



York University | Oct 11-13

COVID, CLIMATE, CONFLICT

**Navigating narratives
of crisis and hope**

Perin Ruttonsha

OCT 11, 15:30 ET

TSL SERIES

**Localised
Resilience &
RECOVERY**

Summary

Between utopian visions of Earthly paradises and dystopian views of authoritarian post-apocalypses, cultural narratives of the future can oftentimes leave us torn between hoping for the best and fearing the worst. Meanwhile, recent global events have been evocative of our worst nightmares: a widespread pandemic; climate disaster; the uncovering of unmarked graves of Indigenous children; as well as, conflict in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The magnitude of these situations has necessitated rapid response across institutions, at all levels; so too is it important to account for the localised, human dimensions of adapting and rebuilding amidst times of unexpected change. Through a reflective group process, in this workshop, we will dive into the social complexities of some of the most controversial scenarios with which we have been contending, as a global community, acknowledging the range of experiences and impacts that can arise across diverse populations.

Abstract

Between utopian visions of Earthly paradises and dystopian views of authoritarian post-apocalypses, cultural narratives of the future can oftentimes leave us torn between hoping for the best and fearing the worst. With respect to planning for global transition, both positions are represented across scholarship and practice. On the one hand, sustainability, resilience, and ecological economics research caution of tipping beyond planetary boundaries and biosphere capacity, underscored by the risk of triggering cascading social, ecological, economic, and political collapse (Homer-Dixon et al., 2015; Meadows et al., 2005). On the other, work in related fields has been tracking movements of on-the-ground, altruistic innovation; encouraging communities to build resilience through economic relocalisation; and, celebrating the human creative capacity for renewal (Hawken, 2008; Hopkins, 2011; Mau, 2004; Thakara, 2015; Turner, 2008). Meanwhile, recent global events have been

evocative of our worst nightmares: a global pandemic; ongoing wildfires, drought, floods, and extreme weather due to climate warming; the uncovering of thousands of unmarked graves of Indigenous children, at the sites of former residential schools; as well as, conflict in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The magnitude of these situations has necessitated rapid response across institutions, at all levels; so too is it important to account for the localised, human dimensions of coping, adapting, and rebuilding amidst times of unexpected and disruptive change. Part of this might entail navigating competing information, advice, beliefs, ideals, and ethics pertaining to high-stake challenges. Through a reflective group process, in this workshop, we will dive into the social complexities of some of the most controversial scenarios with which we have been contending, as a global community, acknowledging the range of experiences and impacts that can arise across diverse populations.

Transformative Social Learning (TSL)

Introduced this year by Perin Ruttonsha, as a new CANSEE conference programme format, transformative social learning (TSL) sessions extend the conventions of participatory engagement, to emphasise critical reflection by which to enable deeper understanding of complex challenges. Through inclusive and interactive forums, these sessions examine the social, economic, and political barriers that continue to entrench inequality, injustice, and environmental decline, while also exploring diverse human experiences of systems change. These conference sessions expanded on topics presented during keynote panels, and were intended to frame and predicate opportunities for collective shifts in perspectives, beliefs, behaviours, and power dynamics.

Works Cited

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