



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Conservation Research Institute

# Transitions Towards Sustainability

Professor Pamela Matson,  
Stanford University

Tellus Mater Distinguished Fellow in  
Sustainability Studies 2019

*The Tellus Mater Distinguished Fellowship is  
managed by the University of Cambridge  
Conservation Research Institute (UCCRI) in  
cooperation with the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust.*



5pm, Tuesday 26 February

## **The Practical Pursuit of Sustainability**

Babbage Lecture Theatre

Sustainability is a term widely used by many different groups – from corporations to academic institutions and non-profits – sometimes with different meanings and different goals. In this talk, Pamela Matson will draw common threads among the different uses, and illustrate how systems thinking and a capital assets framework can be used by all of them to increase the likelihood of accomplishing sustainability goals. Followed by drinks reception

**For more information and to book visit:**  
[conservation.cam.ac.uk/PamelaMatson](http://conservation.cam.ac.uk/PamelaMatson)

5pm, Wednesday 27 February

## **Linking Knowledge to Action at Scales that Matter: Lessons from the past, thoughts about the future**

David Attenborough Building  
A Cambridge Conservation Seminar  
Series Lecture followed by drinks  
reception

2pm, Friday 1 March

## **Final Symposium**

David Attenborough Building  
Symposium to further discuss  
Professor Matson's work and topics  
raised during the week. Chaired by  
Professor Bhaskar Vira



Weidenfeld-  
Hoffmann  
Trust



The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust is an educational charity set up by the late Lord Weidenfeld and its chairman André Hoffmann. The Trust provides around thirty graduate scholarships a year for young people from developing and emerging economies to study at Oxford and participate in a specially created Leadership Programme which gives them the tools to return to their countries and make a difference in whichever sphere they can. The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust is the largest philanthropic scholarship supported by Oxford University. Since 2007, 239 scholars from 66 countries have benefited from this programme. For more information please visit: [www.whtrust.org/scholarships/](http://www.whtrust.org/scholarships/) and follow us on twitter and instagram.

The Tellus Mater Fellowship brings distinguished visitors to Cambridge to address major themes in Sustainability Studies. The programme follows the earlier Humanitas Visiting Professorships, created by the late Lord Weidenfeld and is managed and funded by the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust with the support of a series of generous benefactors.

The Tellus Mater Foundation is dedicated to exploring the potential for disruptive technologies to solve critical environmental and social challenges, and to educate key audiences about the solutions.

The Distinguished Fellowship is generously hosted by the Master and Fellows of St John's College.

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Park End Street  
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University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute (UCCRI)  
David Attenborough Building  
Pembroke Street  
Cambridge  
CB2 3QZ  
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## *Tellus Mater Distinguished Fellow in Sustainability Studies*

The Tellus Mater Distinguished Fellow in Sustainability Studies has been made possible by the generous support of the Tellus Mater Foundation. The Fellowship is managed by the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute (UCCRI) in cooperation with the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust.

The Tellus Mater Distinguished Fellowship, follows the earlier Humanitas Chair in Sustainability Studies which was created in 2013. Over its six year duration, the programme has included a diverse range of topics relating to sustainability studies, ranging from the environment and behaviour, to policy and economics.

2018 – 19

*Pamela Matson*

(Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor in Environmental Sciences, Stanford University and Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment)

2015 – 16

*Paul Ferraro*

(Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Business and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University)

2014 – 15

*Johan Rockström*

(Professor in Environmental Science at Stockholm University, and the Executive Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre)

2013 – 14

*Gretchen Daily*

(Professor of Environmental Science, Stanford Woods)



# *Transitions Towards Sustainability Programme*

## *Public Lecture*

### *The Practical Pursuit of Sustainability*

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Tuesday 26 February, 5pm

Babbage Lecture Theatre, New Museums Site, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

Sustainability is a term widely used by many different groups – from corporations to the international development community to academic institutions and non-profits – sometimes with different meanings and different goals. In this talk, Pamela Matson will draw common threads among the different uses, and illustrate how systems thinking and a capital assets framework can be used by all of them to increase the likelihood of accomplishing sustainability goals.

## *Public Lecture*

### *Linking Knowledge to Action at Scales that Matter: Lessons from the past, thoughts about the future*

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Wednesday 27 February, 5pm

David Attenborough Building, New Museums Site, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

Over the last two decades, scientific effort has begun to shift from research for fundamental understanding toward research that supports action. Pamela Matson will discuss how “science to action” has evolved in the context of current global environmental changes and sustainability challenges. While scientists and professional societies have recognized the need for science to help solve pressing societal problems, their engagement in problem solving has had only limited success, especially at the global scale. Drawing on her own research and others’, Professor Matson will discuss some crucial characteristics of research that effectively links “science to action,” and practices for extending solutions to scales that matter.

Hosted by Cambridge Conservation Initiative



## *Final Symposium*

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Friday 1 March 2019, 2pm

David Attenborough Building, New Museums Site, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

Symposium to discuss Professor Matson's work, and some of the issues that she will have raised during the week.

Chaired by Professor Bhaskar Vira

Guest Commentators:

Dr Rachel Carmenta

Professor Jennifer Howard-Grenville

Professor Adina Merenlender

Dr Andrew Tanentzap



## Bhaskar Vira

Professor of Political Economy, Department of Geography, Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Director, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute



Bhaskar's research interests centre on the changing political economy of environment and development, especially in South Asia; with a particular interest in the political ecology of forests, water, food, wildlife and landuse change and the social and political context for biodiversity conservation. Professor Vira is concerned, in particular, with the often-hidden costs of environmental and developmental processes, and the need for scholarship to draw attention to the distributional consequences of public policy choices. His work focuses on the ways in which large-scale economic, societal and environmental transformations are governed, the values that frame how human societies engage with each other and with nature, and the networks of formal and informal institutions that are intertwined in everyday decision making across a variety of spatial and temporal scales. He applies a critical political economy perspective to contemporary debates in relation to ecosystem services and natural capital, and the values of nature for human wellbeing.

## Rachel Carmenta

Frank Jackson Research Fellow at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute



Rachel is an interdisciplinary environmental scientist interested in the human and governance dimensions of tropical forest conservation with a geographic focus in Indonesia and Brazil. Rachel holds a Ph.D in interdisciplinary environmental science from Lancaster University and is inspired by combining methods and scales of analysis to study environmental change. At Cambridge Rachel is in an interdepartmental position (Geography, Plant Sciences, Zoology) based at UCCRI. Prior to this, Rachel was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) where she led a research project contributing a human dimension to understanding the performance of fire management policy in Indonesia's oil palm frontiers.



### Adina Merenlender

Cooperative Extension Specialist, Adjunct Professor

Adina's primary focus is in the field of conservation biology. In particular, she is interested in the forces that influence loss of biodiversity at all hierarchical levels from genes to ecosystems. Her experience spans from single species management to regional land use planning. Adina is also Founder and Director of the UC California Naturalist Program. This new community of practice introduces Californians to the wonders of our unique ecology and engages the public in environmental stewardship. We are in the process of developing a new certification course to prepare Climate Stewards to communicate and engage in local solutions to advance community and ecosystem resilience. Her other interests include connectivity science, citizen science, ecological monitoring, restoration ecology, cumulative impacts to watersheds, and working landscapes.



### Jennifer Howard-Grenville

Diageo Professor in Organisation Studies

Jennifer Howard-Grenville contributes to organisation theory through in-depth studies of how people work from within to change organisations, communities, and occupations. By focusing on the processes through which people seek change, her scholarship advances theoretical understanding of organisational routines, culture, identity, and identification. Jennifer is recognised as a leading qualitative researcher with a focus on process theorising, and frequently presents on these topics at business schools, conferences and junior scholar academies. Reflecting her interest in change around issues of social and environmental import, Jennifer's work also contributes to an interdisciplinary scholarly conversation on business and the natural environment. Jennifer teaches on the topics of organisational change, environmental sustainability, and organisational culture to executive audiences, as well on MBA, EMBA, and undergraduate courses.



### Dr Andrew Tanentzap

Head of Ecosystems and Global Change Group,  
Department of Plant Sciences

Andrew is interested in predicting how ecosystems will respond to future environmental change, particularly at the base of food webs. His research tackles this question using a blend of theory, large empirical datasets, and modern statistical approaches.





## PAMELA MATSON

*Pamela Matson is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Professor in Environmental Sciences, Stanford University and Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.*



Pamela Matson is an interdisciplinary sustainability scientist, academic leader, and organizational strategist. Her research addresses a range of environment and sustainability issues, including sustainability of agricultural systems and vulnerability and resilience of particular people and places to climate change. With multi-disciplinary teams of researchers, managers, and decision makers, she has worked to develop agricultural approaches that reduce environmental impacts while improving human wellbeing.

She served on the US National Academy of Science Board on Sustainable Development and co-wrote the NRC volume *Our Common Journey: A transition toward sustainability*. She was the founding chair of the National Academies Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, and founding editor for the *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*. She is a past President of the Ecological Society of America, and currently serves as vice-chair of the board of the World Wildlife Fund and on the boards of the ClimateWorks Foundation, the California Academy of Sciences, and several university advisory boards. Her recent publications (among around 200) include *Seeds of Sustainability: Lessons from the Birthplace of the Green Revolution* and *Pursuing Sustainability*.

Dr. Matson is an elected member of the National Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is a AAAS Fellow. She received a MacArthur Foundation 'Genius' Award and jointly received the Nobel Prize for contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, among other awards and recognitions.