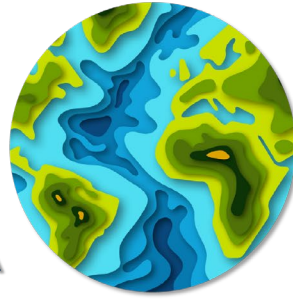


**MEDIA
RESOURCES**



REALISING A
Compassionate
PLANET

**LIVE ONLINE EVENT
NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

CO-HOSTED BY



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



CCARE

contents

The global community's response to climate change cannot rely on scientific expertise, accurate data, and technical excellence alone—it must also realise the power of a compassionate planet.



- 1 | Event Details
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The Event

Realising a Compassionate Planet is a groundbreaking event bringing compassion science into dialogue with climate science to address the “code red” for humanity named in the recent [United Nations climate report](#).

This **November 5** one-day live online event runs alongside the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). It will provide a global gathering where changemakers and scientists can join forces with others around the world who are tapping into compassion as one of the strongest motivations for change known to humankind.

Co-hosted by the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Technomoral Futures, the University of Edinburgh's Global Compassion Initiative, and the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University.

Compassion Science Meets Climate Science

Realising a Compassionate Planet **begins at 10:00 UTC**, with a welcome from the co-hosts at the University of Edinburgh and Stanford University. The day of conversation and action continues until 18:00 UTC.

Registration is required at acompassionateplanet.org. Scholarships are available, and no one will be turned away from the event due to financial constraint.

Media credentials may be requested at hello@acompassionateplanet.org.

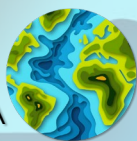
Each session will feature a conversation between scientists, artists, leaders, and changemakers exploring the intersection of these two domains. Session details and presenters are available at acompassionateplanet.org.

Contact

This November 5 one-day live online event runs alongside the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

While scientists have rarely given significant attention to human societies as part of the environment, the climate crisis shows us that a focus on one another's well-being is essential to addressing climate change.

This first-of-its-kind event gathers changemakers, artists, and scientists in conversation with those around the world who are tapping into compassion as one of the strongest motivations for change known to humankind.



To reach a media relations coordinator in the United States, please call +1-650-721-6142

To schedule an interview with one of our contributors, please call us or reach out to:

hello@acompassionateplanet.org

Website for registration and presenter information:

acompassionateplanet.org

Monitored email to request information or interviews:

hello@acompassionateplanet.org

Frequently asked questions about the event are available [here](#)

A media page with downloadable logos, graphics, and more is available [here](#)

Background

As we enter the decade of last chance for addressing climate change successfully, the steps necessary to mitigate our climate crisis require action and change at all levels of society.

Of course we need governmental leadership, corporate strategic changes, and public action as part of the answers. All of these can create environments to support or hinder change in collective shared action. And that action matters! Our families, our communities, our societal systems, and ourselves need an approach that recognizes both the difficulties we face and the possibilities for a flourishing future.

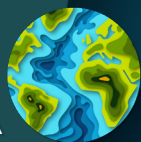
That's where compassion comes in. Social science defines compassion as the human responsiveness to suffering. New research in this domain shows that compassion offers the intrinsic motivation to act in favor of the welfare of others. Compassion is one of the missing links to connect climate science to practical solutions for us and our planet.

In this first-of-its-kind event bringing these two domains of science together, we will explore compassion as the collective motivational 'glue' that can bind us together. Compassion must be part of driving the coordinated change on the scale necessary to secure sustainable and flourishing lives for future generations.

But how can the moral and existential imperative of compassion become a practical, material reality? How do we activate compassion in the sphere of climate action? The unique dialogues in this day of conversation and action are designed to address difficult and pragmatic questions like these.

Delegates to the event will participate in live chat and person-to-person interaction as well as live question-and-answer sessions with presenters. The event will also offer a compassion-in-action gallery of changemaking resources and inspiration, with practical advice and take away resources to activate compassion in the context of climate change.

The global community's response to climate change cannot rely on scientific expertise, accurate data, and technical excellence alone – it requires realising the power of a compassionate planet.



Overview

10:00 UTC

Wake up and make change: Welcome to a compassionate planet

Professor Liz Grant, University of Edinburgh
and Dr. James Doty, Stanford University

11:00 UTC

What will it take to realise a compassionate and just global politics?

A conversation with Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand
and journalist Allan Little

11:30 UTC

What hope do we have for a compassionate planet?

A conversation with Dr. Jane Goodall, United Nations Messenger of Peace and founder
of the Jane Goodall Institute, hosted by artist and campaigner Sarah Woods

12:00 UTC

How will we realize a compassionate and just global economy?

A dialogue with Andrew Simms, co-director of the NewWeather Institute, Katherine
Trebeck of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, and James Thornton of ClientEarth,
hosted by the University of Edinburgh Global Compassion Initiative's John Gillies

This is a partial program.

For full list of sessions, please visit:

acompassionateplanet.org

13:45 UTC

Fierce compassion: Naming injustices and addressing global suffering

A conversation with changemakers Alastair McIntosh author of *Riders on the Storm*
and Anthony Reddie author of *Journeying to Justice*, hosted by artist Karine Polwart

15:15 UTC

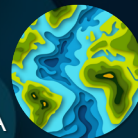
Human values, Inhuman futures: Tensions and paradoxes in realising a compassionate planet with technology

A conversation with Mgr Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for
Culture, Aniyia Williams of the Omidyar Network, Jason Edward Lewis of Concordia
University and Director of the Initiative for Indigenous Futures Partnership, and
Aimee van Wynsberghe, of the University of Bonn, hosted by the University of
Edinburgh Centre for Technomoral Futures Director, Shannon Vallor

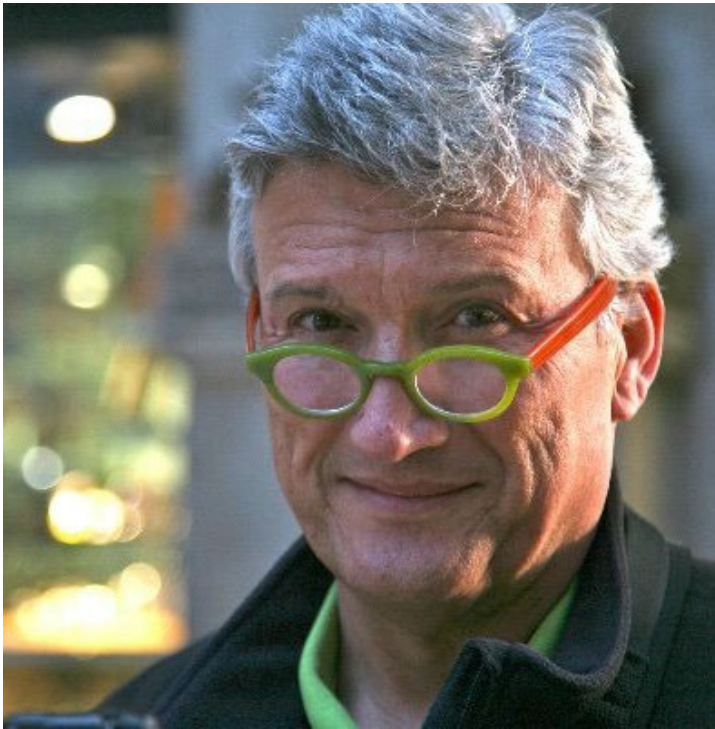
17:00 UTC

We the changemakers

A call to action led by The Children's Parliament and Roots and Shoots
with artists Gowri Ramnarayan and Sarah Woods



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Conveners

James Doty

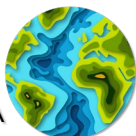
DIRECTOR, CCARE

QUOTE DR. DOTY

“Climate change is the existential crisis facing our humanity. By bringing together a diverse number of voices from both climate science and compassion science, this event not only comments on the crisis but illuminates ways in which we can avert it through innovative perspectives and initiatives. This is a much-needed conversation that allows for hope and optimism.”

Dr. Doty is the founder and director of the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University (CCARE). The mission of CCARE is to understand more clearly the neural correlates of compassion and the value proposition of being compassionate in regard to health, wellness and longevity.

He is the New York Times and international bestselling author of *Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart*. Dr. Doty is also the senior editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Compassion Science*. He serves on the board of a number of non-profits and is the former vice-chair of the Charter for Compassion and a senior advisor to the Council of the Parliament of the World's Religions.



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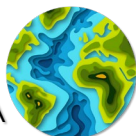
Shannon Vallor

DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR TECHNOMORAL FUTURES

QUOTE PROFESSOR VALLOR

“A sustainable planet requires a compassionate planet – and that means a fundamental shift in human motivation and action. To survive and flourish together in the face of rapid climate change, the human family must shift to new ways of living, building, and thinking that prioritise care for life, place, and community over short-term profit-taking and status-seeking. The latter provide only illusions of security and happiness – and even those illusions are crumbling now. What can replace them is compassion and its commitment to secure future joy and dignity for others. Join us for a day of reflection, performance and vital conversation about how that change happens.”

Professor Shannon Vallor holds the Baillie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence and is Director of the Centre for Technomoral Futures in the Edinburgh Futures Institute at the University of Edinburgh, where she is also appointed in the Department of Philosophy. Professor Vallor's research maps the ethical challenges and opportunities posed by new uses of data and artificial intelligence, and her work includes advising academia, government and industry on the ethical design and use of AI. She is a 2021-2022 Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute and former Visiting Researcher and AI Ethicist at Google. She is the author of *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and editor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Technology*. She is the recipient of multiple awards for teaching, scholarship and public engagement, including the 2015 World Technology Award in Ethics.



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Liz Grant

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

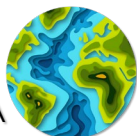
QUOTE PROFESSOR GRANT

“While we have much of the science to tackle the climate crisis, and there is a rising global awareness of the urgency, the will to take action is still largely absent. We need something alongside the science of sustainable transformations, which has the capability of transforming the way we live with each other and the planet. Compassion offers this transformative strategy. Compassion is not in itself a new economic, or social, or ecological paradigm, but it shapes the way that such a paradigm can emerge.”

Liz Grant is an Assistant Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and a Professor of Global Health and Development. She is Director of the University's Global Health Academy, responsible for developing and supporting global health partnerships and advocacy, and for translating global health research into action.

Liz is a Co-director of the Global Compassion Initiative, a University wide initiative to embed a culture of compassion and care across all Colleges, and to support the science of compassion studies. Liz's research spans planetary health and palliative care in contexts of poverty and conflict – compassion as the value base of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the ethics of compassion and care. She leads the Palliative Care in a Changing Climate Group, working to develop palliative care services in fragile states and refugee settings Liz coordinates the Global Health PhD programme specifically designed for students from resource constrained countries, and is a director of the Global Health Challenges Certificate and a Co-Director of the Masters of Family Medicine.

Liz is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and a member of the Faculty of Public Health. She sits on the Scottish Government NHS Global Citizenship Board, and is on the executive of the World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global Health and a Steering Group member for the organisation Health Information for All, Hifa.org. Previously Liz was the Senior Health Advisor to the Scottish Government's International Development Team working primarily in Malawi. She has worked for the UK's National Health Service (NHS) in the Public Health Directorate in Lothian, and led the NHS HIV partnership between NHS Lothian and the Zambian Ministry of Health. She has been an advisor to a number of global health charities, and serves as a trustee for CBM Scotland.



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Paul Brennan

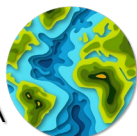
NEUROSURGEON

QUOTE DR. BRENNAN

“Actions are harder than words. Societal and population change starts and ends with individual decisions and actions. Realising a Compassionate Planet speakers are world renown, with expertise and lived experience realizing change at scale. Delegates will be inspired and become equipped to drive change personally, locally.”

Paul is Reader and Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon at the University of Edinburgh. His research spans the laboratory and the clinic, combining molecular, epidemiology and clinical investigation to guide rationale innovation to improve patient care. He applies this strategy to improving diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes for people with brain tumours, and traumatic brain or spinal injuries. He is part of the Edinburgh CRUK Adult Brain Tumour Centre of Excellence and Tessa Jowell Brain Matrix Centre of Excellence. As founder of University of Edinburgh spin-out, eoSurgical Ltd, he has also led innovation in surgical simulation training around the world.

In 2014 Paul helped in the foundation of the Compassion Initiative at the University of Edinburgh and is a co-Director. His interest is in how compassion interventions are scalable at a population level, and how we best objectively assess impact, drawing on his neuroscience and epidemiological expertise.



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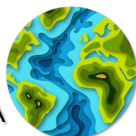
Conveners

John Gillies

PHYSICIAN

QUOTE DR. GILLIES

“Climate change is the existential challenge of our times. Only by realising and harnessing the extraordinary power of compassion locally and globally can we develop the wise actions and behaviours we, and our diverse and beautiful planet, need to survive and thrive. This unique event brings together artists, scientists, philosophers and politicians to provide practical thinking on what we need to do. Don't miss it.”



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John is a co-director of the University of Edinburgh Compassion Initiative. He has worked in Malawi and as a general practitioner in rural Scotland. He has been involved with medical education for many years. He was Chair of the Royal College of GPs in Scotland from 2010 to 2014. He has published on rural healthcare, medical ethics, medical humanities, heart disease and primary healthcare policy.

He is an Honorary Professor of General Practice at the University of Edinburgh and until 2019, was Deputy Director of Scottish School of Primary Care, which works nationally and internationally on developing evidence for practice and policy. In 2019, he chaired a group for the Scottish Board for Academic Medicine which produced recommendations on increasing undergraduate exposure of medical students in Scotland to general practice. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2018. He is an editor of a book of poetry for new doctors, *Tools of the Trade*, gifted to all new doctors in Scotland, published jointly by Scottish Poetry Library and Polygon Press in June 2019.



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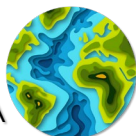
Harriet Harris

HEAD OF CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

QUOTE REVD. DR. HARRIS

“The climate crisis is huge, and I am small” is true, and can hold us in climate distress or doom. At this point in time, we need something extremely powerful to address the fear and the reality. I know nothing more powerful than compassion for facing feelings with courage, and truth with wisdom, and for provoking outbreaks of collaborative action. Join this day to experience how compassion can heal, strengthen and galvanize us: “I am small in the face of climate change, but together we are vast.”

Dr Harriet Harris MBE, MA (Oxon) D Phil, FRSA, is the University Chaplain and Head of Chaplaincy Service at the University of Edinburgh. Harriet has a long university career, as a Research Fellow (Oxford), University Lecturer (Exeter), and Chaplain and Faculty member (Oxford and Edinburgh), and is an expert on fundamentalism and religious epistemology. She continues to write, teach and supervise research, and currently works on the fostering of healthy educational cultures. She is Convenor of the Doctrine Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, an Associate Fellow of the Clinical Educator Programme, Honorary Fellow of the School of Divinity, and a Fellow of the RSA. She gives compassion training within NHS Education Scotland, the Scottish Government, and the University, and is a Trainer with Student Minds and a coach with One of Many™, the UK’s largest network of women leaders. Harriet was awarded an MBE in 2017 for Services to Multi-Faith Education and Community Cohesion.



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Kirsty MacGregor

LEADERSHIP EXPERT

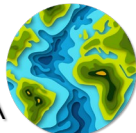
QUOTE MS. MACGREGOR

“As the exquisite balance of our planet’s ecosystem is disrupted by the largest scale climate changes in 10,000 years, humanity is running out of time to make intelligent, joined up choices. Grounds for the hope and optimism so urgently needed can be found in initiatives such as this bringing together of climate science with compassion science. For a future to be possible it will require the highest human values driving the best of our technical genius. Don’t miss this dynamic and ground-breaking day of enquiry!”

A highly experienced international consultant, facilitator, coach and non-executive Director, Kirsty designs and runs innovative leadership development programmes and is a thinking partner and critical friend for leaders at all levels.

She is a founding Co-Director of the University of Edinburgh’s Global Compassion Initiative and has served on the General Council of the University of Edinburgh for over a decade.

The joy she finds in her 4 young grandchildren is tempered by increasing concern about their futures and the existential challenge to much of life on our exquisite planet. Facilitating productive and generative dialogue between climate science and compassion science is an imperative for Kirsty.



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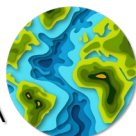
Monica Worline

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

QUOTE DR. WORLINE

“Compassion science offers a different window into human motivation – one that shows that we are other-serving creatures who will act to protect our fellow human beings who are suffering. We need to understand and catalyze this powerful source of motivation now more than ever if we are to protect all of humankind.”

Monica C. Worline, Ph.D., is one of the leading voices bringing compassion into organizations, having co-authored the foundational book *Awakening Compassion at Work: The Quiet Power that Elevates People and Organizations*. Monica leads organizations to develop compassionate leadership, courageous thinking, and the curiosity to awaken the best in ourselves and one another. Dr. Worline is a collaborating research scientist at Stanford University's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education, as well as the Faculty Director for Engaged Learning and Innovation at the Center for Positive Organizations, University of Michigan where she leads a flagship educational program in the science of thriving at work and beyond.



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