration Coalition
- Diane Mejia, Wind of the Spirit
- Ray Figueroa, Friends of Brook Park & NY Community Garden Coalition
- Carlina Rivera, Director of Programming and Services, Good Old Lower East Side
- Amanda Lugg, Director of Advocacy, African Services Committee

⁶ Event description,

http://events.newschool.edu/event/climate_action_week_350org_climate_ambassadors_symposium#.VHNx60uVj-Z



(Photos courtesy of Red Dog Productions)

On September 16, just five days before the People's Climate March, the largest and most diverse environmental action in history, 350.org's Global Climate Ambassadors were in conversation with New York City activists to share their perspectives, discuss real solutions and confront the contradictions and disparities that result in indigenous, low-income, immigrant and people of color communities bearing the burden of the effects of climate change.

Alan McGowan, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Science in the Environmental Studies Program, welcomed the audience to The New School and Cindy Greenberg of 350.org, Ground Coordinator for the People's Climate March, introduced the panelists. The forum included a moderated conversation among several Global Climate Ambassadors and local activists, an audience Q&A session, and opportunities for participants to identify common causes among local New York City communities, and similar communities around the globe.

The conversation focused on sharing each other's struggles, particularly those of migrants, labor unions, farmers, and marginalized community residents from India, Peru, Turkey, Small Island States and New York City. The panelists also unpacked issues of land use and how these are intricately linked to climate change. Furthermore, the discussants addressed the strategies being used to halt the climate crisis and transform the climate movement. These include developing community gardens, which teach youth in particular how to be good citizens and allow community members to access healthy, affordable and sustainable food. Other mitigation strategies mentioned, ranged from developing green public spaces in urban areas to supporting greater taxation of unsustainable practices, such as the Robin Hood tax on the financial sector (for more information go to www.robinhoodtax.org). Panelists stressed the importance of working together, building networks and raising awareness on a global as well as local level to push back on unsustainable practices, particularly those of governments and corporations. Finally, panelists discussed the issue of more participatory governance to allow those on the frontlines of climate change, particularly marginalized communities, to have their voices heard by decision-makers.

BUILDING CLIMATE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WORKSHOP & BOOK LAUNCH

Details:

September 20, 2014, 10:00 pm to 12:00 pm

Dorothy Hirshon Suite, 55 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

Partners/Sponsors:

- Breakthrough Communities (www.BreakthroughCommunities.info)

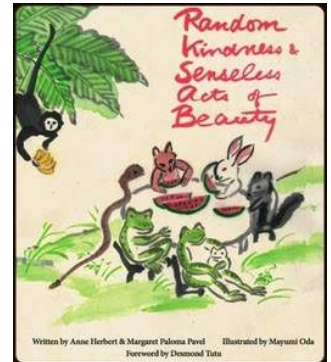
Presenters:

- M. Paloma Pavel, PhD, educator, eco-psychologist, and international consultant for healthy, just, and resilient metropolitan communities
- Carl Anthony, architect, author, regional design strategist, and former director of the Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Initiative at the Ford Foundation

Guests:

- Lynne Elizabeth of New Village Press
- Santiago Obispo, General Coordinator of "Red de Cooperacion Amazonica" REDCAM

On September 20th, Dr. M. Paloma Pavel and Carl Anthony, co-founders of Breakthrough Communities, an organization based in Oakland, California dedicated to promoting sustainability and justice in metropolitan regions, led a community dialogue on building climate justice and community resilience. This event coincided with the launch of the 20th anniversary edition of *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty*, written by Anne Herbert and Dr. M. Paloma Pavel.



(Photos courtesy of Ana Baptista)



The message in *Random Kindness* is an urgent call to action: in an age of climate crisis, we must work together to create the world we want to live in, a world based on sustainability with justice. Originally designed to be a spell reversal against the cultural trance of systemic violence, the classic phrase struck a chord and went viral, awakening moral imagination towards solidarity on a distressed planet. The subsequent book features the celebrated brush painting of Mayumi Oda – the Matisse of Japan, and a foreword by Archbishop Desmond

Tutu. All proceeds support climate refugees and help to develop new climate justice tools for frontline communities. For more information please visit, www.RandomKindnessProject.org.

After traveling on the Climate Train from Oakland, California, Pavel and Anthony gathered with fellow travelers and others at The New School to discuss issues faced by underserved communities, particularly communities of color. In this highly interactive session, Pavel and Anthony highlighted local strategies being implemented to ensure sustainability within local communities in a dialogue with climate change activists.



(Photo courtesy of Ana Baptista)



(Photos courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)

#FRACKOFF: INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADING MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO DEFEND OUR CLIMATE

Details:

Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm⁷

The Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011

For video of the event go to,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COCeQgZ94dY>

Partners/Sponsors:

- School of Media Studies at The New School
- Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy
- Idle No More, www.idlenomore.ca
- Frack Action, NY state

Presenters:

- Ellen Gabriel (Mohawk)
- Shelley A. Young (Mi'kmaq)
- Elle-Maija Tailfeathers (Blood and Saami)
- Kandi Mossett (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara)



(Photo courtesy of Livia Santos, Red Dog Productions)

This event, held on September 20th, featured activists discussing their personal experiences with high-profile media campaigns by indigenous groups in Canada and the United States to protest the oil and fracking industries and the ongoing governmental violations of Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

Ellen Gabriel, a human rights activist from Kanehsatà:ke, Canada, first rose to prominence during her community's resistance to a proposed expansion of a private nine-hole golf course into a sacred grove of pines near the town of Oka, Quebec in 1990. Kanehsatà:ke territory is right in the path of the proposed Enbridge #Line9 and Trans-Canada Energy East tar sands pipelines and Gabriel has emerged as a key voice in the fight to stop tar sands expansion through organizing in solidarity with First Nations in Alberta and the 185 First Nations in the right of way of the controversial project. Gabriel highlighted the need to think about the future of our society as youth and children deserve better than what they are getting now. Gabriel also pointed out that everyone is guilty of encouraging resource extractions because we are using petroleum products on a daily basis. She encourage everyone to not just look to change the system, but to change the way we think.

Elle-Maija Tailfeathers is a Blood and Saami organizer and member of the Blood Indian Tribe in Southern Alberta, Canada. She was part of an Indigenous women-led action to stop two thirds of their lands from being leased to Murphy Oil for fracking and drilling of the deepest frack (2.1 km deep) in the history of the sector. She and four other women were arrested and detained for intimidation because of their peaceful non-violent action. At this event,

⁷ For the event listing, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COCeQgZ94dY>

Tailfeathers denounced her tribe's chief for allowing fracking on the land. With the money paid by the extracting corporation, and distributed in part to tribe members, Tailfeathers produced a short film entitled *Bloodland*.⁸ In the film, the land is personified as an Indigenous woman being raped. Tailfeathers outlined lessons learned in her experience as an activist:

- When advocating for environmental issues, non-Indigenous allies should reach out to local Indigenous communities who are on the frontlines of these land struggles (and vice versa).
- Activists should make sure to have a plan of action, to speak to lawyers regarding consequences, to set boundaries, and to be prepared to talk to the media (know the media sources and have talking points) as they start organizing and mobilizing for action.
- In addition to organizing marches and rallies, activists must continue to be creative in communicating their message.

Kandi Mossett, a Native Energy & Climate Campaign Organizer, was born in North Dakota and grew up in an area known today as the Fort Berthold Reservation. She began working for the Indigenous Environmental Network as the Tribal Campus Climate Challenge organizer in February 2007, engaging over 30 tribal colleges and working on projects ranging from initiating recycling programs and community tree plantings to small-scale community solar panel installations and community gardens. Her work has since expanded to the international arena, within the U.N. Framework



(Photo courtesy of Livia Santos, Red Dog Productions)

Convention on Climate Change, in an effort to create more awareness about international decision-making and its effect at the local level. Her current focus is on creating awareness about the environmentally and socially devastating effects of hydraulic fracturing due to severely limited regulations and protections, particularly on Tribal lands. Mossett described how her Tribal Council signed off tribal land to extractive corporations. Truck traffic then started to pick up making her small town's roads extremely dangerous for all, particularly children. Further, Mossett highlighted the serious issues brought about by the fracking industry, namely the pollution of the water and air leading to health and food security issues, the proliferation of man camps, creating insecurity for women and children, and the lack of proper disposal of radioactive waste.

Shelley A. Young, a Mi'kmaq leader from Eskasoni First Nation, has been heavily involved in Elsipogtog on the front lines of the anti-fracking fight since the beginning. She has organized numerous campaigns, sitting on panels, and conducting workshops at nearly every major university in the East Coast, along with high schools, to bring water protection and Aboriginal Rights awareness. Young highlighted the significance and sacredness of water for her community. Pursuant to early seismic tests being done on tribal land, her community started organizing and becoming experts on the process of fracking and its



(Photo courtesy of Livia Santos, Red Dog Productions)

⁸ For more on the film *Bloodland* and the Director, go to, <http://elle-maija-tailfeathers.com>

consequences to protest against this practice. Young explained how during peaceful demonstrations authorities arrested some of the demonstrators and described her work to raise over \$20,000 to help Elsipogtog activists with legal costs.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE JUSTICE SUMMIT

WORKSHOPS & LIVESTREAMING

Details:

Workshops @ The New School

- Monday, September 22, 2014, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
The Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011
- Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 9am-2pm
John L. Tishman Auditorium
63 Fifth Ave, NY 10011
- To view the full agenda and program go to,
www.ourpowercampaign.org/peoples-climate-justice-summit-program/



Livestreaming at The New School from The Church Center for the UN, 777 1st Ave, E. 44th St

- Monday, September 22nd, 10am-4pm, Orozco Room, 66 West 12th Street, NY, NY 10011
- Tuesday, September 23rd, 10am-5pm, Alvin Johnson / J.M. Kaplan Hall Auditorium, 66 West 12th Street, NY, NY 10011
- To view the Livestream of the Summit proceedings at the UN Church Center go to,
<http://new.livestream.com/thenewschool/peoples-climate-justice-summit>

Partners/Sponsors:

Climate Justice Alliance, www.ourpowercampaign.org

The Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) and their partners, sponsors and allies, planned a two-day People's Climate Justice Summit concurrent to the Climate Leaders Assembly convened by the U.N. General Secretary Ban Ki Moon in New York City this past September. The Summit delegates gathered at the U.N. Church Center, directly across the street from the U.N., and the proceedings were livestreamed for public viewing at The New School on both days. In addition to the convening planned at the UN Church Center, CJA partnered with Professor Ana Baptista at the New School along with a planning committee of member organizations to offer workshops at The New School concurrent to the livestreamed events.

The purpose of this Summit was to arrange a meeting of frontline community delegations from across the U.S. and around the world – that were both organizing against the root causes of climate change, and cultivating real solutions to address these causes. In response to the intransigence of political leaders in industrialized nations and corporations to take bold action, this convening highlighted strategies and pathways for resilience and resistance that are being built on the frontlines of this global economic and ecological crisis.

The New School Workshop Panels, September 22, 2014

Panel 1: 9:30-11:30 a.m.–Opening/Interpreting the Inside

Presenters:

- Janet Redman, Institute for Policy Studies, U.S. (Moderator)
- Meena Rahman, Third World Network, India
- Maxime Combes, ATTAC, France
- Maureen Santos, Henrich Böll Foundation, Brazil



This international panel offered insight into the conversations taking place at the U.N. Climate Summit and discussed social movement strategies in advance of the next round of climate negotiations in Lima (December 2014) and Paris (December 2015). The discussion focused on concerns of developing countries around the non-legally binding nature of climate agreements and the adoption of finance and technology transfer initiatives as well as on the prevalence of corporate interests reflected in the UN Climate talks. The opening discussion offered different reflections on how to galvanize voices for climate justice both within and outside the UN process. *(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)*

Panelists highlighted how local communities in developing countries are pushing back on false solutions such as nuclear power, dams and biofuels and the need for systemic change, which will be difficult to implement within the current negotiating framework of the UN. On some issues such as technology transfer, communities particularly in the developing world will find themselves on the offensive as developed countries and corporate interests push false solutions such as dams and biofuels. But on the issue of “Fair share” of the atmospheric space with respect to carbon budgeting many believed that civil society would have the most force and influence in helping to shape the agenda. Other critical issues discussed included mechanisms for compensating developing countries for loss and damage already sustained by climate change and the different perspectives of systems change versus transitions across different nations.

Finally, speakers discussed concerns around the rampant commodification of nature, which serves to set up an accountability system for rich countries to pay for damages they have already made to the ecosystems. It was agreed that the “financialization” of certain aspects of nature was acceptable for the sole purpose of protecting it, however trading these commodities on international markets should be prevented.

Presenters:

- Ananda Lee Tan, Building Equity & Alignment Initiative, GAIA, Canada, (Moderator)
- Ana Baptista, PhD, The New School, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, U.S.
- Jorge Tadeo Vargas, Revuelta Verde, Mexico
- Elise Estronioli, Movement of People Affected by Dams, Brazil
- Christophe Augiton, ATTAC, France



(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)

Not long ago, political leaders and corporations were

saying climate change was not a problem. Now, that the science on global warming is accepted as real and its impacts are being felt, some governments and corporations are scrambling to claim leadership on the issue. Desperate to avoid regulation and commitments to cut emissions at the source (and in many cases, attempting to cash in on the crisis), they are presenting a dizzying array of “false promises” and quick fixes that perpetuate inequalities, ecological destruction, and extreme energy development.

In the U.S. and globally at the U.N., climate negotiations, governments are formulating policies that threaten to enshrine these false solutions. This critical conversation addressed some of the worst such solutions, including testimony from community activists from the front line of destructive dams in Brazil, extreme energy development in Mexico, carbon markets globally, and incineration in the US. Panelists discussed the role that national governments and transnational corporations play in promoting these destructive practices and some of the strategies for grassroots mobilization that are built around campaigns to resist these practices. Participants also considered whether emerging U.S. climate rules like the Clean Power Plan and negotiations for a 2015 global climate treaty in the UNFCCC are steering us toward real solutions or dangerous distraction, and how to bring the power of social movements to keep real solutions on track.

Panel 3: 3:00-5:00 p.m., False Promises to Living Economies: Climate Smart Agriculture vs. Food Sovereignty

Presenters:

- Antolin Huascar, Confederación Nacional Agraria, Peru
- Dena Hoff, La Via Campesina, North America
- Mamadou Goita, IRPAD, Mali
- Rachel Smoker, BioFuels Watch, U.S.

This panel debunked the myth of Climate Smart Agriculture as a solution, and looked to explain how and why the movement for food sovereignty is a true solution to climate change. Local, national and international panelists described current struggles for food sovereignty, activities and strategies leading to the upcoming U.N. Climate Summits in Peru and Paris.



(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)

Panelists pointed out how climate smart agriculture, presented as a solution to climate change, will in fact lead to further consolidation of land, creating dependency on new technologies while ignoring traditional tried and true adaptive farming techniques and stewardship of seed varieties in practice by local farmers. Speakers instead highlighted the importance of solutions such as agro-ecology, based on a systemic change premised on a transition to different modes of production allowing farmers to have control over resources such as fish and forests.

The New School Workshop Panels, Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Panel 1: 9:00-11:30 am –Towards Living Economies 1: Systems Alternatives

Presenters:

- Elizabeth Mpofu, Eastern and Southern African Smallholder Organic Farmers (ESAFF), (Moderator)
- Michael Leon Guerrero, Climate Justice Alliance Our Power Campaign, U.S.
- Juliette Rousseau, Bizi, Alternatibas Process, France
- Martin Vilela, Bolivian Platform on Climate Change, Bolivia
- To view video of this panel session go to,



(Photo courtesy of Ana Baptista)

In the face of climate change, communities everywhere are experimenting with new and time-tested approaches to energy, waste, transit, and the provision of peoples' needs that protect people and the planet. But to counter the systemic causes of the climate crisis and meet the scale of the problem, movement forces are also developing bold proposals for systemic alternatives. This panel explored new economic, organizing and worker-centered models that offered ways to weather the storm and to build the next economy together.

Through the example of Mozambique, a presenter pointed out the fact that governments are receiving payments from corporations through carbon credit markets that displace local farmers, take local agricultural production off line and replace it with large scale mono-crops for production of commodities like trees for biofuel. These practices displace small-scale farmers who are feeding their own people sustainably. These practices represent false solutions to climate change as thousands are being displaced as a result.

A more viable alternative to industrial agriculture and the growth of consumption in general, could be the concept of “Buen Vivir” coming from Latin America, as highlighted by the panelist from Bolivia. “Buen Vivir” is about developing an economy where “well being” is reconceptualized and is based on living without growth and consuming only what is necessary as an alternative to capitalism to respond to the climate crisis. Nevertheless, panelists pointed out that although this concept enjoyed widespread support and was even adopted by the constitution in Bolivia, it was undermined by the government and used instead as a vehicle to justify extractive developments similar to those in developed nations. The panelist reflected on how to trigger systems change by avoiding the mistakes of the past, maintaining independence from government structures while mobilizing people on the ground.

The panelist from the Climate Justice Alliance reflected on the development of the Our Power Campaign meant to build a diverse base of people based on systematic change in the economy and on the political reality in the US. Many of the campaigns focus on pilot programs throughout the country that demonstrate the potential of a post coal economy.

It is also important to build movements and organize to keep mobilizing people on the ground. Other tools to consider in the search for systems alternatives are the use of data and language, both of which should be used to promote real solutions towards climate change.

Panel 2: 12:30-2:30 p.m.—Towards Living Economies 2: Just Transition Strategies

Presenters:

- Jose Bravo, *JustTransitions*, Moderator
- Al Weinrub, Local Clean Energy Alliance, U.S.
- Monica Wilson, GAIA, U.S. and Canada
- Juan Camilo Osorio, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, NYC, NY
- Rosa Miranda, Bus Riders’ Union, Los Angeles, CA
- Beth Grimsberg, Brazil



(Photo courtesy of Ana Baptista)

Confronting the climate crisis effectively will require us to take on the social, economic, and political inequities that have allowed the dirty energy economy to persist. These issues must be addressed with a particular lens focused on how these systems have led communities of color and low-income communities bearing the brunt of climate impacts. In the fight against the old energy economy rooted in inequity, it is important to build a better and stronger vision that can work for all and is led by those who are most marginalized and impacted by climate change. This requires a just transition into a new economy rooted in the foundation of racial and social justice, invested in people and the planet, and one that is regenerative and life giving. To do so, we must begin to think intersectionally and build cross-sectoral alliances for making change.

Panelists discussed the “Just Transition Principles”, which highlight the rights of workers, community residents and indigenous peoples to have clean air, water, land and food in their workplaces, homes and environments as well as the fact that there is no contradiction between creating sustainable development, having a healthy economy and maintaining a clean and safe environment. The panel also underscored the need for a transition from an energy model centralized and run on fossil fuel to one that is decentralized, based on renewable energies and controlled locally by communities, rather than by corporations.

Several examples of local climate solutions and organizing models were presented including the case of the Bus Rider’s Union struggles in Los Angeles for equitable access to public transit and their historic legal victory that forced government investment in public transit for the most transit dependent communities, efforts to transform NYC’s waste management systems into more sustainable, equitable and job producing systems, and the organizing campaigns of waste pickers involved in the Zero Waste Alliance in Brazil which are successfully diverting waste while generating viable jobs for close to 1 million people involved in this industry.

CO2LONIALISM AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Details:

Monday, September 22, 2014, 6-9pm

The Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011

For the video to the event go to,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTf82h9H6ZU&list=UU1iFTPspSKcb4vb1N7czmRQ>

Partners/Sponsors:

- Indigenous Environmental Network (<http://www.ienearth.org>)
- Climate Justice Alliance
- The Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy

Presenters:

- Tom BK Goldtooth (Dine'/Dakota), Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)/PCJS National Coordination Team of the Climate Justice Alliance, Minnesota, US
- Kandi Mossett (Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara Nation), IEN Indigenous Energy & Climate Campaign, Montana/North Dakota, US
- Crystal Lameman (Beaver Lake Cree Nation-Treaty 6), Climate & Energy Campaigner, Prairie Chapter, Sierra Club, Alberta, Canada
- Casey Horinek-Camp (Ponca), traditional drumkeeper for the Ponca Pa-tha-ta, Woman's Scalp Dance Society and spokesperson of the IEN, White Eagle, Oklahoma, US
- Gloria Hilda Ushigua Santi (Sápara), Indigenous leader from the remote village of Sápara people of Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, Ecuador
- Josephine Mandamin (Anishinaabe), Wikwemikong Elder, founder of the Mother Earth Water Walk and member of the Three Fires Lodge of the Midewiwin Society, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
- The event featured performances by
 - Ta'kaiya Blaney, singer and Youth Ambassador for Native Children's Survival
 - Ulali, a Native American musical group
 - Native American comedy troupe video excerpts



(Photo courtesy of Red Dog Productions)



(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauer)

On the evening of September 22nd, a panel of indigenous leaders from frontline communities convened at The New School to discuss ways in which women, and in particular, indigenous women are affected by, and responding to climate change.

Opening remarks for the event were given by Dean Michelle DePass who stressed how humbled and activated the New School community was to host the evening's panel. The discussion was moderated by Tom Goldtooth and his son Dallas Goldtooth, from the Indigenous Environmental Network, which has worked over many decades on climate issues within and outside the UN. The panelists were asked to introduce themselves and to share their reflections on the reasons they are marching as well as some of the most difficult and best moments leading up to the People's Climate March. Many of the panelists described with great emotion the devastating impacts climate change and fossil fuel industries have wreaked in their communities, their homes, their families. Mixing deeply personal reflections with the realities of struggle against the extractive oil industries in their backyards, this session was informed by multiple generations of women on the front lines of climate justice.

One panelist mentioned that in her community of six to eight hundred, there is about one death a week due to cancer linked to environmental problems. Another speaker from Peru described how, after the arrival of an oil company, children and elders started getting sick and dying when drinking the water from the local river, as they had previously done for generations. In response to these situations, the panel highlighted the importance of organizing and of having the Indigenous voice heard. One of the panelists described her experience walking around the Great Lakes with a group of Indigenous women to raise awareness on the importance of the environment and particularly of water.

Indigenous peoples have consistently reaffirmed their responsibility to speak for the well-being of Mother Earth, nature and future generations of all life. There is a direct relationship between the expansion of fossil fuels and extreme energy development within the homelands of Indigenous peoples in the Global South and in the North, and the link to climate change. The Indigenous women speaking at this event came from communities that have borne the brunt of destructive energy and disproportionate social, cultural, spiritual, environmental and climate impacts. Indigenous peoples have the solutions to the climate crisis through their ingenuity and their ancient intergenerational knowledge and wisdom.

Mobilizing a Call To Action

FILMSCREENING OF “DISRUPTION” AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Details:

The “Disruption” Film Premiere and Encore were held respectively Sunday September 7th, at 7:00 pm & Friday September 19th, at 8:00 pm.

John L. Tishman Auditorium, University Center, 63 Fifth Avenue, Room U100, New York, NY 10003.

To watch the film go to, <http://watchdisruption.com/>

Partners/Sponsors:

- 350.org (www.350.org)
- PF Pictures (www.pfpictures.com)
- New School for Public Engagement, the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, the Tishman Environment and Design Center, and the Sustainable Cities Club.



Presenters:

- Joel Towers, Executive Dean of Parsons The New School for Design
- Ricken Patel, Executive Director, Avaaz.org
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
- Keya Chatterjee, Director, Renewable Energy and Footprint Outreach, WWF
- Jean Gardner, Associate Professor of Social-Ecological History and Design at The School for Constructed Environments, Parsons The New School for Design
- Charles Allison, Associate Professor of Practice in Finance at Milano



Filmmakers, Kelly Nyks and Jared P. Scott of PF Pictures (Photo credit / Amanda Ghanooni)

Premiering online and in New York City on Sunday, September 7th 2014, the documentary film “Disruption” spotlights the growing costs of inaction in the face of climate change. The film calls for mass mobilization that was well timed as people prepared to take to the streets ahead of the U.N. Climate Summit in New York City. The New School hosted the marquee world premiere of Disruption which was screened at over 700 locations on six continents in an effort to build awareness and excitement leading up to the People’s Climate March on Sunday, September 21st 2014.

Disruption is a documentary film, featuring some of the environmental movement’s top leaders, calling for a new strategy to address the climate crisis, a popular movement that forces world leaders to replace rhetoric with action.

The world premiere of the film kicked off ahead of the The New School's Climate Action Week and set the stage for a historic groundswell of climate events in New York City at month's end, including the People's Climate March on September 21st and the U.N. Climate Summit on September 23rd. *Disruption* seeks to answer a fundamental question: when it comes to climate change, why do we do so little when we know so much? The movie lays bare the science, the broken political process, the industry special interests and the civic disengagement that have brought us to this crossroads.

Joel Towers, Executive Dean of Parsons The New School for Design, gave opening remarks and a panel discussion, moderated by 350.org's Strategy and Communications Director and Co-Founder, Jamie Henn, followed the premiere.



Moderator, Jamie Henn, and panel speakers, Keya Chatterjee, Eddie Bautista, Jean Gardner, Ricken Patel, and Charles Allison (Photo credit / Amanda Ghanooni)

"In the past, masses of people have taken the wheel of history and turned it," says author Naomi Klein in the film. "We have a responsibility to rise to our historic moment." The title of the film, "*Disruption*," refers to the dangerous environmental tipping points after which the entire climate system could spiral out of control, as well as to the need for a mass social movement to disrupt the status quo and business-as-usual approach, which is inhibiting the bold actions necessary to protect the planet's future.

The film calls for action strong enough to tip the balance towards a clean energy future. It features prominent figures like Chris Hayes, Naomi Klein, Van Jones and others. "*Disruption*" aims to reframe the climate issue as not just an environmental concern, but a matter of social and economic justice,

tying climate impacts, and their solutions, directly to issues that the public cares about most.

"This is not just about the environment, it's about the community, it's about jobs, it's about justice," says Eddie Bautista, Executive Director for the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, one of the lead organizations for the People's Climate March.

"This is not a green issue, this an all of us issue," points out Ricken Patel, Executive Director of the 38-million member civic organization, Avaaz. Avaaz mobilized its members around the world to take part in solidarity actions along with the march in NYC.

In the film, Chris Hayes, MSNBC host and leading progressive writer and thinker stated, "There is no replacement for human bodies, standing as one, voices raised as one, making a political demand."

The international climate campaign 350.org funded and is distributing the film, which is a production of PF Pictures, directed by New School alumnus, Kelly Nyks and Jared P. Scott. PF Pictures previously worked with 350.org to produce the documentary, “Do the Math,” which helped spark the fossil fuel divestment campaign that has spread to hundreds of colleges, cities, churches, and states around the world. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response after the Film Premiere on September 7th, *Disruption* was screened a second time on September 19th at The New School. The Encore presentation was followed by a discussion with the filmmakers.



Michelle DePass, Dean of Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Public Policy introducing the encore presentation of the film “Disruption” at The New School (Photo courtesy Muhammad “Bud” Ismail).



Molly Johnson, Milano Sustainable Cities Club Vice President, moderating a discussion with the filmmakers, Kelly Nyks and Jared P. Scott at the encore presentation of the “Disruption” (Photo courtesy Muhammad “Bud” Ismail).

NAOMI KLEIN BOOK LAUNCH

Details:

Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm,
John L. Tishman Auditorium, Room U100,
63 Fifth Avenue, Room U100, New York, NY 10003

For video to the film go to,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVgwmO8RYX0>

Partners/Sponsors:

- The Nation Institute
- The Nation Magazine (<http://www.nationinstitute.org>)
- 350.org
- The Working World (<http://www.theworkingworld.org/us/>)

Presenters:

- Michael Guerrero, Interim National Coordinator of the Our Power Campaign, Climate Justice Alliance
- Estela Vazquez, Executive Vice President SEIU Local 1199
- Clayton Thomas Muller, Idle No More, Organizer, Facilitator, Public Speaker and Writer on environmental justice and indigenous rights
- Esperanza Martinez, Co-Founder Acción Ecológica, Ecuador



(Photo / Muhammad “Bud” Ismail)



Clayton Thomas Muller praying to the ancestors
(Photo courtesy of Muhammad Ismail)



Naomi Klein presenting her latest book: This Changes Everything (Photo courtesy of Muhammad Ismail)

On September 18th, Naomi Klein launched her first book in seven years, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*, at The New School, the first stop on a national tour. In *This Changes Everything*, Klein, author of the global #1 bestsellers *The Shock Doctrine* and *No Logo*, tackles the most profound threat humanity has ever faced: the war our economic model is waging against life on earth. Climate change, Klein argues, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It is about changing the world. Klein reminded everyone, “We have been told that humanity is too greedy and selfish to rise to this challenge. In fact, all around the world, the fight for the next economy and against reckless extraction is already succeeding in ways both surprising and inspiring.”

Klein was introduced by New School for Public Engagement Executive Dean, Mary Watson and 350.org co-founder, Bill McKibben. She later read from her book and presented some of its major themes. She suggested that climate change is both an opportunity to improve policy and reduce inequalities, and a serious problem, which we must address today. Klein ended her presentation by asking the audience, “History is knocking - will we answer?”



Singer Antonique Smith and DJ Reborn (Photo courtesy of Muhammad “Bud” Ismail)

The evening also included a performance of Marvin Gaye’s “Mercy Mercy Me,” which Bill McKibben introduced as, “probably the greatest environmental song of all time,” by singer/songwriter/actress Antonique Smith, and DJReborn. This musical interlude was followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Klein, including frontline community experts who fight daily for a just response to climate change.

Michael Guerrero talked about the connections between fighting inequality and fighting climate change. Guerrero’s organization, Climate Justice Alliance, seeks to find ways to transform our economy and rebuild communities in order to adapt to and mitigate climate change.



The panel (Photo/Muhammad “Bud” Ismail)

Estela Vazquez of the SEIU Local 1199 highlighted that fighting for the environment is also fighting for decent jobs and healthcare for all. Vazquez stressed the need to develop a healthcare system that is not just for the wealthy, pointing out that millions in the U.S. are still without health insurance.

Esperanza Martinez concluded that oil is at the heart of the accumulation of capital. Oil is also the subtext of war, corruption, geopolitical blackmail, and lack of health. To address

climate change, we must stop burning oil and free ourselves of this addiction as the extractive model does not respect the cycle of our planet.

POP UP AWARENESS KIOSK @ THE UNION SQUARE GREENMARKET

Details:

Friday, September 19th at 10:00am to 3:00 pm
Union Square Green Market,
1 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003.



Partners/Sponsors:

- Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy
- School of Constructed Environments, Parsons, The New School

Presenters:

- P. Timon McPhearson, Assistant Professor of Urban Ecology and Coordinator for Environmental Science, Tishman Environment and Design Center
- Thomas Forster, Senior Government Affairs and UN Advisor, School Food FOCUS, and Adjunct Faculty, Food Studies
- Rositsa Ilieva, PhD, post-doctoral research fellow in Urban Food Systems, Tishman Environment and Design Center
- Rick McGahey, Director, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management



(Top photos courtesy of Amanda Ghanooni. Bottom photo courtesy of Jean Gardner)

On September 19th, The New School's Policy and Design schools collaborated to host Pop Up Classes and an Awareness Kiosk in the middle of the Union Square Green Market. Students from the BFA Architecture and Product Design programs at Parsons School of Constructed Environment (SCE) collaborated to design and build a pop-up "Awareness

Kiosk" that was erected in Union Square on Friday September 19th to draw attention to and build awareness of the People's Climate March and climate related issues as well as all the related events hosted by the New School. Led by Process Design faculty member Daniel Michalik and Architecture Design faculty member Jeremy Barbour, the kiosk was designed and built in under a week, at a cost of less than \$50. The only material used was cast off cardboard tubes, salvaged from local print shops. Constructed as two space-defining walls that also can hold informational materials, the kiosk covered an area of 15' x 30', and established an area in which The New School held free public lectures and discussions within the Green Market. The kiosk provided a second life for the salvaged material, and a third life was created after the day of events, as the kiosk was dismantled and the components were used as mini megaphones during the People's Climate March two days later on September 21st. The Awareness Kiosk was an exciting test run for the new cross-programmatic minor in Temporary Environments currently offered by the SCE.⁹

The pop up classes included a wide array of climate related topics and featured professors from across The New School's programs from food to urban ecology. Visitors to the GreenMarket and the general public were invited to sit and participate in these free mini lectures and discussion roundtables. The following were the Pop Up classes featured that day:

- 10:30 a.m.– "Urban Green Spaces for Equitable, Livable, and Resilient Cities", led by Professor Timon McPhearson
- 11:15 a.m.– "Climate Change and the Food System: Strengthening our City Region Food System" led by Adjunct Professor Thomas Forster
- 12:00 p.m.– "Fooding the City: Urban Recipes for Climate Action", led by Rositsa Ilieva
- 1:00 p.m.– "Green Jobs: Addressing Climate Change and Reducing Inequality", led by Professor Richard McGahey

The Pop Up Workshops



P. Timon McPhearson



Rositsa Ilieva



Thomas Forster presenting



Rick McGahey

(All photos courtesy of Amanda Ghanooni)

⁹ SCE Professor, Daniel Michalik

KICK OFF TO THE CLIMATE MARCH

Sign Making, Photo Booth “Why I’m Marching” with “Appearance of the Narwhal”

Details:

Saturday September 20th, 4pm

The Atrium at 66 W 12th Street, , New York, NY 10011

For the video of the event go,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmm8aPth9Jw&list=UU1iFTPspSKcb4vb1N7czmRQ>

Partners/Sponsors:

- Sustainable Cities Club
- Grist.org

Presenters:

- Gnarl the Narwhal, The New School Mascot

On September 20th, the New School community was invited to kick off the Climate March weekend with our mascot, Gnarl the Narwhal, and to prepare signs for the next day’s People’s Climate March. This event was open to all students, faculty, and staff from across the University and was an opportunity to rally everyone ahead of the march. Participants had the chance to take photos with Gnarl the Narwhal with a sign that read “I’m Marching Because...” or paint signs, get a New School T Shirt or a cardboard mini megaphone for the March.

Rallying for the People’s Climate March with Gnarl, the Narwhal

(Photos courtesy of Livia Santos at Red Dog Productions)



#TNSClimateAction “I’m marching because”

“My home is acidifying”



"I want to support people who are at the frontlines of our climate impacts. We at TNS have solutions. We can help build a more resilient future."



"[I want] a good earth for a good future!"



NEW SCHOOL MARCH RALLY ADDRESS

Details:

Saturday September 20th, 4pm

The Auditorium at 66 West 12th Street, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall.

For video of the event go to, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtOifkGnJV4>

Partners/Sponsors:

- 350.org
- Grist.org
- Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy
- Tishman Environment & Design Center (TEDC)



Presenters:

- Dean Michelle DePass, Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy
- Chip Giller, Executive Director of GRIST
- Bill McKibben, **350.org founder, author and activist**

On September 20th, Dean Michelle DePass, Grist CEO Chip Giller, and 350.org founder, author and activist Bill McKibben gave a rally address in advance of the People's Climate March to The New School community and guests from the public.



Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy Dean Michelle DePass (All photos are courtesy of Livia Santos, Red Dog Productions).

Dean DePass opened up the Rally by highlighting the importance of getting ready to make a bold and audacious call to action the next day at the People's Climate March. "We are going to be loud, we are going to be proud, we are going to amplify, we are going to justify." The Dean further challenged the audience to take ownership of this environmental movement. If the next day was the day everyone had been waiting for, the day after would be the day we all take charge.



Grist CEO, Chip Giller



Bill McKibben, 350.org founder, author, and activist

Chip Giller started Grist the online environmental magazine to reimagine what the environmental movement could be. Today Grist reaches two million people a month. Giller introduced Bill McKibben, an old friend and the author of *The End of Nature*, the first book to explain climate change to a broad audience. Since this early publication, McKibben has transformed himself into an organizer, heading up the environmental organization 350.org.

Bill McKibben highlighted how much bigger the following day's march was expected to be and the significance of such a mass mobilization not just in the US but across the world where people had already begun staging marches. In 2008, McKibben participated in a march of 1000 people in Vermont, which was deemed one of the largest climate change marches in the nation. It was then that he understood why climate change was not being taken seriously by decision-makers, because the people weren't mobilized around the issue. That's when he started 350.org to help build the movement. McKibben pointed out the importance of Indigenous people and frontline communities in the fight against fossil fuels and climate change practices around the world as well as the key role universities like The New School can play as they push to divest from fossil fuels and inspire the next generation of activists and decision makers.

THE NEW SCHOOL MARCHES @ THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

Details:

Sunday, September 21 at 9:30 am, Lincoln Center
TNS Meeting location, 10 Lincoln Center Plaza,
New York, NY 10023

For video to the film go to,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cV_fVI_WOo

Partners/Sponsors:

- Grist
- Sustainable Cities Club



On September 21, 2014, approximately 300 New School students, staff and faculty members and their friends and family met up to march for climate justice at the Lincoln Center Plaza. From the Plaza, The New School community marched behind the school banner to line up along the march route on Central Park West where we joined hundreds of thousands of other students and marchers. The New School had a relatively large contingent marching in the school colors with orange T Shirts along the route. As noted by Dean DePass, “People have come from all over the world. [...] They need a space where they could actually commune and the New School is part of that communion and we are showing it here.” The overwhelming participation from the New School demonstrated the commitment to this issue.



Starting to march towards Central Park West.



New Schoolers “marching for climate justice.”



*Dean, Michelle DePass with Apple, Inc.
Director of Sustainability and Former Head
of the US EPA, Lisa Jackson.*



*New School for Public Engagement
Executive Dean, Mary Watson.*

All photos courtesy of Amanda Ghanooni

Strategies for Sustainability

TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY CENTER SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Details:

Tuesday, September 16, at 3:00 pm

University Center,

63th Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003.

For video about sustainable features go to,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rsgI8cvgRY>

Partners/Sponsors:

- The New School, Facilities Management Office

Presenters:

Thomas Walen, Director of Facilities Management

Sustainability is a core value at The New School and is an essential feature of the new University Center. With a projected U.S. Green Building Council LEED rating of Gold, the University Center will help set the New York City standard for green technology and building practices. Climate Action Week presented a perfect opportunity to highlight the University Center's sustainability features to the university community. On September 16th, the University Center tour provided a wealth of information on building sustainability as noted in the Milano School's twitter feed describing some of the tour's highlights:

- Cooling towers on the roof are used year-round, working with the ambient temperature and heat recovery units.
- The co-gen plant on the 17th floor generates 25% of the University Center's energy, and heats the water.
- Lights in the dorms above the University Center are on motion sensors to reduce consumption
- The green roof on the 7th floor of the University Center is watered 100% by precipitation
- The lights in the University Center respond to sunlight coming in through the windows to increase efficiency.
- 85% of water used in the UC is recycled, and retention tanks recover storm water.
- Classrooms have automatic shades to limit heat intake from sunlight.
- The University Center @TheNewSchool encourages recycling.
- Fans respond to the number of people in the building to conserve energy.
- The University Center is lit by LED bulbs.
- Disposable dishes and flatware in the cafeteria at the UC are biodegradable.
- The chiller makes ice at night to increase cooling efficiency during the day.
- The concrete in the University Center is made of recycled material.

To learn more about the sustainability features of the University Center, please visit:

<http://www.newschool.edu/university-center/sustainability/>.



Photos courtesy of Molly Johnson



THINKING INSIDE OUT

HOW CITIES CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS

Details:

Tuesday, September 16th, 2014, at 2:00 to 5:00
The Auditorium, The Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall,
66 West 12th Street, New York NY10011



Partners/Sponsors:

- Observatory on Latin America (OLA <http://www.observatorylatinamerica.org>), The New School
- UN Habitat
- Penn Institute for Urban Research

Presenters:

- Eugenie Birch, City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
- Robert Buckley, Graduate Program of International Affairs, The New School
- Don Chen, Just Cities Initiative, The Ford Foundation
- Michael Cohen, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School
- Gulelat Kebede, Urban Economy Branch, UN Habitat
- Shagun Mehrotra, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management, The New School
- Aromar Revi, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Campaign SDG
- Mauricio Rodas, Mayor, Distrito Metropolitano de Quito, Ecuador
- David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development, London
- Karen Seto, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

On September 16th, The New School, UN Habitat, The Observatory on Latin America and the Penn Institute for Urban Research co-hosted “Thinking Inside Out: How Cities Contribute to Solving Global Problems.” Every 20 years, the UN convenes its global Habitat conference, bringing together member states, organizations, and theorists from around the world to strategize an agenda for the next two decades of urban development. The third of these groundbreaking conferences – Habitat III – will take place in 2016, and will serve as the first UN global summit after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Because of the enormous mandate of the Habitat III summit, preparatory committees are gathering in 2014 and 2015 to begin providing shape and structure to the 2016 agenda.

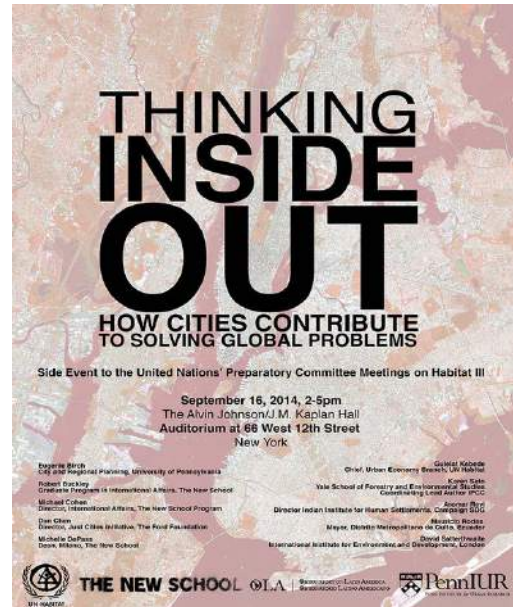
On September 17th and 18th, the first Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) commenced in New York City hosted by the UN. As a contribution to building and deepening the conversations leading towards the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the “Thinking Inside Out” event gathered leading academics and practitioners from a wide spectrum of areas of expertise and regions of the world. Its purpose was to shift the focus from cities and their problems to the urban as the source of solutions to solve global problems. In a truly interdisciplinary fashion, this event challenged conventional wisdom and

suggested that cities have been largely ignored in global economic and climate discussion. Speakers affirmed that cities are the sites of growth, radical change, and civic action.

The idea of “thinking inside-out” sprung from the intention to bridge gaps between climate change and urban planning literature (specifically in the Fifth Assessment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change). Among the most interesting lessons from this approach is the awareness that a window of opportunity has opened in the next two decades in places where emissions from urbanization growth are not yet locked in, that is in the cities of the Global South. The concept of “co-location” was discussed as having a powerful potential for mitigation. Co-location of residential and workspaces, increased density, connectivity and accessibility and mixed land-use zoning should be increasingly promoted as means to reduce emissions. The physical aspect of the actual construction of cities was also stressed, for if new urban growth is built with the same materials and processes used now, the emissions and energy use from accommodating new urbanization will outperform current energy savings.

A special focus was given to New York City. In New York, the residential building stock is depleted, homelessness has dramatically increased and incomes remain stagnant driving up inequality. Nonetheless, the city’s population grows, mostly sustained by continued international immigration. It was suggested to consider reconfiguring the city’s land use, and to start redirecting subsidies to the poor instead of targeting higher income brackets, as is currently being done.

At the conclusion, the audience was invited to consider cities’ contributions along the following lines: if the world is to accommodate two billion more people, then first, the economic pie must get bigger (we need to have more if we want to better provide); second, productivity must increase; and third, the configuration of the pie in terms of income distribution, urban form, infrastructure planning, and governance must change. The rebalancing of the shares of the pie seems inevitable. There were also important warnings as the planetary process of Habitat III approaches: shrinking support or overconfidence in public policy and an overly narrow perspective on cities that overlooks the rural-urban continuum, among others.



BUILDING PRODUCT ECOSYSTEMS

LAUNCHING A FRAMEWORK FOR PROGRESS

Details:

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
John L. Tishman Auditorium, Univesity Center
63 Fifth Avenue, Room U100, New York, NY 10003.

For video to the film go to,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvHK58uiw&feature=youtu.be>



Partners/Sponsors:

- The Durst Organization (www.durst.org)
- The New School
- City University of New York

Presenters:

- Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP, - Dean for Global Health, Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chairman, Department of Preventive Medicine; Professor of Pediatrics; Director, Children's Environmental Health Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
- Dr. John Warner, President, Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry, and Co-Founder and President, Beyond Benign Green Chemistry Education.
- Gavin McIntyre, Founder of Ecovative.

Working Group Representatives:

Flame retardants and codes:

Catherine Bopenhausen, Project Manager and Senior Industrial Hygienist, Viridian Energy
Captain Richard Brady, Fire Department

Glass & Concrete

Constantine Quadrozzi, Eastern Concrete
Tom Sable, Hunter Roberts Construction Group

Evolving wallboard systems:

Dave Cardella, Cardella Waste Services
Steve Mima, Gypsum Association

“Building Product Ecosystems” is a collaboration initiated by The Durst Organization, in partnership with The New School and the City University of New York, to optimize the health of construction product ecosystems through material research and innovation, process improvements, policy/code evolution, and accessible education.

The September 17, 2014 event helped to launch a framework for collaborative progress around building product health. The ongoing Building Product Ecosystems effort focuses on multidisciplinary implementation of opportunities for healthier building products within material supply and handling streams with minimized negative externalities. Working Groups

and Academic Focus Areas addressed important subjects such as, heavy metals, carcinogens, asthmagens, endocrine disruptors, each of which involved an inquiry into strategies for reducing human exposures to hazardous chemicals in building products.

Joel Towers, Executive Dean of the Parsons School of Design, The New School and Douglas Durst, Chairman of the Durst Organization introduced the event. Durst highlighted how important environment within buildings are to the wellbeing of their occupants.

During the expert panel discussion Dr. Landrigan pointed out that society has progressed in that people understand better the connection between the environment and their health however most of the materials that go into buildings are materials that have never been tested for human health. There are no requirements in the US to test materials that go into food wrapping, clothing or wall panels, for example. It is difficult today for individuals to find out what materials and chemicals are in these products.

Dr. Warner, a prize-winning chemist and expert in green chemistry, highlighted that chemistry has evolved in such a way that today toxicology training is excluded from chemists' job description. Gavin McIntyre discussed his company's focus on trying to find a sustainable material that could replace styrofoam. His team discovered the solution in mushrooms, mycelium, a fungus that can have the same function as styrofoam and is water soluble and allergen free.

The expert presentations were followed by a discussion with working group participants. Topics ranged from the effect of flame retardants on people to the best way to integrate more sustainable product ecosystems into society as well as how to better test materials and products.



*Expert panelists
(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)*



*Building Product Ecosystems Working Groups
(Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)*

“URBAN FARMERS” DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Details:

Saturday, September 20, 2014, at 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Klein Conference Room, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall

66 West 12th Street Room A510, New York, NY 10011

For video to the film go to, <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/urban-farmers-documentary>

Presenters:

- Rachel Caccese, “Urban Farmers” Director and New School alumna, Director and Producer at Forefront Pictures (www.forefrontpictures.com).
- Nick Caccese, “Urban Farmers” Writer and Producer, M.A. in Media Studies, The New School, Writer and Producer at Forefront Pictures.



On September 20th, The New School hosted a screening of the documentary "Urban Farmers," directed by New School alumna Rachel Caccese and written by alumnus, Nick Caccese. The documentary profiles local farmers in New York City providing urban communities with fresh and local produce. It also features New School faculty and staff, Fabio Parasecoli, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Food Studies, Rachel Knopf, Nutritionist and Health Educator, and Nevin Cohen, Assistant Professor of Environmental Policy, as they engage with the city's food issues. The film was followed by a discussion and Q&A session with the filmmakers.

“Urban Farmers” highlights the role and day to day struggles of operating farms in New York City and their relationships to the communities they serve. Each farm is unique in its history and its mission statement. These farms provide a glimpse into the dedication, hardships and triumphs that farmers face dealing with a traditional profession in a constantly growing urban metropolis. “Urban Farmers” also underscores the current issues with US agricultural policy, which discourages farmers from growing nutritious local foods thus creating “food deserts,” areas where communities do not have easy access to healthy and quality foods. The documentary further describes the difficulties faced by local farmers in obtaining an organic certification while addressing the debate of buying organic vs. buying local.

The film features organizations educating the community about growing fresh local produce and explores the importance of supporting local agriculture, namely, through the development of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), and those working to protect it by keeping local food sources near urban areas.

In the ensuing discussion, Rachel Caccese described how the idea for the documentary initially came about. She was visiting a local farm when she noticed the surprise of a child who had just learned that carrots came from the ground. Caccese then realized the disconnect between some urban populations and the origin of their food. Separately, she also felt disappointed by the dismal picture documentaries painted of the food industry. In “Urban Farmers” Caccese hoped to provide solutions to “food desert” issues and to highlight ways for communities, particularly the more marginalized, to gain easy and affordable access to quality food. Finally, the discussion addressed the over-development of New York State and the need, for sustainability and health purposes, to be vocal about keeping the farms that do exist in order to maintain access to a variety of local produce.



Ana Baptista, EPSM Professor and Climate Action Week Lead Organizer, introducing the filmmakers. (Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)



Filmmakers Nick and Rachel Caccese (front and center). (Photo courtesy of Beatrice Mauger)

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

“MAKING CITIES I³: INNOVATION, INCUBATION, INCLUSION”

Details:

Monday, September 22, 2014 at 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Teresa Lang Community and Student Center, Arnold Hall
55 West 13th Street, Room I202, New York, NY 10011

For more details on the itinerary go to,

<http://observatorylatinamerica.org/en/component/content/article/68-activities-design-and-development/419-making-cities3-innovation-incubation-inclusion-third-international-symposium>

Partners/Sponsors:

- Parsons The New School for Design, The New School
- Observatory on Latin America (OLA), The New School
- School of Architecture, Design, and Urban Planning (FADU), University of Buenos Aires
- School of Social Sciences (FSC), University of Buenos Aires
- Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok



The third international Design and Development Symposium, “Making Cities i³: Innovation, Incubation, and Inclusion” was held from September 20th to 24th at The New School. This series of events included visits to sites where innovation is taking place in New York, panels and discussions with academics and students, a workshop in the field, and closed with a debate between deans from the three participating universities in New York, Buenos Aires and Bangkok.

The symposium gathered faculty and students from these universities and from different disciplines. The focus of the event was on three processes - innovation, incubation and inclusion - operating to transform the landscape of cities, their spatial organization, economies, and societies. While these terms have different meanings in Bangkok, Buenos Aires and New York, they provide provocative frameworks for analyzing and understanding distinct processes in these three diverse urban environments. The Public Conference and the Dean's Panel, held on September 22nd and 24th respectively, were open to the general public and as such formed part of The New School's Climate Action Week, contributing to its goal to disseminate information on strategies for sustainability.

The Public Conference

Following the opening of the conference, Argentine Labor Minister Carlos Tomada addressed the audience with remarks on the importance of implementing inclusive public policies. "The state, to guarantee inclusion, has to implement policies that are preventive and emancipatory."

"Innovation" Panel

Presenters:

- Brian McGrath, Dean of the School of Constructed Environments, Parsons, moderator
- Margarita Gutman, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and International Affairs, Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Studies
- Preechaya Sittipunt, Architecture Program Director from Chulalongkorn University
- William Morrish, Professor at the School of Design Strategies, Parsons

Gutman, through a historical analysis of the different urban plans that have been implemented in Buenos Aires, highlighted the importance of innovation as a way of creating more inclusive cities. But urban plans in Buenos Aires have had ups and downs, and while some led to a few environmental improvements, the absence of implementation of others together with neoliberal economic policies resulted in fragmentation and segregation of the metropolitan area. Sittipunt presented the case of the street vendors in Bangkok as an example of the importance of understanding urban public space as a place where formal and informal economies coexist. Thus, innovation should promote an inclusive urban spatial design that takes into account the existence of informal economic exploitation in the hands of street vendors. Professor Morrish's presentation focused on innovation's contribution to the construction of an urban society aware of the social, economic and political realms that define all cities. Quillian Riano, lecturer at the School of Design Strategies at Parsons, closed the panel by discussing the importance of recognizing the community needs in policy design.

“Incubation” Panel

Presenters:

- Miodrag Mitrasinovic, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urbanism, Design Strategies, Parsons, moderator
- Juan Pablo Scagli and Ariel Pradelli, Professors at the UBA Architecture School
- Rama Chorpash, Director of Product Design, Parsons
- Siramol On-Sri, a Parsons Product Design alumnus

The presentations ranged in scope and size, from citywide to human scales of product design and local economic development. An audience member questioned the intersection between the micro and the macro scales along with the preparedness of the city in its institutional and physical infrastructure to support local employment. Chorpash, long-time New York resident and designer, acknowledged that there is in fact very little support for inclusive policies in New York City. The panel concluded with Scaglia asking what is really considered inclusion in this context. “Is it inclusion to the market or social inclusion? And what kind of social inclusion then?”

“Inclusion” Panel

Presenters:

- Charles Allison, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Professor, The New School, Chair
- Mónica Lacarrieu, UBA Anthropology Professor,
- Apiwat Ratanawaraha, from Chulalongkorn University,
- Robert Buckley, Graduate Program of International Affairs, The New School

Allison examined the politics of inclusive innovations. Ratanawaraha warned about induced innovation efforts from above, insisting that “innovations from the bottom are automatically inclusive”. Reversing the focus of the politics of inclusion debate, Studley Fellow Robert Buckley made the point that seemingly progressive land uses can be regressive. After suggesting that current subsidies are contradictorily targeted, he proposed that reconfiguring the land use in New York City, questioning historic preservation, could unleash constraints to development, and increase the stock of low income housing supply.

In his concluding remarks Michael Cohen, Director of OLA, highlighted the significance of problematizing the concepts of innovation, incubation and inclusion. Cohen commented on the complex results produced by mixed state and private initiatives like the Navy Yards in New York, the role of urban plans in framing expectations in Buenos Aires, the innovation at the micro scale presented in Bangkok, and the democratic art mentioned by Bill Morrish who proposed the use of “we make NY” instead of “we love NY”. Cohen also questioned the potential of market-oriented innovations to promote social inclusion, and concluded stressing the importance of studying the analytic framework of these approaches as proposed by Adriana Clemente.

Dean's Panel

Wednesday, September 24, 2014



(Photo courtesy of Cristina M Handal G)

Presenters:

- Brian McGrath, Dean of the School of Constructed Environments, Parsons
- Alison Mears, Dean of the School of Design Strategies at Parsons
- Ariel Misuraca, speaking on behalf of UBA School of Architecture Design and Urban Planning Dean Luis Bruno
- Michelle DePass, Dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy at The New School
- Preechaya Sittipunt, Director of INDA, Chulalongkorn University

The deans discussed the different approaches to design each school takes, and how the programs are including more interdisciplinary dialogue and conversations related to innovation and inclusion in the cities. McGrath pointed out the importance of thinking of cities as places where people live. "Urbanism, the act of living the city, is a social act," he said. Misuraca meanwhile pointed out how the problem of the pollution of the Matanza-Riachuelo river basin in Buenos Aires is tackled from a variety of different angles at the UBA Architecture school. Meanwhile, DePass highlighted that at Milano both faculty and students are asking, "what is the future of the city," and emphasized the importance of including, "the voice of the people we are supposed to be providing a city with," in these debates.

Leveraging Climate Action Week for Future Action:

Lessons Learned and Next Steps



(Photo courtesy of Amanda Ghanooni)

Climate Action Week Reach

As part of Climate Action Week, attempts were made to document and open up participation to various audiences. Efforts were made to reach diverse audiences by curating a myriad of events and experiences that could be accessible to a wide range of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the general public. Additionally, efforts were made to share and document these events broadly and beyond Climate Action Week. Thus many of the events were covered through social media outlets, the University's website, livestreaming, as well as video and photography provided principally by Red Dog Productions affiliated with the School of Media Studies. The New School's Climate Action Week events were also featured prominently in social media and media outlets beyond The New School thanks to collaborations with partners and sponsors such as The Nation, Grist magazine, the online environmental news media outlet and MSNBC.



The overwhelming response to TNS Climate Action Week resulted in over 4,000 people attending The New School's Climate Action Week events. In addition, the New School contingent at The People's Climate March included an estimated 300 students, faculty members, staff, friends and family.

Media Coverage

The New School's Climate Action Week, as well as its students, faculty and staff were mentioned and highlighted by a number of media articles and videos, over the course of the week and as New Schoolers marched in solidarity to demand climate justice on September 21, 2014. Below is a breakdown of some of the media coverage tracked during the weeklong events.

MSNBC (audience of 619,500):¹⁰

On Friday September 19th during the Pop Up Classes featured at the Union Square Green Market, MSNBC interviewed New School faculty and students to discuss why they were taking to the streets for the People's Climate March. Respondents highlighted the universal impact of climate change and addressed ways to mitigate it and to adapt. These ranged from creating more sustainable designs to leveraging social movements so as to communicate important messages to our leaders and being innovative in our ways of transitioning to a cleaner economy. The video can be found under the link below:

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/the-climate-change-generation-finds-its-voice>

¹⁰ "Pew Research Journalism Project," March 26, 2014, accessed October 24, 2014, <http://www.journalism.org/2014/03/26/state-of-the-news-media-2014-key-indicators-in-media-and-news/>.

***The Nation (1.2 million unique online visitors on average/month):*¹¹**

The Nation highlighted The New School's Climate Action Week as a series of events to look out for, with a special mention of Naomi Klein's book launch on September 18th, which the magazine was co-hosting. The online article noted that The New School, "[showcased] the creativity, solidarity and collective action of the growing climate movement."

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/181677/peoples-climate-weekend-guide>

***The International Business Times (audience of 30 million worldwide on average/month):*¹²**

Milano Students Molly Johnson and Fredrick Zindell as well as The New School were recognized by International Business Times for their participation in the People's Climate March.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/peoples-climate-change-march-nyc-diverse-coalition-activists-demands-action-climate-change-1692603>

***GRIST (audience of 600,000 on average/month):*¹³**

GRIST generously agreed to be a sponsor and a collaborator on our Climate Action Week series of events. Their coverage of climate issues and the environment generally is always done with a blend of humor and insight that inspires broad action and awareness of issues can sometimes feel overwhelming and complex.

In particular, GRIST wrote a review of the Disruption screening on September 7th. The authors describe how, "At the panel discussion after the film, Jean Gardner, a cowboy hat-clad professor at Parsons, the design school at The New School, exhorted the crowd to 'listen to the Earth.' 'We're all compliant' with climate change, said Gardner. "We're in an air-conditioned room ... We [should] own our complicity ... I heard the Earth saying that."

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/climate-film-gets-activists-pumped-for-nyc-march/>

GRIST also called attention to The New School's livestreaming of the People's Climate Summit under the following link:

<http://grist.org/article/watch-peoples-climate-justice-summit-livestreaming-now/>

Grist's CEO Chip Giller was also a featured speaker at the TNS Climate Action Week Rally Address on September 20th where he introduced Bill McKibben and spoke about the critical role that students and universities play in addressing climate change.

Additional New School mentions:

<http://billmoyers.com/2014/09/12/the-peoples-climate-march/>

<http://unearthnews.org/2014/09/20/the-peoples-climate-march-a-call-for-climate-justice/>

¹¹ "Online Media Kit," The Nation, 2009, accessed October 24, 2014, <http://www.thenation.com/online-media-kit-our-audience>.

¹² "About us," International Business Times, accessed October 24, 2014, <http://www.ibtimes.com/corporate/about>.

¹³ "Audience for Grist's Coverage of 'Poverty & the Environment' Surpasses 2.6 Million," Grist, Accessed October 24, 2014, <http://grist.org/pressroom/audience-for-grists-coverage-of-poverty-the-environment-surpasses-26-million/>.

Social Media

Social media conversations were anchored by #TNSClimateAction. Generally, the conversations on social media demonstrated the widespread enthusiasm and energy around climate events throughout campus. To view all content aggregated in a highly visual way, go to [#TNSClimateAction Tagboard](https://tagboard.com/TNSClimateAction/187982) (<https://tagboard.com/TNSClimateAction/187982>).

The storify page compiled by the Communications office depicts the excitement of the week and the march with visual and written stories across The New School community and beyond. The New School social media team has curated a social media timeline to feature highlights from both user and brand accounts: #TNSClimateAction Storify, (<https://storify.com/TheNewSchool/tnsclimateaction>).

The events of the week continued to draw viewers and attention beyond the march with preliminary numbers on hashtag activity since August 21st shown below:

- Users: 383
- Posts: 989
- Potential Reach: 7.5 Million (*based on each user's total follower count*)
- For real-time analytics, please view the live report , <http://keyhole.co/realtime/yGBJWV/TNSClimateAction>

These figures are based on the branded tag, thus these numbers represent a mere fraction of the total social reach of Climate Action Week programs. Some of the ***Top Influencer Interactions included:***

- @LisaPJackson, Apple's VP for Environmental Initiatives (1.2K followers)
- @Grist, Sponsor (162K followers)
- @DoSomething (729K followers) retweeted our Buzzfeed list
- @Peoples_Climate (13.5K followers)

The media coverage of The New School's Climate Action Week not only raised awareness on different climate change issues but also started a number of conversations as illustrated below. These conversations ranged from the need of The New School to divest from fossil fuel securities to bringing up windmills as alternative energy sources or to discussing the difference between smart agriculture vs. food sovereignty.

Selected tweets and Facebook comments include:

- Sustainable Cities Club (via Facebook), "It is time for The New School to divest! #TNSClimateAction #NSDivest".
- @jrsargenti (via Twitter), "Windmills in time square #ResilientAction #TNSClimateAction"
- @TNSarchives (via Twitter), "Before there was #TNSClimateAction there was the Parsons Earth Day Environmental Teach-In"
- @MilanoSchool (via Twitter), "We're discussing systems alternatives for living economies in Tishman Auditorium @TheNewSchool #TNSClimateAction"
- @MilanoSchool (via Twitter), "@CJAOurPower @TheNewSchool, smart agriculture vs. food sovereignty now in the auditorium 66 W 12"

The New School Free Press

The New School Free Press article under the link below addresses the issue of student activism and how it can be the most effective. Although the article incorrectly states that only 25 students attended the People's Climate March, it otherwise starts a conversation on the meaning of activism and on the types of actions students can take to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Is tweeting or updating a status on Facebook enough? What other actions can students take to address climate change?

<http://www.newschoolfreepress.com/2014/10/07/how-hard-are-we-really-trying/>

The convergences and conversations that Climate Action Week generated is a testament to the power of The New School community to engage actively in the world. The diversity of expressions of solidarity, action and ideation were on full display throughout the week.

Accomplishments and Lessons Learned

One of the most valuable outgrowths of convening Climate Action Week was the opportunity to work hand in hand with frontline communities and feature their oft-overlooked voices. Amid the clamor to gain the spotlight, sway policy makers and attract audiences, academic institutions can overly focus on “keynote” speakers or rock star scholars. But figures like Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein remind us that the real stories of suffering and solutions for systematic change begin and end in the frontline communities throughout the world. The New School, unlike any other academic institution involved in the events around the Climate March, committed itself to the work of solidarity around the goal of climate justice.

Beyond the opportunity to learn from the frontlines, The New School drew on its tremendous trans-disciplinary assets to feature possibilities for meaningful action across our community. Very few institutions of higher learning were as well positioned to attract the range of practitioners, community activists, policy makers and scholars that Climate Action Week featured.

The events also presented a rich learning environment that courses across the university could either attend and participate in or learn from in the future through the video documentation of many of the sessions. In the future, artifacts from specific events (videos, photos, reports, agendas, etc.) can be used to enhance curriculum and craft future discussions. Classes such as the Sustainability Perspectives course at Milano joined evening panels and wrote reflections on the impact that the panel sessions had on their worldviews related to climate and sustainability in general.

The more interactive events such as the climate march and rally, pop up classes and the sustainability building tour provided alternative avenues for active participation beyond the traditional panel presentations where students take a more passive role as observers. These opportunities put students, faculty, staff and the public in direct contact and offer new possibilities for engaged learning through doing. These activities give students an opportunity to become active environmental citizens in their own communities while serving as hosts to communities converging on New York City from around the world. Taken together, Climate Action Week created a rich environment for learning grounded in the complexities of the real world climate crisis

Lessons Learned

The richness of Climate Action Week also offered valuable insights into areas of growth and opportunity for learning for future initiatives. The very rapid pace of event planning and promotion left little room for a more expansive marketing and outreach strategy. In the future, a more comprehensive approach to promoting and developing events in collaboration with partners will ensure that our efforts are well publicized, attended and leveraged for maximum impact. More lead time to craft events in partnership with other schools within the University would further promote cross disciplinary approaches, foster cross school collaborations and appeal to diverse audiences.

Future Directions for Climate Action

Climate Action Week and the People's Climate March were more than just singular events that galvanized a large number of people. They were about building a movement and creating a catalyst for a sustained fight against climate change by building stronger connections within The New School community as well as with frontline organizations, activists and scholars. Although the march is over, the work continues both in the communities around the world as well as within our own community. As we reflect on the impact of the events hosted at The New School, we consider the potential to be leaders in the efforts to address climate change. In the short term, The New School is committed to continuing efforts on campus that reflect our values around social justice, climate action and interdisciplinary and engaged learning. Some of these actions that are on the horizon include:

- The development of sustainability-oriented courses, workshops and events including a Climate Resiliency event on January 27, 2015 cohosted by Venable Corporation.
- The engagement of the Tishman Environment and Design Center around climate justice events and initiatives
- Student led programming around climate issues including the Sustainable Cities Club programming for Earth Day 2015 and Sustainapolooza event.
- The exploration of on campus sustainability commitments like STARS certification.
- Convening of climate justice leaders and organizations to discuss domestic and international climate policies for resiliency and mitigation as part of a Ford Foundation funded Just Cities collaboration.

These efforts put The New School on the path towards the long-term goal of being the leading academic institution focused on climate justice issues grounded in community based participatory action research, interdisciplinary design and policy informed practice and scholarship and campus wide climate action commitments. When asked what institutions like the New School can contribute to the climate movement, Naomi Klein and Bill McKibben both spoke to the power young people in leading the change that will be required to tackle these issues. They reflected on the special role of Institutions of Higher Learning to put into practice the values they teach young people and the unique place of The New School in nurturing honest, open dialogue about these issues.¹⁴ Naomi Klein reflects on why she choose The New School to launch her new book on climate change, *"The New School has such a rich progressive history. It has an incredible track record of supporting unpopular issues and it really stands up for a genuine exchange of ideas. Tonight you're going to see a genuine cross section of the City here. You're going to have students here and academics and activists from all around the world who are coming to the climate march and activists from all parts of New York City who were impacted by Super Storm Sandy. So it's going to be a great intersection between the community and the campus."*¹⁵ Climate change is one of the most pressing problems of our time and we will do well to heed the call for leadership grounded in our history of progressivism and public engagement.

¹⁴ For the full interview with Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, go to, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDnE0-H31xs>

¹⁵ For the full interview with Naomi Klein, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH0Lge99Txc>