

### Day One

## Africa's Climate Dynamics: Models, Politics, and Networks












 Thursday 24 April 2025

-   9.00 - 10.00 am Registration and Tea
-  10.00 - 10.30 am Welcome session and opening remarks
-  10.30 - 11.30 am Keynote Panel 1
-  11:30 - 1:00 pm Parallel sessions: strategies, networks, and governance  
Panel 1: Governance and Evolving Stakeholder Networks  
Panel 2: (Il)licit Frontiers: Moral and Legal Entanglements of Energy in Africa  
Panel 3: Green Finance and Market Networks
-   1.00 – 2.00 pm Lunch
-  2.00 – 3.30 pm Parallel session: opportunities and new vulnerabilities  
Panel 1: Climate-Induced Unrests and Violence  
Panel 2: Climate-induced migration and refugees  
Panel 3: African Voices, Environmental Governance, and the Green Global Order
-   3:30 - 4:00 pm Afternoon Tea Break
-  4:00 - 5:00 pm Closing Panel: Climate Change in Africa: Partnerships and Funding
-   5:15 - 7:30 pm Reception

### Day Two

## Africa's Climate Dynamics: Research and Pedagogies

 Friday 25 April 2025

-   9.00 - 10.00 am Registration and Tea
-  10.00 – 11.30 am Keynote panel 2
-  11.30 – 1:00pm Parallel session: knowledge systems and epistemic communities  
Panel 1: Just Transition and Dilemmas of Net-Zero Carbon  
Panel 2: Post-carbon artefacts, aesthetics and popular culture  
Panel 3: Indigenous knowledge and community voices  
Panel 4: Geographies of Resistance
-   1.00 – 2.00 pm Lunch break
-  2:00 – 3.30 pm Parallel Sessions  
Panel 1: Technologies, Politics, and Poetics of Green Infrastructure  
Panel 2: Women and the Gendered Intersections of Climate and Energy  
Panel 3: Shifting Spatialities and Contentions around Energy Justice
-   3.30 – 3.45 pm Afternoon Tea Break
-  3.45 – 4.30 pm Open forum: teaching climate change in Africa
-  4.30 – 5.00 pm Closing Session

The Centre of African Studies (CAS),  
in partnership with  
the Centre for Business, Climate Change, and Sustainability (B-CCaS),  
the Edinburgh Earth Initiative (EEI), and  
Wits-Edinburgh Sustainable Africa Futures (WESAF) Doctoral Programme.

24-25th April 2025 at the University of Edinburgh Business School,  
29 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9JS

# Climate Dynamics and the Politics of a Post-Carbon Africa

## CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

The ongoing calls for urgent action to mitigate the growing scourge of climate change by transitioning away from fossil fuels are often met with troubling uncertainties about the fate of costly commercial ventures in the petroleum industry, risks to sustainable livelihood bundles, precarious patterns of human mobilities and displacement, and potential violent flashpoints over distributional contentions in multi-sited domains of (post)carbon development.

The conference brings together scholars and active researchers who are interested in the socio-technical and political entanglements shaping sustainable energy transitions in Africa. It aims to specifically draw from empirically grounded and theoretical introspections about an African perspective on the global energy transition drive and climate change.

Through a mix of keynote presentations and panels, the conference will devote to the following themes:





- Climate-induced unrests and violence.
- Green jobs, technologies, and infrastructure. Climate-induced migration and refugees.
- Just transition and human mobility.
- Governance and evolving stakeholder networks.
- Post-carbon artefacts, aesthetics and popular culture. Sustainable urban transformations.
- Toxicity, pollution, and environmental governance. Green innovations and evolving market niches.
- Indigenous knowledge and community voices.



# Centre of African Studies CONFERENCE 2025

## DAY 1

### Africa's Climate Dynamics: Models, Politics, and Networks

-  **9.00 - 10.00 am** Registration and Tea  
Location:  
Group A: Concourse (University of Edinburgh Business School)  
Group B: Foyer outside Lecture Theatre G.03 (50 George Square)
-  **10.00–10.30 am** WELCOME SESSION AND OPENING REMARKS  
LOCATION: LECTURE THEATRE G.03, (50 GEORGE SQUARE)
- Dr Jean-Benoit Falisse, Co-Director, Centre of African Studies
  - Lucy Young, Director of Operations, Edinburgh Earth Initiative
  - Professor Luca Taschini, Director, Centre for Business, Climate Change, and Sustainability
  - Professor Ruksana Osman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Co-Chair WESAF Doctoral Programme, University of the Witwatersrand.
-  **10.30–11.30 am** KEYNOTE PANEL 1  
LOCATION: LECTURE THEATRE G.03, (50 GEORGE SQUARE)
- The keynote panel will bring together a high-level group of practitioners to reflect on the state and dynamics of the global anti-climate change fight and what an African perspective entails.
- Moderators: Dr Nelson Oppong, Lecturer in African Studies and International Development and Dr Thabani Mutambasere, Lecturer in African Studies and International Development
- Speakers:
- Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser, Climate Change, The Commonwealth.
  - Dr Robert Bright Mawuko Sogbadji, Coordinator, Ghana Nuclear Programme and Technical Lead National Energy Transition Committee, Ghana.
-  **11:30–1:00 pm** PARALLEL SESSIONS: STRATEGIES, NETWORKS, AND GOVERNANCE
- Panel 1: Governance and Evolving Stakeholder Networks  
Location: Lecture Theatre 1A, University of Edinburgh Business School  
Moderator: Dr Kevin Donovan, Senior Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.
- Speakers
- The farmers, the state and the climate change in Ethiopia. Valentina Acquafredda, Department of Social Sciences, University of Foggia, Italy
  - IKS and WSK Knowledge and Stakeholder Attitudes. David A. Chikwaza. Dublin City University
  - Exploring African perspectives on climate geoengineering engagement: A system governance approach. Patrick Hosea. McMaster University, Canada
  - New African Voices in the Global Climate Movement: Falling on deaf ears? Wiebe Nauta. Maastricht University

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🕒 11:30–1:00 pm (cont...) PARALLEL SESSIONS: STRATEGIES, NETWORKS, AND GOVERNANCE

Panel 2: (Il)licit Frontiers: Moral and Legal Entanglements of Energy in Africa  
Location: Lecture Theatre 1B, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Gerhard Anders, Senior Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.

Speakers:

- Assessing South African and Ghanaian mining structures, environmental tensions, regulatory landscapes and workforces. Isabelle Nazarian and Caroline Marful. Loopstra Nixon LLP and Torys LLP
- Nigeria's Underground Oil Economy and Cross-Border Illicit Petroleum Trade: A Clog to Post-Carbon Transition in West Africa Sub-region? Jackson Tamunosaki Jack. Federal University Otuoke, Nigeria, and the University of Groningen, the Netherlands (with Papa Sow, Nordic Africa Institute, Lasisi Raimi, Federal University Otuoke, Nigeria)
- Problematizing 'Green Growth': Exploring the effects of critical minerals mining in Zambia. Ricardo Reboredo and Tereza Nemeckova. Metropolitan University Prague
- A Critical Analysis of Legal Uncertainties in Nigeria's Just Energy Transition Plan, Fayokemi Olorundami. Northeastern University London

Panel 3: Green Finance and Market Networks

Location: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Karishma Ansaram, Lecturer in Climate Finance and Investment. University of Edinburgh Business School.

Speakers:

- Filling the Governance Gap: Corporate Commitments and Environmental Externalities in the African Oil Sector. Andrew McKinley. University of Chicago
- Has the development of a regulatory framework for the issuance of green bonds accelerated the energy transition in Ghana and Nigeria. Patrick Odetsi. University of Cape Coast
- Energy Without Equity: Examining Local Disparities in South Africa's Renewable Energy Programme. Stephanie Borchardt. Stellenbosch University
- Responsible Innovation in the African solar energy transition. Matthew Snell and Morven McEachern. University of Huddersfield
- Developing a plastic waste buy back system in Ghana: possibilities and challenges for a circular economy regime. Samuel Wenyah University of Edinburgh.

🍴 1.00 – 2.00 pm Lunch break: Concourse, University of Edinburgh Business School

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 2.00 – 3.30 pm PARALLEL SESSION: OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW VULNERABILITIES

Panel 1: Climate-Induced Unrests and Violence

Location: Lecture Theatre 1A, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Akin Iwilade, Senior Lecturer in African Studies, CAS

Speakers

- Contested Sovereignty in South Africa's Violent (Energy) Transitions. Ruth Bookbinder. University of Birmingham and Alex Beresford. University of Leeds.
- (De)weaponizing Climate-Induced Recruitment: Prospects of Climate Change Adaptation as a Non-Kinetic Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the Lake Chad Basin Region. Folahanmi Aina. SOAS University of London
- Climate Change and Violent Extremism in Northern Nigeria: Understanding the Causal Link. Bonaventure Chia. University of Leeds
- Contesting Post-Grid Imaginaries in South Africa: Privatization or Socialization of Electricity. Zachary Klamann. University of Chicago

Panel 2: Climate-induced migration and refugees

Location: Lecture Theatre 1B, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Sam Spiegel, Senior Lecturer in International Development, CAS.

Speakers

- Re-examining the safe third country concept in refugee law through the lens of climate change. Finnian Clarke. London School of Economics and Political Science
- Evaluating Attitudes Towards Climate-Induced Pastoral Displacement and Resettlement in Nigerian Farming Communities. Victor Agboga, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Climate Change and Human Security: Exploring Environmental Threats and The Rise of Insecurity in The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Boris Happy. Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu, Enugu State, Nigeria
- Energy in Exile: The Moral and Legal Entanglements of Energy Access for Refugees in Africa. Benjamin Wairindi. University of Edinburgh



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 **2.00 – 3.30 pm** PARALLEL SESSION: OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW VULNERABILITIES  
(cont...)

Panel 3: African Voices, Environmental Governance, and the Green Global Order  
Location: Lecture Theatre 3, University of Edinburgh Business School  
Moderator: Dr Tom Molony, Senior Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.

Speakers:

- Terminal Zones: Decline and future promises of the global oil industry in Ghana. Dr Pauline Destrée: King's College London:
- Climate Diplomacy: African Agency and the Climate Crisis. Tanja Hendriks and Tycho van der Hoog. KU Leuven and Netherlands Defence Academy
- Green energy technology adoption in Zimbabwe: Challenges, capabilities and innovation patterns in the Fourth Industrial Revolution Era. Freeman Mateko. University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Indigenous knowledge and community voices on the internationalisation of female genital mutilation: Africa's response, 2015-2024. Elizabeth Ihuma Amadi. University of Port Harcourt.
- Greening Africa's Future: How far gone from the 2009 Green Jobs Initiative – A literature Review. Tomy Ncube; Una Murray University of Galway: Geography Discipline and Centre for International Development and Innovation at Ryan Institute.


 **3:30–4:00 pm** Afternoon Tea Break: Concourse, University of Edinburgh Business School

 **4:00–5:00 pm.** Closing Panel: Climate Change in Africa: Partnerships and Funding  
Location: Lecture Theatre G.03 (50 George Square)

Moderator: Charlie Bevan, Program Director, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program (University of Edinburgh)

Speakers:

- Dr Conor Snowden, Interim Head of International Research Engagement, Edinburgh Research Office.
- Ivy Mwai, Ag Director Scholars Program, Mastercard Foundation
- Dr Seth Amanfo, Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East, Edinburgh Global
- Nicole Kempis, Manager (Development and Programme), Climate Strategies

 **5:15 – 7:30 pm** Reception: Concourse, University of Edinburgh Business School



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# Centre of African Studies CONFERENCE 2025

## DAY 2

## Africa's Climate Dynamics: Research and Pedagogies

-  **9.00 - 10.00 am** Registration and Tea  
Location:  
Group A: Concourse (University of Edinburgh Business School)  
Group B: Foyer outside LTG.03 (50 George Square)
-  **10.00 - 11.30 am** KEYNOTE PANEL 2  
LOCATION: LECTURE THEATRE G.03 (50 GEORGE SQUARE)
- Moderator: Professor Gbenga Ibikunle, Professor and Chair of Finance, University of Edinburgh Business School.
- Speakers:
- Prof. Mathieu Thierry Ngosso – Director, IWE-HSG Africa
  - Center (Competence Center for African Research), University of St. Gallen
  - Prof. Jamie Cross – Academic Director, Glasgow Changing Futures, University of Glasgow.
-  **11.30 – 1:00pm** PARALLEL SESSION: KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND EPISTEMIC COMMUNITIES
- Panel 1: Just Transition and Dilemmas of Net-Zero Carbon Location: Lecture Theatre 1A, University of Edinburgh Business School  
Moderator: Dr Simeon Koroma, Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.
- Speakers
- Justice in energy transition: Nigerian oil workers experiences and perspectives. Camilla Houelland. FAFO
  - Energy Transition in Nigeria: Investigating the Socio-Political and Economic Inhibitions to a Just Transition. Tokunbo Olorundami. York St John University
  - Just Transition(s): continuity or break with the sustainable development paradigm?; Yanis Rihi, Université Paris-Saclay; Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ); Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
  - The Green Energy Transition: Dilemmas and Prospects in Northern Uganda. Verena Luise Baumüller, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Ngogo Mang'enyi Ngogo, St. Augustine University of Tanzania
  - Social protection for a just transition in South Africa. Katrina Lehmann-Grube. Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand

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🕒 11.30 – 1:00pm PARALLEL SESSION: KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND EPISTEMIC COMMUNITIES  
(cont...)

Panel 2: Post-carbon artefacts, aesthetics and popular culture Location: Lecture Theatre 1B, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Jacob Doherty, Lecturer in Anthropology of Development, Social Anthropology.

## Speakers

- Empowering Communities: Vernacular Architecture and Climate Resilience in Burkina Faso. Teresa Serrano. University of East London
- Race and the Anthropocene: The Disconnect in Environmental Discourse in South Africa. Lucy Valerie Graham. University of Johannesburg
- Decarbonisation and Histories of Toxic Extraction: Politics, Protest, and Lifeworlds in Nigeria, Zambia, and South Africa. Jabulani Shaba. University of Groningen. Netherlands
- Crude Realities: Photo Exhibition/Visual Narrative of Youths and the Precarious Pipescape of Artisanal Oil Refining in Nigeria's Niger Delta. Esther Egele-Godswill. University of Edinburgh

Panel 3: Indigenous knowledge and community voices

Location: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Ian Russell, Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.

## Speakers

- Indigenous Early Warning Indicators for Locally Led Anticipatory Actions in the Eastern Horn of Africa. George Tsitati. University of Edinburgh
- Climate Change Litigation in Ghana: A Traditional Review. Chika C. Mba & Princess Marie-Lois Quame. University of Ghana
- Climactic and Policy Challenges for Senegal's Transhumant Herders: The case of the Senegal Ferlo. Wendy Wilson-Fall. Lafayette College
- Re-examining African Indigenous Knowledge and Eco- Philosophies: Their Role and Impact in Postcolonial African Communities. Peter White. Stellenbosch University

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🕒 **11.30 – 1:00pm** PARALLEL SESSION: KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND EPISTEMIC COMMUNITIES  
(cont...)

Panel 4: Geographies of Resistance

Location: Lecture Theatre 3, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Conor Snowden. Interim Head of International Research Engagement, University of Edinburgh Research Office

Speakers:

- Infrapolitics in Shinkolobwe: when local dynamics in the Democratic Republic of Congo raise questions about the hegemonic conception of ecological transition. Célia Carlier. University of Mons
- Decolonising Resilience in the Anthropocene: Rethinking 'Local Knowledge,' Agency, and Climate Change Adaptation in Northern Ghana. Clement Amponsah. Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford
- Climate action, a tool of social justice in response to natural disasters in South Kivu. Bienfait Kazamwali Mukamba. Groupe d'Etude sur les Conflicts
- Exploring African Indigenous Measures for Green Practices: School Administrators' Mandate. Ademola I. Atanda Emmanuel Alayande University of Education

🍴 **1.00 – 2.00 pm** Lunch break: Concourse, University of Edinburgh Business School

🕒 **2:00 – 3.30 pm** Parallel Sessions

Panel 1: Technologies, Politics, and Poetics of Green Infrastructure Location: Lecture Theatre 1A, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr. Mohammed Amir Anwar, Senior Lecturer in African Studies and International Development, CAS.

Speakers

- The Depths of the Clean State: Geothermal Energy in Kenya. Kevin Donovan, University of Edinburgh
- Routes of energy from below in Northern Uganda: the case of used lead-acid car battery's circulation in Gulu. University of Milan-Bicocca. Amarilli Varesio
- Leveraging Geospatial Technology to address at last mile communities of Kogi State, Nigeria. Hussaini Usman. Federal University of Technology, Minna
- Green Jobs, Technologies, and Infrastructure: Paving the Way for Sustainable Development in Africa. Paul Mukoki. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- AI for Climate Resilience in Africa: Balancing Technology with Participation Rights. Philippa Inyang, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs

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🕒 **2:00 – 3.30 pm** Parallel Sessions  
(cont...)

Panel 2: Women and the Gendered Intersections of Climate and Energy  
Location: Lecture Theatre 1B, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr. Omolabake Fankule, Senior Lecturer, Chancellor's Fellow. Moray House.

Speakers

- Indigenous Knowledge on Climate Change and Adaptation in Agricultural Practices of Ekinrin-Adde Women. Tayo Adenuga. Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria
- Water and Gender Inequality: Exploring the Impacts of Water Scarcity on Rural Women in Morocco within the Context of Climate-Induced Challenges. Abderrahman El Karmaoui. Mohammed V University of Rabat
- Women as Survival Scientists Adapting to Climate Change in Rural Ghana: How NGOs Define their Spaces of Agency by Navigating the Stakeholders Arena. Mariachiara Boldrini. Università L'Orientale, Naples
- Socio-cultural Factors, Indoor Air Pollution and Economic Well-being among Rural Ugandan Women: Implications for Energy Transition. Fred Kasalirwe. University of the Witwatersrand

Panel 3: Shifting Spatialities and Contentions around Energy Justice Location: Lecture Theatre 2, University of Edinburgh Business School

Moderator: Dr Zeynep Oguz, Lecturer in Anthropology of Development, Social Anthropology

- De-provincializing Energyscapes: Conceptualising from Energy Landscapes in Africa. William Otchere-Darko. University of Newcastle
- Unveiling Moroccan Perspectives on the EU-Morocco Green Partnership: Assessing Its Potential for a Sustainable Future for Morocco. Mohamed Jaouad, Malzi. Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco
- A Just Transition? Conflicts Between Small-Scale Fishers & Energy Development in the Northern Cape. Menka Vansant. University of Cape Town
- Remediation—Restoration or Reclamation? Adjusting to Pollution in Kabwe, Zambia. Hannah Tubman University of Edinburgh

☕ **3.30 – 3.45 pm** Tea Break: Concourse, University of Edinburgh Business School

🕒 **3.45 – 4.30 pm** OPEN FORUM: TEACHING CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA  
FACILITATORS: DR NELSON OPPONG & DR THABANI MUTAMBASERE  
LOCATION: LTG.03 (50 GEORGE SQUARE)

🕒 **4.30 – 5.00 pm** Closing Session: LTG.03 (50 George Square)