

Arts Cabinet



LEVERHULME

Centre for Wildfires,
Environment and Society

KING'S
College
LONDON

In
partnership
with



Wildfires in the Lab: creative experiments through art and science



Photo: A local campaign provides masks to help protect children and raise awareness of the hazardous air quality caused by extensive peat burning in Palangkaraya, Indonesia (2015). Photo by Vissia Ardiyan

Wildfires in the Lab: creative experiments through art and science

14 and 15 July 2021
The Exchange / King's College London

This virtual Learning Lab is hosted by The Exchange based in the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy at King's College London. It brings together artists and scientists who have been working together over the last three months, experimenting with different forms of representing, interpreting and understanding wildfires – from a variety of perspectives, literally, metaphorically and scientifically.

The sessions will be open to the public and aim to spark discussions between the public, the scientists and the artists.

The Lab will open with keynotes from researchers at King's College London and the Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society, as well as a guest-speaker from a contemporary art/ecology perspective.

[Register here](#)

Please scroll down to the end of the document for biographical information.

Day 1: Wednesday 14 July

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 11.00 | Welcome Words by The Exchange / Jayne Peake |
| 11.10 | Wildfires Introduction – short film |
| 11.20 | Prof. Kate Schreckenberg |
| 11.30 | Dr Apostolos Voulgarakis |
| 11.40 | Dr Lucia Pietroiusti – ‘ <i>Phlogiston</i> ’ |
| 11.55 | Dr Niall Sreenan |
| 12.00 | <i>-Lunch break-</i> |
| 12.45 | Short clip introducing key moments of the Editorial ‘Wildfires (Working Title)’ and the artists/scientist |
| 12.50 | Introducing the Editorials and presenting the moderators:
Svetlana Sequeira Costa / Adriana Ford / Clementine Butler-Gallie |
| 13.00 | Artist/Scientist Lab 1: Where is Human-Fire Agency?
Christina Della Giustina, artist
Cathy Smith, Scientist
Jay Mistry, Scientist
Moderator: Clementine Butler-Gallie |
| 13.45 | Q&A |
| 14.00 | Artist/Researcher Lab 2: Recorded History in Charcoal
Vajiko Chachkhiani, Artist
Moderator: Dr Adriana Ford |
| 14.45 | Q&A |
| 15.00 | <i>-Break-</i> |
| 16.00 | Artist/Researcher Lab 3: After Prometheus: Exploring the fire evolution and mutation of the fire-human symbiosis
Daniel Ranalli, Artist
Daniele Colombaroli, Scientist
Moderator: Svetlana Sequeira Costa |
| 16.45 | Q&A |
| 17.00 | Concluding Remarks
Svetlana Sequeira Costa |
| 17.15 | Final words and comment on next day
Jayne Peake (The Exchange) |

Day 2: Thursday 15 July

- 09.45 **Welcome by Jayne Peake**
- 09.50 **Recall of findings from Day 1**
Svetlana Sequeira Costa
- 10.00 **Artist/Scientist Lab Session 4 : Burning Bodies Fires Land and
Reproduction**
Dr. Luiza Prado De O. Martins, Artist
Sophie De Pauw. Scientist
Moderator: Dr Adriana Ford
- 10.45 Q&A
- 11.00 *-Break-*
- 11.10 **Artists/Scientists Lab Session 5: The Need Fire**
Maria Thereza Alves, Artist
Elisa Strinna, Artist
Abigail Croker, Scientist
Kapil Yadav, Scientist
Moderator: Svetlana Sequeira Costa
- 11.55 Q&A
- 12.10 *-Lunch break-*
- 14.30 **Artist/Scientist Lab Session 6 : What does Fire Think?**
Aviva Rahmani, Artist
Olivia Haas, Scientist
Moderator: Clementine Butler-Gallie
- 15.15 Q&A
- 15.30 **Artist/Scientist Lab Session 7: Predicting Fire**
Anna Mayer, Artist
Simona Dossi, Scientist
- 16.15 Q&A
- 16.30 **Concluding Remarks** – Mary O’Neill and Adriana Ford
- 16.45 End

[Register here](#)

Biographies

* in order of the day

Jayne Peake is the engagement manager for King's College London's The Exchange. She supports, develops and delivers socially engaged research initiatives and creative teaching practices reflecting the full breadth of expertise across the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy. Through a programme of creative activities, hosted in the Faculty's Exchange space, she is responsible for delivering relevant, innovative and accessible research and teaching that enhances impact, and engages positively with communities in service to society.

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/jayne-elizabeth-peake>

Prof. Kate Schreckenberg is a researcher on natural resource governance. Her main interests focus on community-based resource management and equity in the context of ecosystem services. Kate has 30 years' experience of research and policy advice in the developing world, including fieldwork in Africa, Asia and Latin America, mostly on multi-disciplinary and multi-country collaborative research projects

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/kate-schreckenberg>

Dr Apostolos Voulgarakis is an Associate Director, and Founding Director, of the Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society. He is Associate Professor at the Technical University of Crete and remains a part-time Reader at Imperial within the Department of Physics, in the Space and Atmospheric Physics Group. His research focuses on atmospheric composition and climate modelling.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/a.voulgarakis>

Dr Lucia Pietroiusti is a curator working at the intersection of art, ecology and systems, usually outside of the gallery format. She is Curator of General Ecology at the Serpentine Galleries, London as well as the curator of Sun & Sea (Marina) by Rugile Barzdiukaite, Vaiva Grainyte and Lina Lapelyte, the Lithuanian Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (and 2020-2022 international tour). She is one of the curators of the 13th Shanghai Biennale, Bodies of Water (2020/2021, with Andrés Jaque, Chief Curator; Marina Otero Verzier; Filipa Ramos and You Mi). At the Serpentine, Pietroiusti founded, programmes and curates the long-term General Ecology project.

<https://luciapietroiusti.earth/>

Dr Niall Sreenan is a Research Associate at the Policy Institute at King's, with broad responsibility for supporting the impact of social science research across all faculties at King's. He manages the IAA's funding schemes, training and development, and events, and provides support for researchers seeking to develop projects for external engagement, knowledge exchange, and impact.

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/niall-sreenan>

Svetlana Sequeira Costa is the founding director of Arts Cabinet. She has been working in the field of art and culture transnationally for over 20 years, with major institutions, leading artists, public and private. She is passionately committed to working with artists and to add value to the development of their work. She is a Research Fellow at Goldsmiths College London (ICCE), and an Associate Researcher with the Fine Art Department of the University of Agder (Norway).

<https://www.artscabinet.org/about>

Dr Adriana Ford is the Centre Manager of The Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society, based at King's College London and Imperial College London. She oversees the operational and logistical needs of the Centre, supports the development of the research programmes, and leads the Centre's communications and collaborations. Her background is in environmental social sciences and natural sciences, including work on wetlands, fisheries and invasive species, and she is leading the Wildfires at the Art-Science Interface strand at the Centre.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/a.ford>

Clementine Butler-Gallie's work merges curation, artistic research, and writing. Her practice stems from an interest in testing and developing durational exhibition models that see curation as a performative act. She is part of the Berlin-based curatorial collective East of Elsewhere and works as a curatorial researcher and project's manager for Arts Cabinet.

<https://www.clementinebutlergallie.com/about>

Christina Della Giustina lives and works in Amsterdam. She lectures at HKU Fine Arts, MA and BA departments at University of the Arts Utrecht, and is about to complete her practice-based PhD at Slade School of Fine Art, UCL. Christina studied Philosophy, Art History and Linguistics at University Zürich and Fine Art and Political Theory at Jan van Eyck Academy Maastricht. Her trans-disciplinary artistic research practice explores more-than-human encounters as political ecology understanding the sonic as medium for relationality.

<https://www.dg-c.org/>

Dr Cathy Smith is a human geographer and postdoctoral researcher in the Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment, and Society, based at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her academic background crosses the natural and social sciences. Her previous research has focused on colonial legacies in fire management in Belize, where she also worked for three years in a community-based fire management project. In her spare time, she loves to rock climb, cook, and paint. <https://centreforwildfires.org/people/dr-cathy-smith/>

Prof. Jay Mistry is an Associate Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment, and Society, and Professor of Environmental Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London, with fire experience across the natural and social sciences. Her research on fire focuses on Indigenous / traditional fire management and bringing together scientific and local knowledges for intercultural governance.

[https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/jay-mistry\(21cb3408-1419-4ec2-9b70-bcf46c0bfac4\).html](https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/jay-mistry(21cb3408-1419-4ec2-9b70-bcf46c0bfac4).html)

Vajiko Chachkhiani (born 1985 in Tbilisi, Georgia) lives and works in Berlin and Tbilisi. He studied Mathematics and Informatics at the Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia before turning to Fine Art, which he studied in the class of Prof. Gregor Schneider at Universität der Künste (UdK), Berlin, Germany. Solo exhibitions include Both, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany (2014), Living Dog Among Dead Lions, Georgian Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale, Italy (2017), Moment in and out of time, SCAI The Bathhouse gallery, Tokyo, Japan (2018). Vajiko Chachkhiani has been working on fiction and artist films since 2005. <https://www.danielmarzona.com/artists/vajiko-chachkhiani/>

Daniel Ranalli grew up in coastal Connecticut. He has been working as a visual artist for over 45 years. His work is in the permanent collections of over thirty museums here and abroad including the Museum of Modern Art (NY), Museum of Fine Arts Boston, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Harvard Art Museums, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Rose Art Museum (Brandeis), List Art Gallery (MIT) and National Gallery of American Art (Smithsonian). He has been included in over 150 solo and group shows in the U.S. and abroad. Daniel has also been the recipient of two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and multiple fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

<https://www.danielranalli.com/>

Dr Daniele Colombaroli is a Lecturer in Physical Geography in the Centre for Quaternary Research, Department of Geography, RHUL. He first graduated in Natural Sciences at the University of Milan, and then completed his PhD in Plant Sciences in Switzerland. Before moving to RHUL, he held postdoctoral positions in Switzerland, USA and Belgium. His research lies on the interface between Biogeography, Palaeoecology and Conservation Biology. More specifically, his research looks at past ecosystem changes (related to people, climate and fire), to better understand ecosystem responses to future global changes.

[https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/daniele-colombaroli\(5927f2f8-8c87-4427-a46b-bf6b52af26d1\).html](https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/daniele-colombaroli(5927f2f8-8c87-4427-a46b-bf6b52af26d1).html)

Dr Luiza Prado De O. Martins is an artist, writer, and researcher whose work examines themes around fertility, reproduction, coloniality, gender, and race. Her ongoing artistic research project, "A Topography of Excesses," looks into encounters between human and plant beings within the context of herbalist reproductive medicine, approaching these practices as expressions of radical care. Since 2019, she has developed a body of work that offers a critique of the racist concept of 'overpopulation' in the context of the current climate crisis with the project "The Councils of the Pluriversal: Affective Temporalities of Reproduction and the Climate Crisis." She is part of the curatorial board of *Transmediale* 2021 and an assistant professor and vice-director of the Centre for Other Worlds at the Lusófona University in Lisbon. She is a founding member of Decolonising Design. She is currently based in Berlin. <https://www.luiza-prado.com/about>

Sophie de Pauw is a PhD Candidate in the School of Agriculture and International Development at the University of Reading. She holds a BSc in Biology from Imperial College London and more recently completed an MRes in Conservation Biology at the University of Sussex. Prior to undertaking her doctoral studies, her research has focused predominately on primates having worked with Chimpanzees in Cote d'Ivoire and Cercopithecidae in Kenya. During the course of her studies, Sophie's academic interests have evolved considerably from her original passion for tropical ecology. She now engages with more applied and interdisciplinary aspects of conservation. She is particularly interested in exploring the human/ biodiversity interface with a focus on the application of traditional ecological knowledge. She is currently an assistant editor and contributor to the Global Development Research Division website at the University of Reading. Her PhD project explores traditional burn practices in Niassa National Reserve, Northern Mozambique.

<https://www.artscabinet.org/wildfiresworkingtitle/luiza-prado-and-sophie-de-pauw>

Maria Thereza Alves (Brazil, 1961) has participated in the Sydney Biennale (2020), Manifesta 12 and 7, the Sao Paulo Biennale (2016 and 2010), Berlin Biennale 8, and dOCUMENTA (13) in 2012, among others. Alves was one of the founding members of the Green Party of Sao Paulo in 1987. She is the recipient of the Vera List Prize for Art and Politics 2016-2018. <http://www.mariatherezaalves.org/>

Elisa Strinna (1982) is an Italian artist based in the Netherlands. Her work addresses the interdependence between individuals, nature, and technologies and the by-products of such affiliations. She has been exhibiting at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (IT) (2020), Culturgest Porto (PT) (2020), MAXXI Museum (IT, 2014), 2012 Taipei Biennial (TW, 2012), Macro Museum (IT, 2011), among others. Strinna attended the Jan Van Eyck Academie, Maastricht (NL) (2018/2019). <https://www.elisastrinna.com/>

Abigail Croker is a PhD student at Imperial College London. Her research project is 'decolonising community-based fire management in savanna protected areas across East and Southern Africa'. She has an interdisciplinary background in both the natural and social sciences, and in quantitative and qualitative research. She is particularly interested in climate change science and policy in a historical context – understanding the past to predict the future. <https://www.artscabinet.org/seeingfireperspectivesthroughartandscience/abigail-croker-kapil-yadav>

Kapil Yadav is a PhD student at King's College London. His research project is 'contested fire management in Indian forests'. He has dabbled across engineering, liberal arts and is now pursuing an interdisciplinary project. 'I struggle to put myself into a discipline and have rather focused on understanding certain aspects of the world from as many directions as possible. I have worked on/around waste in past and fire is now the new window to see the world.' <https://www.artscabinet.org/seeingfireperspectivesthroughartandscience/abigail-croker-kapil-yadav>

Dr Aviva Rahmani 'In the midst of ecocide, art divines hope out of a chaotic world. My task is to understand that and design another world. My projects, Blued Trees and The Blued Trees Symphony (2015- present) have been installed and copyrighted in the path of natural gas pipelines to protect forests across miles of North America, gaining international attention and support, including Fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, A Blade of Grass and the National Endowment for the Arts. I hold a PhD from Plymouth University, UK in environmental sciences, technology and studio art and have produced over thirty one-hour raw Gulf to Gulf sessions on relationships between climate, water, species and justice viewed from eighty-five countries. "Trigger Points/ Tipping Points," a precursor to Gulf to Gulf, premiered at the 2007 Venice Biennale. I am Affiliate at the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research at the University of Colorado.' <https://www.avivarahmani.com/>

Olivia Haas 'As a first year PhD student, at Imperial College London, I am at the beginning of my research career. I am working on building a global wildfire model which could allow us to predict changes in fire regimes under increasing atmospheric CO2 concentrations. My passion for wildfires began as a child, growing up in the south of France. Wildfires were a part of the summer season, however each one was unpredictable and unique. My interest in computer modelling grew from a want to understand how the scientific community uses very powerful computers to understand and predict the unpredictable, and what these tools mean for human knowledge and understanding.' <https://www.artscabinet.org/wildfiresworkingtitle/aviva-rahmani-olivia-haas>

Anna Mayer's practice is sculptural and social, with an emphasis on hand-built ceramics. Her methodology emerges from enacting formative site-specific analogue firing projects in Southern California. Mayer revels in the fact that ceramics historically has been used to create highly functional items as well as wildly symbolic objects. Her work is part of this lineage, with equal concern for the future, and a dramatically shifting climate—ecological and political. Mayer recently had solo exhibitions at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and AWHRHWR, Adjunct Positions, and A-B Projects, (latter three in Los Angeles). Other exhibitions include Ballroom Marfa (TX), Kendall Koppe (UK), Commonwealth & Council (LA), Hammer Museum (LA) and Glasgow International (UK). She has a 14-year collaborative practice with Jemima Wyman, called CamLab, which has exhibited at MOCA

Los Angeles and Hammer Museum. Mayer is currently Assistant Professor of Sculpture at University of Houston. <https://uh.edu/kqmca/art/about-the-school/faculty/faculty-mayer-a.php>

Simona Dossi is from Milan, Italy. She moved to Scotland to study chemical engineering at the University of Edinburgh in 2013. During her studies, she conducted six months of field research at water quality NGO, Caminos de Agua, in Guanajuato, Mexico. This research was presented in her master's thesis – presenting a low-cost filter design for contaminated groundwater. Before starting her current PhD at Imperial College London, Simona completed various short-term projects, most-recently working as an artist-assistant to a media artist. Simona is passionate about diverse collaborations, and curiously fascinated by nature. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/s.dossi20>

Dr Mary O'Neill's research is interdisciplinary and focuses on contemporary artworks as a means of discussing significant cultural issues. She has written on a diverse range of subject including boredom, loss, art education, and contemporary art and ethics. She is currently in charge of producing an evaluation of the project Wildfires at the art-science interface.