

Conversations on Climate

Senior University of Greater Atlanta, Tucker, GA
Fridays 9:30-10:30 AM beginning January 17, 2025

Access to buried carbon has lifted humanity to incredible heights, yet carbon pollution in the atmosphere and oceans is already causing calamities, and threatens to reverse human progress. The next chapter of human history will be thrilling. *Conversations on Climate* gathers experts to answer your questions about the science of climate disruption and the hopeful strategies for a future mostly powered by sunlight, in which the human adventure can soar even higher. **Follow links on topic names in the list below (e.g. “[Disruption](#)”) to suggest/upvote questions for upcoming guests** and provide feedback on past sessions.

Each guest will open with a brief overview of their topic. The remainder of the hour will be a dialogue ranging through many aspects of the session’s focusing question. Interviewer Bill Witherspoon is a geologist and educator and co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*. In the 1980’s he worked at Shell Oil’s research lab. He taught for 17 years at Fernbank Science Center, part of DeKalb County Schools. Since retirement in 2014, Bill has studied climate science, economics, and communication at Georgia Tech and Georgia State. *Conversations on Climate* engages many of the experts who mentored and inspired his climate studies.

Content of Sessions

- 1/17 [Appreciation](#): How have coal, methane, and petroleum helped humanity soar? ([FEEDBACK](#))
- 1/24 [Disruption](#): How does carbon pollution disrupt climate and the oceans? ([FEEDBACK](#))
- 1/31 [Possibility](#): What are the technical and time dimensions for decarbonizing energy? ([QUESTIONS](#))
- 2/7 [Unravelling](#): Where are ecosystems at risk, and how can that affect people? ([QUESTIONS](#))
- 2/14 Values: How can faith traditions spread an economics that protects people and Creation?
- 2/28 Policy: What decarbonization paths work globally, and can they survive pushback?
- 3/7 Catastrophes: Why is extreme weather more frequent and how does it hurt people?
- 3/14 Talk: How can you talk about climate to neighbors, co-workers, and policymakers?

Guests



Jacq-Marie Jack (*Appreciation*) is an environmental geologist, educator, and artist whose stories link the decline of whaling through geologic insight to the birth of aviation.



[Jean Lynch-Stieglitz](#) (*Disruption*) is a paleoclimatologist and head of school at Georgia Tech. She studies how ocean circulation has changed in the past, and how these changes relate to climate.



[Marilyn A. Brown](#) (*Possibility*) is a professor at Georgia Tech and a national leader in the analysis and interpretation of energy futures. Her 6 books include *Climate Change and Global Energy Security* (MIT Press).



Mark Papier (*Catastrophes*) is a meteorologist and broadcaster who has reported from the front lines of major hurricanes. He serves on the executive board of [Georgia Interfaith Power and Light](#).



Paul Knowlton Esq., MDiv. (*Values*) is first author of *Better Capitalism: Jesus, Adam Smith, Ayn Rand, and MLK Jr. on Moving from Plantation to Partnership Economics*, an Amazon #1 New Release of 2021.



[Stefano Carattini](#) (*Policy*) is an economist at GSU who studies the political economy of environmental policy and the diffusion of green behaviors and technologies. His work appears in *Science, Nature*, and leading economics journals.



[Isaiah Bolden](#) (*Unravelling*) is a Georgia Tech oceanographer. His research focuses on the impacts of climate change on coral reefs. His passion for climate science was born after his hometown of Nashville flooded, displacing entire communities.



Flannery Winchester (*Talk*) is Vice-President of Communications at [Citizens Climate Lobby](#), whose 420+ US and 150+ international chapters seek to empower everyday people to work on climate policy across party lines.