

The Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences invite you to attend the conference

**ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE TIMES OF  
ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE DISRUPTION:  
PART OF THE PROBLEM OR THE SOLUTION?**

**31 October 2019, 9:30 – 16:00**

**The Czech Academy of Sciences, Národní 3, Prague 1, Room 206**

Signs of planetary climate and ecological disruption have proliferated over the last few years. A growing body of robust evidence suggests that human activity is increasingly disrupting the earth's geological, climatic and biological systems. Not only environmental NGOs and activists, but also researchers and established academic bodies (including the IPCC and the European Academies' Science Advisory Council) are calling for urgent changes in order to mitigate anthropogenic impact. This includes changing the current "modern" modes of food production, energy production, travel, and waste management. Many, in fact, propose a radical rethinking of the overall relation between nature and culture as well as economy and ecology in order to better accommodate humanity's inextricable entanglement with the environment.

The successful transition to a post-carbon and ecologically sustainable world appears to require actions and commitments by a diverse set of actors – from nations to cities, businesses to governmental organizations, communities to individuals. Academic institutions and communities can potentially play a huge and positive role in this process. Academically produced knowledge is crucial for identifying and understanding the planet's unfolding ecological condition, as well as devising possible strategies for coping. These strategies might not only point to technological but also social innovation and change. At the same time, academic communities need to critique and modify their own practices, standards, and expectations in order to reduce their harmful environmental impacts. This includes reconsidering the modes and intensity of travelling, and use of energy and other resources, including waste management. Not only could such practical changes significantly and positively shape the planet's emerging ecological state, but they could also add to the public authority of science when researchers and institutions call for societal action.

The conference will provide an insight into the current international debates in these issues and the tangible steps European academic institutions and communities are making to increase their ecological sustainability. A special panel will be dedicated to developments and efforts in the academic landscape in the Czech Republic.

**The event is organised by the 'Responsible Research and Innovation' group supported under Strategy AV 21 and under the auspices of the President of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prof. Eva Zažímalová.**

The event will be held in English without translation.

**Space is limited. Book your place by 25 October 2019 by filling up this [online form](#).**

## PROGRAMME

**9:30-10:00 Registration**

**10:00-10:10 Welcome and introduction by Tereza Stöckelová** (Institute of Sociology, CAS)

**10:10-11:10 SUSTAIN IT! MANAGING SUSTAINABILITY AND ENABLING PARTICIPATION AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN**

Lecture by **Andreas Wanke** (Freie Universität Berlin)

The lecture will introduce the general development (from energy to sustainability management) at Freie Universität Berlin and its most important milestones. It will specifically address the topic of flight emissions, providing an outline of currently options considered to reduce flight-related greenhouse gases.

**11:10-11:30 -----Coffee break-----**

**11:30-13:00 TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AT CZECH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

Panel discussion with representatives of Czech university and research institutions **Tat'ána Petrasová** (AV ČR), **Tomáš Vaněk** (AVU) and the representatives of Charles University (tbc) and Masaryk University (tbc)

**13:00-14:00 -----Lunch break-----**

**14:00-14:45 RETHINKING THE CONFERENCE FORMAT**

Lecture by **Michelle Bastian** (University of Edinburgh)

Drawing on her current experiences of redesigning an international conference series to become 'nearly carbon neutral', Michelle will reflect on how we reconsider the ways we think about time and community within the practices of academic knowledge exchange while committed to moving to a non-flying/flying-less approach. What does this mean for modes of synchronisation and coordinating ourselves across space and time?

**14:45-15:30 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY IN A POST-CARBON WORLD**

Lecture by **Jana Bacevic** (Cambridge University)

This presentation engages with political-economic preconditions and implications of decarbonizing academic knowledge production. What would a 'low-carbon academia' look like? What kind of modes of recognition, valorization and evaluation would it require? What are the implications for elements particularly reliant on mobility, e.g. international cooperation in knowledge production? The presentation draws on sociology of critique (e.g. Boltanski and Thevenot, 2006) and sociology of valuation (e.g. Lamont, 2012) to consider some of these questions.

**15:30-16:00 Open mic: plenary discussion and networking**