

Summer School 2019

Media, Climate Change, and the Asia Pacific

Lead Convenor(s): Prof Zaharom Nain

Module Code MLAC2182 ; Level 2

Module outline:

This module takes cognizant of the fact that climate change – and measures to minimize it and its deleterious effects – is a concern that is tied up with questions of politics, economics, and even culture. The Asia Pacific is arguably the most rapidly developing region in the world. Unfortunately, it is also the region that has many countries in the top 20 Emitting Countries by Total Fossil Fuel CO₂ emissions. Hence climate change is – or should be – central to the developmental concerns of the Asia Pacific countries.

This module identifies and interrogates these concerns and looks for solutions. It begins by discussing the concept of climate change; one that until recently when Donald Trump became US President, was accepted as one of the principal challenges facing the survival of humankind.

The module then moves on to locate the probable causes of climate change, the implications for, among other things, health, agriculture, regional and international economies, and even politics. The apparent American turnaround and the US President's dismissal of climate change notwithstanding, strategies and policies have been enacted by the international community and relevant countries. What these strategies are and possibilities and problems of implementation, especially in the context of the Asia Pacific, are then discussed in this module.

Module Aims:

This module aims to provide:

- i. A deeper understanding of climate justice, role of the government and civil society and citizens in adaptation and mitigation.*
- ii. A critical understanding of climate change and how best to get the story of climate change across to the people.*
- iii. Hands on experience in communicating climate change in different platforms*

Method of Assessment

Individual assignment with 2,000 words limit (100%)

Programme Overview

DATE	TOPIC
3 July 2019	1. INTRODUCTION: COMMUNICATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SDGS
4 July 2019	2. CLIMATE CHANGE: PROBLEM IN DEPTH AND SOLUTIONS
5 July 2019	3. CLIMATE JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, GOVT PLANS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
8 July 2019	4. THE ESSENTIALS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNICATING THE SCIENCE
9 July 2019	5. REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE
11 July 2019	PANEL DISCUSSION
15 July 2019	6. DIGITAL MEDIA, SOCIAL NETWORKS COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE
16 July 2019	PRESENTATIONS AND MODULE REVIEW

A. Module Content and Readings

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION: COMMUNICATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SDGS
I. Why Communication matters?
II. Climate Change Injustices and SDGs
III. Why media coverage of climate change matters?
Readings: 1. Fackson Banda (2015) Teaching journalism for sustainable development new syllabi, Published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (p 6-21) 2. Zaharom Nain et al (2018) (forthcoming) Getting the Message Across: A Guidebook for Journalists Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific (Part 1) 3. UNESCO. 2015. Media in Support of Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/San-Jose/pdf/Book_UNESCO_Media_and_Development_May_2015_01.pdf .
TOPIC 2: CLIMATE CHANGE: PROBLEM IN DEPTH AND SOLUTIONS
I. Why is climate changing?
II. What climate changes means to agriculture, food security and health?
III. What are the costs of adapting to climate change?
IV. How to limit and adapt to climate change?
Readings: 1. Zaharom Nain et al (2018) (forthcoming) Getting the Message Across: A Guidebook for Journalists Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific (Part 2&3)
TOPIC 3: CLIMATE JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, GOVT PLANS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
I. Climate Justice
II. International Treaties, Climate Change Policies and Plans

Readings:

1. Susannah Fisher (2012) The emerging geographies of climate justice
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/WP83-emerging-geographies-climate-justice.pdf>
2. Zaharom Nain et al (2018) (forthcoming) Getting the Message Across: A Guidebook for Journalists Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific (Part 4)

TOPIC 4 : THE ESSENTIALS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNICATING THE SCIENCE

I. Scientific jargon made simple and understandable

II. Reporting scientific research on climate change

III. Reporting scientific uncertainty

Readings:

1. Zaharom Nain et al (2018) (forthcoming) Getting the Message Across: A Guidebook for Journalists Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific (Part 5)
2. Osama, B (2012) How to report science in local language
<https://www.scidev.net/global/communication/practical-guide/how-to-report-science-in-local-languages-1.html>

TOPIC 5 : REPORTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

I. Tips for finding stories

II. Tips for writing stories

III. Asking good questions

Readings:

1. Zaharom Nain et al (2018) (forthcoming) Getting the Message Across: A Guidebook for Journalists Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific (Part 5)

TOPIC 6 : DIGITAL MEDIA, SOCIAL NETWORKS COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE

I. Digital storytelling and participatory audience

Readings:

1. Robin, Bernard R. "Digital storytelling: A powerful technology tool for the 21st century classroom." *Theory into practice* 47.3 (2008): 220-228.
2. Couldry, Nick. "Mediatization or mediation? Alternative understandings of the emergent space of digital storytelling." *New media & society* 10.3 (2008): 373-391.
3. Burgess, Jean. "Hearing ordinary voices: Cultural studies, vernacular creativity and digital storytelling." *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies* 20.2 (2006): 201-214.
4. Lundby, Knut. *Digital storytelling, mediatized stories: Self-representations in new media*. Vol. 52. Peter Lang, 2008.