

INTERACTIVE VISIONS

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

AN INTERACTIVE COLLECTION ON CLIMATE JUSTICE



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social sciences
and humanities
for transformation
and climate resilience

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Click 'INDEX' in the header to return to the main index.



05

25

31

44

66

74

81

95

86

BARBARA M. FRIGIONE

“COLLECTIVE ENERGY INITIATIVES:
BLOOMING TOGETHER, ONE
COMMUNITY AT A TIME”



Collective energy initiatives: blooming together, one community at a time

Name and affiliation

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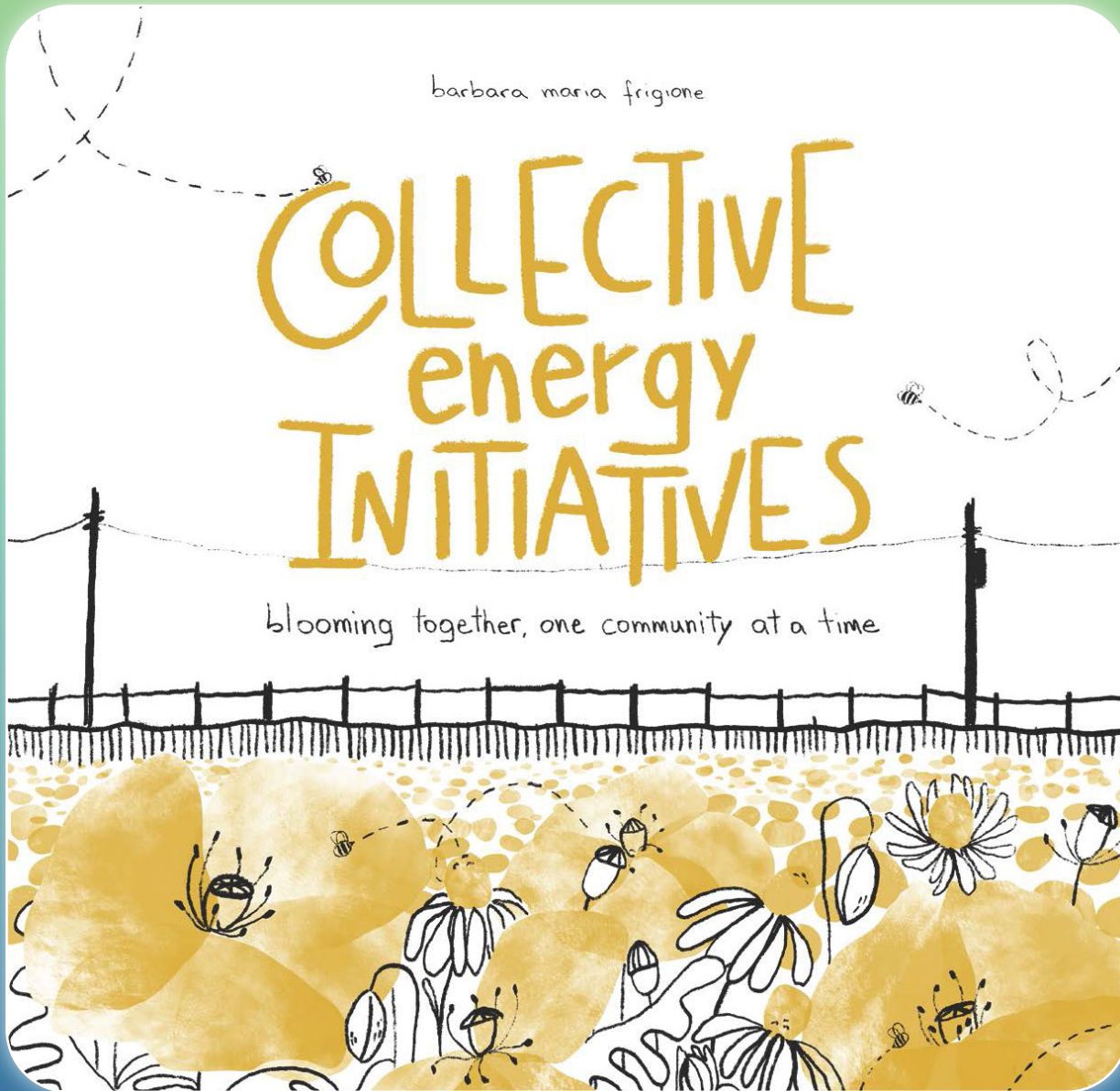
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barbara maria frigione

COLLECTIVE energy INITIATIVES

blooming together, one community at a time



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Edition: June 2024

Suggested citation: Frigione, B.M. (2024) Collective Energy Initiatives. Blooming together, one community at a time.

This publication is based upon work from COST Action SHiFT, CA 21166, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

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COLLECTIVE energy INITIATIVES

blooming together, one community at a time



The warmth of our homes,
the light that illuminates our evenings.
All is powered by energy.

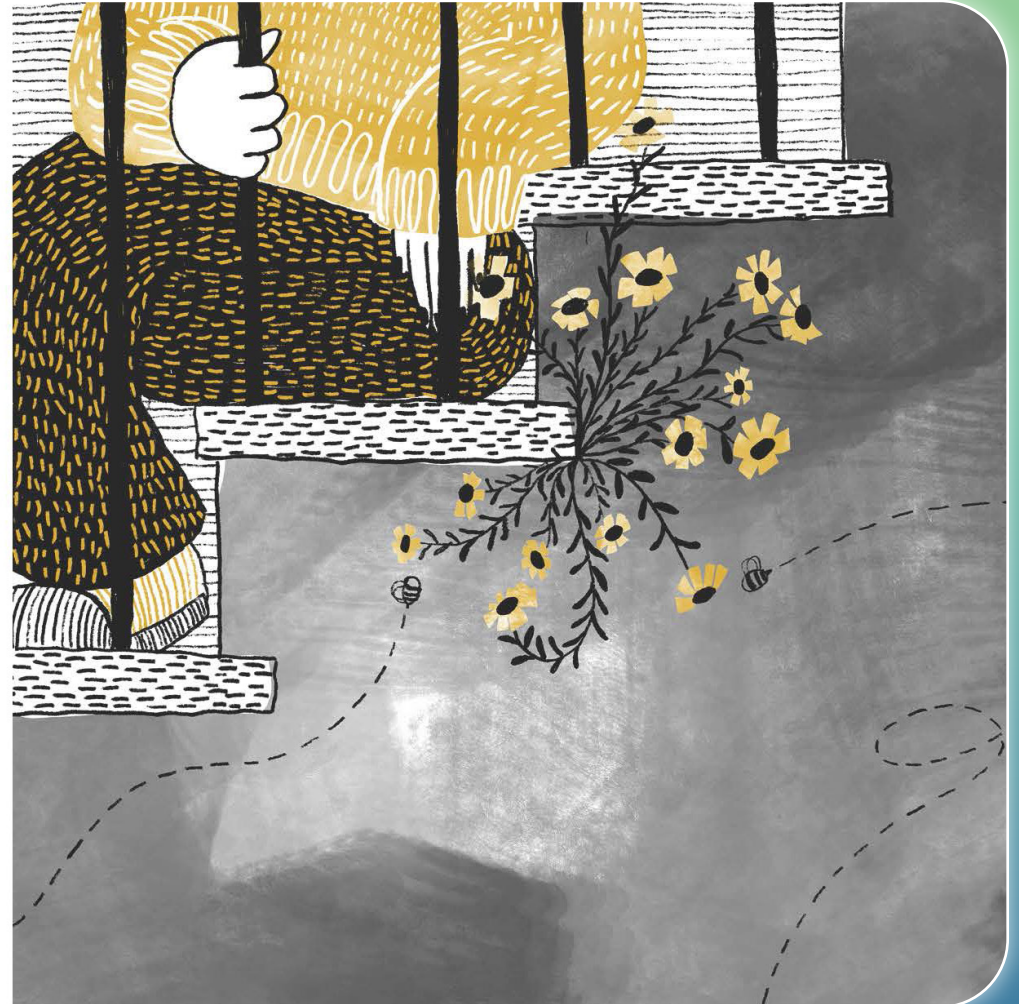
But this essential resource leaves a heavy
footprint on our planet. The greenhouse gas
emissions generated by our fossil-fuel based
energy system are a major cause of climate
change, calling all of us to rethink how we
produce and consume energy.



News about climate change can feel
overwhelming, leaving us wondering
what we can do.

But have you ever noticed tiny wildflowers
pushing through cracks in the pavement?

That's the spirit of collective energy initiatives:
a quiet determination tackling the much needed
energy transition head-on.



Like thousands flowers, these initiatives are blooming throughout Europe.

They come in all shapes and sizes, just like the people who create them. Some focus on reducing reliance on fossil fuels, installing solar panels or wind turbines. Others prioritize energy efficiency and building renovation, or educating citizens to reduce energy consumption. Still others focus on community building, community development, and energy poverty, a situation that burdens families financially and makes it difficult to keep their homes lightened and warm.



Deep within a bustling urban neighborhood, a trusted non-profit association working tirelessly with families and children is a seed of change.

Installing solar panels on its roof, it shares the energy generated with local families struggling with energy poverty, lowering their electricity bills; whereas organizing workshops on sustainable energy consumption behaviors it empowers them to consciously adopt new habits.

Now, families are saving money and reducing their environmental footprint, one watt at a time.



But each of us can be a seed of change.

The beauty of these initiatives lies in the simple act of coming together. It might start with a cup of coffee and a conversation at a local cafe, or maybe a group of friends brainstorming ideas in someone's living room.

These small gatherings can blossom into something much bigger. Coffee conversations could evolve into a thriving network organizing community events and workshops, and the community's dedication might attract support from local organizations and even the government.



Could your community
be the next to bloom
with a
collective energy initiative?

Starting small is the first step,
moving together is the key!

Just like the thousand blooming flowers,
our collective efforts can create a wave of
positive change. Not only across Europe, but
around the world.



About the context

The heavy dependence of our society on fossil fuels makes the current energy system a major driver of climate change, jeopardizing energy security and equitable energy access (IPCC, 2022). The past decades have seen growing recognition of the unsustainability of the energy system (Chilvers et al., 2016), pointing to the need for substantial changes in how energy is produced, distributed, consumed, and traded (Hafner & Luciani (Ed.), 2022): the need for an energy transition implying a deep cultural shift.

Locally, diverse forms of social mobilization are emerging promoting decentralized renewable energy production and consumption (Wagemans, Scholl, Vasseur, 2019; Wahlund & Palm, 2022). Examples

include individuals becoming prosumers (Haf & Robinson, 2020), and more complex forms of prosumerism such as collective self consumption multi-tenancy buildings (Haf & Robinson, 2020), energy neighborhoods and districts (Derkenbaeva et al., 2022), and energy communities (Caramizaru & Uihlein, 2020). These collective initiatives, identified here with the umbrella term “Collective Energy Initiatives” (CEIs), vary in terms of actors involved, ambitions, and activities. Some are grassroots collaborations focused on acquiring solar panels and promoting sustainable energy practices. Others are led by non-profits to help alleviate energy poverty, while others are promoted by local authorities to realize a sustainable territorial vision.

The European context itself is witnessing a clear proliferation of these initiatives: Wierling et al. (2023) identified over 10,000 citizen-led energy initiatives across 29 European countries. Parallely, the growing prominence of CEIs is also reflected in the increasing number of academic publications on the topic (Seyfang, Park, Smith, 2013; Creamer et al., 2018; Frigione, 2024), which widely demonstrate that CEIs are already playing a significant role in the evolving energy landscape fostering collaboration, mobilizing resources, developing context-specific solutions, and influencing public opinion (Hoicka & MacArthur, 2018; Hewitt et al., 2019; Berka & Creamer, 2019).

About the submitted contribution

The above-mentioned context is the focus of the author's Ph.D. research. Nevertheless, whereas the research topic is fuelled by European Directives and their national implementations, European and national policies, projects, networks, and academic research, it remains largely unknown among civil society, businesses, and the third sector. It is still a niche area.

However, the current energy transition can only succeed with broad public involvement. We can develop policies, regulations, and scientific research on Collective Energy Initiatives (CEIs), but if the majority of society is not aware of their existence,

progress will be limited. Therefore, addressing this communication gap is crucial.

Narratives, as a form of art, have proven effective in engaging audiences and encouraging positive changes in attitudes, intentions, and behaviors (Irani & Weitkamp, 2023). This makes them valuable and creative tools for communicating scientific knowledge (Irani & Weitkamp, 2023), particularly when tackling climate change issues that necessitate significant societal transformations.

The submitted contribution “Collective Energy Initiatives: Blooming Together, One Community at a Time” is therefore designed as an illustrated non-fiction short narrative addressing the communication gap in disseminating scientific knowledge about CEIs.

The contribution seeks to engage readers with the current European energy transition by encouraging them to consider creating or participating in a CEI. Employing a non-fiction narrative format allows to guide readers in understanding the impacts of our fossil-fuel-based energy system, the existence of CEIs, their formation processes, the actors involved, and their objectives. By focusing on a real-world case study of a CEI tackling energy poverty derived from the author’s own research, the narrative demonstrates how CEIs can contribute to energy justice.

The illustrated short narrative format, on the other hand, was chosen for its conciseness and visual appeal to cater to today’s increasingly audiovisual and multimedia-oriented readership, particularly young people. While

the concise narrative avoids information overload, the illustrations provide a unique opportunity for “multimodal reading” by integrating words and pictures. This synergy fosters emotions and empathy in the reader, enriching the narrative and accompanying them on a journey of discovery.

The illustrations realized employ metaphors on multiple levels. The most prominent are the blooming flowers, drawing inspiration from the paper by Sayfang, Park, and Smith (2013) titled “A thousand flowers blooming? An examination of community energy in the UK”, which explored the diffusion of community energy projects in the UK. These flowers symbolize CEIs through their diverse shapes, sizes, and growth stages. Bees, on the other hand, represent individual actors contributing

to the development of a CEI. The second illustration’s staircase railings can be interpreted as a metaphor for the feeling of powerlessness some experience when confronting climate change-related issues. However, there are even more subtle metaphors to be discovered. The author encourages the reader to delight in uncovering these hidden meanings

Conclusion

Our reliance on fossil fuels has come at a heavy cost. While they fuel our development, they also fuel climate change and create an energy landscape fraught with insecurity and inequality. Access to reliable and affordable energy becomes a privilege for some, leaving others vulnerable to energy poverty.



However, a powerful social movement is emerging: Collective Energy Initiatives (CEIs). These initiatives can empower communities by fostering collaboration and promoting decentralized renewable energy production and consumption, not only mitigating climate change but also ensuring their own energy security and affordability.

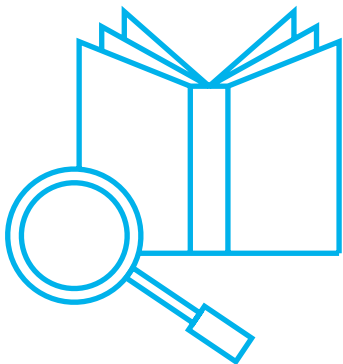
Despite their potential, CEIs face a critical barrier: public awareness. Many people simply don't know these initiatives exist, hindering their growth and impact. To bridge this gap, a unique approach is proposed: an illustrated non-fiction short narrative. Narratives have a proven ability to engage audiences and promote positive change. By employing illustrations and metaphors like blooming flowers for CEIs and bees for the individual

actors within them, the story guides readers through the challenges of fossil fuels and introduces them to the world of CEIs.

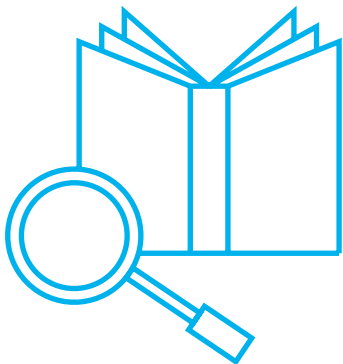
The success of the energy transition hinges on broad public involvement. By raising awareness of CEIs through captivating storytelling, we can empower individuals and communities to become active agents of the current energy transition. The presented approach, with its layered metaphors, seeks not just to educate, but to foster empathy and inspire a collective bloom of CEIs across communities, nurturing a just and sustainable energy transition.



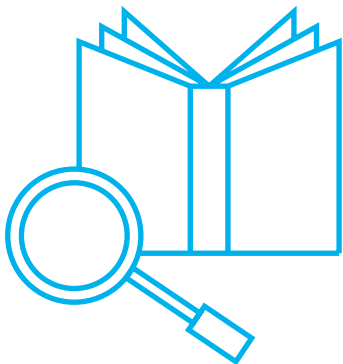
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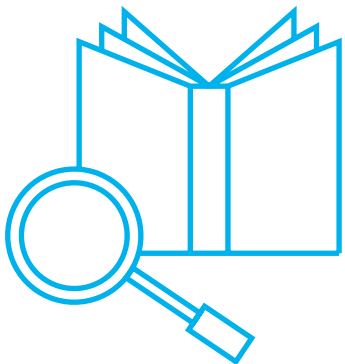


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JOSIPA BLAŠKOVIĆ

CHAD AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Chad and climate change

Name and affiliation

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In the social dimension, it is important to highlight the impact on nature and the creation of climate injustice between developed and developing countries. The primary premise of the animated video is to depict the key socio-economic issues of one of the more vulnerable states in terms of climate change, as well as solutions at both national and supranational levels.

Chad is one of the five largest countries in Africa with over 17 million people from various ethnicities, regions, and languages. Nevertheless, it remains the country most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on a global scale. With eighty percent of its population depending on agriculture and livestock for their survival and livelihoods, the nation faces

significant challenges in safeguarding its food security and economic stability amidst these ongoing environmental threats (Schaefer, A. 2022). Escalating temperatures are causing severe occurrences such as droughts, forest fires, and heatwaves, significantly harming crop growth (Schaefer, A. 2022). Furthermore, Chad grapples with erratic rainfall patterns and recurrent floods, which not only worsen economic and social issues but also fuel increased conflicts, irregular migration, and displacement within the region (Schaefer, A. 2022). Over a million people were displaced by floods in 2022, with more than 465,000 hectares of arable land devastated, worsening food insecurity (UNDP, 2023). These living conditions pose substantial challenges that the people of Chad must confront to forge a better future for future generations. While

they are not major contributors to environmental pollution, they keenly experience the repercussions of developed countries, compounded by their own local challenges.

Despite challenges, there is a promising aspect to consider. Chad commenced National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in 2017, focusing on integrating climate adaptation into medium and long-term planning and budgeting (UNDP, 2023). Over the years 2019 to 2023, sixty-four solar-powered synoptic weather stations were deployed to gather and send real-time weather data, helping to guide the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation efforts (UNDP, 2023). In the years ahead, the main objective of international bodies like the UN is to invigorate and secure a better future for the citizens of Chad through monetary aid

(UNDP, 2023). Institutions like the UN are just some of the global institutions that help in the process of creating climate justice.

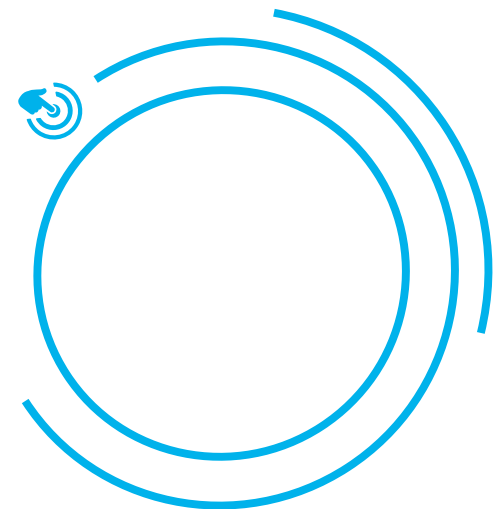
Besides national and supranational institutions, acknowledging the contributions of the populace is key. In Doba, the fifth-largest city in Chad, a committed group of young activists connected with the U-Report initiative is addressing desertification and promoting community resilience (Bahdje, 2023). Since its creation in August 2021, the U-Report community in Doba has focused on tree planting through the “Doba Green City” initiative, leading to the planting of more than 160 mango and guava trees (Bahdje, 2023). The goal is to provide shade and fruit to residents while addressing desertification challenges. Chad stands as an example of a nation that can

be exemplary in fighting climate change.

Recognizing the aforementioned examples, I believe it is important to combine the efforts of civil society actors, national, and supra-national institutions. The best contribution to combating climate change and climate injustice would be to align solutions towards achieving the same goal. Considering that developed countries possess greater intellectual and economic capital, I believe that institutions in these developed countries should educate people who would then be sent for a certain period to countries like Chad to transfer the necessary information and knowledge on ways to tackle climate change. One of the key pillars of any society is education. Without transmitting and reconstructing education, it is extremely difficult to fight climate change.

Moreover, it is essential to educate the West and other developed countries, as they are among the biggest contributors to climate injustice.

Without changing awareness, values, and social perception, climate injustice will continue to be one of the key problems for developing countries. Institutions without citizens cannot function, just as citizens cannot act long-term without the support of institutions. This is a collective struggle, and without joint efforts and a long-term plan, unfortunately, there will be no success in this fight.



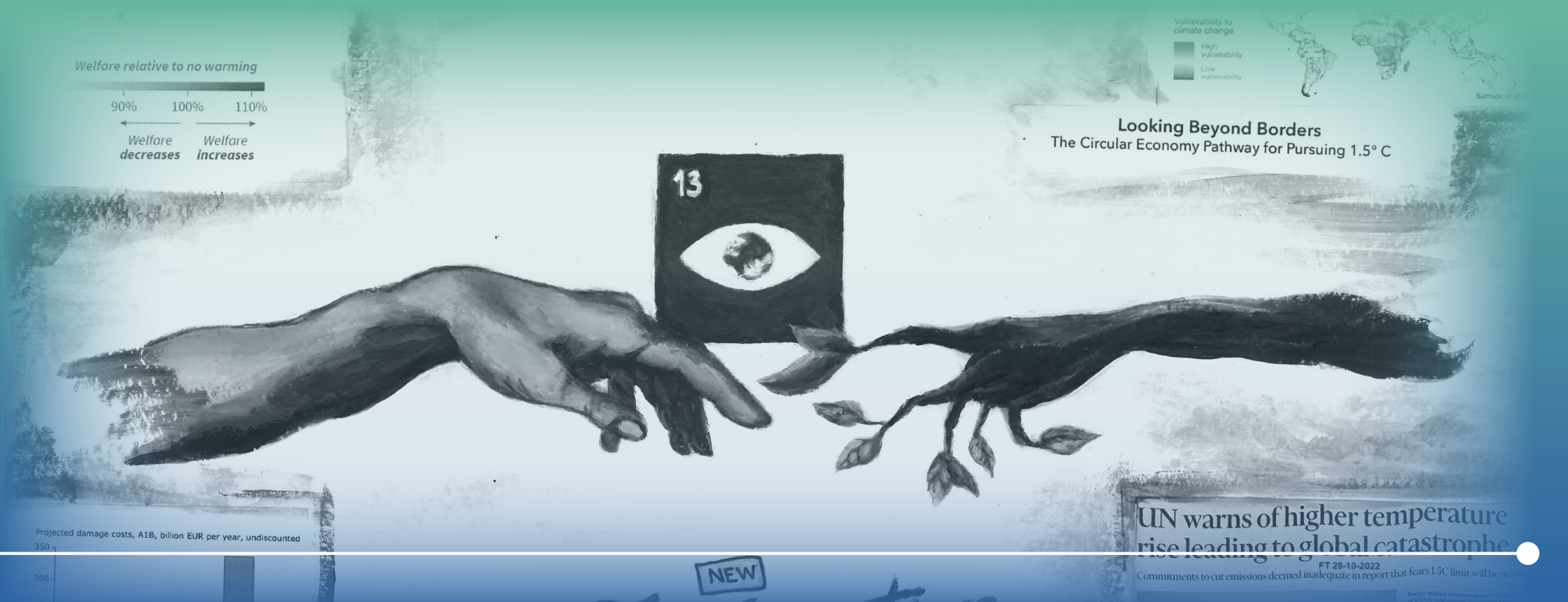
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DANIJELA ŠKOLJAREV

THE NEW CREATION

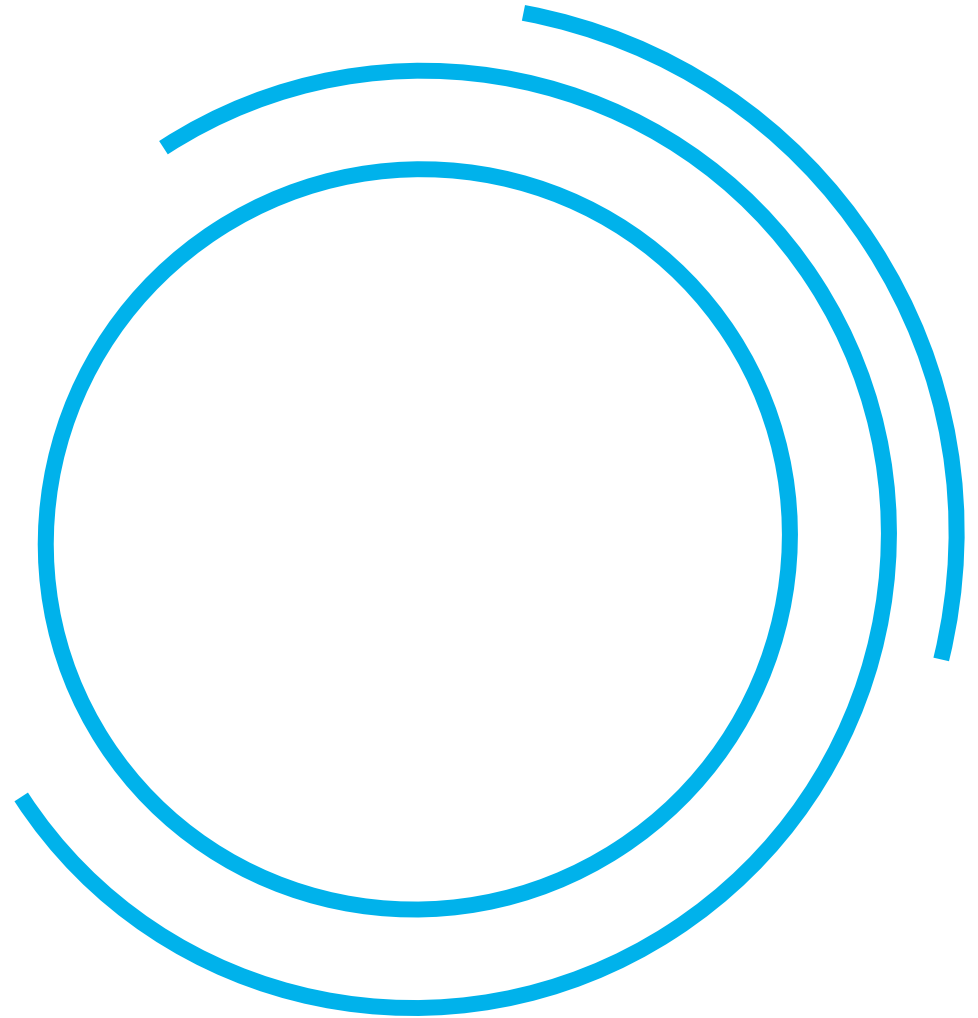


The new creation

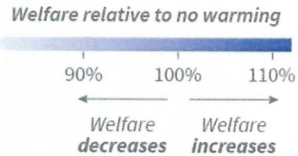
Name and affiliation

Danijela Školjarev

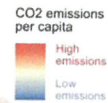
Student at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture



The Impact of Global Warming on Local Welfare



IMAGINING CLIMATE-RESILIENT

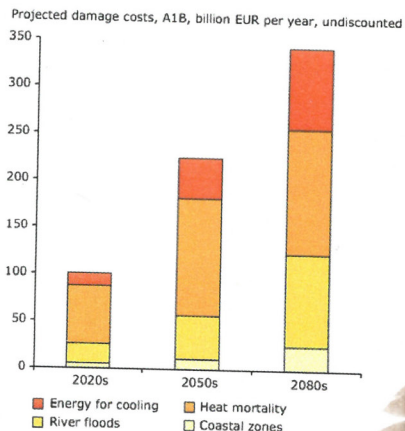


Those who contribute the least greenhouse gases will be most impacted by climate change



Samson et al 2019

Looking Beyond Borders
The Circular Economy Pathway for Pursuing 1.5°C



what is happening and why

NEW
TIME FOR
The creation

UN warns of higher temperature rise leading to global catastrophe

FT 28-10-2022
Commitments to cut emissions deemed inadequate in report that fears 1.5C limit will be missed



Climate change to shrink economy by 17%

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The world's economy is expected to be almost a fifth smaller by the middle of the century.

so much warming is already baked in by past emissions. England is forecast for a 7 per cent decrease, Wales for a 7.3 per cent cut, Northern Ireland

lished in Nature, was one of the most robust assessments of the cost of global warming. The team looked at 83 countries over the past 40 years

Overview

The theme of this multimedia piece, “The New Creation”, revolves around the urgent need for climate resilience in the face of global warming. By integrating various visual elements, the work highlights the impact of climate change on local welfare, emphasizing the unequal burden on different regions and communities, as well as the impact on the economy. The central artwork, inspired by Michelangelo’s “The Creation of Adam”, reimagines the connection between humanity and nature, and the creation of different perspective. It symbolizes a call to action for environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Multimedia Content

The submission includes the painting (made by the author with acrylic and markers) and a detailed visual collage featuring maps, graphs, and newspaper excerpts that illustrate the multifaceted impacts of climate change. The imagery underscores the vulnerability of the least polluting regions and the economic costs due to rising temperatures.

Narrative

The narrative of “The New Creation” is a compelling story of environmental awakening and action. The artwork begins with a depiction of the traditional view of creation, transitioning to a new vision where human hands reach out to nurture the environment rather than domi-

nate it. This transformation is underscored by visual data showing the dire consequences of climate inaction, such as increased flooding, heat mortality and economic losses. The story weaves through these elements, offering a reminder of the need for immediate and concerted efforts to mitigate climate change and foster a resilient future.

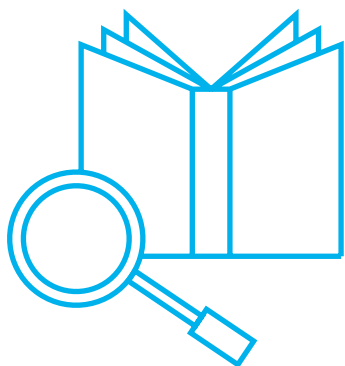
Summary

“The New Creation” encapsulates the essence of the climate resilience movement, proposing a forward-looking insight into the necessity of rethinking our relationship with the environment. It calls for a paradigm shift where human progress is aligned with ecological sustainability. By presenting the reality of climate change through impactful visuals and

narrative, the project aims to inspire action and foster a deeper understanding of the global stakes involved.

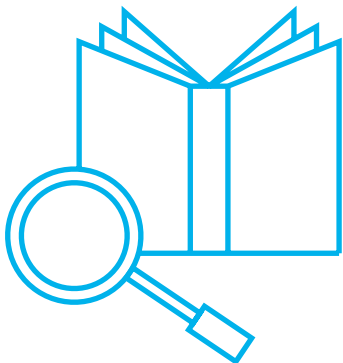
Attribution

Images, Graphs and Newspaper Excerpts:



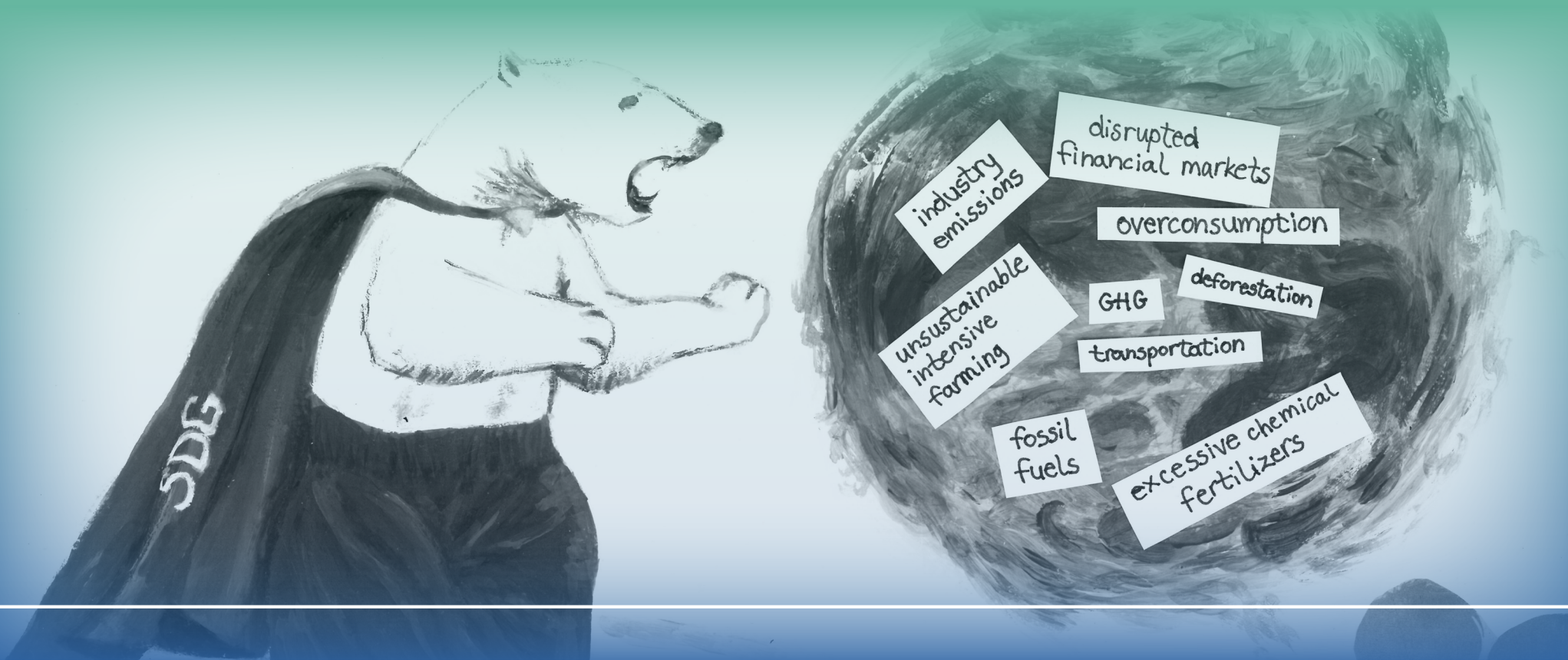
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ŠIME ORLOVIĆ

JOIN THE FIGHT

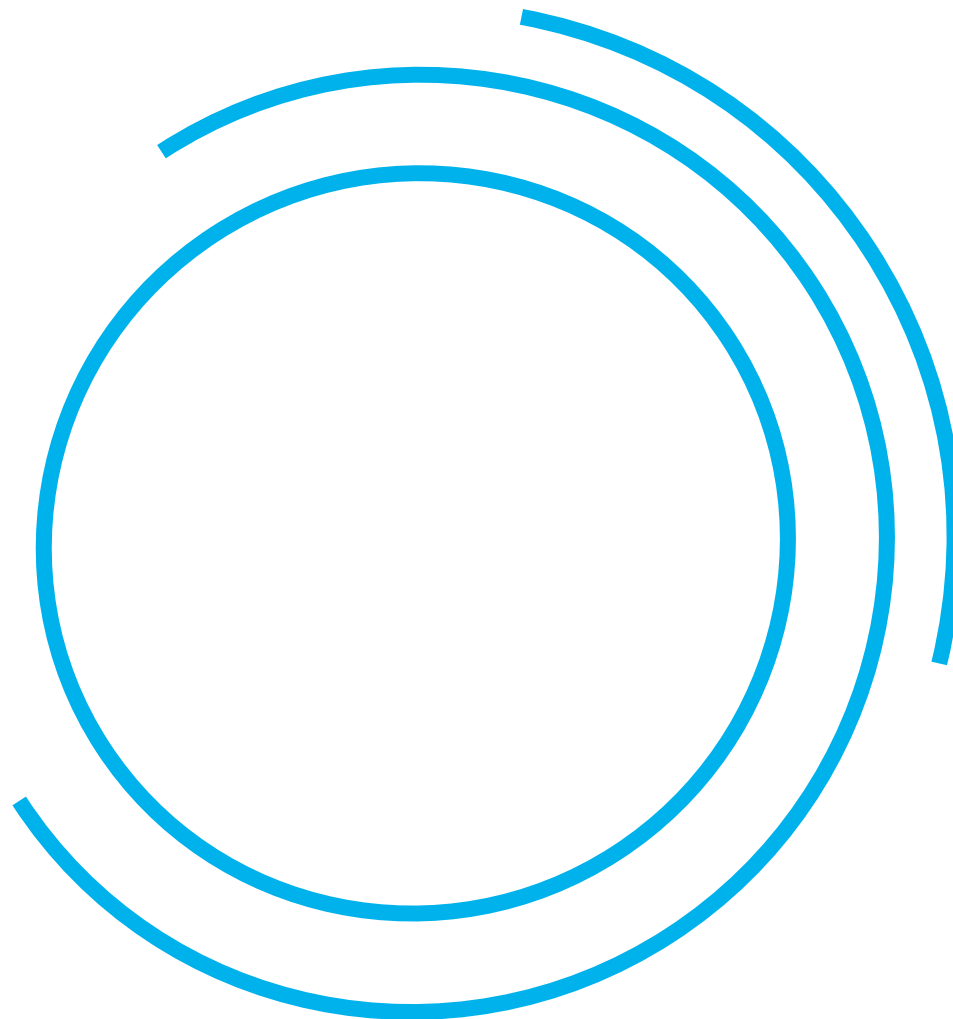


Join the Fight

Name and affiliation

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Student at the University of Applied Sciences RRI F



JOIN THE FIGHT



looking for a
climate culprit.

who BEARS RESPONSIBILITY?



Overview

The multimedia piece “Join the Fight” embodies a powerful narrative urging action against the threat of climate change. Within this artwork, a polar bear, adorned with boxing shorts and a cape with the acronym SDG (Sustainable Development Goals), engages in a profound battle against a raging fireball, which is melting the glacier. “Join the Fight” portrays a touching narrative which serves as a metaphor for the ongoing struggle between environmental preservation and the adverse impacts of human activity.

Multimedia Content

The artwork integrates the painting made with artistic markers and acrylic, depicting visual

elements such as the polar bear, fireball and the glacier, as well as the newspaper cutouts, and symbolic representations of climate change factors. Through the use of mixed media techniques, the piece invites viewers to immerse themselves in its message, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnected human actions and environmental consequences.

Narrative

“Join the Fight” highlights the diverse contributors to climate change, including industry emissions, overconsumption, deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuels, transportation, and unsustainable farming practices, as well as the undesired consequences, such as

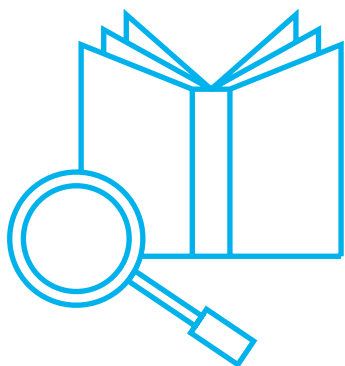
disrupted financial markets. As the polar bear courageously confronts the existential threat, it symbolizes the collective effort required to address environmental challenges and forge a path towards a more sustainable future.

Summary

“Join the Fight” encapsulates the spirit of environmental activism and advocacy, inspiring viewers to take meaningful action in the fight against climate change. By portraying the polar bear as a heroic figure standing firm against the onslaught of environmental degradation, this artwork inspires a sense of empowerment and responsibility in its audience. Through its imagery and narrative, the piece underscores the vital importance of individual and collective action in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

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AMAR DARWISH

SYSTEM FAILURE, REBOOT WITH NATURE



System failure, reboot with nature

Name and affiliation

Amar Darwish

Student at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik



Climate Justice Call Application

May 2024

We have the technology

We have the solutions

We have way to regenerate

We have the people

We have nature

We have still beauty and biodiversity

Why have people come to a point where its an opposition to nature?

Why can't the two rejoice?

We know why, and we talked and talked about talking and future talk

I'd like to see if talking can become acting

I'd like to act, to talk with action

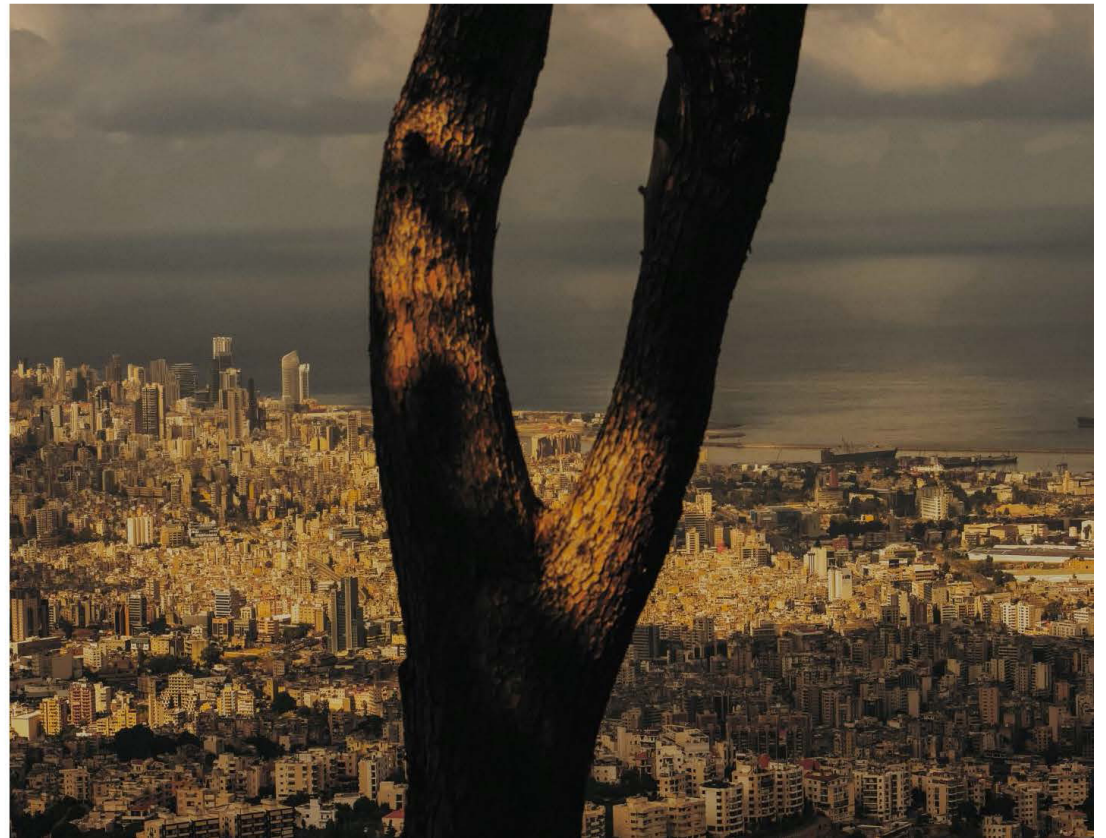
I will act

We will act or we will lose our place with nature

It doesn't need us

It will survive

Will we?



System failure, reboot with nature



By Amar Darwish

The following assemblage is a personal capture of various landscapes and places with the recurrence of nature and its opposition. Outrage fuels love in the many shapes and form.

Nature not only inspires but also provides a blueprint of indignation, resistance and hope. I understand there is no going back but nature has seeded in me the idea of let it go so you can build upon what was wronged. As nothing is absolute maybe a seed can change the world once again...

I come from a place where alarms are just
noises
I come from a land that accepts only some
voices





In this world nothing is immutable
Our nature is gentle, and the divine is
mental





In a realm where we understand it all
Everyone buys as thoughts start to fall





Your world keeps you distracted and bound
But we can't fill the gap with a billion empty souls



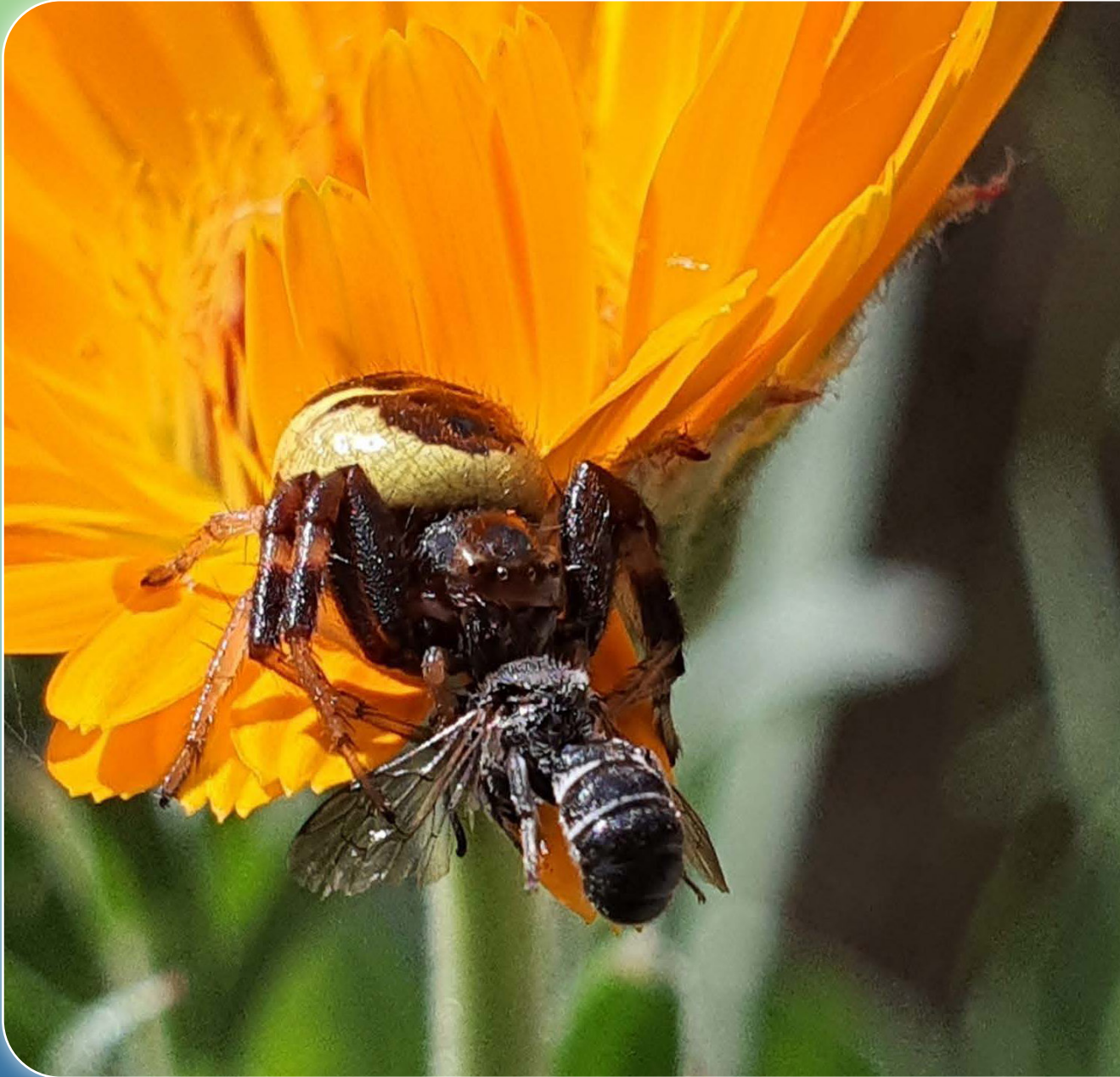
Your world keeps you silent and bound
We can't fill the gap with a billion empty souls





As sign of resistance blossom in the desert we
are made to ignore busy to rest
But maybe all you need is just what you want and
forget





Your world is sold and too compliant
We can't fill the void with billions in
silence



Shall we act the imperfect actions?
Shall we speak the distractions?
Shall we point the contradictions?



As some brainwash us with imaginary needs
and lines, we are told our neighbor is the threat
But maybe all you need is just what you desire
and forget



Fear is a device
So quiet and precise
It's not what I allow
Not in my world now





If we open our eyes colors will blossom so bright after being so blind, it will hurt so much we'll be tempted to resign



They come to your dreams with illusion
They come to bring shape to your mind
You know how to stop the intrusion
We all must fight for our lives





Deep beneath the light
A spark will now ignite



And you will see it now
Let it be actions beyond individuality
Let's be actors of collectivity





When the road shine us some existence in the
form of echoes
I will not take from you, and you will not owe





We will break the silence
After looking inside
We don't have to hide
If you're looking, you won't find it
Who's the enemy?
Don't know what to believe
Living in the shadows
But tell the world we'll survive
Tell the world we're alive



Overview

This creation comes from the idea that each one of us has pictures of nature and knowledge about it. I try to understand what makes someone act, as nature is a global emergency. But as my pictures are framed in many different countries, I understand better who is to blame, who is too busy surviving to live. We need to connect; we need radical action for radical results.

Multimedia Content

These pictures are all mine, taken in different countries; France, Iraq and Lebanon who have the same problem but with different shapes and forms.

Narrative

Nature survives the direst conditions; it is the best mentor that can inspire resiliency and growth in the strangest and destroyed environment.

Summary:

The exploration of nature through diverse landscapes and personal narratives underscores a pressing reality: climate change is a global crisis that impacts every corner of our world, yet its effects are not felt equally. Climate justice emphasizes that while the climate crisis is universal, its consequences are disproportionately borne by those who are least responsible for it and least equipped to adapt. In the photographs captured in France,

Iraq, and Lebanon, we see a microcosm of this disparity. France, with its relatively robust infrastructure and resources, faces environmental challenges that, while serious, can be managed more effectively. In contrast, Iraq and Lebanon grapple with environmental degradation amid socio-political turmoil and economic hardships. These images reveal a stark truth: the burdens of climate change weigh heaviest on those who are already struggling to survive. Climate justice calls for acknowledging and addressing these inequities. It requires us to recognize that environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without also tackling issues of social and economic justice. The resilience of nature in the face of adversity serves as a powerful metaphor for the resilience needed in human communities. However, this resilience must be supported

by fair and just policies that protect the most vulnerable. To achieve radical results, we must implement radical actions that prioritize those who are most affected by climate change. This includes providing resources and support to developing nations, ensuring equitable access to sustainable technologies, and involving marginalized communities in decision-making processes. It means holding accountable those who contribute the most to environmental degradation while uplifting those who suffer its worst impacts.

SIMGE GÖZÜKAN

CLIMATE JUSTICE



Climate Justice

Name and affiliation

Simgе Gözükan

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We all hear about climate change and its impacts on people and our world every other day. It's a sad reality where there are long-term alterations in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and the other aspects of our climate system. Climate change, driven essentially by human activities such as deforestation, burning fossil fuels, and industrial activities, isn't just an abstract concept – it's a phenomenon that is already causing real impacts that we can see and feel in our daily lives. Consequences of rising global temperatures are felt around the world from melting ice caps, sea-level rise, to more frequent and severe weather events like hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires. And while climate change affects us all, it's not an equal playing field. Climate justice addresses the disproportionate impact climate change has on communities around

the world. "Those who are the least responsible for climate change are going to suffer the most." sums it up. And my short film aims to highlight the contrasts between the wealthy, who often contribute disproportionately to climate change, and the vulnerable populations who suffer its worst effects. By showcasing the causes, impacts, and possible solutions to climate injustice, with this video I seek to raise awareness and inspire action towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

The video opens with skyscrapers – symbolizing the rich and their impact on climate change – industrial pollutions, visually representing the primary causes of climate change. In contrast, footage of natural disasters highlights the severe consequences of climate change on vulnerable, poor communities and the world.

A black screen with the text “What’s going on?” appears, followed by a news clip stating, “We’re in the middle of a climate chaos.” This sequence, combined with clips of news reporters discussing climate change, shows the urgency of the crisis. Reminding us that this is our reality. Climate change is not a joke and we have to take it seriously. The video then shifts to a black screen with Greta Thunberg’s voice asking, “What do we want?” This leads into footage of climate justice protests, with people chanting, “Climate justice!” These speeches and TED talks make us see that we are not alone in this. Our purpose is the same and we must take action and inspire others to do the same. There isn’t any more time to lose. The film concludes on a hopeful note, with Alicia M. Richin’s voice saying, “We will leave no one behind,” over footage of happy

children. This ending emphasizes the need for inclusive and equitable climate action. In the final moments of the video, I briefly present my ideas over footage of disasters. The wealthy need to significantly reduce their emissions, affluent nations must support poorer countries, and we must ensure no one is left behind.

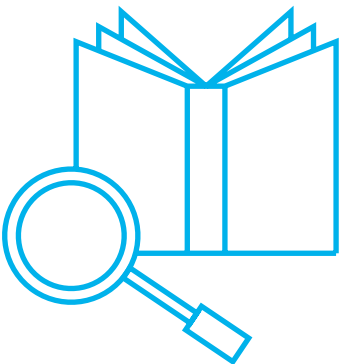
In summary, my short film on climate justice aims to shed light on the profound inequalities and urgent challenges posed by climate change. Through powerful imagery and narratives, the video illustrates how the wealthy, who are often the major contributors to emissions, must take responsibility and significantly reduce their carbon footprint. Furthermore, it shows the importance of affluent nations providing support to poorer countries that are disproportionately affected

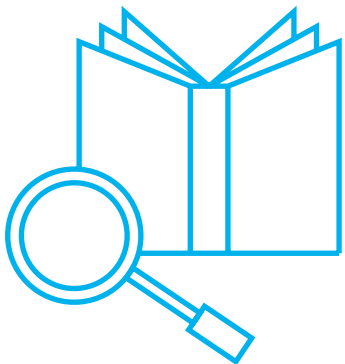
by climate disasters. The film concludes with a hopeful message, emphasizing the need for global solidarity. By advocating for equitable solutions and collective action, this video seeks to inspire viewers to engage in meaningful efforts toward achieving climate justice for all.



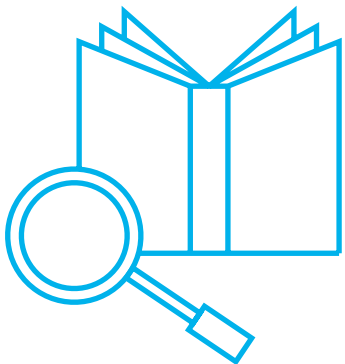
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KITIJA BALCARE

A TRIBUTE TO THE
CLIMATE CRISIS AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS

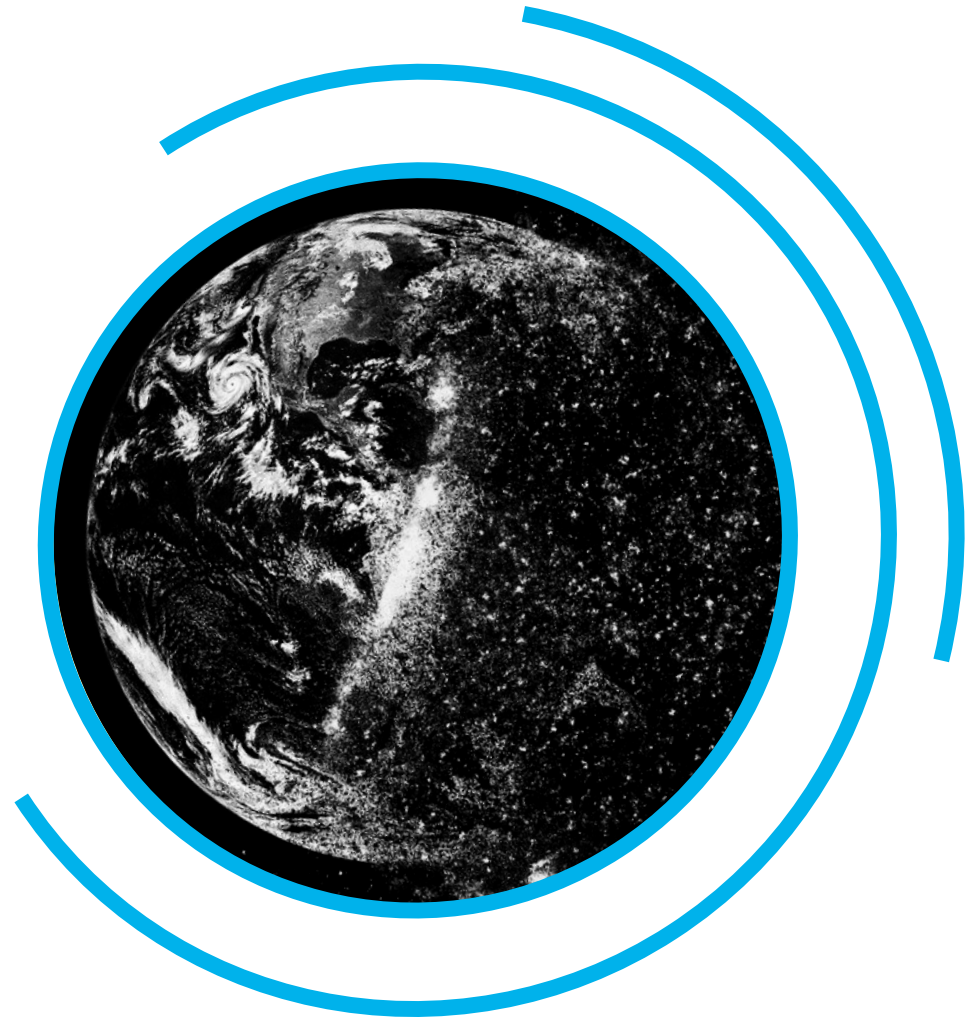


A tribute to the climate crisis and future generations

Name and affiliation

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Introduction

The application “Definitions” is a text in the genre of eco-poetry. The poem includes concepts relevant to the climate crisis, which the author explains through her personal childhood experiences.

Body

In order to encourage a proactive attitude towards environmental issues, it is important to involve the public emotionally. Eco-poetry is one approach of achieving this. By presenting a newly created poem on the theme of the climate crisis, the author aims to involve the reader in thinking and sympathising. The text of the poem is structured as a set of definitions of concepts that describe the current state of

the world, offering subjective childhood memories instead of scientific explanations of the particular concepts. By returning to herself as a child, the author also encourages the reader of the poem to return to his/her own childhood in order to compare his/her own view of the environment and nature at that time with the current landscape. In this comparative way, the author aims to evoke emotions in the reader, thus encouraging a socially active stance on climate issues.

Conclusion

An eco-poem is a way of creating an emotional connection with environmental issues in its readers, encouraging them to become atten-

tive to their own and their peers' experiences of the environment, thus re-evaluating personal actions in relation to the future generations.

Acid rain (verb) - our tears that wash away extinct and dying species, acidifying the world's oceans

Amber (noun) - a pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) resin gemstone, woven by the Baltic Sea and stuck into a grandmother's ring, containing a centuries-old insect from a time when nature belonged to itself

Anthropocene (verb) - an epoch in which the highest and most invisible mountain is a man-made pile of rubbish

Asphalt, also bitumen (adjective) - a bloody knee scraped in the yard, healed only by the breath of a grandmother who has survived Siberia, and a broadleaf plantain (*Plantago major*) bursting through the asphalt

Biodiversity loss (verb) - the glow-worms (*Lampyris noctiluca*) that no longer flicker in the meadows – in the meadows where the nine flowers for the summer solstice wreath have long gone since disappeared

Circular economy (verb) - the local newspaper in which my mother wraps my first-grader's lunch sandwich, from which I then fold my little brother's paper plane

Climate change (verb) - the lake of my childhood, where my father skated in the snow and

my grandfather fished for perch, the same lake that is no longer covered with ice in winter

Desertification (verb) - a salty landscape that mankind, in its industrial insatiability, has drunk dry

Earth (adverb) - a ticking time bomb in human hands, already smouldering in forest fires

Eco-anxiety (verb) - a state of mind in which there is no home for anyone anywhere on planet Earth

Ecocriticism (verb) - the ability to see and recognise the pine trees (*Pinus sylvestris*) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) that used to grow stubbornly in Siberia in the landscapes of my grandparents' harsh youth

Environmental humanities (verb) - the academic endeavour to find a place for humanity under the sun in a world of its own making

Erosion (verb) - the overgrown dunes of the Baltic Sea, eroded by the waves, eating away the beach of childhood

Extinction (verb) - the voice of the European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) crying out to be put on the Red List of Threatened Species

Extreme weather (verb) - a huge oak tree (genus *Quercus*) in the middle of a monoculture field blown down by a storm, also the slate roofs of farm sheds battered by large hailstones

Global warming (adverb) - a heatwave in the

heart of northern Europe that is drying up local marshes, straightened rivers and tear ducts

Greenwashing (verb) - getting lost among the last three pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) in a silent clear-cut, when it is no longer possible to wash the guilt off our hands

Heat island (adverb) - a fevered city on planet Earth where the ground burns beneath our feet

Invasive species (noun) - the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) that has invaded our waters, displacing the noble crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) that my father used to catch at night a few decades ago

Nature reserve (noun) - a fragmentary sanctuary for natural refugees from human activity

Oil (vanishing word) - a puddle of bitumen in the mines where, in times of scarcity, my young, yellow leather sandal gets permanently stuck in the oil when I go with my father to pick wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) on the hillside where the mines are located

Plastic (noun) - a pacifier in a baby's mouth that silences the newborn's outrage at how noise-polluted the world is

Posthumanism (verb) - overgrown spruces (genus *Picea*) in beds in a grandparent's garden that can no longer be weeded but are inhabited by eight-toothed spruce bark beetles (*Ips typographus*)

Smog (noun) - the unbearable existence in which you can no longer see stars or constellations, only lost migratory birds

Solastalgia (noun) - a time trapped in a herbarium, smelling of the shady side of an open window in June and jasmine (*Jasminum*) bushes

Sustainability (noun) - a grandmother washing out the squeaky plastic bags and hanging them on an apple tree (*Malus domestica*) to dry, so she can wrap the sweetest apple for me tomorrow

Water (adverb) - life that is running out

MARGARETA MEAŠIĆ

ALEA IACTA EST



Alea iacta est

Name and affiliation

Margareta Meašić
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Overview

The presented multimedia content captures the global socio-economic and ecological dynamics in a short two-minute stop-motion animation format. While addressing the issues of the all-encompassing climate crisis – going hand in hand with processes such as rising sea levels, rapid deagrarianization, deruralization, deforestation, urbanization, and industrialization – this video also delivers a critique of capitalism and the wealth disparity between different communities. Against the backdrop of ecocriticism, this narrative aims to depict the stark contrast between the experiences of developed and developing countries when dealing with changes in climate while highlighting the intersection of environmental sustainability and social equity.

Narrative

Using seemingly innocent-looking board games and toys in illustrating the globally shared ecological and socio-political issues was not an accidental choice. While aiming to find a proper narrative frame to formulate my vision and entertaining the idea of using board-game motifs in its execution, I realized there was a fine line between the world of games and reality. Humanity suddenly seemed to resemble pawns in a game played by the “major players.” The animation illustrates how developed countries, represented by the chessboard, financially thrive and industrialize, while developing countries, represented by the “Mensch ärgere Dich nicht” board, suffer the consequences of environmental degradation despite their min-

imal contribution to the crisis. The animation opens with a serene scene on the “Mensch ärgere Dich nicht” board, representing a developing country. Farmers are seen working the land and tending to livestock, while a coastal village thrives peacefully. The scene exudes a sense of normalcy and idyllic rural life. The narrative then shifts to the chessboard, symbolizing a developed country. Chess figures are busy building houses and accumulating wealth, marking a period of prosperity and growth. The story returns to the developing country, where life continues as usual. Back on the chessboard, steam boats are used to depict the Industrial revolution. The narrative cuts back to the developing country, still unchanged, emphasizing the temporal lag in industrialization. As the developed country progresses further, cars appear on the chess-

board, signaling technological advancement and increased emissions. The animation then highlights the deteriorating conditions in the developing country. Rising sea levels and crop failures begin to take their toll, symbolizing the environmental impact of industrial activities. As planes start flying in the developed country, the narrative starkly contrasts the worsening situation in the developing country. Farmers are forced to abandon their lands due to loss of livestock and crops, and the coastal village faces destruction from rising sea levels. The animation concludes with a powerful message using the game “Boggle.” The letters form the phrase “Alea iacta est,” a Latin expression meaning “the die is cast,” which, beyond adding to the metaphor of game or play, also emphasizes the urgency of the situation. As the letters start disappearing, only

the word “act” remains, calling for immediate action and urging viewers to act now.

Summary

This stop-motion animation vividly portrays the climate change induced inequities through the juxtaposition of two contrasting worlds. The chessboard, representing developed countries, illustrates a journey of industrial growth and technological advancement. In contrast, the “Mensch ärgere Dich” nicht board represents developing countries, showing how these communities suffer from environmental consequences despite their minimal contribution to the climate crisis. The animation ends with a call to action, with the phrase “Alea iacta est” transitioning into

a plea to take immediate action, or simply, to “act.”

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CHRISTOFOROS PAVLAKIS

DISABLED CHILDREN
AND YOUTH FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE



Disabled children and youth for climate justice

Name and affiliation

Christoforos Pavlakis
Researcher at the York St. John University and at the
Technical University of Crete



The entry is the recording of the collective performance “We are ...” , a poem written by disabled children and youth during a half-day creative creative workshops amplifying their voices within the climate justice movement.

The performance was recorded in the presence of their parents and carers and consent was sought in advance. This creative output abounds with statements using metaphors taken from the Nature and acts as a re-affirmation of our bonds with the human and natural environment . The poem ‘We Are...’ also highlights creative ways to promote inclusion and diversity within current climate activist spaces. The half day workshop was held in Durham, England, on 19 June 2024 and was linked to the Great Big Green Week.

The workshop was designed and facilitated by Christoforos Pavlakis, a disabled and creative mind himself.

GIULIA SONETTI

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE DIGITAL AGE



A tribute to the climate crisis and future generations

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Introduction

This submission showcases the transformative impact of the “Cycling Without Age”¹ initiative, specifically the Barcelona Chapter named “en bici sense edat”, for which I serve as volunteer and head of research and innovation unit. This is a program designed to enhance the lives of the elderly by reconnecting them with their communities and the outdoors through cycling experiences. As a volunteer, I have captured moments that highlight not only the joy and freedom these rides bring to our elderly participants but also its broader implications for social cohesion and climate justice. This project aligns with the SHiFT COST Action’s call to explore innovative pathways for sustainable development and social equity, offeri

ng a special (emotional, too!) perspective on how intergenerational engagement can foster community resilience and contribute to urban sustainability bringing elderly (and us volunteers!) around the natural areas of the city (by the sea, around urban parks, at shaded cafeterias with children playgrounds and fountains, etc).

Body

Video Content Description:

1. In the Park: The video begins with scenes of elderly participants and volunteers enjoying leisurely rides in the park. This setting

illustrates the initiative's role in promoting mental well-being and environmental appreciation. As we cycle through green spaces, the interaction between nature and our participants underscores the importance of accessible urban greenery for all age groups, enhancing community health and well-being.

2. Manifestation for Gender Rights: The next segment captures our participation in a local manifestation for gender rights. This involvement highlights our commitment to broader social issues, demonstrating the initiative's alignment with global movements for equality and justice. It reflects our advocacy for inclusivity and the role of community programs in supporting significant social causes.

3. Dance after a coffee by the beach: Midway, the reel features what happened after a casual coffee session where participants share stories and laughter with unknown people in the neighbors. This segment portrays the deep personal connections fostered through regular social interaction, crucial for combating loneliness among the elderly. It exemplifies how simple acts, like sharing a coffee and invite to dance, can build a supportive network that transcends age.

4. Laughter and Joy: The final scenes are filled with laughter and evident joy during the rides, highlighting the emotional uplift and the therapeutic benefits of the initia-



tive. Laughter, shared universally across ages, serves as a powerful tool for emotional health and stress relief, reinforcing the mental health benefits of social participation.

Thematic conception

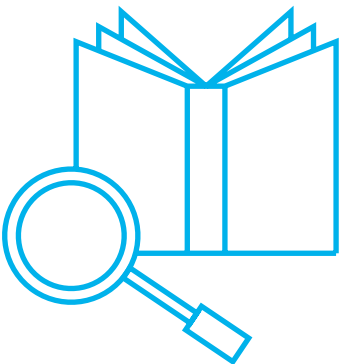
Each video segment conveys a theme central to climate justice—sustainable urban living, mental health, and the power of community action. By engaging elderly citizens in outdoor activities, we promote physical health and environmental consciousness, crucial for sustainable urban development². These themes are interwoven to illustrate how the initiative contributes to a holistic approach to climate justice, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and well-being in urban planning.

Conclusion

This project captures the essence of “Cycling Without Age” as more than just a cycling initiative—it is a movement towards building more inclusive, healthy, and sustainable communities³. The emotional and social uplift experienced by participants (both volunteers and users!)⁴ exemplifies the profound impact of integrating elderly citizens into active community roles, potentially inspiring similar programs globally. As cities continue to evolve, initiatives like these demonstrate the importance of designing inclusive urban spaces that cater to all generations, promoting not only environmental sustainability but also social well-being.

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• NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS •



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This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA21166 SHiFT, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career, and innovation.

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ISBN: 978-972-9347-62-7

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.13994070

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