VirtualStudyTour:

CLIMATE CHANGE JOURNALISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

[Due to the unpredictability of the global landscape at this time, speakers may change without notice]

Tunicia Phillips is an award-winning business, environment and climate journalist at the Mail & Guardian. She is a two-time fellow for the Earth Journalism Network and reported from COP25 in Spain in 2019 and the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Colombia in 2017. Phillips has spent over five years dedicated to climate and environment training in conservation, illicit wildlife trafficking as well as mining and energy. She is a director at a community radio station where she started her career and continues to train and mentor junior journalists. Tunicia is currently managing and coordinating a training and mentoring fellowship with Climate Tracker on drylands restoration. Her career spans over ten years in radio and she is currently writing a book under PanMacmillan on policing marginalised communities following the murder of Down syndrome teenager Nathaniel Julies by police during lockdown last year.

Dr Britta Rennkamp is a senior researcher at the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) at the University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on climate policy and technology in developing countries and the links between poverty, inequality, energy and mitigation of climate change. Previous work analysed conflict and coalition in renewable energy and nuclear programs, carbon taxation, green industrial and innovation policies in Africa and Latin America. Britta holds a PhD in Political Science from University of Twente, and a Diplom/MPhil in Regional Sciences Latin America from University of Cologne.

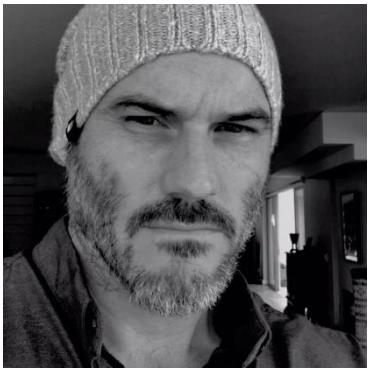
Kevin Bloom is the co-founder of Daily Maverick's climate and ecosystem unit, Our Burning Planet, as well as the unit's investigative lead. He is the co-author of Continental Shift: A Journey into Africa's Changing Fortunes, a seven-year, eighteen-country investigation into the forces shaping Africa in the 21st century. His first book, Ways of Staying, won the 2010 South African Literary Award for literary journalism and was shortlisted for the Alan Paton Award. Kevin is an Honorary Writing Fellow at the University of Iowa and a former Writing Fellow at the Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Sara Schurmann has worked as a journalist for 10 years, among others for the German publications Tagesspiegel, VICE, Gruner + Jahr, Zeit Online and funk. In 2018, Medium Magazin chose her as one of its Top 30 under 30. For the past four years she has closely followed reporting on the climate crisis — and yet, the magnitude of the situation only became clear to her a year ago. With an open letter to her colleagues, she hoped to start a public discussion on climate reporting. Shortly she co-initiated the Netzwerk Klimajournalismus Deutschland (Climate Journalism Network Germany).

Leonie Joubert is a South African science writer and author who uses storytelling to grapple with many of today's tough issues: climate and ecosystem collapse, energy policy, cities as development hubs, and why today's food system leaves many of us hungry, heavy, and sick (the hunger-obesity poverty-paradox). She has spent the better part of 20 years exploring these topics through books, journalism, non-fiction creative writing, and podcasting. She was the 2007 Ruth First Fellow; was listed in the Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans You Must Take to Lunch (2008); was twice given an honorary mention in the Sunday Times Alan Paton Nonfiction Awards (2007 and 2010); was named the 2009 SAB Environmental Journalist of the Year (print/internet category); and was shortlisted for the 2016 City Press Tafelberg Nonfiction Award.

Sipho Kings was born in eSwatini, grew up in a village in Botswana and went to school in a town in Limpopo. He spent a decade at the Mail & Guardian, starting as an intern before becoming its environment reporter. Putting climate change on the paper's front page won him 14 national awards and a journalism fellowship at Harvard University in 2018. He was then the M&G's news editor before staff voted him in as acting editor-in-chief. Sipho is now the editorial director of The Continent, a weekly African newspaper distributed in 105 countries, which he co-founded.

Anne Tezenas du Montcel is a freelance chief editor for French magazines like Challenges. She also teaches IPJ-Dauphine journalism school students to write long stories for magazines. In 2011, she and Elizabeth Nivens participated as book directors in the design of a book about the Anthropocene era, *Voyage dans l'Anthropocène, cette nouvelle ère dont nous sommes les héros,* written by Laurent Carpentier (journalist at Le Monde) and the famous French glaciologist Claude Lorius (who, with Jean Jouzel, was the first to establish climate change curves in the Antarctic ice and their parallel evolution with CO2 emissions ones). The book was then adapted for film by Luc Jacquet. Because of this experience, she was asked to cover COP 21 preparation as embedded journalist within the French presidency diplomatic teams until the Paris Agreement adoption in December 2015. Anne then spent 2 years working on a new part of the Treaty dedicated to the non-state actors Action Agenda. Since then, she has been involved in projects dedicated to better climate change and low-carbon transition knowledge and would prefer to be described as a "constant-learner European practitioner" rather than as an "expert".



Simon Borchert is a socially and environmentally-minded strategist and media guy with an insatiable desire for outdoor adventure and a deep passion for protecting the world's wildlife and wild places. With more than 18 years of business and brand development consulting experience, Simon has successfully delivered strategies to some of the biggest luxury consumer brands as well as a multitude of conservation and NGO brands, including Africa Geographic magazine, WWF South Africa, Ogilvy Earth, Desmond Tutu's African Leadership Institute, The Ocean Race (previously the Volvo Ocean Race) and others. He has won multiple awards in magazine publishing. As a speaker, Simon has participated on several international platforms such as SXSW, UN Sustainable Development Goals Media Lounge, One Humanity Live, Sanctuary Asia, and more. Simon is also the Chief Executive of the Shannon Elizabeth Foundation and is the founder and host of Africa's number one rated conservation podcast, The Art Of Conservation.

Katharina Kropshofer is a freelance (science) journalist, based in Vienna. In her print and radio pieces, she likes to explore the lines between science and society, and focuses predominantly on the climate and ecological crisis. She has a background in ecology and graduated from Imperial College London with a Science Communication MSc. Since, she has published in media such as Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin, The Guardian, BBC and Der Standard. Katharina is a co-founder of "Netzwerk Klimajournalismus", an initiative to connect climate journalists and "andererseits", an online magazine for inclusive journalism.

Julia Migne is a science communicator and journalist currently based in Oxford, UK. She is the co-founder of INKLINE, an international media platform that features solutions-focused news and interviews with organizations that champion social cultural causes. She specializes in environmental issues and loves sharing conservation success stories. Julia is also the Director of Conservation Optimism, a programme that aims to empower everyone to act for nature.

Ornaldo Gjergii is a Data Journalist and Policy analyst for OBCTranseuropa and the European Data Journalism Network. He is experienced in analysis of geodata and of environmental policies in Europe.

Adrian Kearns is a Product Owner at OpenUp as well as the Programme Manager for the organisation's Local Government Programme. Prior to joining OpenUp, Adrian worked in the South African Government for 16 years. His knowledge and experience about the three spheres of South Africa's Government, coupled with his understanding of Community Development, Spatial & Development Planning in government have trickled into some of the projects within OpenUp. His two achievements have to be the effective management of National Treasury Projects, Vulekamali and Municipal Money, both focusing on making government budget data more accessible to citizens of South Africa. His passion is finding innovative ways to advance citizen participation in government, especially at a localised level. He has recently project lead on developing an online tool called the Public Participation Guide, which aims to create a platform for citizens to engage their municipality, with the necessary information at hand, to engage effectively. Similar to the Public Participation Guide, he also leads another project, a Citizen Engagement App, which takes participation somewhat deeper, focusing on service delivery disruptions and service delivery faults that can be reported by citizens. His thinking is centred around research and gathering as much data about a particular issue, before formulating solutions. All his projects are user-driven, meaning, ensuring that adequate research is done to understand the needs of the targeted users and testing solutions with users. It's about experimentation, learning, and being able to adapt to an agile project management methodology which OpenUp religiously applies..

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