



ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY



CLIMATE RESEARCH

"AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED"



Open Climate Science

A panel discussion on the meanings and practice of open science



FEBRUARY 15, 2023 WED 4:30-6:00 PM

Register at: linktr.ee/MCR_ADMU

Concept Note

Name of Activity: Open Climate Science: A Panel Discussion on the Meanings and Practice of Open Science

Date of Activity: February 15, 2023, Wednesday:
4:30-6:00 pm PHT/GMT+8; 2:15-3:45 pm NPT/GMT+5:45;
8:30-10:00 am GMT; 5:30-7:00 am ART/GMT-3:

Venue / Mode: Online via Zoom

Organizer: Ateneo Institute of Sustainability

Participants:

- Members of other World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) My Climate Risk (MCR) hubs
- Researchers
- Climate and development practitioners and policymakers
- General public



Ateneo
Institute of
Sustainability

Background:

The evidence of anthropogenic climate change and the urgency to address its drivers and impacts have increased over time. However, despite decades of efforts at the global and local scales, climate- and weather-related disasters continue to increase¹ and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are still off track relative to the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 to 2°C by the end of the century². Climate change science and researchers are identified as having key roles in bridging this gap and in developing solutions to manage climate risks^{3,4}. This is consonant with the idea of 'open' or 'usable' science that aims to make research relevant and useful to decision-makers and 'serve the needs of the impacted'⁵.

Efforts to make science open and usable are not novel. Since the 1960s⁶, there have been efforts to rethink the traditional positivist ethos and practice of science – with the scientist as a detached, autonomous, and objective observer that seeks complete and impartial understandings of the world to one that is embedded in society and whose knowledge will be partial, contingent, and value-laden. Balancing such tensions become even more challenging when applied to the 'wickedness' of climate change which, among others, is characterized by: no single problem definition; involves diverse stakeholders with competing values, interests, and capacities; encompasses multiple spatial and temporal scales; high risks and potential irreversible impacts; asymmetry in the cause and distribution of impacts; and irreducible uncertainties⁷.

Objectives and Preliminary Questions:

This event aims to invite members of the My Climate Risk (MCR) Hubs to discuss, articulate, and navigate the tensions of the meanings and practice of open science in addressing climate change, especially in local contexts and in light of MCR's goal of developing bottom-up, contextual, and empowering approaches to regional climate risk. The discussion will be exploratory, reflexive, and generative. As such, rather than seek definitive frameworks, paradigms, methodologies, and tools for producing useful climate information, the discussion aims to develop rough outlines, provisional sketches, and cases of what open science is and how it might work in practice. The event will also promote and elicit abstract submissions to the [WCRP's Open Science Conference \(OSC\)](#) in October under the [Theme 3 Session](#), 'Co-produced climate services and solutions', which focuses on initiatives to connect scientific knowledge, planning, decision-making, and policy processes.

¹ WMO (2021). Weather-related disasters increase over the past 50 years, causing more damage but fewer deaths. <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/weather-related-disasters-increase-over-past-50-years-causing-more-damage-fewer>

² Ritchie, H., Roser, M., and P. Rosado (2020). CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions. <https://our-worldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

³ The Royal Society (2021). Climate change: science and solutions. <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-science-solutions/>

⁴ --- (2022). How researchers can help fight climate change and beyond. *Nature*, 601, 7. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-03817-4>

⁵ Coen, D. (2021). A brief history of usable climate science. *Climatic Change*, 167, 51. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-021-03181-2>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Murtugudde, R. (2019). 10 Reasons why climate change is a 'wicked' problem. <https://thewire.in/environment/climate-change-wicked-problem>

The discussion will cover the following questions:

- *In open science, what does 'open' mean and what counts as 'science'? What perspectives, paradigms, practices, and groups are privileged and marginalized with such definitions?*
- *Based on your normative ideas of open science, what hinders and enables their practice? How can we make open science legitimate, equitable, and empowering?*
- *Can you share cases when you tried to practice and promote open science and the lessons from their successes or failures? Were there approaches, frameworks, methods, and tools that you found useful/ineffective?*
- *How can researchers and academic institutions bridge science and society and bring scientific knowledge to bear on pressing social challenges?*

Programme (90 minutes):

Time (PHT/GMT+8)	Agenda
4:30 – 4:40 PM	Preliminaries Opening Remarks
4:40 – 4:45 PM	Introduction of Panelists
4:45 – 5:30 PM	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Spuler, MSc <i>PhD Researcher in Atmosphere, Oceans and Climate University of Reading, UK</i> • Noralene Uy, PhD, EnP <i>Research Fellow Climate and Disaster Resilience Innovations Program of the Anthropological and Sociological Initiatives of the Ateneo Ateneo de Manila University</i> • Christopher D. Jack, PhD <i>Co-director, Climate System Analysis Group University of Cape Town, South Africa Science Advisor Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</i> • John Leo C. Algo, MSc <i>Deputy Executive Director for Programs and Campaigns Living Laudato Si' Philippines; and</i> • Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, SJ <i>Executive Director Manila Observatory</i>
5:30 – 5:45 PM	Open Forum
5:45 – 5:55 PM	Invitation to the Open Science Conference
5:55 – 6:00 PM	Closing Remarks