



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE 2020

THEME: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

Conference Program

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020

2 PM - 4 PM

PROGRAM

Theme: Diversity & Inclusion for Sustainable Societies

2:00 PM

Welcome, Opening Remarks & Land Acknowledgement

2:10PM

Keynote Speech #1: Afsan Chowdhury

2:25 PM

Keynote Speech #2: Dr. Sutama Ghosh

2:40 PM

Diversity and Inclusion in Canada:
BCS Youth

BREAK 2:55 PM - 3:00 PM

3:00 PM

Speaker Series and Q&A:
Dr. Irfan Saleem
Alexandria Shrake & Aaron Foyer
Temitope Onifade

3:45 PM

Closing Remarks



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR. SUTAMA GHOSH

Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies, Ryerson University

Dr. Sutama Ghosh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, at Ryerson University, Toronto. Trained in urban social geography, Dr. Ghosh examines the migration and settlement experiences of immigrant and refugee newcomers in the Canadian urban milieu. Using intersectionality and mixed research methods, Dr. Ghosh has authored several peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters exploring the interplay of structural, group, and individual level factors that lead to various urban inequalities among immigrant families. Dr. Ghosh's current research focuses on the impacts of investment and disinvestment on immigrant families and migrant resilience, and the resilience of International Students from India to Canadian colleges.



AFSAN CHOWDHURY

Professor, Dept. of English and Humanities, Diversity and Discrimination Studies, BRAC University

Afsan Chowdhury is currently the professor at BRAC University, Dept. of English and Humanities where he teaches history of Bangladesh and Diversity and Discrimination Studies. He has worked over 40 years on the Liberation war History of 1971 and been editor, author, and co-author of over 40 books on it. He has produced 3 documentaries and 5 radio series as well on the topic. Currently he is working on the Encyclopedic History of 1971.

Afsan has worked on Diversity and Human rights related issues for 4 decades and worked as a professional for the UN and other agencies. Sexual abuse prevention is a major area of focus which is now also included in the Diversity studies course. He has conducted over 40 research project on Diversity and Discrimination and is currently working on Vulnerability measurement and developing indicators for socio-economic marginalization.

Afsan has a been short term Fellow at Oxford U, Oak Fellow on International Human Rights, Colby College in Maine (USA) and Research Associate at York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) York University Toronto. He was given the Bangla Academy award in 2018 for his 1971 related research.

SPEAKER 1



DR. IRFAN SALEEM

Sohar University (SU), Oman

Dr Irfan Saleem obtained his doctorate from Sorbonne Business School France. Currently, he is affiliated with the Sohar University (SU) of Oman. Dr Irfan was affiliated with the University of Central Punjab before joining SU for a decade in the capacity of Director BBA program, Assistant Professor, Principal investigator and conference Secretary of ICIBM 2020. He has an extensive national and international experience of Higher Education Sector. He is the brand ambassador of Emerald Publishing Group for the Middle East. Dr Irfan won the Emerald award Case study competition in 2018.

Lately, Dr Irfan's case study is accepted for the Case for Women - Emerald case Study Competition 2020. He has published in the areas of Family Business, Entrepreneurship and Leadership with ranked journals. Currently, he is researching about Psychological implications in the time of COVID -19 Pandemic. Last but not least, he is launching his YouTube channel name RAP-LAB (Research & Philosophy) Laboratory, where he will start weekly videos related to Management Philosophy in the light of great philosophers like Socrates, Niccolò Machiavelli and Zeno of Citium.

ABSTRACT

Inclusive Board and Sustainability Practices: A Cross-Cultural Study

The ultimate objective of any non-profit organisation is to sustain for an extended period and to adopt sustainable practices and policies to achieve the desired goal and purpose. Organisations are looking for such resources that enable them to implement the sustainable practices which elucidate their path toward sustainability. However, the diverse board could be such resource of any non-profit organisation that allows it to achieve its goal and objective in terms of sustainability but the question about how board diversity affect the firm-level outcomes is still vague in the literature. This study adopted a quantitative approach through the use of survey data of non-profit sectors across Canada (i.e. 120 organisations) and Pakistan (i.e. 142 organizations). Findings suggest that board diversity is a necessary resource to create inclusive board behaviour and board diverse policies and practices which will ultimately lead to sustainable practices.

This research could benefit non-profit organisations regarding the retention of talented board members and improvement in sustainable practices. This study fills the gap by discussing how board diversity of non-profit boards affects corporate sustainability practices and linking to SGD 5-achieving gender equality and empowering all womens at workplace and SGD 10-Reducing inequality. Specifically, this study will investigate the impact of boards' inclusive behaviours and diversity policies on sustainable practices using unique data set from the Western and Eastern cultures.



ALEXANDRIA SHRAKE

Co-founder, ENERGYminute

Alexandria is a high energy person who loves to connect, build relationships, and have fun outside. She is the co-founder of ENERGYminute a passion project turned movement which seeks to enable people to access complex information and depolarize challenging subjects. Alexandria developed a skill set in the non-profit space through the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists(CSEG). She has spent the past 5 years leading students through soft skills workshops on campus and managing communications Canada-wide to enable other young people to connect. Alexandria is a fellow with the Public Policy Forum & Action Canada (2017-2018 fellowship). Through this program she collaboratively wrote a policy paper, Friends in Low Carbon Places, on Canada's energy future with a multi-disciplinary team from across Canada.

Alex has won a Young Women in Energy Award(2018), Volunteer of the Year through the CSEG(2016), and a Life Saving Award from the St. John's Ambulance Society(2015). By day Alex works at an energy company and has experience in Strategy & Planning and as a geophysicist working across Western Canada. In her spare time Alex likes to listen to electronic music, surf whenever possible, and hike anything with an incline.



AARON FOYER

Co-founder, ENERGYminute

Aaron has a wide array of working experience across the energy landscape include technical and investment banking experience in oil and gas, as well as mezzanine debt financing and strategic consulting in renewables and clean tech.

He has undergraduate degrees in geology and geophysics, and a Masters in Business and Administration (MBA) from HEC Paris, a top 5-ranked global business school.

PRESENTATION

Sustainability and Energy Transition within Canada's Energy Sector

Within the Paris Agreement, which Canada has ratified, the global economy is slated to consume about 70 million barrels of oil a day by 2050. Meeting Canada's Paris agreement has proven to be far more complex than pushing or pulling on a singular policy lever. Canada's internal geopolitical landscape is highly diverse with competing interests from intra-provincial economies and ideologies driving variable dialog between provinces during the current energy transition. Reconciling economic growth with sustainable energy development within Canada will rely on global energy demand shifts during energy transition, the reduction of the carbon intensity through technology investments, and the rise of exportable renewable technology. The question remains: How can Canada position itself to meet increasing global energy demand and grow our energy source agnostic economy while managing our commitments to Paris?

There are often misconceptions about the challenge of undertaking energy transition. The following lessons are important to understand how to approach these big events. Currently, the global economy consumes over 100 000 000 barrels of oil, or about 17 billion liters of oil every day. If every person in world consumed energy equally, it would equate to every person on earth consuming a 2L milk carton of oil every day. In addition, emerging economies consume 8.5 billion tonnes of coal and 3.5 trillion cubic meters of natural gas per annum.^{1 2} Conversely, Canadian energy consumption has shifted toward a flat consumption in oil with increases in natural gas and renewable consumption. This transition of Canadian consumption is a result of the expansion of the oil sands which utilizes high volumes of natural gas, the transition of coal to natural gas for baseload electricity, and the development of renewables.

Investment from both the private and public sector in decarbonizing technologies will be essential for a more sustainable fossil fuel sector and support Canadas commitments to Paris. Within the Canadian emission inventory, emissions from the fossil fuel sector are the greatest contributor. Emissions from the fossil fuel sector are created during the extraction phase of the value chain, representing about 20% of the total emissions from a barrel of oil. The remaining 80% of emissions are created by the end user combusting the fuel. An important distinction within this economic sector are the emissions intensity per barrel. Net emissions have increased from the volume of production, but the emissions intensity per a barrel has decreased by 25%.³ Advances in carbon sequestration, direct air capture, and carbon incineration will be key to a more sustainable oil and gas sector.

The value chain of electricity markets are limited by transmission and distribution lines. This results in renewable electricity created in Canada also being constrained by local markets. Fossil fuels are compact forms of energy that act like a single use battery. For Canada to have a material impact on global renewable energy markets and to reduce global carbon emissions, consideration must be made in exporting our innovative technologies in an effort for the upstream value chain to reside in Canada. From a local perspective, Canada can create geothermal electricity or extract lithium from wastewater using aging oil and gas infrastructure. The real prize lies in Canada's ability to export these technologies to developing and undeveloped nations alike to reduce global emissions for a low emitting and more equitable energy future.

Sustainability and energy have become intertwined within Canada's economy and social well-being. Energy is one of the most complex subjects and must be not be viewed in a vacuum when considering the global forces driving economies and decarbonization. With increasing global energy demand, Canada has a role to play in the global economic forum in the areas of fossil fuel production, decarbonizing technologies, and renewable energy innovations.

SPEAKER 3



TEMITOPE ONIFADE

Researcher, Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative, Oxford University, and Co-Chair, Liu Institute Network for Africa, UBC

Temitope Onifade has lived and worked in the notorious Niger Delta, known for alarming environmental crises. He later co-founded a law firm where he sought government incentives for clients dealing in renewable energy but failed. Combining his interest in the environment with his experience in renewable energy, he has worked at the intersection of environment and energy within the business sector.

Temi has been the recipient of 35 awards, such as the Vanier CGS and Joseph Armand Bombardier CGS doctoral awards and fellowship. He is currently a researcher for Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative, housed at Oxford University but working across commonwealth countries. Previously, he was a research associate with Social Impact Firm, research fellow at University of Calgary, lecturer at Memorial University, policy researcher with the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, and lawyer in Nigeria. He has contributed to several policies, journals, and books. Temi has served a term as an elected UBC Senator, sitting on the appeals and library boards. He directs the “Community Sustainability Global” project (www.csgproject.com) and also co-founded and coordinated the UBC Liu Institute Network for Africa (<https://sppga.ubc.ca>). He is a First Director of Holistic Sustainable Development Network International and Director of Human Dignity Foundation, leading sustainability projects within both NGOs. He advocates for climate action, Africa, and minorities as a co-host on Vancouver Coop Radio.

ABSTRACT

Engaging Youths for Sustainable Development: Field Lessons from Community Sustainability Global

Abundant evidence tells us youths (age 15–24) have some potential to facilitate sustainable development (SD) policy and action, including awareness and activism, agenda setting, formulation, legitimation, decision-making and implementation. However, we know more about their role in the global north than south, especially Africa. Also, of the three basic pillars — economic, social and environmental — of SD, youths are often reported to be more active on the environmental front, especially SD goal 13: climate action. While they could also foster economic and social sustainability, we know too little about that potential.

To contribute to filling these gaps, we ask what youths could do to enhance the three pillars across the global north and south. We use the Community Sustainability Global (CSG) project as a case study to answer the question, drawing on workshop interaction, feedback surveys and interviews. Among other findings, our results show that youths contribute not only in promoting sustainability policy and action, but also knowledge mobilization on scientific and policy loopholes post-implementation.

THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

**For more information on
HSDNI, please visit:**

<http://www.hsdni.org/>



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