ICRR Seminar Series:

Dr Samantha Stanley

Using social psychology to understand public responses to climate change and climate migration

Academics and activists are increasingly recognising climate change as not only an environmental and health issue, but also as a justice issue. Those facing its worst consequences typically have not had access to high-emission lifestyles, or the means to adapt to the challenges climate change brings. In this seminar, I will talk about some of the ways that my collaborators and I use social psychology to try to understand how people respond to climate change. This will include some work on the ideological barriers to acceptance and action on climate change and the various emotional responses people have to environmental change. I argue that recognising that climate change already disproportionately affects vulnerable communities requires moving beyond a focus on the determinants of support for mitigation measures. The main part of the talk will give an overview of our emerging research on public attitudes towards funding adaptation measures in communities vulnerable to climate impacts and providing resettlement opportunities for those at risk of displacement who want and need to relocate.

Speaker Bio:

Samantha Stanley is a social and environmental psychology researcher. She recently joined the University of New South Wales as an ARC DECRA fellow at the UNSW Institute for Climate Risk & Response. Samantha's research applies social psychological theory and research to study how people think, feel, and act in relation to climate change. This includes examining ecological emotions, (in)effective climate change communication, political polarisation on climate change, the psychology of meat consumption and abstention, and attitudes towards climate policy reform. Her DECRA research aims to understand public attitudes towards providing funding and migration pathways for those most affected by climate change.

Wednesday 24th July 2024

10:30am - 11:30am

Climate Change Research Centre Seminar Room

Level 4, Mathews Building, UNSW Sydney

UNSW Institute for Climate Risk & Response

UNSW SYDNEY