

.... BACKGROUND

Many universities across the world perform state-of-the-art research on matters related to climate change, both in respect of mitigation, and adaptation. Yet, as shown by the latest 21st Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), held in Paris in December 2015, there is much room for improvements in the role played by universities in the negotiations and in influencing decision-making on a matter of such a global importance.

There are unfortunately relatively few events where a multidisciplinary overview of university-based research efforts and projects on climate change can be showcased, and where researchers from across the spectrum of the natural and social sciences have had the opportunity to come together to discuss research methods, the results of empirical research or exchange ideas about on-going and future research initiatives focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It is against this background that the 4th Symposium “**Universities and Climate Change**” is being organized by the University of Aveiro (Portugal), Manchester Metropolitan University, (UK), and HAW Hamburg, Germany, under the auspices of the International Climate Change Information and Research Programme (ICCIRP).

The event will focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation on the one hand, and the role of ecological and socioenvironmental factors, on the other. The role played by the presence, quality and usability of green spaces and other green infrastructure such as street trees, green walls and roofs in climate change mitigation and adaptation in an urban context will also be explored.

The event will involve researchers in the field of climate change in the widest sense, not only from traditional climate science, but also from the fields of environment, human geography, business and economics, arts, administration and media studies.

The Symposium will reiterate the role of climate change research and projects in fostering climate action, and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field.

. . . AIMS

The aims of the Symposium are as follows:

- I. to provide researchers at universities from across the world performing research on issues pertaining climate change with an opportunity to display and present their works and research projects;

- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of research projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of climate change across society and economic sectors and;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

The networking and personal interactions enabled by the Symposium will be very positive for university staff interested in international collaboration on climate change, helping them to foster partnerships to apply and secure new research projects from programmes such as HORIZON 2020, ERASMUS and Europe-AID among others, as well in being part of Consortia bidding for grants from international organizations (e.g. World Bank, GEF, etc) and other funding bodies. Those planning to initiate new research projects on climate change and looking for new partners, will also find the Symposium very useful.

Moreover, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on climate change research at universities taking place today. To this purpose, a peer-reviewed publication titled **“Integrative Approaches in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”** will be produced. The publication will be part of the award-winning “Climate Change Management Series” (launched in 2008), which is the most influential peer-reviewed book series on matters related to climate change: <https://www.springer.com/series/8740> . It is published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers. The peer-reviewed nature of the publications in the “Climate Change Management Series” means that they officially count for promotion and tenure purposes.

The event will also closely engage doctoral students undertaking research on climate change, who are encouraged to attend it.

... PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the Symposium will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

- i. teaching staff
- ii. research staff;
- iii. postgraduate students
- iv. project officers and consultants;
- v. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards research on climate change and, hence contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.

. . . STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

Strand 1: the poster displays

Participating universities will be able to put-up poster displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into two main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of research on climate change today. These are:

Session 1: Research on Climate Change Mitigation

Session 2: Research on Climate Change Adaptation

Submitted papers will be structured around these two main sessions.

. . . DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20th June 2020

Deadline for submission of papers: 28th September 2020

Deadline for full, revised papers: 28th October 2020

Deadline for registrations: 20th November 2020

Since the book is planned to be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

... TIMETABLE

The Symposium will be held on 21st-22nd January 2021. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday 21th January 2021	Thursday 21th January 2021
<p>Morning: arrival and registration</p> <p>09:00- 10:00 -Registration</p> <p>10:00-11:00- Plenary Session</p> <p>11:30-13:00- Parallel Sessions 1 and 2</p> <p>13:00-14:00- Lunch</p>	<p>Afternoon:</p> <p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Parallel Sessions 3 and 4</p> <p>Evening: Reception and networking</p>
Friday 22st January 2021	Friday 22 st January 2021
<p>Morning</p> <p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Parallel Sessions 5 and 6</p> <p>13:00-14:00- Lunch</p>	<p>Afternoon</p> <p>14:00-15:00- Final plenary session and close of the event, with the hand-over of the Best Paper Awards</p> <p>15.00- Departure</p>

The venue of the Symposium is: central campus of University of Aveiro, in Portugal.

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organize their travel in a way that allows them to arrive on time to attend the plenary session and travel back in the late afternoon of 21st January 2021, since **the best papers awards** will be handed over at around 14.30 on that day.

... ABOUT THE VENUE AND THE ORGANISERS

The "**Symposium on Universities and Climate Change: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**" will be held at the University of Aveiro, in Portugal, one of the most prominent higher education institutions in the country. It is a modern university, located in Aveiro, with state-of-the-art facilities, science innovation and Sustainability Best Practices for conferences and events, offering a campus and infrastructure that configure the ideal venue for the Symposium.

Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM), one of the research units of the University of Aveiro, mission is to *develop leading international research on environmental sciences and related risks, including extreme weather events and climate change, with emphasis on complex socio-ecological coastal systems and marine areas* and will support the Initiative.

... FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of Euro 200 will be charged to delegates who register until 30th June 2021 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 250. The reduced fee for MSc/PhD students is Euro 100. The fee includes free lunches and coffee breaks on 21st-22nd January 2021. Authors contributing to the book "**Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**" will receive free on-line access to their papers and to the complete publication.

This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

... HOW TO REGISTER

Registrations should be made at the Symposium's web site at: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/aveiro2021.html>

... ORGANISERS

- University of Aveiro, Portugal
- Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Research and Transfer Centre "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management"
- Department of Biology, University of Aveiro
- International Climate Change Information and Research Programme (ICCIRP)
- Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM), University of Aveiro, Portugal

... NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Baltic University Programme (BUP)

Chairs

- Prof. Walter Leal, HAW Hamburg (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Prof. Ulisses M Azeiteiro, Department of Biology & CESAM, University of Aveiro (Portugal)

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- Dr. Evangelos Manolas, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
- Prof. David Chávez Muñoz, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru
- Prof. Justice Nyamangara, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe
- Prof. Nicholas Otienoh Oguge, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Prof. Michael Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- Prof. Anirudh Singh, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Prof. Luis Vargas, University of Chile, Chile
- Prof. Menas Wuta, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

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Prof. Rosa Freitas, Department of Biology & CESAM, University of Aveiro (Portugal)

Dra Andreia Setti, PostDoc, Department of Biology & CESAM, University of Aveiro (Portugal)

CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON THE PUBLICATIONS

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Dr. Mihaela Sima
Institute of Geography
Romanian Academy
E-mail: simamik@yahoo.com

. . . CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to local logistics and information on hotels should be sent to:

Dra Andreia Setti andreiasetti@gmail.com, PostDoc, Department of Biology & CESAM, University of Aveiro (Portugal)

. . . HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract in page 10.

Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information. Please send your abstract to Dr. Mihaela Sima at: simamik@yahoo.com

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which may slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn- prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.