

# 17<sup>th</sup> Young Researchers Meeting

14 and 15 June 2018

Hotel Aeschi Park, Aeschi b. Spiez

## «Climate action for Climate Scientists»

### How (not) to communicate, advocate and take action for climate

Scientists have warned about drastic effects of climate change for decades, to no avail so far. Is this true? Have we failed in communicating our results? How to best move society towards the 2-°C goal? What would efficient climate advocacy be? Should we focus on technological rather than societal changes? And what is our role as (young) climate scientists?

#### PROGRAM

#### Thursday, 14 June 2018

09:45 – 10:15	<i>Check-in at Hotel Aeschi Park</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome and introduction
10:30 – 11:15	Keynote 1 (Thomas Stocker) - Efficient communication on Climate Change: Lessons from the IPCC AR5 reports
11:15 – 12:00	Keynote 2 (Kaspar Meuli) - Inefficient communication on Climate Change: Why it has failed
12:00 – 12:30	Plenary 1 (Kaspar Meuli) - What has climate communication really achieved?
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:00	Keynote 3 (Fritz Sager and team) - Efficient climate advocacy: The challenge of formulating evidence-based policy
14:00 – 14:15	Organization of workshops
14:15 – 15:45	Workshop 1 (Fritz Sager and team) - The use of evidence in framing climate policy
15:45 - 16:10	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:10 – 17:50	Workshop 1 continued
18:00 – 18:15	Plenary 2 (Kaspar Meuli, Peter Stucki) - Conclusions from day 1
18:45	<i>Dinner</i>

#### Friday, 15 June 2018

07:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
08:40 – 09:30	Keynote 4 (Jacques Mirenowicz) - Climate advocacy in practice: How should scientists become involved in society?
09:30 – 09:40	Organization of workshops
09:40 – 10:30	Workshops 2,3,4 (J. Mirenowicz and team) - Invest - Divest - Carbon conversations
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:50 – 11:40	Workshops 2,3,4 second round
11:40 – 11:55	Plenary 2 - Restitution, lessons learned, concluding remarks
12:00 – 13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15 – 14:15	Keynote 5 (Thomas Büttler) - Climate technology in theory and practice: Will alternative powertrains do the trick?
14:15 - 15:15	Keynote 6 (Steffen Münch) - Climate technology in theory and practice: Will geo-engineering do the trick?
15:20 - 15:45	Wrap-Up and Closure
16:05	<i>Departure for Spiez</i>

## MORE DETAILS ON THE MEETING PROGRAM

### Preparatory work

With the registration, you are asked to register for and complete the **calculation of your personal carbon footprint** at <https://leclimatentrenosmains.org/en/calculate-your-carbon-footprint>. The data will be used on Friday morning.

### Keynote 1: Efficient communication on Climate Change: Lessons from the IPCC AR5 reports

The 5th Assessment Report of the IPCC is an extensive document: over 7500 pages, hundreds of complex diagrams and difficult technical language. The Summary of Policymakers is the negotiated document approved by all countries of the world. While this document is much simpler it is still not a communicable document. For this, we have developed the so called Headline Statements which provide fully approved, compact and quotable messages, on just two printed pages. While we now have an extremely efficient communication instrument of text, the design of the counterpart for visual information and scientific diagrams remains a challenge.

### Keynote 2: Inefficient communication on Climate Change: Why it has failed

This keynote is based on thoughts by the Norwegian psychologist and economist Per E. Stoknes. In his book "What We Think About (When We Try Not To Think About) Global Warming", he heavily criticizes conventional climate communication and explores routes towards a New Psychology of Climate Action.

### Plenary 1: What has climate communication really achieved?

The purpose of this plenary meeting is to discuss the statements made in the two previous keynotes. What is our perception of the way climate advocacy has worked so far? What should be changed in the way we communicate about climate change? What tools would be efficient to induce climate-compatible mindsets and ways of life? What is the role of (young) scientists?

**Thomas Stocker** is professor and head of Climate and Environmental Physics at the University of Bern, and the President of the Oeschger Centre. From 2008 to 2015, he was Co-Chair of Working Group I „The Physical science Basis“ of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC; AR5) that provided the scientific foundation of the Paris Agreement.

**Kaspar Meuli** is the communications officer with the Oeschger Centre. He has been involved in climate communication since the start of the national research program NCCR Climate some 15 years ago.

### Keynote 3: Efficient climate advocacy: The challenge of formulating evidence-based policy

Political acceptance of public policies largely depends on how these policies are presented. Psychological heuristics are a major challenge for evidence-based policy-making as evidence-based arguments are more demanding than affective support. The keynote introduces the framing concept and the policy narrative framework as useful ways to package policies.

### Workshop 1: The use of evidence in framing climate policy

Participants are split up in working groups. These groups reconstruct the causal model of a selected policy and will then reframe the policy and develop a rival policy narrative.

**Fritz Sager** is a professor of Political Science with the KPM Center for Public Management and currently Dean of the University of Bern's Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences. The research focus of his team is on policy analysis and evaluation.

### Keynote 4: Climate advocacy in practice: How should scientists become involved in society?

Knowledge has not driven industrial societies to avoid adverse effects of climate change. Now that time is running out, what is the role of (young) climate scientists: Should they get involved or stick with communicating their research? Concretely, Artisans de la transition run three practical actions: divest from fossil fuel, citizen's energy and carbon conversations. Are these actions relevant for climate scientists, and vice versa?

### Workshops 2,3,4

In a semi-rotational system, you will gain insight into each of the three actions offered by Artisans de la transition: Divest, Invest, and Carbon conversations. Activities will turn around questions like: Why have so few climate scientists signed the divest petition? If we divest from climate-harming companies, where should we invest? Who should act to respond to climate change, and how?

**Jacques Mirenowicz** has a PhD in neuroscience, and worked on the job at the Universities of Fribourg and Cambridge, then for a private foundation on science and democracy, and as a journalist. This experience lead him to create the magazine LaRevueDurable with **Susana Jourdan** in 2002, and Artisans de la transition in 2016. It is their stories and practical experiences with the climate debate that they will share with us.

### Keynote 5: Climate technology in theory and practice: Will alternative powertrains do the trick?

Automotive powertrains driven by fossil fuel are one of the most important emitters of CO2 and air pollutants. What kind of car should I drive, if at all - one that runs on electricity, bio-fuels, or synthetic fuels? What are the potentials and limitations of alternative powertrain concepts? What are the visions and experiences from current projects?

**Thomas Bütler** works in the Automotive Powertrain Technologies lab at Empa, the Swiss Federal Laboratory for Materials Science and Technology. The main focus areas of the lab are the reduction of air pollution, efficiency increase and the reduction of CO2 emissions of vehicle powertrains.

### Keynote 6: Climate engineering in theory and practice: Will geo-engineering do the trick?

In the context of a warming climate, researchers think of other ways to cool the planet that could complement mitigation. Ideas range from putting small droplets in the high atmosphere to reflect sunlight, to removing CO2 from the atmosphere and storing it underground. For all methods, questions have to be asked: Does it work? What are the costs? What are the limitations and risks? And is all discussion about climate engineering not just an excuse to postpone mitigation?

**Steffen Münch** is a PhD student of Atmospheric Physics at ETH Zürich. He works on clouds in climate models and studies the potential of clouds for climate engineering in a project by the German Research Foundation Priority Programme on Climate Engineering.

## REGISTRATION

Please register online at

<http://www.oeschger.unibe.ch/yrm>

**Deadline for registration: Friday, 25 May 2018**

**Please note cancellation costs** after 3 June 2018: 150 CHF.

Cancellation costs do not apply in cases of health or family emergency. Deadlines to submit a thesis or a paper and other workshops / conferences, however, are not considered as a case of emergency.

## VENUE

**Accommodation:** double room, full board at Hotel Aeschi Park <http://www.aeschipark.ch/>.

**Meals:** table service, vegetarian meals are available.

For questions about accommodation contact Monika Waelti ([monika.waelti@oeschger.unibe.ch](mailto:monika.waelti@oeschger.unibe.ch)).

**Costs:** The costs of the meeting (full board accommodation and teaching material) are covered by the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research. Reimbursement of travel expenses must be organized through the individual projects / research groups.

## TRAVEL

09:04 dep.	Bern (IC to Interlaken Ost)	16:05 dep.	Aeschi b. Spiez, Post
09:36 dep.	Spiez, train station, Bus 62 to Aeschiried from the front left of the arrival platform.	16:18 arr.	Spiez, train station
09:45 arr.	Aeschi b. Spiez, Post	16:22 dep.	Spiez (IC to Basel SBB)
		16:52 arr.	Bern