

CUHK–USYD Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Webinar Series

Partnering for Sustainability Challenges: Climate, Oceans, Cities and Communities

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the University of Sydney (USYD) are strategic partners and both have strong commitment to addressing society's greatest challenges and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At CUHK, Environment and Sustainability is a strategic area of research while USYD has placed second in the world and first in Australia in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings in the last two years. Through collaboration in education, research, and innovation in sustainable development, the two universities are playing essential roles in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

CUHK and USYD will jointly organize a series of SDG-themed webinars in the next 12 months to encourage constructive dialogues and collaborations in sustainable development. This webinar will showcase two joint research projects in urban climate and health, and marine ecosystem which have relevance to SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG13 Climate Action, and SDG14 Life below Water. Possible funding and resource opportunities will be explored to support potential collaborations.

A unique networking opportunity will be provided for participants to mingle with the speakers and other attendees after the presentations to share experience and exchange contacts via the Zoom virtual breakout rooms.

The webinar will be beneficial to those who would like to take advantage of international opportunities and is particularly relevant to early career researchers who are keen to develop their global network. All are welcome.

Date:	Wednesday 18 August 2021
Time:	11:00am – 12:15pm HKT 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm AEST
Venue:	Online Zoom Meeting ID: 971 5560 2463 Zoom Meeting URL https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97155602463
Registration:	Link

Program Schedule

Time	Program
11:00–11:05 HK 13:00–13:05 Sydney	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Shally Fan, Director of Academic Links, Office of Academic Links, CUHK
11:05–11:40 HK 13:05–13:40 Sydney	Presentation of Collaborative Projects <p>Team 1 – Urban Climate and Health (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Kevin Ka-lun Lau, Research Assistant Professor, Institute of Future Cities, CUHK • Dr Leigh Wilson, Senior Lecturer, Behavioural Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, USYD <p>Team 2 – Marine Ecosystem (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Laura Jane Falkenberg, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, CUHK • Prof Pauline Ross, Deputy Head and Professor of Biology and Educational Strategy, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, USYD • Dr Elliot Scanes, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Climate Change Cluster, University of Technology Sydney and Research Affiliate, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, USYD <p>Q&A and Discussion (15 mins)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Amanda Sayan, Director of Partnerships, Office of Global Engagement, USYD
11:40–12:00 HK 13:40–14:00 Sydney	Networking Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Climate and Health (Breakout room 1) 2. Marine Ecosystem (Breakout room 2)
12:00–12:15 HK 14:00–14:15 Sydney	Funding Opportunities & Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Amanda Sayan, Director of Partnerships, Office of Global Engagement, USYD • Ms Shally Fan, Director of Academic Links, Office of Academic Links, CUHK

Speakers



[Prof Kevin Ka-lun Lau](#)

Research Assistant Professor
Institute of Future Cities
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

Prof Kevin Ka-lun Lau is a Research Assistant Professor in the Institute of Future Cities at CUHK. His primary research interest lies in the **relationship between the built environment and urban climate**, with a particular focus on **human thermal comfort in outdoor environment**. His research ranges from numerical modelling of urban microclimate to field studies of outdoor thermal comfort. He has published over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He is a member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Expert Network of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems and the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications.

Prof Lau is also affiliated with the **CUHK Jockey Club Institute of Ageing** where he collaborates with public health experts on the **inter-relationships between the built environment, urban climate, and the health of citizens**. He is currently working on a collaborative project on increasing the resilience of elderly population to the impacts of extreme hot weather in the future which focuses on enhancing weather information services, mitigation strategies through neighbourhood and building design, and awareness and preparedness of elderly population through community services. He is also leading an international study of developing a global database for outdoor thermal comfort studies and establishing a standardized methodology for conducting outdoor thermal comfort surveys under the International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC) working group of outdoor thermal comfort.



[Prof Laura Falkenberg](#)

Assistant Professor
School of Life Sciences
CUHK

Prof Laura Falkenberg is an Assistant Professor in the School of Life Sciences and the Simon F.S. Li Marine Science Laboratory at CUHK. She is a **marine biologist** and ecologist whose research and teaching focus on **global change biology**. Specifically, she considers the biological impacts of both global stressors, such as elevated temperature and ocean acidification, as well as more localized impacts, such as nutrient

	<p>pollution and species removal. Prof Falkenberg is particularly interested in how these stressors impact the interactions between species and how these impacts can have effects on humans through changes to our health and economies. To consider such impacts, she develops and implements novel methods such as mesocosm facilities, measurement techniques, and theoretical frameworks.</p> <p>Prof Falkenberg is the Contributing Editor of the Limnology and Oceanography Bulletin. Before moving to Hong Kong, she had worked as a Post-doctoral Research Associate at The University of Adelaide, University College London (Australia), University of Gothenburg, and Norwegian Institute for Water Research.</p>
	<p>Ms Shally Fan Director of Academic Links Office of Academic Links CUHK</p> <p>Ms Shally Fan is Director of Academic Links at CUHK. She promotes and supports the University’s internationalization strategy in research and education with a view to strengthening its impact and visibility on the global stage and enriching the international exposure and inter-cultural experience of students. She oversees all aspect of internationalization at the University, including teaching and research partnerships, strategic alliances and networks, collaborative agreements, as well as student and faculty mobility, among other programmes and initiatives.</p> <p>Ms Fan received her BA from The University of Adelaide and MCom from the University of South Australia. She joined the Office of Academic Links at CUHK in 2001 to manage the University’s student exchange programmes. Since then, she has played a key role in developing CUHK’s international partnership network, which now includes partnerships with over 360 institutions in more than 35 countries/regions.</p>
	<p>Dr Leigh Wilson Senior Lecturer, Behavioural Health Sciences Faculty of Medicine and Health The University of Sydney (USYD)</p> <p>Dr Leigh Wilson is a Senior Lecturer, Behavioural Health Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine and Health at USYD. She has a strong background in health and health system research, having previously worked in the New South Wales Health system as a Health Service Manager and Research Study Co-ordinator.</p>

	<p>Dr Wilson has recently published papers on the effects of heat-waves in an elderly population, behavioural aspects of public health and community based healthcare. She is currently working as part of the Ageing and Health Research Group to further investigate the effects of heat-waves in rural communities, the impact of urbanisation and high density living on older people, the implications of climate change on health in an ageing population and improving wellbeing in an older population.</p> <p>Dr Wilson has a Master and Doctor of Public Health and a PhD in Behavioural Science from USYD.</p>
	<p><u>Prof Pauline Ross</u> Deputy Head and Professor of Biology and Educational Strategy School of Life and Environmental Sciences Faculty of Science USYD</p> <p>Prof Pauline Ross is Deputy Head of the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Professor of Biology and Educational Strategy, and Teaching Principal for Life, Earth and Environmental Science (LEES) in the Faculty of Science at USYD. She is also a National Teaching Fellow of the Office for Learning and Teaching and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK. As Teaching Principal for LEES, she is leading the redesign of the Life Sciences curriculum at the University. Prof Ross has held various senior higher education positions involving the redesign of curricula at other institutions including Macquarie University and Western Sydney University.</p> <p>Prof Ross leads the internationally-recognised research group at USYD investigating the impact of climate change on molluscs. Her team is developing oysters with resilience to ocean acidification to sustain an industry that generates more than A\$1b annually in sales and employs thousands of Australians.</p>
	<p><u>Dr Elliot Scanes</u> Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Climate Change Cluster, University of Technology Sydney Research Affiliate, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, USYD</p> <p>Dr Elliot Scanes is a marine biologist and Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney with the aim of answering how oysters and their microbiome will be affected by climate</p>

	<p>change. In 2019, he was awarded the Department of Agriculture Science and Innovation Award for Young People to explore the oyster microbiome under climate change in collaboration with industry partners. In addition to oysters, he has broad interest in the effects of climate change on estuarine ecosystems. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from USYD where he is also currently a Research Affiliate at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences.</p>
	<p>Ms Amanda Sayan Director of Partnerships Office of Global Engagement USYD</p> <p>Ms Amanda Sayan is Director of Partnerships in the Office of Global Engagement at USYD. She has worked in international education for over 18 years and is responsible for managing the implementation of the University’s international partnership strategy. A key objective of her role is to help the University build and monitor alliances with leading universities around the world, bringing together researchers to work on collaborative projects and creating innovative educational opportunities. She is a regular presenter at the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) and the Asia–Pacific International Association for International Education (APAIE). Ms Sayan is an active member of the University’s India Advisory Group and has been responsible for leading the University’s engagement with prominent institutions in India. She holds a Master’s in Comparative Religious Studies from USyd.</p>