

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world"*  
**Student Conference Program**  
**Department of Environmental Science and Policy**  
**MESP(OM) 13 December 2019**



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*There's only one way left to save the earth... together*



**Noreen Akhtar**  
Pakistan

Ethinylestradiol and Desogestrel Induced-  
Hematological Changes and Stress Response in  
Climbing Perch, *Anabas testudineus*: Pharmaceutical  
Pollution in Water and Potential Policy  
Recommendations to Alleviate this Pollution

14.00 N15 Room 103



“I belong to Hunza which is a small town in northern Pakistan. The unique traditional ecological knowledge people in Hunza have gives them a unique identity from rest of the world and I'm very much interested in preserving this knowledge. Preservation of traditional ecological knowledge not only unites communities but also, it makes them resilient towards external stresses like globalization and environmental degradation.”

**Nidia Alyeriz Arauz**  
Nicaragua

Clean cookstoves in rural Corozo Community, Nicaragua

14.30 N15 Room 101



“My goal after graduation is to expand my competencies to become an environmental leader, contributing effectively with greater impact, and working specifically to support environmental groups led by women and Indigenous People.”

**Assel Baishulakova**  
Kazakhstan

Mesocosm Experiments as a Tool for Cyanobacterial  
Blooms Dynamics Research

10.00 N15 Room 102



“How to change the world? I would be too mature and way skeptical if I say it is not possible. Besides, I still want to be a dreamer. So, what would I do to change the world? I try to be the best version of myself, be the best example to my community, share the knowledge, and be kind and compassionate when it is hard to be so. I believe, by sharing and working-hard you bring awareness and contribution to improve the environment you are living in. Through these little steps, we truly can make a positive step forward to have our safe and peaceful version of the planet. May the force be with us. Amen.”

**Rimante Balsiunaite**  
Lithuania

Water Scarcity, Agricultural Drought and its impacts to  
the beginning of Syria's civil war in 2011

11.30 N13 Room 118



“I don't know how I am going to change the world, but I have an old compass. I use this compass not only for navigation in the forest but also as a reminder that I always have to navigate. The most important is knowing where is my North. My North in this sense is the sustainable future which doesn't harm the natural environment, especially ocean. As long as I navigate myself towards this direction, I know that I am making little steps towards sustainable future where human lives in natural harmony with nature.”

**Paromita Basak**  
Bangladesh

Climate Change impact on Central Asia. Mapping  
Kyrgyzstan

14.30 N13 Room 118



"Changing the world is a huge statement and while I have zero idea how I am going to do that, I indeed know it starts from me, the individual. Changing my lifestyle to an environmentally friendly way, changing my family to reduce carbon footprint and changing my community with sustainable and eco-friendly solutions, it starts from that level. I want to work in good researches about climate change and pollution control and maybe come up with a solution that can help this planet and the living beings. I am aiming high, dreaming big, so that one day, I can achieve some or all of it."

**Lily Blain**  
USA

Beyond the Limits: A global hunger crisis with a tailor-made solution?

10.00 N15 Room 101



“I do not think one can look to change the world without first asking themselves the question of how the world is going to change them. ‘Changing the world’ is only as viable as the ability of individuals to be susceptible to or in pursuit of change, and in that vein I think the way I can change the world is by being open to, embracing, and exploring change. I hope to change the world through a fervent pursuit of curiosities, a ferocious appetite and a conscious effort to never stop learning. Oh, I also want dismantle capitalism and retire by 35. “



**Christopher John Breen**  
Ireland

Trends in agricultural production and security: Food for Thought

10.30 N15 Room 101



“I want to contribute to the effort to equip society with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to enable it to ameliorate the seemingly ever-burgeoning environmental issues effecting the planet. The goal to change the world or solve environmental issues are lofty ambitions and ideals, beyond the capacity of any single individual. Therefore, I shall instead start small, aiming to positively influence the people around me first. Professionally I will encourage practices that support environmental stewardship, fair trade and that care for people, planet and profit, and not just profit. I then hope karma will take care of the rest.”



**Elena Roxana Bucata**  
Romania

Environmental protection and human rights in a  
Romanian coal mining region

13.30 N15 Room 101



“The world is full of paradoxes and it looks like in our environmental sciences field you can find a lot of them. So, shedding some light into those contradictions is what I am planning to do. Of course, changing the world is a very big objective, far from what I can realistically achieve, but maybe it is a nice dream to have and to get inspiration from.”

**Ananya Choudhury**  
India

Mapping of environmental and human crisis in  
conflicted/war-affected areas

12.00 N13 Room 118



“How do I want to change the world?

The more important question is do I even want to  
change the world?

\*\*Drum rolls\*\*

NO!!!

We want to change the way the world function... Not the  
world!!!”

**Stijn den Haan**  
Netherlands

The socio-economic contexts of ecosystem restoration

13.30 N15 Room 103



“Not on my own. I used to think that all the world’s problems would be solved if everyone were a biologist. By the beard of Zeus, was I wrong. Travels and meeting other people than Dutch biologists have ridden my error-prone *Homo sapiens* brain from such wishful thinking. Listening is key to understanding relevant and different perspectives, which in turn is key to cooperation. This is the path towards finding and implementing better solutions than an individual could on their own. I am glad that not everyone is a Dutch biologist: the international and interdisciplinary nature of our cohort is our vehicle to finding better solutions.”

**Lady Lee Carandang Dimapilis**  
Philippines

**Application of GIS in Site Suitability Analysis for  
Nuclear Power Plants**

14.00 N13 Room 118



**'Changing the world is overwhelming. I would rather  
bring positive change to someone's little world.'**

**Daniela Maria Godinho Ariolli**  
Brazil

Circular economy and the energy sector: study cases

14.00 N15 Room 105



“One of the things I have learned so far in this course, which has 27 nationalities, is about seeing environmental issues from different perspectives. So, I intend to contribute to a better world through sharing my knowledge especially regarding common problems that demand solutions from more comprehensive perspectives. Empathy and cooperation are key to achieve it.”

**Rebecca Lucinda Gottlieb**  
USA

China's National Sword Policy: A Double-Edged Sword  
for Recycling Management in the United States

10.00 N15 Room 202



“I would change the world by making dolphins the dominant species. In the words of Douglas Adams, “On the planet Earth, man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much—the wheel, New York, wars and so on—whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man—for precisely the same reasons.”

**Clarissa Graf**  
Austria

Plastic Pollution as a Global Risk

15.00 N15 Room 102



“Use your wisdom wisely! That’s what university teaches us, but there is much more than gathering knowledge and resources if you desire to change the world. I believe if you truly want to make a difference, one should start with oneself. That’s why I want to change the world by being:

C aring & courageous

H onest & humorous

A ctive & attentive

N atural & neutral

G roundbreaking & good-natured

E ncouraging & enthusiastic

M otivated & mindful

A uthentic & assertive

K ind & keen

E nergetic & empathetic

R esourceful & responsible

A change maker, that’s who I want to be. Here and now, that’s where and when I want to make a change.



**Adina Halevi**  
Israel

Has Large-Scale Seawater desalination in Israel created a false perception that fresh water is an abundant resource?

10.30 N15 Room 102



“I really do want to change the world. I believe the most important thing is to empower ourselves, to know that the change can start right here. No revolution ever started by someone staying silent, so we must speak up. Before I joined this program, I felt that the environmental voice was very quiet, occasionally echoing in distant places. But meeting all these great people who share my passion has given me so much strength and confidence that this voice is getting louder and louder. I aspire to do what’s in my power to learn, understand and educate how to tackle the environmental issues. I believe we can still save the world, and I believe now more than ever, that our voice is more than just an echo.”

**Jan-Niklas Paul Klaus Klaus Heintze**  
Germany

Development of wind in Germany and its problems

13.30 N15 Room 105



**CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW**

Mitakarunk? KLÍMA-IGAZSÁGOSSÁGOT!–  
Mikorakarjuk? MOST! Mitakarunk? KLÍMA-  
IGAZSÁGOSSÁGOT!–Mikorakarjuk? MOST!  
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IGAZSÁGOSSÁGOT!–Mikorakarjuk? MOST!

**CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW**

**Kumudu Vinodya Herath**  
Sri-Lanka

The importance of a systems approach in the decision-making process of socio-ecological systems: Lessons from a traditional agro-ecosystem in Sri Lanka

10.00 N15 Room 103



“I hope to apply the knowledge and the experience gained from MESPOM programme to help communities, institutes, and businesses to become socio-environmentally friendly, sustainable and resilient.”

**Laura Hurtado Verazain**  
Bolivia

Crisis in the Amazon: Causes and consequences of the forest fires

10.00 N13 Room 118



“Changing the world is a lot more difficult than how it sounds. During the past years I even came to accept that it was impossible since so many people don’t care at all. But MESP/OM is bringing my passion back that together we can do it. All of our small actions are making the difference now. I’m changing my daily habits and customs for sustainable ones. And I’m believing in change again <3”

**Avi Jakhmola**  
India

Electricity Transitions in India and China: Historical  
Comparisons

10.30 N15 Room 105

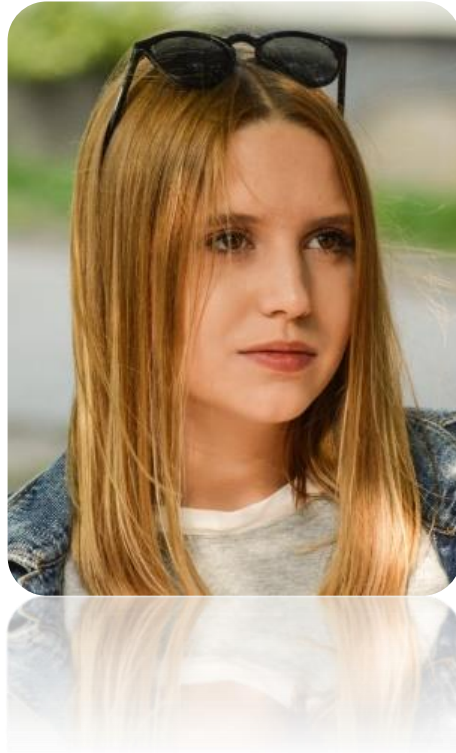


“Our world's a dynamic system; it's changing and evolving irrespective of what we do or don't do. I think the big question is figuring out how to direct these changes towards a less messy state. I'm fascinated by complex, multi-disciplinary problems; sustainable development and climate action top my list. I'd love to study these problems and potentially contribute towards solving them, working somewhere on the interface of science and policy. Maybe that'll help solve our planet's problems; if not, we can always try turning it off and on again.”

**Frida Kobor**  
Hungary

How the Energy Union would increase energy security in the European Union?

10.00 N15 Room 105

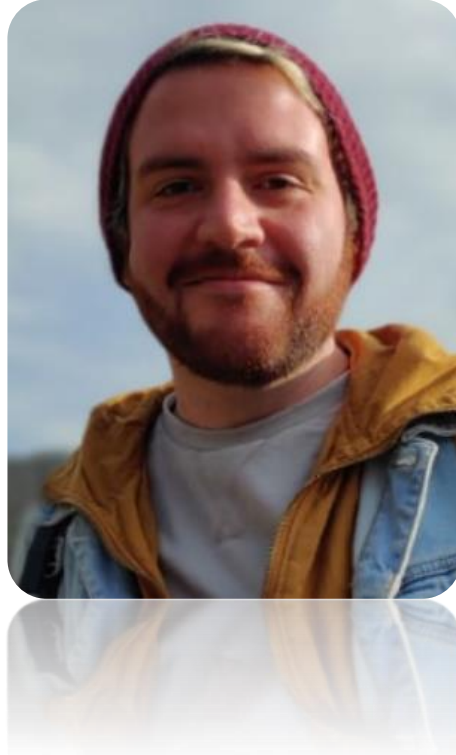


“I wish to work for a society which is based on solidarity, acceptance and equality, where human beings can live in harmony with each other and the environment.”

**Kyle Christopher Lavelle**  
USA

Social-ecological implications of Obama-era easing of  
United States sanctions on Cuba

14.00 N15 Room 102



“I do not want to change the world. I hope to learn how to live in the world, sustainably. I hope to stay creative, to make the lives of those around me brighter and happier and to always remember to be kind. I think that jobs, money and how I choose to spend my time will change. I’ll always look for a challenge and be thankful for every opportunity I am given.”



**Seylan Rauf Musayeva**  
Azerbaijan

Electricity Supply in Canada: phasing-out traditional  
coal-fired electricity

12.00 N15 Room 105



“There is no need to change the world. The only thing we need to change is ourselves- our behavior and attitude towards the world surrounding us.”

**Rose Trizer Omugar**  
Kenya

Transition to Low Carbon Development (LCDs)  
Pathways for Kenya

10.30 N15 Room 202



“ADOPT A TREE- My plan is to celebrate my birthdays by planting trees in a number of primary schools that are equivalent to my age each year. Each of the trees will be adopted by the young, school going kids in those schools who’ll nurture them to maturity. The kids will hopefully learn the value of planting and taking care of trees. I’ll be leaving a footprint in the world with one tree and one kid at a time, right?”

**Elena Palenova**  
Russia

Protected Area Downgrading, Downsizing, and  
Degazettement (PADDD) Phenomenon: A Case Study of  
Russia

13.30 N13 Room 118



“Preserve these words against a time of cold,  
a day of fear: man survives like a fish,  
stranded, beached, but intent  
on adapting itself to some deep, cellular wish,  
wriggling toward bushes, forming hinged leg-struts,  
then  
to depart (leaving a track like the scrawl of a pen)  
for the interior, the heart of the continent. (Brodsky  
1975)”

**Devisha Poddar**  
India

Transitioning from Food Security to Nutritional Security  
in India

11.30 N15 Room 101



“Humor keeps us alive. Humor and food. You can’t go a week without laughing.” -Joss Whedon

Hunger is definitely on the top of the list, other things include feminism, racism and New Yorker cartoons.

**Keshav Pradhan**  
India

Problems with waste management methods in Pune,  
India and ways to efficiently tackle the issue

11.30 N15 Room 102



“Why do we exist in this world? Did anyone tell us to? Why do we gravitate to what the society believes is true? Why is it so hard to change? I do not have an exact answer to these questions, but I strive to change. I am tired of getting up in the morning and looking at Instagram posts about yet another protest, another forest fire, someone else fighting someone’s war. It is doing time and it is now. By every drop of blood n sweat and the wisp o every breath. Let’s stop hoping and start doing what matters. I will not stand and watch, for I strive to change.”

**Isna Pujiastuti**  
Indonesia

The Remote Sensing Technology to Identify the Invasive  
Species, Study Case of Caragana Plant Species

10.30 N13 Room 118



"Changes of the world will only happen if humans  
change their behaviour. Changes start from the small  
things, they start from ourselves, and they start now.  
Let's make a better world together."

**Anam Riaz**  
Pakistan

Study of Opportunities for Introduction of Emission  
Trading System in Pakistan

14.30 N15 Room 102



“I feel glad to share learning space with my ambitious classmates and amazing teachers. The new perspectives that I come across every day and give me a new lens of thinking make the academic challenges worth it. The multi perspective classroom discussions, field trips and student engagement opportunities all make life at CEU amazing. It’s amazing that roller-coaster ride for the first semester has come to end so soon, “time flies!” right? I am thankful for the support of my teachers that helps me to channelize my ideas. Looking forward to new horizons of learning in next semester.”



**Carolina Andrea Rodriguez Balda**  
Venezuela

The current status of composting in Europe

12.00 N15 Room 102



“My passion is to create awareness about the impact of our everyday lives on the world and motivate the people around me to live greener lifestyles. I like to inspire people with my example and spread optimism. I believe little yet continuous actions do have a positive impact and with our persistency we will achieve the much-needed changes for our planet. In the future, once a government change occurs in Venezuela, I hope to be able to go back and participate in the reconstruction of my country doing my best as the Minister of Environment, meanwhile I keep gathering all the tools :)!”

**Tolganay Rysbekova**  
Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's transition to a Green Economy model:  
Water infrastructure management in Akshi village,  
Almaty region

14.30 N15 Room 105

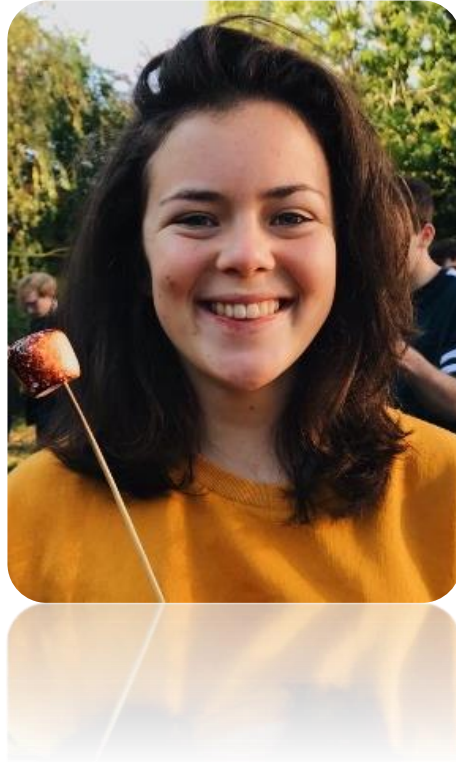


“None of us can change the entire world all by ourselves, but it does not mean that we can't do anything. The change starts from our own attitude to life. Respect and protect the place, its resources and habitants where we all live in together is one of the keys to making the world better. Fortunately, even by making small amendments and encouraging others to do the same have a huge effect on the whole picture. That is why I started a "brainwashing" program of my family. I'll make them more eco-friendly representatives of society, so please wish me a bit of luck.”

**Cora Helen Taylor**  
UK

Can MESPOM handle a few more degrees?

12.00 N15 Room 103



“In all honestly, I’m not sure yet how I’m going to change the world. But joining MESPOM has definitely fired up all my enthusiasm for doing so. I think our group is pretty inspirational. I’m fairly flexible about my future but wherever I end up, I’m going to take all the motivation I’ve got from being around such amazing people and do my best to have a positive impact. Whilst hopefully spreading some of the MESPOM enthusiasm as I do.”

**Geoffrey Thomas**  
USA/Hungary

How do Ecological Debt and Environmental Justice  
Relate to Climate Change?

13.30 N15 Room 202



“We must find a way to live in the world, not just on it. We must value more than just other human beings. We must discover a way of life that deeply integrates the social and the ecological. We must give full significance to diversity in both social and ecological terms. I want to contribute to this goal. “

**Kollie Tokpah**  
Liberia

The issues of solid waste generation and disposal: A case study of Monrovia

13.30 N15 Room 102



“I believe education is not only about methods of teaching and learning but also about finding practical solutions to individuals’ and communities’ problems. In my country, I have been working with organizations that are involved in environmental awareness. I led a team of college students that taught rural dwellers about the benefits we get from the natural environment. Surprisingly, it changed people’s behavior. I will continue in this direction to improve human relationships with the natural world. It is possible to make a change. If our education is motivated by a strong desire to serve humanity, it can be a reliable medium.”

**Gara Trujillo Ferreres**  
Spain

The way towards better waste management in La Gomera, Spain: obstacles and solutions

14.30 N15 Room 202



“Time travelers are always worried about changing the course of the world because every breath they take has a butterfly effect. So, every decision we make, every smile we give, every second we decide not to waste – they’re all part of how we’re changing the world. I think D Mitchell wraps it up pretty well: *“my life amounts to no more than one drop in a limitless ocean. Yet what is any ocean, but a multitude of drops?”* – So, no excuses! Fight for the things you believe in, however small, and smile in the process :-)”



**Eva Marina Valencia Lenero**  
Mexico

Title: Terms of Reference for a Sustainability Impact  
Assessment: Case Study of Dos Bocas Refinery in  
Tabasco, Mexico

11.30 N15 Room 103



“I am in love with human nature. I have always believed that every person is unique and has something to contribute to this world. However, when growing up I also learned that not every human creation intends to be just amongst ourselves nor with our planet. There must be a limit to humans when it conflicts with other living beings, and only humans can draw this limit. How can we design institutions that improve the way we relate to each other? How can we achieve a fairer world? This is the seed I want to discover and plant in our world.”



**Ekaterina Vasilenko**  
Russia

Role of the Russian Federation in the protection of the  
Arctic marine environment

11.30 N15 Room 202



“It is impossible to change this world if you do not know how it is built now, by what laws it lives on, what problems it is facing now. In addition, the success of any changes also depends on how reasonably they were planned and implemented. That is why, the most important thing that I can do now is to continue to develop as a professional in my chosen field, and also strive to get to know our world in all its diversity, traveling, getting acquainted with the culture of other countries.”

**Rupal Verma**  
India

How can Voluntary Sustainability Standards contribute to the SDGs and aid in a transition to global sustainability?

11.30 N15 Room 103



“Did you know that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old and humankind is about 140,000 years old? And in our short time of existence on this Earth, we have modestly named ourselves ‘wise men’. But are we really so wise? We created nuclear warfare, neglected the well-being of our very home-earth, and shattered the ecosystem. We conveniently closed our ears to extreme shouts of help by nature. We see disasters of magnitudes never seen before because we have cut down trees more than ever before, caused pollution more than ever before, and there is more carbon in the air than ever before. The real crisis is not global warming, environmental destruction, or animal agriculture; it is US. And these problems are symptoms of US. Goldilocks said it correctly, "We are just right," and I aim to spread this powerful message that we are just right; we have the right connections, the right survival abilities, and the right planet. And together, we can make a difference and save our Earth.”

**Natalia Brandao Vieira**  
Brazil

The use of Conservation Systematic Planning to identify  
priority marine areas for conservation in the Southeast  
Coast of Brazil

14.00 N15 Room 101



“As a good child of the ocean, I believe in love and saltwater as being the main boosters of life. Accordingly, I will change the world by spreading this feeling of connection amongst people, and between us and nature, in a way that every single individual matters. We live in a dynamic system, we are a dynamic system, so it makes sense to accept and treat what is different with affection, so that we can cooperate on achieving the main goal: To take care of our home Gaia.”

**Julian Willming**  
Germany

Everything Could be Different: Why We Need More  
Visionary and Systems Thinking for the Social-  
Ecological Transformation

14.00 N15 Room 202



“When I consider the current state of planet earth and what I personally contribute to change it, I do struggle to find adequate answers. I use public transit? I reduced my plastics consumption radically since 2016? These behaviors might decrease harm to our planet, but it would be superstitious if change is defined in CO<sub>2</sub> numbers. Change comes from a deeper understanding of the relation between the world and oneself. For me, this understanding meets my behaviour in a place called “optimism”. I intend to change the climate narrative from apocalypse scenarios to an opportunity to live a more fulfilling, reflective and sustainable life. Life in the 21st century was a utopia in the past, just as life in a post-carbon economy is the narrative of the future.”

**Naomi Willows-Rough**  
UK

Declining pollinator populations within North Western  
Europe: causes, consequences and potential policy  
options

14.30 N15 Room 103



*“TBD.*

*This is the honest answer regarding how I will change the world: to be determined. Seriously. Like many other things in life, try things, enjoy things, find interest in things, get on with them and see how the world and you interact along the way.”*

**Olena Zabarna**  
Ukraine

Heat Wave Implications for Health and Climate Change  
Adaptation in Paris

10.30 N15 Room 103



“As a famous American actor Morgan Freeman once said, “How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.” My aim is to make people around me happier by respectful attitude, helpfulness and support. I want to do what I like as well as possible and to inspire people with my example. Being kind and giving fully from your soul is the best way to change your life and influence on lives of many people.”