

The Evening Public Event

- A roundtable discussion on the theme of "Environmental Finance for the Common Good
- Perspectives from Industry, Academia and Faith communities"

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm on Thursday 31 March 2022

Workshop Venue: Lecture Theatre, Clore Management Centre, Birkbeck campus, University of London.

Registration: This hybrid session is open to the public (campus and live stream) and will be run in the roundtable-style. Please register via the platform for the workshop on Environmental Finance for the Common Good <https://efcg2022.sciencesconf.org>

Everyone is welcome. Registration is free but mandatory.

Session chairs:

Dr. Ellen Pei-yi Yu (campus chair): Senior Lecturer in Finance, Department of Management, Birkbeck, University of London, UK.

Dr. Michael Henry (online chair): Senior Lecturer in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Birmingham, UK.

We are delighted to have our amazing panel members join us in the roundtable discussion. Please find their short Bios below. Every speaker will talk for about 15 minutes. The Q&A session will be followed and open to the campus/and online participants.

Invited Speakers for the Evening Public Event

Group 1 (views from practitioners): Sharing their valuable working experience, Katya and Rajashree will provide their unique insights into current issues in environmental finance, possible solutions to overcome current challenges, and how to help emerging economies establish various channel climate finance.

Dr. Ekaterina (Katya) Gratcheva

Lead Finance Officer, Climate Investment Funds, World Bank, Washington DC.



Dr. Ekaterina (Katya) Gratcheva leads Climate Investment Funds' finance function and scaling up mobilization of private capital to finance transformational change towards low-carbon climate-resilient development in developing countries. In her prior roles in the World Bank she focused on providing policy advice and thought leadership on sustainable finance, facilitating long term finance through capital markets and strengthening the role of financial institutions in development finance, as well as managing World Bank's assets and liabilities. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics from Moscow State University, and a doctorate in Operations Research from George Washington University.

Rajashree Padmanabhi

Analyst at Climate Policy Initiative

Topic: "Challenges in climate finance and innovative climate financial instruments for developing economies". Rajashree will give a broad overview of challenges, present what Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) does in the context of Paris Agreement and end with some examples of climate finance instruments from Asia and Africa.



Rajashree Padmanabhi is an analyst at Climate Policy Initiative's London office where she focuses on tracking climate finance for the flagship series [The Global Landscape of Climate Finance](#). Her recent work focuses on developing a sustainable finance roadmap for India, a deep dive into innovative financial instruments for adaptation in Asia and Africa. Rajashree holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics and a bachelor's degree in

Civil Engineering from India.

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Group 2 (views from academia): How can academia influence people's behaviour and people's financial/ environmental decisions for the common good?

Professor Kevin Ibeh

Professor of Marketing and International Business and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Birkbeck, University of London.



Professor Kevin Ibeh, PhD, FCIM, FRSA, is Professor of Marketing and International Business and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Birkbeck, University of London. He also currently serves as Commissioner of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, UK Representative to the European International Business Academy Board among other roles. Professor Ibeh has undertaken consulting and advisory tasks for influential organisations, including the World Bank, the OECD, UNCTAD, the Scottish Enterprise, and the Department of Trade and Investment of

Northern Ireland. He is Lead Series Editor of the Palgrave Series on Entrepreneurship in Africa, having previously chaired the Universities UK sub-Saharan African policy network, led academic departments in the UK, hosted major international scholarly conferences and guest-edited several influential journals. Professor Ibeh's research, focusing mainly on firm internationalisation and international entrepreneurship, has produced over 100 scholarly articles and four books, reinforcing his reputation as a leading scholar of Africa's emerging multinationals. Professor Ibeh has served and continues to serve institutions across Africa, Asia, Australasia, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America in various capacities, including visiting professor, keynote speaker, expert adviser, panellist, external examiner, external assessor, editorial board member, and much else.

Professor Hélyette Geman

Professor of Mathematical Finance at Birkbeck, University of London and President of the Society "Women for Climate". <https://helyettegeman.com/>

Topic: the challenges of energy transition.



Hélyette Geman is a Professor of Mathematical Finance at Birkbeck, University of London where she is the Director of the Commodity Finance Centre; and a Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of Ecole Normale Supérieure in Mathematics, holds a Masters degree in Theoretical Physics and a PhD in Probability from the University Pierre et Marie Curie and a PhD in Finance from the University Pantheon Sorbonne. For the past 21 years, Professor Geman has consulted for major banks, energy and mining companies as well as commodity trading houses, covering the spectrum of

interest rates, catastrophic risk, crude oil and electricity, metals and agriculturals. She was previously the Head of Research at Caisse des Depots in Paris. Professor Geman was the first

president of the Bachelier Finance Society and has published more than 150 papers in top international finance and insurance Journals including *the Journal of Finance*, *Mathematical Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics* or *Resources Policy*. Her book *Commodities and Commodity Derivatives: Energy, Metals and Agriculturals* published by Wiley Finance in January 2005 has become the reference book in the field. She edited in 2008 the book *Risk Management in Commodity Markets: from Shipping to Agriculturals and Energy* and was in 2010 the first Wilmar-International Invited Professor of Commodities Business at Singapore Management University. Professor Geman is a Member of the Board of the UBS-Bloomberg Commodity Index. Professor Geman counts many brilliant characters among her past and present PhD students, among them Nassim Taleb, author of *The Black Swan*. She is the President of the Society 'Women for Climate'.

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Group 3 (views from faith communities)- How can faith communities influence people's behaviour and people's financial/ environmental decisions for the common good?

Robert Harrap

General director of SGI Buddhist Association in the UK ([SGI at COP26](#) | [SGI-UK](#))

Topic: Bluer than the Indigo – exploring the potential of faith’s ethical influence on investments and finance



A Buddhist since 1987, Robert trained as a barrister and was in chambers in London for 16 years before being appointed as Director of Buddhist organisation SGI-UK in 2013. He lives with his wife in the village of Taplow in Buckinghamshire, near the SGI-UK headquarters at Taplow Court. He is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 2’s Pause for Thought. SGI-UK is a charity that relies on the voluntary donations of its members for the daily running of its activities and has an endowment fund which is invested on ethical ESG principles.

Dr. Dominic Chai, S.J.

Vatican COVID-19 Commission, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Topic: Pope Francis’ Call to Ecological Conversion: Laudato Si’ and Environmental Finance



Dominic H. Chai, S.J. is a Jesuit Scholastic of the USA West Province and currently serves at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Prior to entering the Society of Jesus, he taught strategic management and international business ethics at Birkbeck College, University of London. He received a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, an MA in theological studies from Loyola University Chicago, and a PhD from the London School of Economics. His research focuses on examining companies as communities and their contribution to the common good. He currently holds a research associate position at the Centre

for Business Research, University of Cambridge.

We look forward to seeing you at our evening public event on 31 March!