



GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CROSS-SECTORAL SERIES
HOPE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE
SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS AND INSPIRATIONS

With humanity's creation of a new geological era marked by dominant human influences on planetary processes, the Anthropocene seems to offer little hope. And yet, the same ingenuity that enables human domination over the Earth also allows a certain genius in addressing the many rising environmental and sustainability challenges. **Hope in the Anthropocene** showcases such inspirations and solutions in tackling climate change, harnessing energy, feeding humanity, governing states, and meeting our collective water and sanitation needs all while respecting Indigenous peoples and protecting nature and its benefits for people.

Hope in the Anthropocene is a collaboration between Green College and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia (IRES).



Johannes Urpelainen is the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Professor of Energy, Resources and Environment at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and the Founding Director of the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP). He is the award-winning author of four books and over a hundred refereed articles on environmental politics, energy policy and global governance. He teaches action-oriented classes on energy and environmental policy to equip the next generation of global leaders with deep knowledge, advanced analytical skills — and a passion for transformational social change. As one of the world's top energy policy experts, he frequently advises governments, international organizations and the private sector on energy and environment.



Rustam Sengupta is a renewable energy entrepreneur, impact investor and subject matter expert with extensive research experience of over a decade in sustainable social enterprise design, rooftop solar and renewable energy access. He has an expertise in identifying, designing and analysing strategies that affect energy systems and policies, with a geographical focus on South Asia. Rustam holds an INSEAD MBA with MS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. He was awarded the Echoing Green Fellowship for work in Climate Change in 2014 and was selected as a Chevening Rolls-Royce Science and Technology Policy Leadership Fellow in 2017 at Oxford University. He lives in Vancouver.

Green College Lecture
THE GRAND CHALLENGE OF CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD
Johannes Urpelainen
Coach House, Green College, UBC
Wednesday, February 28, 5-6:30 pm

The rapid decrease in the cost of solar power generation has made clean energy a key instrument in the effort to end energy poverty. In this talk, Johannes Urpelainen discusses the evolving role of clean energy sources in developing and emerging economies. Drawing on extensive field research and data collection, he evaluates the potential of and challenges to achieving universal energy access with renewables and other low-carbon sources. Although the global market for clean energy is rapidly growing, government policy remains crucial for ensuring that clean energy produces tangible benefits to poor and remote rural communities. Affordability and productive uses of clean energy, such as industry and commerce, remain major challenges for communities that suffer from energy poverty.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner. For information on making dinner reservations, see www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner

IRES Seminar Series
ROUNDTABLE ON SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE FIELD: WORKING ON DEVELOPMENT WITH NGOS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
Johannes Urpelainen and Rustam Sengupta
AERL Theatre (Room 120), 2202 Main Mall, UBC
Thursday, February 29, 12:30-1:30 pm

Social scientists are increasingly collaborating with partners in the field (NGOs, Social Enterprises and in some cases activists) to further research on development. This has led to a broadening of the questions they ask, and a sharpening of the methods used to answer those questions, including the use of randomized control trials and associated tools traditionally employed in the health sciences. This session will bring together an academic (Johannes Urpelainen) and a social entrepreneur (Rustam Sengupta) who have worked together in the field on questions of renewable energy access. In this roundtable, Johannes Urpelainen and Rustam Sengupta will discuss the challenges and pleasures of collaborating across the academic and practitioner divide in their attempts to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people.