Speaker Biographies

**Prof Bela Arora, Global Governance, University of South Wales**

Bela Arora is a Professor of Global Governance at the University of South Wales. She holds a PhD focusing on nuclear arms control and currently leads an MSc Global Governance, which focuses on themes ranging from human rights through and cyber security through to modern slavery and terrorism. She is Chair of the British American Project, which is a transatlantic leadership network bringing together leaders from government, business and civil society to discuss shared challenges. Bela is also an active member of the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group.

**Chris Blake, Director The Green Valleys**

Chris Blake has spent the last decade supporting community responses to climate change. As a founding Director of both award-winning social enterprises The Green Valleys and Community Energy Wales he has been at the forefront of the movement for community owned renewable generation. More recently he has been leading the Skyline programme delivering landscape-scale community stewardship of public land in the South Wales Valleys. Chris is able to combine his previous Board level experience within the publishing and media-tech industries with a passionate belief in the power of community action to meet today’s challenges.
**Evelyn Bodenmeier, Zukunftswerkstatt Lausitz**

Evelyn has lived and worked in diverse places, from Munich (Bavaria), Münster (North-Rhine-Westfalia) to the former Soviet Union (Ryazan, St. Petersburg, Moscow) – settling in Berlin in 2002. She has been involved in transformation and collaboration processes with civil society, administration and politics, facilitating an enabling space that offers different perspectives and promotes productive dialogue - especially with co-design methods. In her work with the NGO Lausitzer Perspektiven and with the Zukunftswerkstatt Lausitz (a project of the Federal Ministry of Economics and the Wirtschaftsregion Lausitz) she facilitated the active shaping of the future of an entire region, the strengthening of civil society and the energetic and visionary approach to transformation for a sustainable living of future generations.

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**Dr Jane Davidson, Pro-Vice Chancellor Emeritus, University of Wales Trinity St Davids**

Dr Jane Davidson is Pro Vice-Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. From 2007-2011, she was Minister for Environment and Sustainability in Wales where she proposed legislation to make sustainability the central organising principle of government; the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into law in 2015. From 2000 – 2007, as Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills in Wales, she introduced major curriculum changes. Jane is Chair of the RSA in Wales and in 2017 was invited on to the faculty in Harvard University. She is currently writing the story of why Wales was the first country in the world to introduce legislation to protect future generations. Her book will be launched at the Hay Literature Festival in May 2020.

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**Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister of Wales - Keynote Speaker**

Mark is a former probation officer, youth justice worker and Barnardos project leader. He was also a professor of Social Policy and Applied Social Sciences at Cardiff University. Following his role as a Labour Councillor on South Glamorgan County Council, Mark worked as the Cabinet’s health and social policy adviser at the Welsh Government, and was latterly head of the First Minister’s political office. Mark became the Assembly Member for Cardiff West in 2011. He was appointed Minister for Health and Social Services in March 2013; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in May 2016 and Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 3 November 2017. On 12 December 2018 Mark was appointed First Minister and became a member of the Privy Council on 13 February 2019.
Christian Felber, The Economy for the Common Good

Christian studied Spanish, Psychology, Sociology and Political Sciences in Salzburg, Madrid and Vienna. He is an internationally renowned speaker, contemporary dancer, book author, and university lecturer, currently at Vienna University for Applied Arts and research fellow at the Berlin based IASS.

He (co)authored 15 books that have been published in altogether 12 languages. In English are available “Change Everything: Creating an economy for the common good” and “Money. The new rules of the game”. Christian is the initiator of the international “Economy for the Common Good” movement and the Austrian project “Bank for the Common Good”.

Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

Sophie is the world’s only Future Generations Commissioner, providing advice to the Government and other public bodies in Wales on delivering social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being for current and future generations and assessing and reporting on how they are delivering.

Sophie has led high profile interventions around transport planning, education reform and climate change challenging the Welsh Government and others to demonstrate how they are taking account of future generations. She has represented Wales at the UN, the OECD and on a number of International Forums including Chairing the Network of Institutions for Future Generations.

Prior to this role Sophie was the first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales where she led programmes to tackle violent crime and violence against women and girls, focusing on early intervention and partnership working.

David Jones, Director, Marine Energy Wales

David has worked specifically on marine energy for over 10 years helping to develop Marine Energy Wales from inception to a collaboration that is viewed as global best practice. Marine Energy Wales focusses on emerging low carbon tech and brings together technology developers, test centres, wider sectoral alliances, the supply chain, academia and the public sector, to establish Wales as a global leader for sustainable marine energy generation.

He has extensive marine renewables networks within the UK and beyond and represents the interests of the industry through ministerial meetings, working groups, policy and events.
**Prof. Dr. Johan Lilliestam, Research Group Leader, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies**

Prof. Dr. Johan Lilliestam leads the Energy Transition Dynamics group at IASS. He holds the professorship for Energy Policy at the University of Potsdam. His research focus is policies, strategies and instruments for a transition to a completely renewable energy system. He currently holds a grant from the European Research Council (ERC). Before joining IASS, he was Assistant Professor and head of the Renewable Energy Policy Group at the Institute for Environmental Decisions at ETH Zürich, Switzerland, and Senior Scientist in the Climate Policy Group, also at ETH Zürich. He obtained his PhD in Environmental Science and Policy from at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, in 2013. From 2007-2013, he was a researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and from 2009-2013 at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria.

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**Dirk Meyer, Director General, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)**

Dirk Meyer is Director General for Central Functions, Administration, Budget, Research and Digitalisation at the BMU. Under his responsibility the BMU is developing a digital policy agenda for the environment and, with a view to the German EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2020, the Ministry is focusing on the priority area of digitalisation and sustainability. Previously, Dirk Meyer was head of the central department and the ministerial office in the Ministry for Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia.

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**Prof Dr Patrizia Nanz, Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies**

Patrizia Nanz joined the IASS as a Scientific Director in 2016 and is a Professor of Transformative Sustainability Studies at the University of Potsdam. She conducts research on the development of enabling environments for societal transformation. Her experiments with co-creative thinking and organisation bring together people from diverse sectors, organisations, and backgrounds to develop solutions to critical challenges such as climate change. At the IASS, Professor Nanz is co-chair of the Science Platform Sustainability 2030, which advises the German government with the support of a steering group of prominent figures from academia and representatives from the business community and civil society.
Dr Marc-Oliver Pahl, designated Secretary-General, German Council for Sustainable Development (March 2020)

Marc-Oliver starts as the new Secretary-General for the German Council for Sustainable Development in March 2020. He moves from his current role as Head of Unit Sustainable Development, at the Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of North-Rhine Westphalia, Düsseldorf, where he was responsible for the coordination Sustainable Development Strategy NRW and Environmental Foresight. A former research from Walter Hallstein Institute for European Constitutional Law, Humboldt University Berlin, Marc-Oliver was an advisor to the Minister for Federal and European Affairs in Düsseldorf and Berlin; the Deputy Head of Unit European + International affairs at Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection of North-Rhine Westphalia, Düsseldorf and Advisor Committee on Budgets, European Parliament, Brussels/Strasbourg.

Dr Dirk von Schneidemesser, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Dirk is a social scientist and research associate in the project "Co-Creation and Contemporary Policy Advice" at the IASS Potsdam. Before coming to the IASS, he completed his dissertation on the communication of policy options for sustainable local transport at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Dirk received his M.A. from the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg and FLACSO Argentina in Buenos Aires. Dirk is part of the Berlin based initiative Changing Cities e.V. which is responsible for the co-creation of Germany’s first bicycle law, passed in 2018.

Lee Sharma, Simply Do Ideas

Lee is CEO of Simply Do Ideas, an award-winning digital platform reducing the time, cost and risk of innovation. The product has been featured by the likes of Forbes and Huffington Post and used internationally across sectors including education, public services and engineering. Use cases range from employee idea capture at South Wales Police through to fully-managed, global innovation marketplaces for Rolls-Royce. Prior to Simply Do Ideas, Lee led European and Government change management programmes encompassing innovation, entrepreneurship and business improvement. He has also worked in academia delivering curriculum and service innovation focusing on simplifying connectivity between education and industry.
Dr Johannes Staemmler, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies Potsdam

Johannes heads the project "Social Change and responsive policy advice" together with Dr Jeremias Herberg, to develop and apply democratic means in the social and economic transformation that is accelerated by the end of coal mining. He studied International Relations at the University of Technology Dresden and Public Policy at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany, gaining a Ph.D. for his work on civil society in shrinking cities. His previous work emphasized research on participation in complex transition scenarios, especially within organizations and regional contexts. At the Leibniz-Gemeinschaft, he advised the president on strategy issues. For the Stifterverband, he developed a network instrument to connect local government to research institutions. He is co-founder of "Third Generation East".