



Killam Connection Scholarly Dialogue and Public Scholarship: Leading the way Toward a Low-carbon Future

A new interdisciplinary graduate course starting in Jan 2017

We are at a pivotal point in the history of humankind. Climate change, driven by a dramatic increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations, poses a real threat to global society. In response to this threat, scientists from around the world and across disciplines agree that we must begin to dramatically reduce GHG emissions while also preparing society for a future marked by climate change and uncertainty. However, achieving GHG reduction and climate adaptation is not simple. These issues are complex and marred by uncertainty, requiring a multitude of synergistic solutions that engage with the problem from different angles and at different scales (ex. technological solutions, policy mechanisms, or the social license to adapt).

We bring together scientists, engineers, political scientists, decision makers, economists and social marketers to discuss how we can engage the next generation of scholars and the public in leading society towards a low-carbon future. This graduate course will bring together a team of interdisciplinary scholars from across the disciplines and sectors to:

- Stimulate conversations and foster engagement among students, professionals, and the public.
- Grapple with how to communicate science and policy around climate change and carbon management to the public.
- Promote professional identities in graduate students through formulating inquiry and direction in the context of societal relevance.
- Cultivate a community that produces graduates who are engaged, responsible global citizens. We aim to create a vibrant intellectual community in which students become experts through intentional and multiple relationships during their study.

Learning objectives:

- Perceive connections between two disciplinary domains which pertain to low carbon pathway
- Integrate conflicting disciplinary insights and viewpoints in facilitating a public forum
- Apply the multidisciplinary perspectives in producing a public scholarship activity
- Formulate professional identify while interfacing with the public

Teaching team:

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Topics:

- Climate and carbon policy
- Market based policy instruments
- Environmental and natural resource economics
- International trade and carbon supply chains
- State of the earth, environment and sustainability
- Climate science
- Carbon capture and conversion technology
- Public perception of climate change and climate policy
- Communication and public engagement
- Decision making under uncertainty
- Social marketing and the environment