

Cities and Universities for a Sustainable Future: The Importance of Community-focused Partnerships

Date: **April 1, 2021**

Time: **11:00am – 12:30pm (PDT)**

The National
Academies of

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE



- 11:00 am **Welcoming Remarks**
Dr. Joe Arvai
Dana and David Dornsife Chair, Wrigley Institute Director and Professor of Psychology, University of Southern California
- 11:05 am **Overview of the recent National Academies Report “Strengthening Sustainability at the Undergraduate and Graduate Levels”**
Dr. Anne Kapuscinski
Director U.S. Coastal Science and Policy Program and Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Dr. Arun Agrawal
Samuel Trask Dana Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), University of Michigan
- 11:15 am **Fireside Chat**
Dr. Shaun Harper (moderator)
Provost Professor of Management and Organization, Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership, and Executive Director, USC Race and Equity Center, University of Southern California

Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Dr. Carol L. Folt
President, University of Southern California
- 11:40 am **Panel Discussion**
Dr. Joe Arvai (moderator)
Dana and David Dornsife Chair, Wrigley Institute Director and Professor of Psychology, University of Southern California

Dr. Chris Boone
Dean, College of Global Futures, and Dean and Professor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University

Dr. Sofia Gruskin
Director, Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, University of Southern California
Professor of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
Professor of Law, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Dr. Manuel Pastor
Distinguished Professor, Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity
Director, USC Equity Research Institute, University of Southern California

Dr. Jill Sohm
Director, Environmental Studies Program
Associate Professor (Teaching) of Environmental Studies
University of Southern California

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman
Co-Founder, DivestSC Committee
Presidential Working Group on Sustainability Education, Research and Operations
University of Southern California

12:15 pm

Q&A Forum

12:30pm

Event concludes

Speaker Biographies

(Moderator) Dr. Joseph Árvai is Director of the USC [Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies](#), and the Dana and David Dornsife Professor of Psychology in the USC Department of Psychology. Dr. Árvai's research focuses on improving the critical thinking, judgment, and decision-making capabilities of people. He is a frequent advisor to government, business, and NGOs. He is a former member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chartered Science Advisory Board, and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' Board on Environmental Change and Society.

Dr. Anne Kapuscinski is Director of the [Coastal Science and Policy Program](#) and Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She previously served as the Sherman Fairchild Chair of Sustainability Science and chair of the Environmental Studies program at Dartmouth College. Prior to Dartmouth, she led the development and 2007 launch of an interdisciplinary undergraduate sustainability studies minor at the University of Minnesota. Her current research aims to shift aquaculture, the world's fastest growing food sector, towards sustainability by integrating innovation, life-cycle analysis, and agroecology. Dr. Kapuscinski participates actively in the science-policy interface, presently serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Union of Concerned Scientists and member of the California Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team. She is a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, editor in chief of the sustainability transitions domain of the journal, *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, and was chair of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine committee on strengthening sustainability programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Arun Agarwal is the Samuel Trask Dana Professor at University of Michigan's [School for Environment and Sustainability \(SEAS\)](#). He studies and teaches the politics of international development, institutional change, and environmental conservation. He has written critically on indigenous knowledge, community-based conservation, common property, population and resources, and environmental identities. Agrawal's research currently focuses on issues at the intersection of sustainability and development in West and East Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. His recent work has appeared in *Science*, *PNAS*, *Conservation Biology*, and *Development and Change*, among other journals.

Keynote Discussion:

Dr. Carol L. Folt serves as the twelfth president of the University of Southern California. She is a highly experienced leader, internationally recognized life scientist, and award-winning teacher. In leading USC, Dr. Folt brings broad executive and leadership experience across the academy, including arts and sciences, professional schools, and academic medicine. Throughout her career, Dr. Folt has earned a reputation for always placing students at the center, advancing academic excellence and innovation, setting ambitious goals, prioritizing shared governance, and focusing on the future. Prior to her appointment at USC in July 2019, Dr. Folt led the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 2013 to 2019. An Akron, Ohio, native, Dr. Folt earned her bachelor's degree in aquatic biology and a master's degree in biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She received her doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis, and did postdoctoral work at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station of Michigan State University.

Mayor Eric Garcetti Eric Garcetti is a fourth-generation Angeleno and the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley — the son of public servants and the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants from Mexico and Eastern Europe — Mayor Garcetti's life has been shaped by a deep commitment to the core values of justice, dignity, and equality for all people. The Mayor's government service began on the L.A. City Council, where he spent four terms as Council President before being elected Mayor in 2013 and winning re-election in 2017 by the widest margin in the history of Los Angeles. Beyond his time at City Hall, Mayor Garcetti has served his country as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve, and taught at the University of Southern California and Occidental College. The Mayor received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University, and studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and later at the London School of Economics. He is also a jazz pianist and photographer. He and his wife, First Lady Amy Elaine Wakeland, are the proud parents of a daughter, Maya, and have been foster parents for more than a decade.

(Keynote Moderator) Dr. Shaun R. Harper is a Provost Professor in the Rossier School of Education and Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. He also is the Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership, founder and executive director of the [USC Race and Equity Center](#), and president of the American Educational Research Association. Professor Harper also is a member of California Governor Gavin Newsome's task force on Equity, Education, and COVID-19 Recovery. He served on the national education policy team for the Biden-Harris Campaign.

Panel Discussion:

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Director of the [USC Equity Research Institute](#), and a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity; he is the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social Change at USC. Dr. Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities – and the social movements seeking to change those realities.

Dr. Sofia Gruskin directs the [USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health](#). She is Professor of Preventive Medicine and Chief of the Disease Prevention, Policy and Global Health Division at the Keck School of Medicine, Professor of Law and Preventive Medicine at the Gould School of Law, and affiliate faculty with the Spatial Sciences Institute at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Her work, which ranges from global policy to the grassroots level, addresses health inequalities locally and globally, with a focus on multi-disciplinary approaches to sustainable development.

Dr. Jill Sohm is Director of the [USC Dornsife Environmental Studies Program](#) and an Associate Professor (Teaching) of Environmental Studies. Trained as a biological oceanographer and microbial ecologist, Dr. Sohm teaches on water, coastal processes, and the ecology of microbial diseases. Her current research is student centered and ranges from water pollution, to eelgrass as a restoration tool, and sustainability in city programs and education. She is currently working on projects to expand sustainability education in the USC curriculum with a focus on educating the next generation of environmental leaders.

Dr. Christopher Boone is Dean of the [College of Global Futures](#) and Professor in the School of Sustainability and the School of Human Evolution & Social Change at Arizona State University.

His research contributes to ongoing debates in sustainable urbanization, environmental justice, vulnerability, global environmental change, and innovation in higher education. He is a member of the University Leadership Council on Diversity and Inclusion in International Affairs Education, and a board member for the Global Consortium for Science and the Environment.

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman graduated from USC in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Science degree from the USC Marshall School of Business. Throughout her time at USC, she served as a student leader in environment and sustainability issues on campus, including co-founding the DivestSC Committee. She currently serves as a member of the USC Presidential Working Group on Sustainability Education, Research and Operations; and as a member of the Los Angeles Mayor's Youth Council for Climate Action.