

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Our Changing Planet

April 2, 2020

Wildfire, Megadrought, and the Role of Humans

Whenever Earth's climate changes, the distribution of water, and therefore life, shifts markedly across the continents. Several thousand years ago, a change in wind patterns turned Africa's Sahara Desert into a giant green savanna abundant with life! This and other fascinating stories of water and life are buried in ancient mud at the bottoms of lakes, preserved in packrat dens, and hidden behind the bark of old trees. At the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, we specialize in discovering and interpreting these clues.

How is today's human-caused climate change affecting water and life, how do changes thus far compare with past changes that occurred without human manipulation of climate, and how will water and life continue to be affected in the coming decades? I will address these questions with a specific focus on western North America, where recent decades have seen worrisome reductions in lake levels and an explosion in the rate of unusually severe wildfires.

Park Williams, Lamont Associate Research Professor

6:00–8:00 pm

Light Refreshments at 6:00 pm;
Lecture begins at 7:00 pm

Monell Auditorium

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964

- *Space is limited*
- *Reservation is required*

RSVP by March 26

events@LDEO.columbia.edu

If you have any questions,
please email or call:
events@LDEO.columbia.edu
845-365-8998

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | EARTH INSTITUTE

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Our Changing Planet

Since its inception in 1949, 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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