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ZENNSTRÖM CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP 2019 - 2020

PROFESSOR KERI FACER

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INTRODUCTION

This report gives an overview of the nineteen months that Keri Facer was the holder of the Zennström Visiting Professorship in Climate Change Leadership at Uppsala University. The 10-year professorship is funded by a generous donation from Niklas Zennström and Zennström Philanthropies.

There are three key outcomes of Professor Facer's activities. The first concerns activities facing Uppsala University itself, for which Professor Facer has made entryway into the university's structures and climate impacts. The second regards civil society and public conversation. In this sphere, Professor Facer has developed thinking around publics and pedagogical, political and ritual infrastructures. The third outcome is the development of international explorations of the university in a changing climate.



Before the Nov 2018 Symposium on Climate Change Leadership

This report elaborates on Professor Facer's key research activities and contributions to the Climate Change Leadership field. It also explains the continued development of the research environment surrounding the Zennström professorship, including the legacies from professors Doreen Stabinsky (2015 - 2016) and Kevin Anderson (2016-2018). The report concludes with a turn towards the future, including the plans of incoming Zennström professor, Stefania Barca.

KERI FACER

Zennström Chair of Climate Change Leadership at Uppsala University 2019 - 2020

Professor Keri Facer's unique contribution to Uppsala, Uppsala University, and Sweden during her visiting professorship built on her extensive and rich work in educational and social futures, in particular, creating new relationships between communities and universities. This work draws on arts and humanities perspectives and methods to enable new forms of knowledge production to address urgent contemporary issues.

Her work at Uppsala has centered around rethinking the relationship between formal educational institutions and wider society and is particularly concerned with the sorts of knowledge that may be needed to address contemporary environmental, economic, social, and technological changes. Over 19-months, this work has focused on three arenas: Uppsala University, the city of Uppsala, and international collaboration.



THE UNIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

The question of the relevance and role of higher education institutions in relation to a changing climate was the key theme for Professor Facer's tenure. Her inaugural lecture drew upon the growing activities of academic institutions transforming their activities in response to a changing climate. These responses have led to radical reconceptions of the purposes of Higher Education, of the curriculum, of the campus, of the identity of the university itself.

Throughout Professor Facer's term, she has continued to both challenge and inspire Uppsala University to develop its approaches to climate change and education in ways that reflect the shifting structures of society in response to the scale of the civilisational and existential climate change challenge.

A new sustainability curriculum on Campus Gotland

With partners from SWEDESD, Professor Facer has contributed towards developing sustainability education on Campus Gotland. This work has brought together leading teachers and researchers in the field of sustainability on Campus Gotland in order to develop a world-leading course package that will be open to all students on Campus Gotland in Autumn 2021.

These courses will offer participatory, interdisciplinary, collaborative, authentic project-based learning activities that develop students' capacity to understand and act on complex sustainability challenges in the real world.

Internationalisation & Sustainability

To address the challenge of internationalisation in relation to climate change in the contemporary university, Professor Facer led a workshop bringing together university leadership, students, faculty and administrative staff. This resulted in a widely-spread report identifying key tensions, possibilities, and routes towards achieving more sustainable internationalisation strategies in universities. It combines a short programme of desk research by the CCL team and the creative results of the workshop.

Future of the Campus

In collaboration with Akademiska Hus Uppsala, Professor Facer led a futures-thinking workshop to further develop the Campus 2050 project. The goal of the collaboration was to reflect on working with uncertainty in relation to sustainability and address long-term perspectives of campus development.

THE UNIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



Clockwise from top left: Professor Facer with Professor Will Steffan; A seminar with CEMUS, The Zennström professors with a student activist movement; the Internationalisation and Sustainability Workshop; Professor Facer with Lars Burman in a university library.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATIONS ON “STEWARDSHIP”

A second theme in Professor Facer's tenureship covered the approaches towards convening publics. This began through questioning the ways in which the university facilitated and held relationships between city partners, but extended into two areas. The first looked at developing understanding of the structures of partnerships between public institutions and the modes of convening publics in artistic spaces. The second explored the roles of civil society actors and the ways in which they drove sustainable development in cities.



A collaboration with the Uppsala Art Museum centred around “The Non-Human Animal: Negotiating Bio-Relations”, and explored different holding spaces for recalibrating the relationships between humans and the natural world. Together, the CCL Node and the museum hosted public activities, lectures, and workshops. More details from the collaboration can be found in a report on the [Climate Change Leadership blog](#).

In the early spring of 2020, Professor Facer convened members of civil society organisations to explore how to develop their capacities and leadership roles in developing a city. The workshops were facilitated by Pernilla Glaser, RISE Sverige, and Martin Westin, SLU, and included a diversity of actors who are all leading different grassroots initiatives for the development of creative, caring and sustainable futures in the city of Uppsala. This project was developed through the support of Region Uppsala and Uppsala Kommun, who both have vested interests in exploring the perspectives of societal actors and community leaders in the future of Uppsala.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATIONS ON “STEWARDSHIP”



Clockwise from top-left: A panel discussion at "Biorelations in Uppsala"; a reflective discussion at the Council of all Beings; A clay-tile making workshop to capture traces of human and non-humans in Uppsala; Investigative walks with university researchers; and a civil society conversation about Uppsala's future.



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

During the second half of Professor Facer's tenure, the Covid-19 pandemic affected the activities of the professorship, leading to the postponement of the largest event planned - a residential symposium bringing together leading environmental, cultural and educational thinkers to rethink the role of the university in an era characterised by a changing climate. The network brings together scholars from Canada, South Africa, the United States, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK and Sweden to share leading edge practice and theoretical development, with a view to the production of a major publication.

The network met over two online workshops convened by Professor Facer alongside a scholarly letter-exchange. In spite of the circumstances, this network has flourished and has already enabled the joint reflective writing as well as a number of new international research collaborations, including a continuing project around "Pedagogies for a Lively Planet." There is the aim to hold a residential symposium around this latest project in May 2021.

Professor Facer has undertaken a number of advisory roles during her tenure at UU. The UNESCO Commission on The Futures of Education 2050 is a major, once every few decades statement by UNESCO on the future direction for global education. Professor Facer has been involved as a member of the Expert Advisory Group (a small group of 10 people) advising the Commission since the outset in 2019. In September 2020, she was appointed member of the core drafting team for the initiative, playing a key role in framing the central messages of the Commission's report. In this role, Professor Facer is working to ensure that questions of climate change are central to the considerations of the report, which will be publicly launched in Autumn 2021.

She further served as the special advisor to Mondragon University – Futures of Mondragon Conference in Bilbao, Spain in December 2019 and the co-convenor of the Universities 2050 Workshop, University of California Santa Barbara, March 2020

STEFANIA BARCA

Stefania Barca has been nominated to be the fourth Zennström Professor in Climate Change Leadership. Her field is of growing concern for the field of climate change leadership, particularly in times of growing wealth inequality, automisation and digitalisation of work and during a global economic and health crisis.

Prof. Barca intends to bring into dialogue the leaders of indigenous climate change social movements and workers unions and leaders of the Just Transition movement. The unique experiences and diverse approaches in the field of climate justice will inform exploration into the futures of work in a changed climate. Prof. Barca will remain with us at Uppsala University until the summer of 2022.

THE FUTURES OF WORK

Stefania Barca (Naples 1968) is an associate professor in Modern History and in Economic History. She obtained her PhD in Economic History from the University of Bari (Italy) in 1997 and currently holds a position of senior researcher at the Center for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra (CES/UC), where she teaches and supervises PhD research in Political Ecology, and coordinates the Ecology and Society Lab. Previously, she held a 'Ciriacy Wantrup' postdoctoral grant at UC Berkeley (2006-08) and a visiting scholar position at the Program in Agrarian Studies of Yale University (2005-06). In 2015-16, she was a Guest Researcher at the Pufendorf Institute for Advanced Studies of Lund University.



Prof. Barca is an internationally renowned environmental historian, whose research on the labour/ environment nexus in the industrial era has obtained top awards from review panels in this area, and is recognized as path-breaking in the Environmental Humanities, in Political Ecology and in Environmental Labour Studies.