

Overview of Speakers

Werner Gephart is Director of the Emile Durkheim Unit: Crisis Analysis and Founder of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg Law as Culture.

Anna-Katharina Hornidge is Director of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn.

Christoph Antweiler is Senior Professor for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Bonn.

Saida Mirsadri is Senior Lecturer at Faculty of Autonomous Protestant Theology at the University of Geneva.

Jean Carlo Rodríguez de Francisco is Senior Researcher at German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) for Ecological Economics.

Yousra Abourabi is Associate Professor of Political Science at Sciences Po Rabat, within the International University of Rabat (UIR) Morocco.

Conrad J. Schetter is Director of the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC).

Niklas Wagner is Post-Doctoral Researcher in the Environmental Governance and Transformation to Sustainability programme at IDOS.

Claudia Hiepe is Senior Policy Officer at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany.

Melanie Coath is Principal Policy Officer and Climate Change lead at the RSPB.

Thaynah Gutierrez Gomes is Climate and Environmental Racism Advisor at Geledés – Black Women's Institute in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and serves as the Executive Secretary of the Network for Antiracist Adaptation.

Nady Mahmoud is climate and nature expert working as Nature-Based Solutions and Restoration Lead with the High Level Climate Champions Team.

Janet Laurence is prominent Sydney-based Australian artist known for her multi-disciplinary work that explores the interconnection of all living things.

Pierre Brunet is Professor of Public Law at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

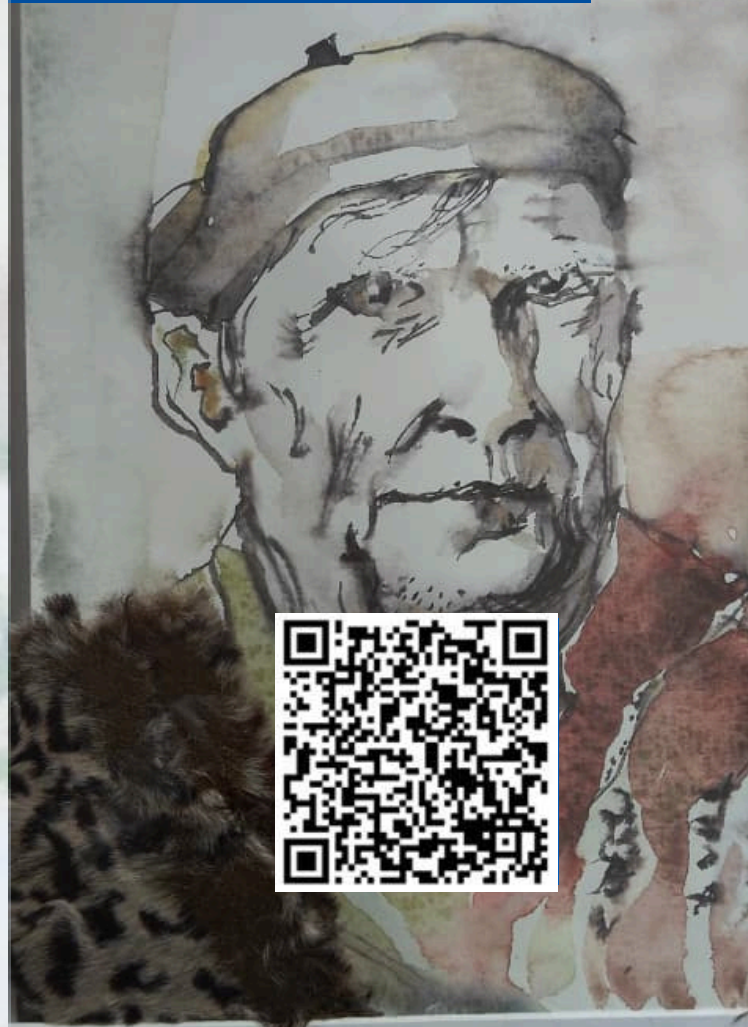
Ines Dombrowsky heads the Environmental Governance Department at IDOS and is a Honorary Professor at Leuphana University of Lüneburg.

Daniel Grana-Behrens is Senior Researcher and Cultural Anthropologist at the University of Bonn.

Richard Münch is Professor Emeritus known for his extensive work in social theory, macrosociology, and the study of academic systems.

Registration

..... please register under the QR code:



Images: Werner Gephart
Design: Thorsten Gerwin

Venue
Argelanderstraße 1
53115 Bonn

Climate Change as a Crisis of Nature?

12. - 13. June 2026



UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**

RHEINISCHE
FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-
UNIVERSITÄT BONN

CRISIS ANALYSIS
ÉMILE DURKHEIM
RESEARCH UNIT

Abstract

Climate change represents not only an environmental transformation but a profound social, cultural, economic, political, and legal crisis. The conference is part of a series that began with the crisis sphere of 'war', exploring the question of its societal origins, and now turns to climate change as a 'crisis of nature', which we are interrogating in collaboration with IDOS.

This interdisciplinary conference examines how diverse epistemic traditions, governance regimes, economic structures, and normative frameworks shape both the perception and regulation of nature's transformation.

Key themes include the Anthropocene as a conceptual challenge, climate skepticism and scientific authority, cross-cultural configurations of human-nature relations, the politicisation and economisation of nature (including emissions trading), the discourse on the rights of nature, and the philosophical implications of the Gaia hypothesis as a "Verrechtlichung" of nature.

Bringing together natural, social, and cultural sciences, the conference seeks to foster reflexive dialogue on the conceptual foundations of "nature" and to critically assess the conditions for collective action in the face of escalating global crisis and dramatic catastrophies.

Programme Fr. 12.06

09:00 Werner Gephart & Anna-Katharina Hornidge
Introduction

10:00 Christoph Antweiler
Keynote: Anthropocene – A Conceptual Earthquake for Established Concepts of Nature?

I. Climate Change as a Cultural Problem: The Cultural Significance of "Naturverhältnis"

11:00 Werner Gephart
The Re-Sacralisation of Nature: Will it Save the World?

11:45 Saida Mirsadri
Rethinking Human-Nature Relations in Islamic Thought under Ecological Crisis

12:30 Jean Carlo Rodríguez de Francisco
Nature for whom? Nature-based Solutions and Environmental Justice

II. Climate Change as a Governance Problem: The Politicization of Nature

14:30 Yousra Abourabi
Governance Challenges in Africa

15:15 Conrad J. Schetter
Global Risk, Conflicts, and the Impossible Global Risk Society

16:00 Anna-Katharina Hornidge
Keynote: Environmental Governance: Failures and Fallacies

17:00 Niklas Wagner, Claudia Hiepe, Melanie Coath, Thaynah Gutierrez and Nady Mahmoud
The Climate-Nature Nexus in the Triple COP Year: Discourses Shaping Practice across the Rio Conventions

Programme Sa. 13.06

III. Climate Change as an Economic Problem: The Economization of Nature

10:00 **The Breath in Art: Can art create the space for healing?**
Artist Talk with Janet Laurence & Werner Gephart

10:45 Pierre Brunet
What Kind of Nature Should Be Granted Rights?

11:30 Ines Dombrowsky
Sustainable Development Scenarios: Reflections on Societal and Policy Assumptions

IV. Climate Change as a Legal-Normative Problem Legislation and Moralization of Nature

14:00 Tba.
The End of "Natural Law" and the Law of Nature

14:45 Daniel Grana-Behrens
What Nature? The Epistemological Crisis as an Ontological Crisis—From Anthropology to Sociology

15:30 Richard Münch
Keynote: Climate Change: The Culture of Modernity in Reflexive Self-Confrontation

Moderators

Adrian Hermann
Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa
Werner Gephart