















Seminar Series 2022/23

10:30-16:00, 18th October 2022 The Studio, 67 Hope St, Glasgow, G2 6AE, UK Please note, this is an in-person event.

Urban precarity and the climate crisis: learning lessons for the future from the present







The latest IPCCC report shows that average temperatures on land have already risen by 1.5 °C. The climatic impacts of this are being experienced across the globe in the form of more frequent extreme weather events and more prolonged periods of climate-induced stress. More and more regions are experiencing droughts, fire weather/fires and water scarcity; or/and heavy rains, storms and flooding.

These changes have complex and at times hard-to-predict human and social consequences; but what is perhaps most predictable is that it is the already precarious who suffer them soonest and hardest. Impacts are already being felt by the millions of people living in informal and marginalized urban settlements, in the form of run-away fires, water scarcity and floods. These settlements, often comprising temporary dwellings and located on the fringes of the world's major cities, within sight of the infrastructure and services they lack, may be particularly physically vulnerable to such climate-related shocks and stresses. However, they are also sites of immense strength and ingenuity. There is much to be learned from them, both about how residents cope and adapt and how we might envisage changes in the future. There is also much to be learned about how complex assemblages of environmental, political, physical and social actors create the conditions for reproduction or change.

Our workshop – to be held in Glasgow, the city that hosted COP 26 just under a year ago – will bring together researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders working in different global regions and different disciplines, but who have a common interest in addressing the confluence of urban precarity and the climate crisis. The workshop will include active discussion sessions and a closing panel discussion.

Presentations include:

Water and Fire: Enhancing capacity and reducing risk through 15 'Best Bets' for transformative adaptation with vulnerable residents on the Cape Flats

Drs Gill Black and Liezl Dick, Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation (for the Water and Fire project)

Understanding water security and household water hygiene in resource-limited settings in Kenya Prof Jude Robinson, University of Glasgow

Young Precarious Lives: Children, Climate Change and Achieving Just Futures
Dr Irena L. C. Connon & Professor Lena Dominelli, University of Stirling

Scottish Drug Related Deaths (DRDs) - discourses around urban precarity and one-sided class war

John Player, Independent Advocate for People who Use Drugs, Trade Union Shop Steward and Recovery Activist, Edinburgh, UK

Ensuring resilience to climate-related impacts in low income settlements in Cape Town, South Africa – water supply and sewerage are not enough Prof Kirsty Carden, University of Cape Town (for the Water and Fire project)

If you wish to offer an additional contribution to be included in the programme, please contact anna.wilson.2@glasgow.ac.uk.

Register at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/urban-precarity-and-the-climate-crisis-tickets-396594985277. Registration for this event is free but numbers are limited. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Attendees may also be interested in attending an additional Water and Fire "lessons learned" event, which will take place on Wednesday 19th October at the University of Stirling. Please let Anna know if you would like an invitation to this.