

EXPLORING PATHWAYS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY, ZERO WASTE & JUSTICE



MAY 8, 2018
An International Conference

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

Globally, we face a mounting waste management and resource depletion crisis. The world is on target to produce 11 million tons of waste per day by the year 2100, tripling today's waste production rate. Waste disposal facilities, landfills and manufacturing are significant sources of greenhouse gases. As the world's population increasingly urbanizes and the climate crisis worsens, the global economy will face catastrophic planetary boundaries if we continue to produce and consume at levels set by western standards. Tackling these challenges will require tremendous interdisciplinary and intersectional effort. We must consider transformative changes to how we make, use and dispose of goods.

The Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School, is collaborating with GAIA, a global alliance of more than 800 anti-incinerator and waste advocates, to host the first Environmental Justice, Zero Waste & Circular Economy Conference on May 8, 2017. The Conference will convene experts from around the world and a variety of fields to share and showcase innovative designs, advocacy campaigns and scholarly research across this often siloed field.

The conference will focus how these issues of production, consumption and waste impact environmental justice communities, workers and vulnerable populations, locally and globally. We will create a platform for participants to engage with researchers, designers and activists fighting for just and sustainable systems.

GOALS

- * To establish stronger linkages along with an online platform between people across disciplines and advocacy circles that have a commitment to environmental justice through the promotion, design and research of zero waste and circular economy practices and scholarship.
- * To inform policy and promote collaborative, interdisciplinary research relevant to practitioners.
- * Together with our partners, disseminate more broadly knowledge and research for public consumption, policy makers, decision makers, industries, advocates and practitioners.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Annie Leonard - Keynote Speaker, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA, activist, proponent of sustainability and critic of consumerism.

Dr. Mathy Stanislaus - Senior Advisor on Accelerating Circular Economy Practices at the World Economic Forum. Previously, Dr. Stanislaus served as Assistant Administrator in the USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, where he led programs around revitalizing communities through the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites.

Dr. Ana Baptista - Assistant Professor of Professional Practice at Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy and Associate Director of the Tishman Center. Dr. Baptista previously served as the Director of the Energy and Environment Program at the Regional Plan Association (RPA) and Director of Environmental and Planning programs for the Ironbound Community Corporation.

Brian McGrath - Professor of Urban Design and served as Dean of the School of Constructed Environments at Parsons School of Design. He is also the founder and principal of urban-interface, an consultancy fusing expertise in urban design, ecology and media. McGrath is a Co-Principal Investigator in the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, a National Science Foundation's Long Term Ecological Research, where he leads the Urban Design Working Group.

Timo Rissanen - Assistant Professor of Fashion Design and Sustainability at Parsons School of Design since 2010. Prior to Parsons he was faculty at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia, for seven years. He was born in Finland and trained as a fashion designer at UTS. Rissanen completed a practice-based PhD at UTS in 2013, focusing on zero waste fashion design.

Joel Towers - Executive Dean of Parsons School of Design. From 2007-2009 Towers was the Dean of the School of Design Strategies [SDS] at Parsons and Associate Professor of Architecture and Sustainable Design at Parsons. Towers was the first Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center [TED] at The New School and the Associate Provost for Environmental Studies at the university.

Barent Roth - a designer and professor dedicated to creating and teaching the importance of sustainable products, practices, and services. Co-founder of the award winning sustainable to restorative design firm grow-design, and the creator of the LA Green Drinks network, Barent started teaching a Green Living Workshop with Sustainable Works, a Santa Monica based non-profit committed to Environmental Education and Action, and quickly rose to Executive Director of the organization.

GAIA Members/Leaders

Ahmina Maxey - GAIA's U.S. and Canada Regional Coordinator. Prior to this she was the Community Outreach Coordinator of the Zero Waste Detroit coalition where she successfully advocated for curbside recycling and materials recovery, and organized to close down the Detroit incinerator, one of the largest waste burners in the U.S. Ahmina was also Associate Director at the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC).

CONFERENCE THEMES

Discussions/workshops will be held on the following topics with experts:

1. Pathways to Zero Waste - Global and local cases, policies and practices
2. Sustainable Fashion/Future of Textiles
3. Innovations in Circular Economy - Examples from specific industries, i.e. electronics
4. Design Alternatives for a Circular Economy - Product redesign, Life Cycle Analysis
5. Breaking Free from Plastics - a whole systems approach to zero waste from extraction to consumption.

For more information, please contact **Adrienne Perovich**,
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