The Earth is running a fever. The on-going pollution of our atmosphere with an invisible, odorless gas called carbon dioxide, is trapping heat at the Earth’s surface and causing temperatures to rise on land and in the ocean. The polar regions are warming fastest of all, and the melting ice sheets are causing sea levels to rise around the globe. In this talk, I will review evidence for climate change, natural and human-caused, and explore how ice sheets and sea level changed in the past. How fast climate changes in the future will depend on our collective actions as individuals, families, communities, and governments.
Since its inception in 1949, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has been on the vanguard of understanding our planet and its changes. Now, as humanity faces the profound challenges posed by climate change, Lamont is opening its doors to its neighbors and the general public and offering a public lecture series designed to illuminate how and why our world and our environment are changing. We are calling this lecture series “Our Changing Planet.” Each year, the series will feature several of Lamont’s top scientists, presenting their latest findings and answering your questions about climate change, its consequences, and the new knowledge that promises solutions to the most urgent environmental challenges ahead for all of us.

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