

OCTOBER 2019

UCL POLICY COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATING CLIMATE SCIENCE II

ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 2018 - JULY 2019



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ABOUT UCL CCSPC II

UCL Public Policy and the UCL Grand Challenge for Sustainable Cities are supporting the second phase of the UCL Policy Commission on Communicating Climate Science - CCSPC II. The Commission, led by Professor Chris Rapley CBE, is "acting as an incubator of projects aiming to identify under-serve needs in climate change communication and policy, to create targeted interventions with significant impacts to fulfil those needs, and to lift communication barriers at boundaries between professional communities and in societal engagement". The Commission brings together members with a unique skill set and decades-long expertise from across academic disciplines, policy, business and the media.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(1) Case Study - "UCL Empowers Climate Scientists To Guide Policy Making"

The case study "UCL empowers climate scientists to guide policy making", published 30 July 2019, (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/news/2019/jul/ucl-empowers-climate-scientists-guidepolicy-making>), summarises the training carried out by the Commission in the summer of 2018 under the UCL Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Fund sponsored project "Creating collaborations for innovative science-based climate policy: A new approach to Flood Risk strategy". The feedback from the young researcher participants was that the experience had been transformative. An unanticipated and very positive outcome of the project was the subsequent establishment by the participants of an Early Career Network of some 50 members across the UK. The objective of the network is to share experiences of working with decision makers to achieve the delivery of practical benefits of the research being carried out by the academics. The training model – as described in the case study – has been further adapted by Kris De Meyer for delivery in the project "Citizen Engagement on the Environment" funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It has been delivered an additional 3 times between May and August 2019. This bespoke communication training – delivered for combined groups of environmental policy makers and scientists - is proving such a success that Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency are undertaking steps to make it part of their standard offering.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(2) American Geophysical Union

Chris Rapley attended the December 2018 American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting in Washington DC. Whilst there he presented a paper on the play “2071” and participated in formal and *ad hoc* sessions on the communication of climate science. He noted that of the 28,500 participants at the meeting, the vast majority (over 99%) attended sessions that addressed the ‘discovery’ of more knowledge and understanding about the planet and how it functions, whilst only a tiny minority attended sessions on the ‘delivery of value to society’. Redressing this imbalance lies at the core of the UCL Commission’s activities, and the experience motivated Professor Rapley to raise the issue prominently at the 2019 Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco. See (10) below. A chance meeting with Dr Vincent Tong from the UCL Arena Centre led to a meeting back at UCL with Professor Brendan Barrett from the University of Osaka Centre for Co-design. Professor Barrett’s work has considerable overlap with that of the Commission and it has been agreed to maintain a watching brief for opportunities to collaborate.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(3) Climate Change - The Facts

Chris Rapley was the science consultant for the BBC1 programme “Climate Change - The Facts” – aired in the UK in April 2019, and for the two-part version subsequently distributed worldwide. UCL’s Professor Mark Maslin featured prominently. Professor Rapley and the Series Producer, Serena Davies, are working on the development of several potential follow-up programmes. Professor Rapley is also providing advice to Nutopia, who have been commissioned by National Geographic Channel to produce a ten-part follow up to the award winning series “One Strange Rock”.

(4) Meaningful Action Workshop

Commission members Peter Gingold, Kris De Meyer and Andrew Jackson, supported by the professional facilitator Lucy Rose, designed and ran the “Meaningful Action Workshop” (MAW) on 14 January 2019. The objective was to explore and answer the question “What can I do (about climate change)?” with a diverse mix of practitioners.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(5) Skagen Foundation

Chris Rapley and Kris De Meyer were invited to describe the work of the Commission to representatives of the philanthropic Skagen foundation. As a result, the foundation provided £25k to assist the Commission with its work. These funds are used for two workshops in the autumn of 2019 - follow ups to the "Risk" workshop held in February 2018 with UCL Grand Challenges funding and the "MAW" of January 2019.

(6) SPIRE

The Skagen funding will also be used to provide seed support for a new initiative – “SPIRE” - in collaboration with the Church of England. The aim of SPIRE is to engage congregations initially in the Oxford Diocese, subsequently across the country and even internationally and inter-faith, in collective actions to address the “Climate Emergency”. Peter Gingold will lead the Commission’s contribution to the project.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(7) UCL Climate Communications and Collaboration Unit

Building on the funding success of (5), a plan is under development to establish a 5-person “UCL Climate Communications and Collaboration Unit” at a cost of £1.5m over 3 years. The proposal is being developed in close collaboration with the ‘broker’ who set up the introduction with Skagen, and with UCL Advancement staff.

(8) Green Finance Institute

Following an introduction to Roger Gifford, ex Mayor of London, UK Head of SEB (<https://sebgroup.com>), and government advisor on green investment strategy, Professor Rapley set up a meeting between UCL Vice-Provost for Research - David Price, and a number of senior UCL academics to explore a possible UCL role in the newly established Green Finance Institute. Discussions are continuing, led by the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research).

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

(9) Communication of Climate Risk Workshop

On 17 July 2019, Kris De Meyer and Lucy Rose ran a workshop on the communication of climate risk for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) – together with Commission member and senior civil servant at BEIS, Simon Sharpe. The workshop is now leading to a research phase which will result in a follow-up risk communication workshop, as described in (5).

(10) Union Session At American Geophysical Union Meeting

Chris Rapley with Canadian and US collaborators has convened a Union Session at the forthcoming December event of American Geophysical Union entitled “Is Environmental Science Serving/Failing Society? Strategies for Rapid Progress on Climate Solutions”. He also successfully submitted a bid for an oral presentation entitled “Adopting the ‘Informed Citizen’ mode to engage a lay audience on climate change and to answer the question ‘So What Can I Do About It?’”

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

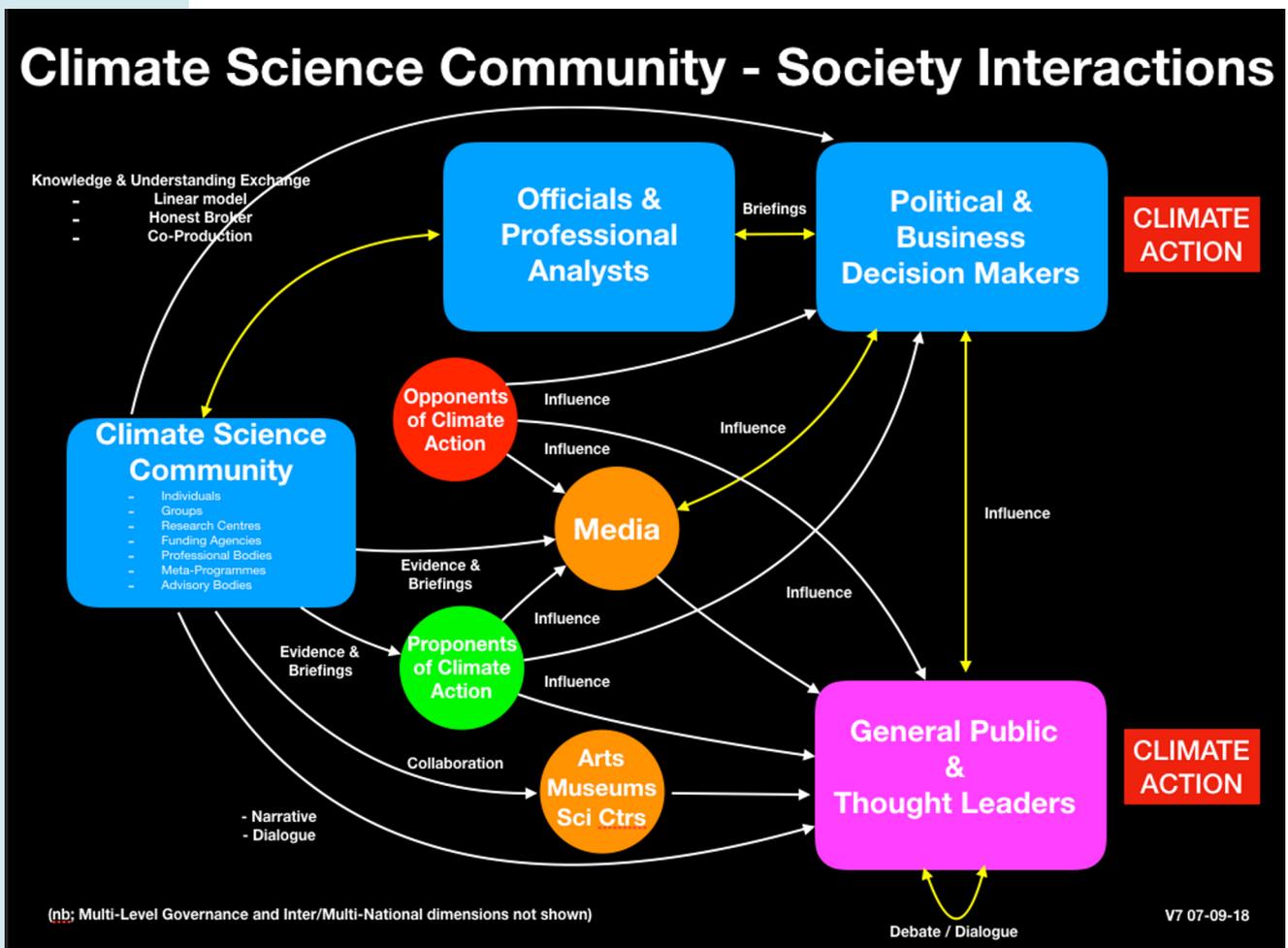
(11) Chatham House & Chinese Government

Chris Rapley and Kris De Meyer are acting as advisors in a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Chatham House & Chinese government project on the development of climate change risk indicators. A plan has been proposed to develop and deliver a series of co-production workshops on risk indicators in the UK and in China. This work will take place in autumn of 2019 and in 2020.

(12) Presentations, Panel Sessions And Interviews On Climate Change Or Climate Change Policy And Communication

Throughout the year Chris Rapley has given 43 presentations, panel sessions or interviews on climate change or climate change policy and communication. An example is the UCL workshop on 2 July 2019 on “Global challenges to Food Security” (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/sustainable/events/2019/jul/global-challenges-food-security>)

CCSPC II DOMAIN DIAGRAM



COMMISSION CORE GROUP

The Commission brings together members with a unique skill set and decades-long expertise in all aspects of climate change, from across academic disciplines, policy, business and the media. It is funded by UCL Public Policy and the UCL Grand Challenge for Sustainable Cities.

MEMBERSHIP (OCT 2019)

Chris Rapley – UCL Earth Sciences (Chair)
Aliza Ayaz – President, UCL Climate Action Society
Luke Bevan – UCL PhD student
Nick Comer-Calder – The Climate Media Net
Shweta Dalmia – Independent
Kris De Meyer – KCL Neurosciences
Peter Gingold – Julie’s Bicycle
Andrew Jackson – ProReal
Hannah Knox – UCL Anthropology
Dan Osborn – UCL Earth Sciences
James Parr – Imaginals
Freya Roberts – Consultant
Lucy Rose – Creative Data Projects
Simon Sharpe – BEIS
Matt Winning – UCL Bartlett

UCL Support:

James Paskins – UCL Grand Challenges
Katherine Welch – UCL Public Policy