



# EPICENTERS OF CLIMATE AND SECURITY: THE NEW GEOSTRATEGIC LANDSCAPE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

*4<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Deserts Conference*

*University of Oxford*

*9 June, 2017*

15:30 – 15:33 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO REPORT & SESSION: This event explores a new multi-author volume by the Center for Climate and Security titled: “Epicenters of Climate and Security: The New Geostrategic Landscape of the Anthropocene.” These epicenters are “bundles of systemic risks” in the global security environment that share similar characteristics, and are driven by a changing climate. Authors of the various articles in the volume will discuss this concept in detail, focusing on both the geographies explored in their respective articles, and the connections between them.

**Shiloh Fetzek**, Senior Fellow for International Affairs  
The Center for Climate and Security (CCS)

15:33-15:38 (exact length TBD) EPICENTERS OF CLIMATE AND SECURITY VIDEO

15:38 – 16:05 REPORT AUTHOR DISCUSSION – EPICENTERS OF THE NEW GEOSTRATEGIC LANDSCAPE AND TOOLS FOR MANAGING SYSTEMIC RISKS

Report authors will discuss the concept of “epicenters of climate and security,” including looking at how climate change interacts with the existing geostrategic landscape, how it will generate new stresses - some potentially unprecedented, and how climate-exacerbated stress to one geographic location can have impacts thousands of miles away, and can spill over into higher order security scenarios. Report authors will also examine the need for better managing these systemic risks.

**Dr Marcus King**, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, CCS Advisory Board and Senior Fellow

**Dr Chad Briggs**, GlobalInt LLC

**Dr Troy Sternberg**, University of Oxford, CCS Advisory Board

**Shiloh Fetzek**, The Center for Climate and Security, Senior Fellow for International Affairs

**Sinead O’Sullivan**, Harvard Business School, CCS Research Fellow

**Kaleem Hawa**, University of Oxford, CCS Research Fellow

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16:05 – 16:50 SYSTEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS EXERCISE

The complexity of how epicenters of climate and security intersect with the geostrategic landscape creates a need for new tools for policy-makers in order to prepare for and mitigate these risks. As such, this exercise will bring together practitioners and regional experts to explore scenario and vulnerability assessments tools available for managing systemic risks and invite input into how they can be improved. This exercise is part of an ongoing initiative by the workshop hosts to refine the tools needed to manage systemic risks.

**The exercise will be a three-phase process:**

- 1) Exploring trends, shocks and cascading consequences – what trends will impact participants' sectors (e.g. on 10-year and/or longer horizons), how might these intersect, what are the potential cascading consequences. These trends and shocks will be centred on, but not limited to, desert-related themes.
- 2) Revisions based on discussions of the Anthropocene - An exploration of how trends from Phase 1 may be impacted by climatic changes, drawing from authors' expertise on how climate can interact with other trends, e.g. nonlinearities, black swans etc.
- 3) Building scenarios and vulnerability assessments - Participants evaluate/rank which trends they believe are most likely to occur or may have the greatest potential impacts. These can form the building blocks of vulnerability assessments and scenarios that incorporate multiple items from the ranked list of probable/impactful consequences and trends. These wouldn't be formally fleshed out into narratives, but explored through discussion.