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Vienna International School
of Earth and Space Sciences



The PLEES Index & Effectively Communicating on Climate Change



Tuesday 18 April 2023, 17:00 – 19:00 (CEST)

Josef-Holaubek-Platz 2 (UZAll), Lecture Hall 3, 1090 Vienna & Online



Credit: Stephanie Singleton

Big Picture Event

The PLEES Index & Effectively Communicating on Climate Change



Event series of Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences (VISESS)

Climate change is one of the biggest threats modern generations have to face. To ensure a liveable future, urgent measures should be taken. One of the best ways to obtain such quick change in our society is by informing citizens, to engage them, and try to reach the social tipping point as fast as possible.

We constructed the PLEES index. This index is based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs and is projected under different climate change scenarios, to quantify the psychological, social, and economical impact of climate change in the world. This index is a visual tool, easily distributable in social medias, aiming to inform people about climate change, targeting wealthier European countries, with financial and political means to generate a positive change, showing that their life comfort is at risk.

We believe that popularising the idea of social tipping point is a good way to show that big changes can happen very fast if citizens act together.

During this event, we will introduce the PLEES index. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on how to effectively communicate on climate change.

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- 17:00–17:05** **Welcome**
Glenn van de Ven

- 17:05–17:50** **The PLEES Index**
PLEES Team

- 17:50–18:00** **Break**

- 18:00–18:45** **Panel Discussion:**
Effectively Communicating on Climate Change
Nina Vaupotič, Aiko Voigt, Benjamin Bertaux,
Laurane Fréour | Moderation: Alice Zocchi

- 18:45** **Get-together**

Panellists:

Nina Vaupotič is a postdoctoral researcher in environmental psychology at the University of Vienna working on projects related to the public perception of risk. Her doctoral studies in Münster, Germany focused on topics related to trust in science, public engagement with science, and intellectual humility.



Aiko Voigt is a climate scientist at the Department of Meteorology and Geophysics, University of Vienna. He obtained his PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg. Together with his climate dynamics and modelling team, he studies clouds, the atmospheric circulation and the habitability of Earth-like planets.

Benjamin Bertaux is a facilitator of the Climate Fresk workshop aiming at raising awareness about climate change. He has been one of the country coordinators for Climate Fresk activities in Austria for 2 years. His educational background is in energy engineering, and he is currently working at the International Atomic Energy Agency in the Nuclear Decommissioning field.



Laurane Fréour is a second year PhD student working on globular clusters and their stellar populations. She is involved in the PLEES project since it began in February 2022. She is also a member of Astronomers for Planet Earth and a facilitator of the Climate Fresk.

Moderator:

Alice Zocchi is a postdoctoral researcher working at the Department of Astrophysics, University of Vienna. Her research focuses on the investigation of the internal dynamics of collisional stellar systems, with special reference to globular clusters. She has supported the PLEES team since its inception.



The PLEES team is composed of 4 PhD students part of the Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences:

Gwenaël Van Looveren (Cosmos) is a PhD student in Astrophysics. His research focusses on rocky (exo)planet atmosphere and the influence of the host star.

Laurane Fréour (Cosmos) is a PhD student in Astrophysics. She is working on multiple stellar populations in globular clusters.

Paula Granero (Earth) is a PhD student in Geology. She focuses her PhD on Upper Cretaceous calcareous nanofossil assemblage changes and events evaluated on a Milankovitch cycle resolution.

Tadeja Veršič (Cosmos) is a PhD student in Astrophysics. She is studying the structure of dark matter haloes of galaxies.





Photo: Sebastian Voltmer (www.weltraum.com | Insta: @sebastianvoltmer)

THE BIG PICTURE @VISESS

The Big Picture talk series is organized by VISESS, the “Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences”, which is offering an internationally oriented training to current and future doctoral students at the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy of the University of Vienna. As humanity is facing grand challenges such as climate change or resource depletion, this doctoral school is addressing these challenges through inter- and transdisciplinary academic research connecting the cosmos with planet Earth, its environment and the anthroposphere. With the Big Picture Talks organized by VISESS-students, the doctoral school aims to present current topics of scientific and societal interest to the public.