

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICA: THE CLIMATE CRISIS, ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVISM



FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023 – 8:30 A. M. – 4:00 P. M. EASTERN TIME

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The International Studies Consortium of Georgia (ISCOG)* -Celebrating 29 Years of Service
Conference/Consortium Executive Director: Rajgopal Sashti

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Agenda

- 8:30 a. m. **WELCOME, GREETINGS AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
Mr. **Rajgopal Sashti**, Consortium Founding/Executive Director, Reinhardt University.
- 8:45** **ABOUT THE CO-SPONSORING NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS (NRCs)**
Dr. Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Outreach Director, University of Florida; Dr. Elsa Wiehe, Program Manager, Boston University; and Ms. Brenda Randolph, Outreach Director, Howard University.
- 9:00 **AFRICAN STRATEGIES: SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND POLITICS**
Her Excellency Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President of Mauritius, Africa.
- 10:00 **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND CLIMATE CRISIS**
Mr. Dawit Benti Erana, Chair of Architecture and Building Sciences/Lecturer, Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction, and City Development (EiABC)
- 11:45** **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 12:15** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 1:00 p. m. **EEDUCATING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**
Ms. **Vanessa Nakate, 2022** UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and Climate Activist.
- 2:00 **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 **AFRICA GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS AND REPARATIONS**
Dr. Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.
- 3:45 **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 4:00 **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Consortium Universities and Colleges: Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Houston Community College System (TX) Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

Bios of Presenters and Hosts

Dr. Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim GCSK is a Mauritian politician and biodiversity scientist who served as the sixth president of Mauritius from 2015 to 2018. She has been honored as one of *Foreign Policy's* 2015 Global Thinkers and is moving to create opportunity and growth for her island home. Prior to joining the State House, Gurib-Fakim has been the Managing Director of the Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research and Innovation as well as professor of organic chemistry with an endowed chair at the University of Mauritius. She has also long been a leading biodiversity scientist studying and validating the flora of Mauritius, one of the world's key biodiversity hotspots. As an entrepreneur at CIDP R & I and professor of organic chemistry, she analyzed the plants from the region for their health, nutritional and cosmetic applications.

Mr. Dawit Benti Erana, Chair of Architecture and Building Sciences is a faculty member at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction, and City Development (EiABC). He is a professional architect with more than two decades of experience in architectural design, interior design, and project implementation with a focus on sustainable and localized solutions. His work includes single and multifamily residences and their interiors as well as hotels and health care centers. Dawit is also involved in the architectural design and supervision of a multi-channel multistory media complex building in Addis Ababa. He has taught architectural design in various universities for both undergraduate and graduate students – and he is now focusing on teaching contemporary architecture and theory of architecture. His research interests range from informal settlements to design issues in maternal health care facilities in Ethiopia.

Ms. Vanessa Nakate was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2022 and appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 2021 and has addressed world leaders at multiple climate summits.

A Climate activist, she began advocating for climate justice in 2019 with a protest on the streets of Kampala, Uganda, inspired by Greta Thunberg and continued to protest every week, becoming a well-known face in a global movement of young people “striking” for the climate.

In 2020, Vanessa rose to further prominence when she was cropped out of a news photo in which she appeared alongside Thunberg and other white climate activists. Her response that the news outlet “didn’t just erase a photo, you erased a continent” made international headlines.

Vanessa has since used her platform to advocate for climate justice for every community, especially those most affected by the impacts of climate change. She founded Rise Up Movement to elevate the voices of African climate activists, as well as a project to install solar panels in rural Ugandan schools. Vanessa is also the author of *A Bigger Picture*, a manifesto on inclusive climate action.

In her first trip with UNICEF, Vanessa travelled to Kenya to see firsthand the impacts of water and food insecurity caused by the worst drought in the Horn of Africa in 40 years. There, she met with communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis, including mothers and babies receiving life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition and families benefiting from solar-powered water supply systems.

Dr. Olúfemi O. Táíwò is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of California Los Angeles. He has published in academic journals ranging from *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *One Earth*, *Philosophical Papers*, and the American Philosophical Association newsletter *Philosophy and the Black Experience*.

Táíwò’s theoretical work draws liberally from the Black radical tradition, anti-colonial thought, German transcendental philosophy, contemporary philosophy of language, contemporary social science, and histories of activism and activist thinkers.

His public philosophy, including articles exploring intersections of climate justice and colonialism, has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Boston Review*, *Dissent*, *The Appeal*, *Slate*, *Al Jazeera*, *The New Republic*, *Aeon*, and *Foreign Policy*.

He is the author of *Elite Capture* and *Reconsidering Reparations*.

Director Raj Sashti. Before joining Reinhardt University, Raj was an Associate Professor and in academic administration at half-dozen public universities and colleges in Georgia including the Georgia Institute of Technology – Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. During his 50+ years of service to higher education, he has been awarded more than \$5,000,000 grants by the U.S. Department of Education, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars, and other organizations. Over the years, Raj has also received two Fulbright Specialist grants and three Fulbright Fellowships to study and travel in

Germany, Japan, and Brazil. He has traveled around the globe directing Fulbright funded faculty development programs in more than two dozen countries of Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Raj has two M. A. degrees in Geography, one from the University of Akron, Ohio, and the other from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.