

UCI Newkirk Center
for Science & Society

**ECONOMIC TRANSITION IN THE ANTHROPOCENE:
ENSURING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR HUMANITY**

Beckman Center of The National Academies of Sciences & Engineering

24-26 April 2019

We are in a period of systemic upheaval. For the first time in the evolution of life on Earth, human dominance of the planet's biological, chemical and geological processes is seriously disrupting our critical life support systems. Profoundly related to this, the economic orthodoxy that has dominated western politics and culture for the past 40 years is rapidly losing legitimacy. In the face of multiple crises—environmental breakdown, increased inequality of income and opportunity, growing political polarization—the ideas and assumptions behind today's economic theory fail to adequately explain or fix what is going so wrong.

Political economic paradigms do not last forever. The evident failings of mainstream economic theory, together with our growing understanding of the economy as complex, dynamic, embedded in natural environments, and deeply influenced by human history, cultures, values and behavior, suggest that the conditions for a new and better understanding of the economy are beginning to emerge. To create the space for transition we must go beyond debates focused on incremental policy change and develop a better analysis of our economic system as it is and not as we might like it to be.

This conference will explore today's political-economy and its role in shaping the Anthropocene and our future. We'll explore questions relating to power, such as who gets what and why, how power becomes concentrated, and how can we increase opportunity and fairness while displacing entrenched vested interests. We'll also investigate whether and how business as usual can enable us to live safely within the boundaries of nature, the ultimate arbiter of human wellbeing.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

- 7:00 PM Evening Speaker
Gayle Peterson, Associate Fellow at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford and Senior Managing Director of pfc social impact advisors
– *Setting the Stage: Insights from the Field*

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH

- 9:00-9:15 WELCOME
*Richard Matthew, Director, The Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation;
Associate Dean, School of Social Ecology for Research and International Programs*
- 9:15-9:30 INTRODUCTION
Leslie Harroun, Director, Partners for a New Economy
- 9:30-10:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff OECD, Sherpa to the G20
– *We Need New Approaches to Economic Thinking and Acting*
- 10:15-11:30 EDGING TOWARDS NATURE'S PRECIPICE: THE MARKET IN THE ANTHROPOCENE
Moderator –
Speakers
– *Daniel Pauly, University of British Columbia Killam Professor, Sea Around Us;
Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries & Department of Zoology*
– *Helga Weisz, Head of Research, Transdisciplinary Concepts and Methods,
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research*
– *Laurie Laybourn-Langton, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy
Research and Co-founder, Strategy & Communications Group, Ltd.*
- 11:30-11:45 BREAK
- 11:45-1:00 THE MARKET, THE STATE AND DEMOCRACY
Moderator – Tom Kruse, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Speakers
– *Nell Abernathy, Vice President, Research and Policy, Roosevelt Institute*
– *Barry Lynn, Executive Director, Open Markets Institute and author of Cornered:
The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction*
– *Jonathan Westin, Executive Director, New York Communities for Change*
- 1:00-2:30 LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS
*Carl Safina, Endowed Chair in Nature and Humanities, SUNY Stony Brook; Safina
Center; award-winning author*
- 2:30-3:45 NARRATIVE AND VALUES: CHANGING MINDSETS, CHANGING THE RULES
Moderator – Helga Weisz, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
Speakers
– *Annie Neimand, Research Director for the Center for Public Interest
Communications, University of Florida College of Journalism and
Communications.*
– *Megha Agrawal, Director of Programs, Exposure Labs*
- 3:45-4:15 BREAK
- 4:15-5:30 TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS: THE NEW POLITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY?
Moderator –

Speakers

- *Gayle Peterson, Associate Fellow at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford and Senior Managing Director of pfc social impact advisors*
- *William Patterson, Board Member, Climate Majority Project and trustee of United Auto Workers Retiree Medical Benefits Trust*

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH

9:00-9:15 WELCOME

9:15-10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Eric Beinhocker, Executive Director, Institute for New Economic Thinking, Oxford Martin School

10:00-11:15 REIMAGINING A POLITICAL-ECONOMY FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

Moderator – Michael Jacobs

Speakers

- *Julia Steinberger, Associate Professor in Ecological Economics, Leeds University (via Zoom)*
- *Heather Boushey, Executive Director and Chief Economist, Washington Center for Equitable Growth*
- *Mark Paul, Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute and Assistant Professor of Economics at New College of Florida*

11:15-11:30 BREAK

11:30-1:00 BUILDING THE NEXT ECONOMY FROM THE GROUND UP

Moderator – Leslie Harroun

Speakers

- *Miatta Fahnbulleh, Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation*
- *Michael Jacobs, Professorial Research Fellow at SPERI and the Department of Politics at the University of Sheffield and Co-founder, Strategy & Communications Group, Ltd.*
- *Ronnie Galvin, Vice President of Engaged Practice, The Democracy Collaborative*
- *Martin Rich, Co-founder and Executive Director, Future-Fit Business Benchmark*