



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

# ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

9-10 October 2023

Auditorium - Department of Economics  
Piazza Scaravilli 2, Bologna 40126

## PROGRAMME & SPEAKER DETAILS

### DAY 1 – 9 October 2023

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From 8:30	Coffee and refreshments
9:00-9:15	Welcome and introduction
9:15-10:45	<b>Session 1: Trade and the environment (1)</b> FARID FARROKHI – <i>Purdue University, USA</i> Can Trade Policy Mitigate Climate Change? PAULA BUSTOS - <i>Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain</i> The Effects of Climate Change on Labor and Capital Reallocation (tbc)
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	<b>Session 2: Energy</b> SUGANDHA SRIVASTAV – <i>University of Oxford, UK</i> Bringing Breakthrough Technologies to Market: Evidence from Solar Power and Feed-in Tariffs THIEMO FETZER – <i>University of Warwick, UK</i> Political economy of climate (in)action
12:45-14:30	Buffet lunch
14:30-16:00	<b>Session 3: Climate policy 1</b> JEROEN VAN DEN BERGH – <i>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain</i> Does a sustainability transition require regulation of economic complexity? LUCA TASCHINI – <i>University of Edinburgh, UK</i> Weitzman Meets Taylor: ETS Futures Drivers and Carbon Cap Rules

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16:00-16:30 Coffee break

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16:30-18:00 **Session 4: Climate Policy and Norms**

ARMON REZAI - *Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria*  
Second-best climate policy and income distribution: trading off emissions, equity, and efficiency

CHARLES EFFERSON - *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*  
Social tipping our way - or maybe not - to some kind of future

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19:30 Dinner at "Antica Osteria Le Mura" – Vicolo del Falcone, 13/A – Bologna  
By invitation

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## DAY 2– 10 October 2023

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From 9:00 Coffee and refreshments

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9:00-11:00 **Session 5 Behaviour, norms and the environment**

SARA CONSTANTINO – *Princeton University, USA*  
Group identities can undermine social tipping after intervention

NIKOS NIKIFORAKIS - *New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE*  
Eliciting thresholds for collective behavior

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10:45-11:15 Coffee break

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11:15-12:00 **Session 6 Trade and the environment (2)**

CLARE BALBONI - *London School of Economics and Political Science, UK*  
Firm adaptation in production networks: Evidence from extreme weather events in Pakistan

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12:00-12:45 **Wrap-up discussion and conclusions**

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13:00-15:00 Lunch at "Matusel" – Via delle Belle Arti, 20/22 – Bologna  
By invitation

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## SPEAKERS' BIO

### **Claire Balboni, *London School of Economics and Political Science, UK***

Clare Balboni is Assistant Professor of Economics at London School of Economics and Political Science. She has held the position of 3M Career Development Assistant Professor of Environmental Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research centers on environmental economics, trade and development economics, with a focus on adaptation to the impacts of environmental change in developing countries. This has included adapting empirical techniques from the field of international trade to provide insight into the potential effects of sea level rise on infrastructure investments in Vietnam, and exploring the political economy of Indonesian forest fires. Clare Balboni holds a BA in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge, UK, an MA in International and Development Economics from Yale University and an MRes and PhD from the London School of Economics.

### **Paula Bustos, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain***

Paula Bustos is ICREA research professor at IPEG, a Research Fellow at the European Economic Association and the CEPR and Co-Editor at the Journal of International Economics. She obtained her PhD in Economics at Harvard University and her Bachelor Degree at Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Argentina. She studies the economic effects of climate change, new agricultural technologies and international market integration. Her work has been published in leading journals such as the American Economic Review and the Quarterly Journal of Economics and is widely cited. Her research on agricultural productivity and structural transformation has been funded by a Starting Grant from the European Research Council in 2017. Her new research line on adjustment to climate change in developing countries has been funded by a Consolidator Grant in 2023.

### **Sara Costantino, *Princeton University, USA***

Sara Costantino is an interdisciplinary social scientist, currently based at the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE). Her research sits at the intersection of behavioral economics, decision-making and psychology, political ecology and social and environmental policy. She works with cross-disciplinary teams to better understand how individuals embedded in social-ecological systems respond to changes in their environments, and how they can build community resilience to social and environmental shocks. In this work, she is especially interested in understanding the dynamics between individuals and their social spheres. One line of research looks at the interaction between top-down and bottom-up forms of governance, and how and when social norms lead to social tipping dynamics. In parallel work, she studies the political economy of cash transfer programs and pilots, with a focus on shifting public attitudes towards cash assistance. She holds a B.A. in psychology, economics and literature from McGill University (2006), an M.Sc. in economics from University College London (2009) and a Ph.D. in cognitive science from New York University (2016).



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### **Charles Efferson, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland***

Charles Efferson is a population biologist whose research focuses on applied cultural evolution, gene-culture coevolution, and the evolution of cooperation. Much of his work on applied cultural evolution examines social tipping and norm change in heterogeneous populations. He is a professor in the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Lausanne.

### **Farid Farrokhi, *Purdue University and Princeton University, USA***

Farid Farrokhi is Assistant Professor of Economics at Purdue University. He is currently on leave to visit Princeton University as a Kenen fellow at the IES and Department of Economics. He holds degrees from Penn State University (PhD in economics) and Sharif University (BSc in engineering, MSc in economics). He studies the role of international trade and spatial economics for economy-wide productivity and welfare as well as the environment—defined broadly to include climate-related issues. In studying these outcomes, he is particularly interested in understanding how economic activities and policy responses are inter-connected between economies and industries. He uses micro-level data to learn about facts and identify policy impacts, and he is interested in developing theories that embed micro-level mechanisms into general equilibrium analyses.

### **Thiemo Fetzer, *University of Warwick, UK***

Thiemo Fetzer is a Professor in the Economics department at the University of Warwick and a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics. Thiemo's research has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian, Foreign Policy, Le Monde, and the Financial Times. He is also affiliated with the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) at University of Warwick and the Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC) at London School of Economics, CESifo, and the Pearson Institute at University of Chicago.

### **Nikos Nikiforakis, *New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE***

Nikos Nikiforakis is a Professor of Economics at New York University, Abu Dhabi, a Co-Director of the Center for Behavioral Institutional Design, and a Co-Director of the Social Science Experimental Laboratory. He obtained his PhD in Economics from Royal Holloway, University of London. He joined NYU Abu Dhabi in 2013, after holding senior positions at the University of Melbourne in Australia, the Max Planck Institute in Germany, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in France. Prof. Nikiforakis' research interests are predominantly in behavioral and public economics. His main body of work consists of experimental studies in the lab, field, and online investigating factors that impact the evolution of social norms and cooperation. At present, he is exploring a broad range of topics relating to inequality and injustice. His work has been published in leading economic and interdisciplinary journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Nature Communications*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Prof. Nikiforakis was a founding Co-Editor of the Journal of the Economic Science Association. He is currently Associate Editor at the European Economic Review and the Journal of Economic Psychology, and an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics. He has extensive experience advising governmental entities and helping them build capacity in behavioral social science.



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### **Armon Rezai, *Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria***

Armon Rezai is a full professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and a senior researcher in the Equity and Justice Research Group of the IIASA Population and Just Societies Program. His research topics mostly center around macroeconomics (e.g., economic growth, distribution of income and wealth, and unemployment) and its application to environmental problems like climate change and economic policy. After earning his PhD in economics from The New School for Social Research (New York) in the US, he worked at the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki, Finland, and provided consultations to the World Bank and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) in the US. He has been a Fulbright Fellow, a Schrodinger Fellow of the Austrian Science Fund, and an academic visitor at the University of California at Berkeley and Santa Barbara in the US, CESifo in Germany, and the FGV Sao Paulo in Brazil. He is also an external research associate at the University of Oxford's Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies (OxCARRE) in the UK, and a fellow of the CESifo network. From 2016 to 2020, he served as a member of the advisory board of the MISTRA Financial Systems research consortium in Sweden.

### **Sugandha Srivastav, *University of Oxford, UK***

Sugandha Srivastav is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer in Environmental Economics at the University of Oxford. She is also a Distinguished CESifo affiliate. Her primary research explores the drivers of clean technology innovation. Specifically: how early-stage clean technologies can be financed and commercialised. She also investigates how to re-design power markets for a net zero future. To help operationalise climate policy, her secondary research explores the political economy of the energy transition, where her work looks at legacy laws that implicitly subsidise fossil fuels and the dynamics of lobbying.

She holds research positions at the Smith School, Economics Department, Saïd Business School & Institute of New Economic Thinking at Oxford. She has worked as an environmental and energy economist at Vivid Economics and ICRIER where she advised governments, private firms, and international organisations on climate policy, natural resource management, and energy policy. She has engaged in projects across Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, Latin America and OECD economies.

### **Luca Taschini, *University of Edinburgh, UK***

Luca Taschini is a Professor and Chair of Climate Change Finance, and the Director of the Centre for Business, Climate Change, and Sustainability (B-CCaS) at the University of Edinburgh. He is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and a Fellow at CESifo Energy and Climate Economics, Munich. He has held the position of Visiting Scholar at the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, U.S.A. and the Research Center for Sustainability Science at Ritsumeikan University, Japan. He holds a PhD in Finance from the University of Zurich. Luca Taschini's research is interdisciplinary and spans economics and applied finance. It cuts across the fields of environmental and resource economics, financial economics, and industrial organization. He has been applying his research to real-life policies. His research has been supported by the UK Economic and Social Research Council, the European Research Council, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Environmental Defense Fund.



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**Jeroen van den Bergh, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain***

Jeroen van den Bergh is ICREA Research Professor in the Institute of Environmental Science & Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB). Honorary Professor of Environmental & Resource Economics in the School of Economics & Business and the Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA). Head of the research group Environmental & Climate Economics at ICTA-UAB. Previously Professor of Environmental Economics (1997-2007) at VUA, and editor-in-chief of the journal Environmental Innovation & Societal Transitions (2011-2021). He holds a Master degree in Econometrics & Operations Research from Tilburg University, and a PhD from VUA. He was awarded the Shell Prize 2002, IEC's ("Sant Jordi") Environmental Prize 2011, two ERC Advanced Grants (2017 & 2023), and an honorary doctorate from the Netherlands' Open University (2019). His latest book is 'Human Evolution Beyond Biology and Culture: Evolutionary Social, Environmental and Policy Sciences' (Cambridge University Press). He works on the interface of environmental economics, climate-policy research, and innovation studies. Research in recent years focuses on effectiveness and public support of climate policy. This accounts for undesirable systemic impacts, such as energy rebound and carbon leakage. It involves application of methods and insights from behavioural and evolutionary economics, operationalized through agent-based modelling, questionnaire surveys and online experiments. Past work covered integrated ecological-economic modelling, contributions to the growth-versus-environment debate, environmental policies applied to urban-transport issues, biodiversity valuation and policy, modelling of recycling in material-product chains, and international dimensions of environmental policy.

