

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: LOCAL CHALLENGES, GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES

AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (ESAC) CONFERENCE
CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO/WILFRID LAURIER
MAY 30TH TO JUNE 2ND 2012 (ESAC.CA)

As climate change unfolds globally, people and ecosystems are increasingly exposed to impacts and disturbances in weather, coastal erosion, wildlife and vegetation patterns, and water and food availability. These climate change effects are unevenly distributed, first and foremost affecting Indigenous peoples, those living in ecologically-sensitive regions, and those who rely closely on the natural environment for socio-cultural and sustenance practices. These unequal impacts from climate change effect social structures, economic resources, political relationships, cultural practices, and individual and collective health and well-being.

Understanding this inequity in distribution and burden of effects, Indigenous peoples and scholars have been increasingly framing climate change as a *human rights* issue, arguing that failure to take global action on curtailing emissions is a violation of people's environmental, food and personal security. Viewing climate change within a human rights framework is a call for local and global *responsibility* that encourages citizens to re-evaluate and find solutions to associated human and ecological injustices.

We invite submissions for this special panel session from Indigenous organizations, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers who focus on the human rights and responsibilities of global climate change. In particular, we hope to explore participatory research and community-based initiatives, which advance dialogue and actions recognizing climate change as both a human rights and a human responsibility issue.

Topics for discussion may include, but are not limited to:

- Approaches, methods, strategies, and ideas for engaging with climate change from a human rights and responsibilities perspective
- Issues related to climate justice
- The unequal global distribution of climate change impacts—social, cultural, economic, political, health, and biophysical—and mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation
- Collaborative opportunities for action and engagement
- Convergences between human rights and environmental rights
- Global governance and legal structures related to climate change and human and ecological security

Abstracts of 250 words should be submitted to Ashlee Cunsolo Willox (ashlee@uoguelph.ca) **AND** Ian Mauro (imauro@mta.ca) by **February 20, 2012** by **11:59 EST**. Abstracts should include: Name and contact information of the author(s), including institutional affiliation and email address; A brief introduction and background to the topic of study; The theoretical framework or research questions, methodology or practice used; The main conclusions; *and* Implications of research, future directions, and/or recommendations for policy.

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