

CULTURE, VALUES AND WORLD PERSPECTIVES AS FACTORS IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We are organizing a session on this theme for the upcoming Copenhagen science congress on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions, which will be held from 10-12 March, 2009 (see <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>). This session falls under the broader theme of Mobilising the Populace: Human Dimensions of Climate Change.

We would like to include papers and posters that address climate change from the perspectives of individual and societal values, cultures, and worldviews. This session will draw attention to a wide range of issues, including psychological, ethical, and anthropological perspectives on climate change, which are critical to understanding the behavioral and systemic responses that can potentially contribute to both mitigation and adaptation.

We are particularly interested in determining to what extent values, cultures and worldviews interact with other factors, such as those described by the biophysical sciences. We hope to identify contributions from the social sciences and the humanities that significantly enhance understanding of the factors that influence vulnerability and resilience, and that broaden discussions and debates about global risks, challenges, and decisions related to climate change.

The scientific conference in March will lead up to the COP-15 in Copenhagen in late 2009. The main aim of the Copenhagen science congress is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make intelligent societal decisions concerning application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change. The congress aims to identify and synthesise the science, technology and policy advances required in order to ensure sustainability of global communities in the current and coming decades.

The findings of the congress will be supplementary to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The congress will provide a summary of existing scientific knowledge two years after the last IPCC report.

Abstracts describing original research into topics relevant to the themes being treated at the Congress are invited.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS are available on the conference website (<http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>). Abstracts can only be submitted on-line, and must be submitted no later than 1 September 2008.

Karen O'Brien
Dept. of Sociology and Human Geography
University of Oslo
karen.obrien@sosgeo.uio.no

Thomas Heyd
Dept. of Philosophy
University of Victoria
heydt@uvic.ca