

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP SERIES

Bringing science, people,
and policy together



Topic 3: How do people and societies respond (or not) to climate change? Navigating the complexities of human behaviour

DATE: 27 May 2021 | **TIME:** 12h00 – 13h15 (GMT plus 2) | **VENUE:** Zoom Meeting
RSVP: Please RSVP to naomi@saifac.org.za if you would like the Zoom link for the seminar.

Why and what kind of people are sceptical about climate change? Why are people who accept climate science nevertheless not willing to make the investments and sacrifices that are needed to respond to climate change?

For over half a century, scientists and activists have been outlining the devastating implications of climate change. Yet, it seems the message that “our house is on fire” does not result in attitudinal and behavioral changes as greenhouse gas emissions and global temperatures keep climbing. To understand why and when people fail to respond to the climate threat with meaningful action, psychological and social factors have been identified that shape the willingness of people to accept the reality of human-induced climate change. This lecture will draw on multi-national data sets – including data from South Africa – to inform why and what kind of people are skeptical about climate change, as well as why many people who accept the climate science are nevertheless not willing to make the investments and sacrifices that are needed to respond to it.



PRESENTER:

Prof Matthew Hornsey, Professor of Social Psychology, University of Queensland Business School, Australia

Profile in brief: Prof Matthew Hornsey is a Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Queensland. He has published over 150 papers, most of which examine the psychology of influence and behaviour change. His most recent work focuses on understanding (and reducing) people’s motivations to reject scientific consensus (e.g., the psychology of climate skeptics and anti-vaxxers). He has received multiple research and teaching awards, and was an associate editor of three journals including Australian Journal of Psychology and Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.

Please feel free to forward this information to others who may be interested – participants are welcome to join from anywhere in the world. There is a maximum of 100 participants in the Zoom seminar but the seminar will also be live streamed on the Facebook page of SAIFAC (<https://www.facebook.com/SAIFAConline/>)

**THE SERIES CONTINUES WITH TOPIC 4 ON 17 JUNE 2021.
SAVE THE DATE!**

Below are the other topics that will be covered together with provisional dates:

TOPIC 4:	Looking back, looking forward - can law change the climate change trajectory?	17 June 2021
TOPIC 5:	Who produces CO2 and why? What are the options and technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?	8 July 2021
TOPIC 6:	Increasing pressure, increasing implications for business?	29 July 2021
TOPIC 7:	We, the people - climate change and civil society responses	19 August 2021
TOPIC 8:	Jobs or the environment? How can climate change responses address the interests of labour?	2 September 2021
TOPIC 9:	Preparing for COP 26 - What does South Africa want from the COP negotiations?	30 September 2021
TOPIC 10:	Where to from here? The role of the next generation and their views on a safe and human world for all	14 October 2021

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