



# When the Heart Can't Contain What the Mind Can See: Psychosocial Research on Human Engagement with Climate Change

A one day seminar hosted by the Climate Psychology Alliance, Birkbeck Institute for Social Research and the Association for Psychosocial Studies

Saturday 24 October 2015, 9.30am – 5pm

Room 414, Birkbeck Main Building (entrance Torrington Square), London WC1H 0PD

Travel details at: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/maps>

Psychosocial research on climate change examines the conflicted meanings, emotions and identities which underlie both engagement and non-engagement with the issue. Focusing on the relationship between personal experience and social systems, the psychosocial approach goes beneath surface questions about attitude and behaviour to ask hard questions. How does anxiety relate to indifference? What does identity have to do with denial? How do social systems protect us from difficult truths? This one day seminar critiques the traditional cognitive and behavioural approaches to the psychology of climate change, highlights an alternative approach and presents findings from in-depth, qualitative research.

## Speakers:

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Robert Tollemache (UWE), 'How Do I Deny Climate Change? Let Me Count the Ways'

Karen Henwood (Cardiff), 'Energy Practices and Psychosocial Research: The Energy Biographies Study'

Ulrike Grassinger (Counterpoint), 'The Door of Metaphor: Metaphorical Language in the Discourse on Climate Change'

Paul Hoggett (UWE) & Ro Randall (Carbon Conversations), 'Outriders of the Coming Adversity: How Climate Scientists and Activists Keep Going'

Cristiana Olcese (LSE), 'Activists' Understandings and Responses to the Issue of Climate Change in the Context of Protest'

Nadine Andrews (Lancaster), 'Between Intention and Action: Psychosocial Factors Influencing Values-Congruent Action in Organisations'

Renee Lertzman, 'Environmental Melancholia: Exploring Engagement'

Julian Manley (UCLAN), 'The Unthought Known of Climate Change'

**Respondents:** Tom Wengraf (APS) and Sally Weintrobe (CPA)

**This event is open to all, but places are limited. Registration is essential.**

£35 Standard | £25 Climate Psychology Alliance/Association for Psychosocial Studies members & Birkbeck staff | £15 All Students & Unwaged

**Registration will open in September via <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/events-calendar/when-the-heart-can2019t-contain-what-the-mind-can-see-psychosocial-research-on-human-engagement-with-climate-change>**