

LEVERHULME WILDFIRES SUMMER CONFERENCE



LEVERHULME
Centre for Wildfires,
Environment and Society

AGENDA

Imperial College London, LT200 City and Guilds Building, South Kensington, London, U.K.
21st-22nd July 2026

Pre-conference Monday, July 20

Evening, from 6.30pm: Pizza and Movie Night - wildfire documentaries, networking and pizza (free of charge, booking required)

Day 1 Tuesday, July 21

10:00-10:30 **Registration and coffee on arrival**

10:30-11:00 **Welcome to the Conference and Introduction to Leverhulme Wildfires**

11:00-12:30 **Session 1 - Theme A**

12.30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 **Session 2 - Theme B**

15:00-15:30 Coffee

15:30-17:00 **Session 3 - Theme C**

17:00-17:30 Break

17:30 -19:00 **Session 4 – Posters, Art, Photography and Networking**

19:30-onwards **Barbeque Dinner at 170 Queensgate (optional, booking required)**

Day 2 Wednesday, July 22

09:30-11:00 **Session 5 - Theme D**

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-13:00 **Session 6 - Theme E**

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Session 7 - Theme F**

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-16:30 **Session 8 – Wildfires and Art: Conversation with Artists**

16:30-17:30 **Session 9 – Parallel Workshops (two themes)**

17:30-17:45 Short break

17:45- 18:00 **Conference close**

18:30-19:30 *Optional: a walk in Hyde Park*

Post-conference Thursday, July 23

AM Additional workshops and meetings, to be confirmed

Oral Presentations

Session 1 - Theme A (Day 1, 11:00-12:30)

What controls landscape burning, and how can we better anticipate and detect these events?

What are the relative roles of climate variability, long-term climate change, vegetation and fuel dynamics, and human activities in shaping fire regimes? This session explores drivers of fire across scales – from laboratory experiments and local landscape processes to global Earth system patterns – and considers how improved observation, detection, and predictive capabilities can support earlier awareness and proactive preparedness.

Prof Guillermo Rein, Imperial College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Heatwaves and Firewaves: the Urban Wildfires in London

Miss Esther Brambleby, University of East Anglia

Title: Human ignitions expand the global extratropical forest fire niche

Dr Andrew Clelland, Imperial College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: From “Why?” to “Where next?”: Using machine learning and AI to understand wildfire drivers and conduct short-term forecasting

Prof. Ian Sue Wing, Boston University

Title: Housing Density Amplification of Wildfire Ignition Risk: Evidence from the U.S. West

Prof. Stefan Doerr, Centre for Wildfire Research, Swansea University

Title: Developing FireInSite: an accessible tool for predicting ignition probability and fire behaviour in the UK and Atlantic Europe.

Session 2 - Theme B (Day 1, 13:30-15:00)

Theme B: How does fire interact with atmospheric composition, the carbon cycle, and climate?

As fire regimes intensify and shift, how do they alter atmospheric chemistry, air quality, carbon cycling, weather patterns, and long-term climate trajectories? And how do climate and weather, in turn, impact fire regimes? This session examines both present-day feedbacks and their implications for future Earth system dynamics, including how improved monitoring and modelling of fire–atmosphere interactions can enhance prediction and societal preparedness for emerging risks.

Dr Candice Charlton, Technical University of Crete (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: From Forecast Skill to Fire Impact: How Reliable Are Seasonal Fire Weather Predictions in Australia?

Mr Théo Rouhette, Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3)

Title: Towards fire-enabled mitigation pathways in the land sector: modelling burned area and fire emission feedbacks in integrated assessment models

Dr Matt Kasoar, Imperial College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: All You Need Is Model

Prof Ana Bastos, Leipzig University

Title: Fire-climate feedbacks under global environmental change

Dr Jose Gomez-Dans, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Wildfire intensity is rising even where burned area is not: evidence from two decades of satellite observations

Session 3 - Theme C (Day 1, 15:30-17:00)

Theme C: How do fires impact on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human health and well-being?

Fires reshape habitats, species interactions, ecosystem services, and the health and livelihoods of communities. This session explores ecological and social consequences of fire, identifying vulnerabilities, thresholds, and opportunities for resilience, with particular attention to how impacts and risks are distributed across societies and landscapes.

Dr Imma Oliveras Menor, Institute de Recherche pour le Developpement & University of Oxford

Title: Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Synthesis for Quantifying Fire Impacts on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Processes

Dr Mark Grosvenor, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Understanding the composition and health impacts of PM2.5 from biomass burning

Mr Ed Huckle and Mr Andrew Kibble, UKHSA

Title: Raising awareness of the public health impacts of wildfires in the UK

Mr Chris Ho, Imperial College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Landscape fire smoke and child mortality in Africa

Ariba Shahab, BioDscan Ltd.

Title: Silent Pollinators, Burning Landscapes: Detecting Post-Fire Biodiversity Collapse and Its Cascading Consequences for Ecosystems and Communities

Session 5 - Theme D (Day 2, 09:30-11:00)

Theme D: What consequences and trade-offs arise from fire management and preparedness strategies?

Efforts to suppress or control fire often have unexpected social and ecological knock-on effects, producing difficult trade-offs among competing policy objectives and social values. This session seeks to clarify those trade-offs and evaluate the effectiveness of proactive preparedness and management approaches, and considers their implications for long-term environmental and societal resilience.

Dr Kapil Yadav, Royal Holloway, University of London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Reframing Fire as Disaster: Continuities and Shifts in Wildfire Governance in India and South Africa

Miss Mahima Paswan, The Hans Foundation,

Title: Strengthening Community-Based Forest Fire Preparedness in Pine Forest Landscapes of Himachal Pradesh, Indian Himalayan Region

Dr Michel Valette, Imperial College of London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Between Collective Risk and Individual Practices: Community Brigade and Fire Management Trade-offs in Capoto/Jarina Indigenous territory, Brazil.

Dr Patrick Ball, Inigo

Title: Wildfire Exposure Management in Insurance through Physically Grounded Tail-Risk Scenarios

Dr Yiannis Kountouris, Imperial College of London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: TBC

Session 6 - Theme E (Day 2, 11:30-13:00)

How can fire policymaking and management be made more integrative, equitable and adaptive?

Fire policymaking must navigate competing goals, interests and knowledge systems in ways that are perceived as fair and that produce effective outcomes. This session explores how policymaking and management can better integrate ecological and social sciences, Indigenous and local knowledge, and practitioner expertise to improve decision-making, legitimacy and measurable social and ecological outcomes, while also examining the role of adaptive governance and economic instruments, including markets, in shaping fire management strategies.

Prof. Kate Schreckenberg, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Equity and Justice in Integrated Fire Management

Prof. José Miguel Pereira, Forest Research Centre, School of Agriculture, University of Lisbon

Title: From fire exclusion to integrated fire management in Portugal

Dr Maximilian Stiefel, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Planning Before the Fire: Equity, Adaptation, and the Effects of Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the United States

Prof. Rachel Carmenta, University of East Anglia

Title: Climate driven fire futures for Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the forested tropics: a biocultural approach to enhance equity and justice

Mr Amos Muthiuru, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Integrating Indigenous people and Local Knowledges into wildfire Management Frameworks: Assessing Practices, Barriers, and Policy Pathways in Multiple-Use Landscapes

Session 7 - Theme F (Day 2, 14:00-15:30)

Theme F: What futures for fire in the Earth system are plausible - and which should we aim for?

This session examines plausible trajectories of fire–climate–landscape interaction under alternative climate change, economic development and governance scenarios. It considers how advances in prediction, preparedness, and adaptive policy frameworks could shape future fire regimes, and asks what normative visions of a “good” fire future (for safety, biodiversity, carbon and cultural livelihoods) should guide policy and how they might be achieved

Prof. James Millington, King's College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: A global assessment of the benefits and limits of controlled burning for climate change adaptation

Dr Rut Domènech, Universitat de Lleida

Title: Managed fire as a pathway to ecologically desirable fire futures

Ms Sophy Greenhalgh, Imperial College London (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society)

Title: Shaping UK Wildfire Futures: Governance Pathways, Land-Use Change and Learnings from the Mediterranean

Mr Rob Gazzard, Forestry Commission

Title: Embedding Integrated Fire Management into UK approaches

Dr Kayla De Freitas, University of Guyana (Amerindian Research Unit) (Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society alumni)

Title: Envisioning Adaptive Fire Futures: Indigenous Fire Knowledge and Co-Produced Governance in the South Rupununi, Guyana



Full Conference Programme will be shared in late June

Enquires: wildfire@imperial.ac.uk

Conference webpage: <https://centreforwildfires.org/leverhulme-wildfires-summer-conference-2026/>

Conference Committee: Dr Adriana Ford, Elisabed Gedevanishvili, Mia Griffin, Dr Kapil Yadav,
