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UCT to launch dialogue series on concerns, challenges in climate change

'What can the past tell us about climate change and development?'
sponsored by ACIDI: 17h30-19h30, Wednesday, 18 July 2012, in John Day
Zoology Bldg, LT1, Upper Campus, UCT

The African Climate Development Initiative (ACDI) at the University of Cape Town is launching a series of academic seminars designed to facilitate and foster inter- and cross-disciplinary discussions on climate and development concerns and challenges. Each colloquium will start with short presentations by the panel members, illustrating how their respective research relates to the theme of the colloquium, and will be followed by an open discussion involving the audience and the panel. Each colloquium is open to the public.

The first colloquium, "What can the past tell us about climate change and development?" on 18 July 2012, will feature the following panelists:

Jeremy Wakeford is an independent economist specialising in energy and sustainability. He is an Extra-ordinary Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Leadership at Stellenbosch University, and Chairman of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil South Africa, a non-profit think tank that researches and advises on the implications of the peaking and decline of world oil production.

Lindsey Gillson is an associate professor in Plant Conservation Biology, based in the Plant Conservation Unit, Botany Department at UCT. She has established palaeoecological research in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Her postgraduate team has palaeoecological projects in fynbos, renosterveld, afro-montane forest, savanna and grassland biomes, with an emphasis on the boundaries between different vegetation types. Her aim is to bridge the gap between ecological theory, ecosystem management and palaeoecology.

John Compton is an associate professor in geological sciences at UCT. He has been involved in a wide range of research topics in coastal and marine geology, geochemistry, geoarchaeology and ecosystem dynamics. His research has focused on the relatively recent geological past covering the last several million years, or quaternary.

Lesley JF Green is senior lecturer in Anthropology in the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics at UCT, where she leads the Contested Ecologies research cluster. She was convener of a Sawyer Seminar on Knowledges, Ways of Knowing and the Postcolonial University (2009-2011).

ENDS

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