

# October 2022

**ASU**® Julie Ann Wrigley  
Global Futures Laboratory™  
Arizona State University

## Global Futures: **Now**



**“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln**

Our world is on a trajectory toward a planetary emergency. Governments and global organizations have set targets for action, including detailed time horizons for change, which is a positive reaction to a critical situation; however, humankind has placed our planet onto a course that will miss many of these targets and will fail to preserve planetary health. The efforts have failed to meet the urgency of the

moment.

To explore the necessary actions for transformative change now, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and the Earth League convened the inaugural Global Futures Conference (GF22) during NYC Climate Week between Sept. 20 and 22. The conference explored the 10 critical areas for a global contingency plan that leads to a safe and just future in which life can thrive on a healthy planet.

One of the most poignant moments at the event came during the opening session. Youth leader Xiye Bastida reminded the audience that everyone alive today will love someone alive in 2100. In discussions on global crises, we focus on humans as the problem, placing a heavy emphasis on the damages to Earth's life-supporting systems caused by human activities. We note that the impact is so severe, that we humans have defined a new geological era, the Anthropocene. We reference "future generations" so broadly that at times it becomes abstract. We forget that the crises we face today, which in all likelihood will compound tomorrow, affect those we hold most dear.


This is a compelling reason to continue the efforts initiated at GF22. In principle, there are solutions for human-caused problems. The speakers and participants at GF22 bolster that hope. Attendees took a deep dive into evaluating threats and opportunities for pathways that enable humankind to solve problems created in the past and anticipate and avoid problems before they place more pressure onto our planet.

The conference was structured around the idea of what are the 10 "must-have" transformations and the accompanying "must-do" actions that will put humankind on a trajectory where all have the opportunity to thrive in symphony with all other forms of life. The preliminary outcomes of GF22 will be presented at the 2022 U.N. Climate Change Conference, better known as COP27, but the discussion and resulting ideas go far beyond climate change. The 10 transformations are a more comprehensive review of planetary and societal pressures, including critical issues such as well-being, digital access, food security and shared resilience to global shocks.

During the conference, speakers and attendees collaborated symbiotically, supporting and building upon each others' ideas. Even in disagreement, back-and-forth exchanges advanced, rather than restricted, final outcomes. Those in attendance appeared to embrace the comprehensive approach to global futures.

The congenial dialogue was made more extraordinary by the diverse backgrounds of the conference participants. More than 20% of the attendees were from nonprofits, non-governmental organizations and charities. Equally as important, nearly one-third of speakers and attendees represented the private sector, including multinational corporations, small businesses and investment firms. Government officials, non-academic researchers, media and communication representatives, and artists also joined. A unique feature of GF22 was that only about one-sixth of the attendees were academics, with an additional 9% representing students enrolled in higher education. There were attendees from every inhabited continent; however, forthcoming Global Futures Conferences will seek stronger geographic parity. It will be fundamental to success that diversity in age, income, personal and work experiences, spiritual foundations, and geographies and ecologies are represented in ongoing activities to carry out the actions set forth by conference goers.

The work on the 10 must-have transformations continues. The final report is due in early 2023. However, like behavior, we see this initiative as dynamic, as it must be able to adjust to shocks in planetary and societal systems. Through continuous collaboration, we will outline a holistic approach that incorporates and looks beyond the present solutionscape. But most of all, we see these transformations as forward looking — aiming to reach beyond the present horizon.



Peter Schlosser  
Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

## News

# Futurecast: Fall 2022 edition now available

Our future depends on the choices we make. We need urgent actions to develop and implement solutions, at scale, to move past threats toward a future where all have the chance to thrive. The current edition of Futurecast dives deeper into the ongoing initiatives at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, where researchers and partners are designing strategies to put global society back on the right path. Learn more about the next generation of Decision Theater, the 2022 Global Futures Conference, the 10 New Insights in Climate Science, the new Arizona clean-energy coalition and the complex issues involved in intersecting Indigenous knowledge and international law.

[Learn more](#)



## Swette Center joins report on organic agriculture's benefits for human and planetary health

The [Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems](#) has co-authored a new report with the Natural Resources Defense Council and Californians for Pesticide Reform to help guide U.S. policy makers on the benefits and value of organic agriculture practices. The “Grow Organic: The Climate, Health and Economic Case for Expanding Organic Agriculture” publication details the potential for organic agriculture to contribute to addressing climate change, health crises and economical struggles.

[Read more](#)







## ASU@COP27

Arizona State University is contributing to this year's COP27 climate change summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. World leaders will gather to negotiate and advance global and national commitments for climate action, including implementation of commitments and other legal instruments that the COP adopts. Sixteen ASU students, faculty and staff representing eight units, schools and colleges will be on the ground negotiating climate commitments, keynoting official high-level COP27 events, and co-hosting more than 20 panels, presentations and roundtables. Join ASU's journey at COP by following the Global Futures Laboratory on [Twitter](#) or search for #ASUatCOP27.

[Learn more about COP27](#)

## People



### ASU professor appointed to first federal sustainable purchasing committee

Nicole Darnall, a professor of management and public policy in the School of Sustainability, was named a member of the nation's first advisory committee focused on sustainable federal spending. Since government purchasing accounts for about 25% of every dollar spent in the U.S. economy, the federal

government can use its enormous purchasing power to incentivize companies to "radically expand their global production of sustainability products and services," Darnall said.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events



### 4th International Conference on Anticipation

The overarching aim of Anticipation 22 and of the interdisciplinary field of Anticipation Studies is to create new understandings of how individuals, groups, institutions, systems and cultures use ideas of the future to act in the present. The conference will emphasize questions of justice and is devoted to opening up the study of anticipation to new voices, new spaces and new approaches.

**Nov. 4 (virtual) and  
Nov. 16—18 (in-person)**

### INTERCULTURAL WELL-BEING Indigenous Innovations & Design NOVEMBER 15TH



### Intercultural Well-Being: Indigenous Innovations & Design

The Food Justice Research Group at ASU invites you to join Intercultural Well-Being: Indigenous Innovations and Design. Māori leaders and knowledge holders visiting from Aotearoa/New Zealand will present their perspectives and engage in dialogue about design, food systems, economies of well-being and other issues with Indigenous scholars and community leaders from Arizona.

## Walton Center for Planetary Health

[Register now](#)

Nov. 15, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Labriola American Indian Data Center  
Hayden Library

[Register now](#)



## Emerge 2022

What does it mean to eat in a world of increasing environmental extremes? Explore this question at Emerge Festival 2022: Eating at the Edges. This year's festival explores our relationship with food and what that will look like in a future with severe environmental challenges.

Nov. 19, 12—7 p.m.

ASU MIX Center and Mesa Arts Center

[Learn more](#)



## Homecoming Parade and Block Party

Come out and join thousands of Sun Devils for ASU's parade and block party. This free event celebrates alumni, students, staff, faculty and members of the community. The parade and block party start four hours before kickoff for the football game.

Nov. 19, time TBA

[Learn more](#)



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–Times Higher Education, 2021

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