September 2021

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory
Arizona State University

Global Futures: Now

"Extreme weather events - an unholy brew which can create dangerous security vacuums." **Ban Ki-moon**

A month ago, the IPCC published the report of Working Group I as part of the 6th Assessment Report, confirming that there is unequivocal evidence of human induced warming of the atmosphere, oceans and land. It also projected that, as we move towards a world with average temperatures of 1.5 or even 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, we will see increased frequency of climate extremes of various types at more places and at higher intensities. In

fact, we are seeing such events playing out now, in real time. From the continued explosion of wildfires encroaching on population centers to record low water levels in rivers and reservoirs across the western US to hurricanes thrashing the Caribbean and southeastern US, our planetary systems' boundaries remain in a state of dangerous distension.

As the increasing frequency and intensity of extremes confront us with conditions not seen before, we have to rethink our preparedness and response capacities to avoid significant adverse effects, including an increasing loss of lives, in the near future. From the perspective of the physical science covered by the IPCC Working Group 1, the only way to limit global warming to a certain level is the immediate and significant reduction in the emissions of CO_2 and other greenhouse gases such as methane, requiring the rapid transformation of the global energy system. In concrete terms, we have to cut CO_2 emissions by more than six percent per year starting right now, this year. This is a formidable task as we learned in 2020 when COVID-19 reduced mobility and industrial activity led to an emission reduction by about the same six percent rate. But, simply cutting emissions is not enough. Considerable amounts of CO_2 also must be removed from the atmosphere to achieve net zero carbon emissions by the middle of this century. We have the knowledge to meet these challenge – it comes down to the will of society to make the right choices.

Finding implementable options for solving the climate crisis and preventing the world from sliding into a climate catastrophe is one example among many for why we need entities such as the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory.

Peter Schlosser

Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

News

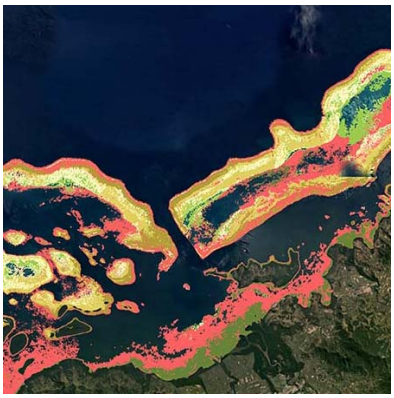
'Code Red': The Southwest hits historically low water levels

Dave White addresses crisis and offers solutions in Washington Post

White, deputy director of the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, was featured in the Washington Post on Aug. 18 with an opinion piece on the US Bureau of Reclamation's recent report on a record low water level for both the Colorado River and Lake Mead. White also spoke on the issue on the local NBC affiliate's Sunday Square Off .

Read more

Allen Coral Atlas announces mapping completion



Arizona State University alongside atlas founding partners at Vulcan Inc., National Geographic, Planet and the University of Queensland presented to the world a complete projection of the planet's coral ecosystems. The Allen Coral Atlas , named for Vulcan founder and celebrated philanthropist and entrepreneur Paul Allen, allows formal scientists, conservationists, policy makers and citizen scientists to fully explore the world's coral reefs and see in real time how oceanic warming causes bleaching or allows for rehabilitation.

Read more

Timiebi Aganaba named to SETI Science Advisory Board

Aganaba, assistant professor of Space and Society in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society within the College of Global Futures, was recently named to the esteemed SETI board. Board members are responsible for advising SETI Institute leadership on its scientific priorities, possible partnerships and collaborations and potential funding sources.

Read more

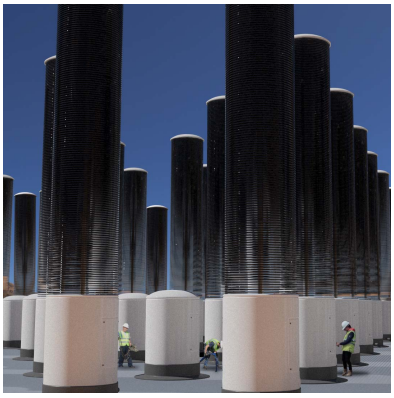
Meet our newest College of

Global Futures faculty

This semester, five new faculty members join the College of Global Futures with unique and diverse backgrounds in sustainability, technology, innovation, education and policy.

Read more

Carbon capture technology featured on PBS' Peril & Promise



In the face of the climate crisis, slowing carbon emissions won't be enough. In the latest edition of Peril & Promise, two technologies that are reversing the damage by removing harmful greenhouse gases are highlighted, including ASU professor Klaus Lacker's Mechanical Trees, a project in conjunction with corporate partner Carbon Collect.

Watch now

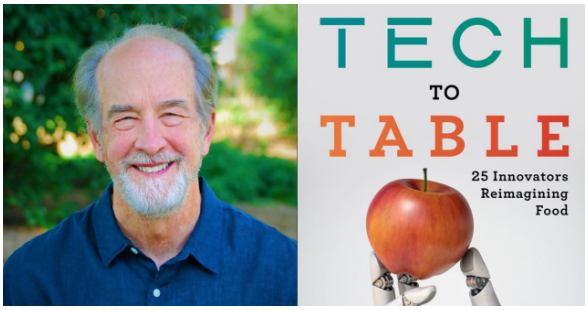
Are waste pickers environmental stewards?

A new paper published in Sustainability by a team from the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability

Solutions Service that includes College of Global Futures associate professor Rimjhim Aggarwal shows how waste pickers, typically part of extreme poverty communities based on or around landfills, have the potential to act as environmental stewards.

Read more

Upcoming events



Tech to Table: 25 Innovators Reimagining Food

Author Richard Munson spotlights 25 innovators driving solutions to the biggest problems created by industrialized food. Moderated by Kathleen Merrigan, executive director of the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems.

How Do You Make a Policy Idea Go Viral?

No matter how original or brilliant a policy idea is, it can struggle for traction in a sea of articles and opinion pieces. How do you make your work and voice stand out? Learn from Divyansh Kaushik and Caleb Watney in this CSPO-sponsored webinar.

Sept. 14, Noon-1 p.m. PDT

Register now

Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-Noon PDT

Register now

ILA's 23rd Global Conference

With a theme of "Together, let's reimagine leadership for a safer, more just, and inclusive world" the 2021 conference, based in Geneva, will be offered virtually and will feature the Global Futures Laboratory's Peter Schlosser and Amanda Ellis.

Oct. 24-25

Register now

PIT-UN Annual Convening

A partnership that fosters collaboration among nearly four dozen institutions of higher education committed to building the nascent field of public interest technology. This two-day will close with a public forum discussing the topic of climate technologies and the public.

Nov. 1-2, 2021, Tempe, AZ

Learn more

Recognizing excellence

Each year, ASU Knowledge Enterprise recognizes employees who were nominated by their peers for exemplifying excellence in their work, among their colleagues and in the community. This year, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory proudly saw two of its own honored for their work and going beyond to help drive a thriving future for their co-workers and the planet. Congratulations to Alicia and Jessica along with all other honorees and recipients across Knowledge Enterprise.

Alicia Marseille Leadership Award

Alicia, interim deputy director and director of innovation for the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service, was recognized for her passion in her work and encouragement of other to embrace what drives them to attain their goals.

Jessica Givens Rookie of the Year

Jessica has made an immense impact in her role as project coordinator for the Global Futures Laboratory's Networks and Engagement programs. Jess was recognized for her proactive, creative and strategic approaches to all projects and collaborations she engages.