

NEWS RELEASE



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Experts meet at Laurier and UW to engage youth in leading environmental change

WATERLOO – Experts from Uganda, India, Bangladesh, Germany, the USA, and Canada will meet in Waterloo January 26 to 29 to discuss strategies for engaging youth in an international dialogue and collective action for environmental justice.

The meeting is part of a three-year multinational study, “Youth Leading Environmental Change,” led by the Community, Environment and Justice Research Group, which is part of the Laurier Centre for Community Research, Learning and Action.

Experts from four countries will take part in a public speaker’s panel titled “Turning up the Heat: Multinational Perspectives on Global Climate Change” at Laurier on Friday, January 27. The speakers will share how global climate change is experienced in their countries and how local citizens try to fight the causes of global climate change.

“Given the significant challenges of the global communities to develop a common approach to fighting global climate change, it may be time for the younger generation to step up and protect their future,” said Manuel Riemer, assistant community psychology professor at Laurier, director of the Community, Environment and Justice Research Group and principal investigator of the Youth Leading Environmental Change study. “However, this can only be done in a global dialogue if past mistakes are not to be repeated.”

Riemer and Jenn Lynes, an associate professor at the University of Waterloo and co-investigator for the study, are hosting the meeting, which is supported by funds from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Wilfrid Laurier University and in-kind donations by the University of Waterloo.

Through the Youth Leading Environmental Change study, Riemer and Lynes aim to raise awareness for environmental justice. They are connecting youth in different countries with local peers who are involved in environmental activism, with local environmental organizations and with youth from other countries through video conferencing.

The public speaker’s panel will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, January 27 at 232 King St., Room K214, Waterloo.