



**ZENNSTRÖM
CLIMATE CHANGE
LEADERSHIP 2021**

Dr. Stefania Barca

PREPARED BY

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Professorship in Climate Change Leadership*



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



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*Above image taken at Sigtunastiftelsen during the 2021 Climate Existence Conference
Cover image of Dr. Stefania Barca taken by Mikael Wallerstadt*

This report was developed for Zennström Philanthropies and gives an overview of Dr. Stefania Barca's time as holder of the Zennström Visiting Professorship in Climate Change Leadership at Uppsala University. Uppsala University is grateful for the generous and important donation from Niklas Zennström to fund this 10 year visiting program.

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OVERVIEW



This report overviews Dr. Stefania Barca's contributions to the field of Climate Change Leadership (CCL) as the Zennström Visiting Professor at Uppsala University in 2021. It also shares recent developments in Climate Change Leadership within the Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (NRHU) program, and more broadly across Uppsala University.

The main focus of Dr. Barca's work at Uppsala University was embedding climate justice within understandings of climate change leadership. Outreach, education and research activities have emphasised pluralistic, counter-hegemonic and intersectional approaches to understandings of climate change, centring alternative ways of tackling injustices in sustainability transitions for climate change mitigation. Now that this pioneering work has been initiated, we are excited to see how the work at Uppsala University continues to evolve in the coming years.

This year has also seen a number of developments for the Climate Change Leadership environment at large. In March 2021, NRHU hired a new senior lecturer in Climate Change Leadership, Mikael Karlsson, Associate Professor of Environmental Science. In this report we present the research activities of Dr. Karlsson, and broader activities at Climate Change Leadership.

Image taken at Sigtunastiftelsen during a lecture on "Undoing the Anthropocene. An ecofeminist perspective." for the 2021 Climate Existence Conference

Zennström Professor
2021

STEFANIA BARCA

Stefania Barca brought a strong commitment to questions of climate justice to her work as fourth Zennström Visiting Professor in Climate Change Leadership. Recognising the privileged positioning of her professorship within the climate change conversation, a key focus of her activities lay on elevating diverse ways of thinking about climate change.

Counter-hegemonic narratives on climate change have been converging in recent years through the global climate justice movement and include the intersectional perspectives of rural; black, indigenous and other people of colour (BIPOC); women, and LGBTQI+ persons. Indigenous leaders, for example, align their struggle for self determination as a form of preserving biodiversity and life on earth. Many women's organisations appreciate how ecological degradation and extinction are deeply imbricated with patriarchy. In order to approach climate change leadership in an intersectional and inclusive way, foregrounding the struggles, experiences and visions of different peoples was prioritised.

This focus evolved into two key points of exploration by Dr. Stefania Barca during her time at Uppsala University:

- I. The Just Transition and Care Initiative: An eco-feminist approach to the Just Transition movement.
- II. Decentering and Decoloniality: Approaches to Climate Justice Conversations.

Both of these areas are areas require significant attention within sustainability transition and climate research. Within this report we detail below the preliminary insights into these areas.

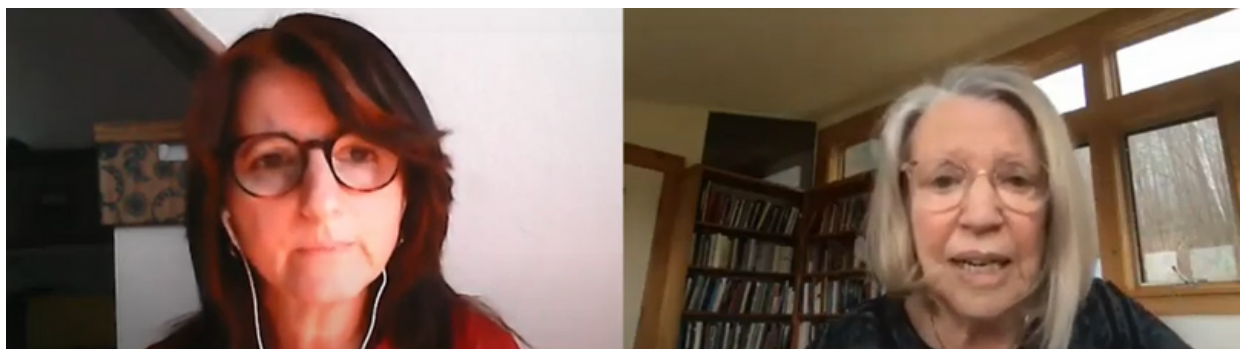


Zennström Professor
2021

STEFANIA BARCA

The ongoing repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic had an unavoidable impact on the nature of this year's activities. The pandemic highlighted the global care crisis and placed the climate-care nexus as a priority research interest for Stefania. Whilst in person activities were limited, hosting activities digitally offered the opportunity to invite international guests into our conversations and connect with a unique global audience.

In addition to these core research and outreach themes, Stefania Barca continued the tradition set by previous Zennström professors engaging in educational activities. During her tenure Stefania gave a series of online lectures and seminars to students at Uppsala University and beyond. These lectures connected to Stefania's 2020 book, *Forces of Reproduction*, and her research initiated during her professorship.



*Image taken during a seminar with Nancy Fraser discussing Stefania's book *Forces of Reproduction*. The event was organised by the Pufendorf IAS Advanced Study Group on Social Reproduction and Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS).*

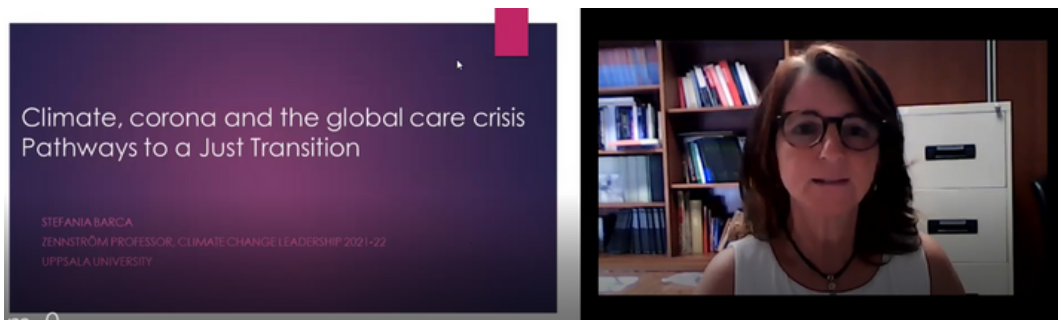
Theme I

THE JUST TRANSITION AND CARE INITIATIVE: A FEMINIST, POLITICAL ECOLOGIST APPROACH TO THE JUST TRANSITION MOVEMENT

The *Just Transition Care Initiative* is the title given to a new research initiative founded by Dr. Barca during her term as Zennström Professor in collaboration with UNRISD's Just Transition Research Collaborative and Latinamerikagrupperna (LAG). It brought together diverse representatives from academia, unions and social movements to converge around a mutual interest in the relationship of Care in the context of Just Transition. Just Transition (JT) is a policy framework promoted by labour and environmental justice organisations to design climate policies from the perspective of those most affected by both environmental and economic inequalities. The framework indicates how to compensate for the necessary phasing-out of carbon-intensive industries, respond to the most urgent and vital needs of front-line communities and create decent, stable and community-driven jobs in zero carbon infrastructures.

A full recognition of the critical role of social and environmental care work to the Just Transition agenda is still largely missing. Carework refers to the paid and unpaid activities that provide for human needs and wellbeing, taking place in both the private and public sphere. It includes reproductive care, domestic care (e.g. cooking and cleaning), healthcare, environmental care and provision of healthy food. Carework is crucial to creating healthy bodies, societies and ecosystems yet too often goes unrecognised and under-valued in discussions on Just Transition. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought this global care crisis into even sharper recognition, with women hit hardest through increased child care and home-schooling duties, loss of jobs in the hospitality sector and direct exposure risks within health and domestic care roles. Combined with gendered burden of ever increasing climate related disasters and the perpetuation of historical gender inequalities in workplaces, it is thus more important than ever that feminist perspectives are included in Just Transition Strategies, to ensure that the Just Transition is, in fact, just.

The *Just Transition Care Initiative*, therefore, attempts to explore the possible conceptualisation of including different types of carework in these strategies. The Just Transition Care Initiative has thus far seen the initiation of an interdisciplinary research network and a webinar series convening representatives from unions and social movements. From September 2021 Stefania takes up her new position at the University of Santiago de Compostela and anticipates continuing this research within the Horizon 2020 grant on Just Transition to the Circular Economy (Just2CE).



Images taken from keynote lectures given by Stefania Barca during her time as Zennström Chair in Climate Change Leadership

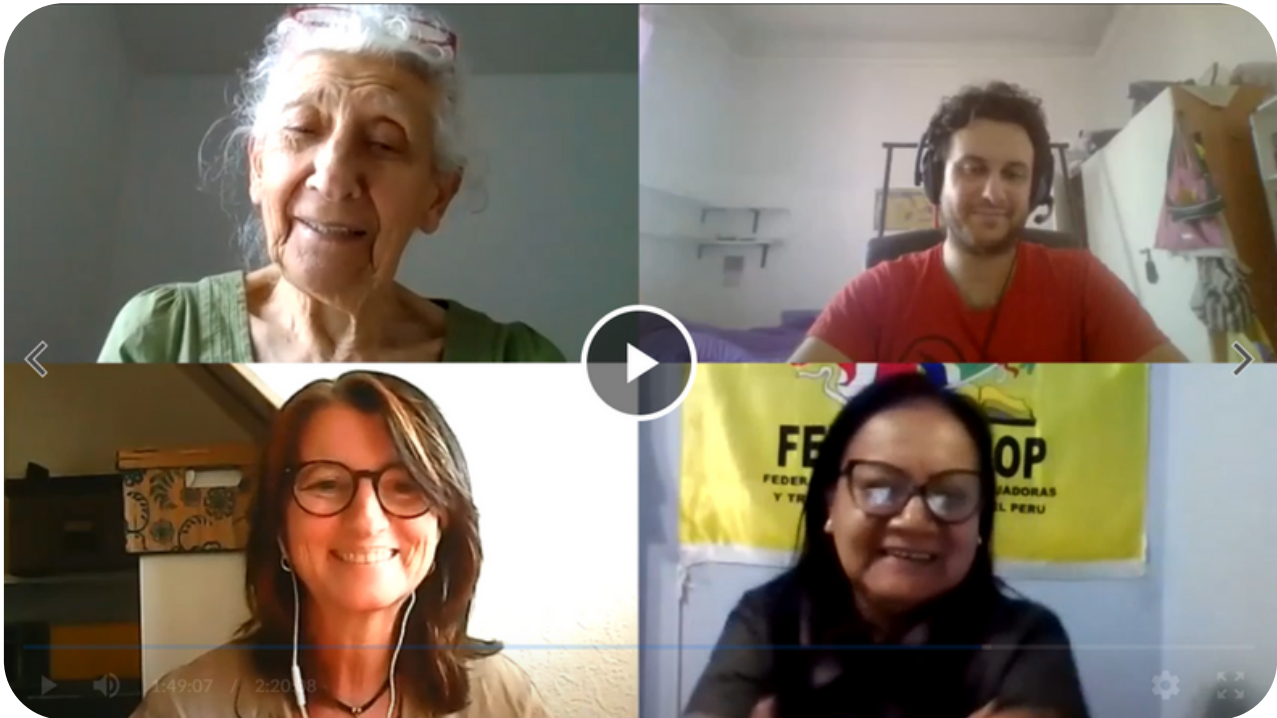
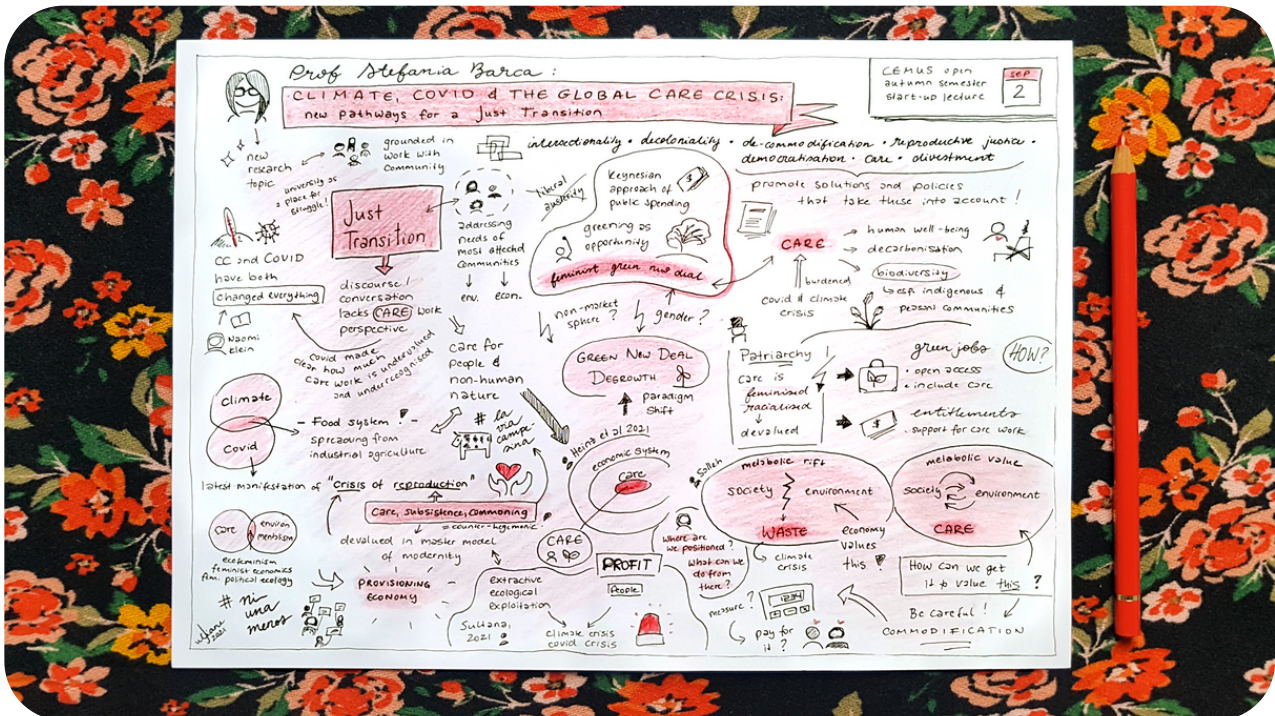


Image taken from the first Just Transition Care Initiative webinar on Domestic Care. Featuring (clockwise from top); Selma James from the Global Women Strike, Roberto Sciarelli from Italy's Commons Network, Ledy Mozombite, from the Domestic Workers' Federation of Peru and Stefania Barca.



Graphic recording of Stefania Barca's keynote on Climate, Covid and the Global Care Crisis, created by former MSc in Sustainable Development student Juliane Höhle

*Theme II***DECENTERING AND DECOLONIALITY:
APPROACHES TO CLIMATE JUSTICE
CONVERSATIONS**

Approaching Climate Change Leadership with a decolonial lens was an important focus for Stefania Barca. Decolonisation in the context of academia and higher education includes but is not limited to; acknowledging the knowledge systems and practices still structured by imperial enterprises; acknowledging the harm implicit within these historical power differences and; opening pathways to dialogue, repatriations and diverse knowledges. It was termed by indigenous scholars and is increasingly called for in universities around the world.

The decolonial process is complex and crucially, must go beyond metaphorical and isolated acts. Decentring in turn, is a preliminary but important step within decolonial approaches, creating space for meaningful decolonial work to become visible. The initiatives undertaken at Climate Change Leadership this year hence reflect initial but significant steps in decentring that form part of a larger process interwoven with the climate justice movement.

There were two strands of activity within this agenda.

- A webinar series that platformed the stories of climate change leaders and environmental defenders from the Global South.
- A webinar series known as *The Living Library* which explored different methods for hosting conversations between artists, researchers and activists gathered around climate justice.

*Webinar Series***ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS AS CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS**

In Spring 2021 a public webinar series was run, elevating the stories of environmental defenders and their ongoing struggles to defend the natural environment and communities in face of corporate and state development projects tied to land grabbing, extensive resource extraction, environmental destruction and violence. This type of resistance and environmental leadership is not new, but a longstanding historical force that has been deleted, denied, and often violently repressed along the whole history of development.

These webinars invited environmental defenders from Latin America to speak of their experiences, and convened an online public to listen, reflect and bring questions. These public facing conversations tried to make sense of the violence against Earth defenders in a time when their work is all the more relevant to climate justice and ecological politics. They demonstrated the need for solidarity in the critical role indigenous and marginalised communities play for global sustainability.

Image courtesy of the Goldman Environmental Prize (2015)

On International Women's Day 2021 we remembered Berta Cáceres, indigenous leader and environmental defender from the Lenca people of Honduras. Berta's murder on March 2nd 2016 was associated with her campaign in the defence of the Gualcarque river, the site of a proposed dam in Lenca territory.

In her first public event as Zennström Professor Stefania held a conversation with Berta's daughter and activist, Bertha Zuñiga. The public webinar given in Spanish with English translation, sought to understand how her work lives on and the continued struggle for environmental justice in the region.

[A recording is available on Youtube and can be found here.](#)



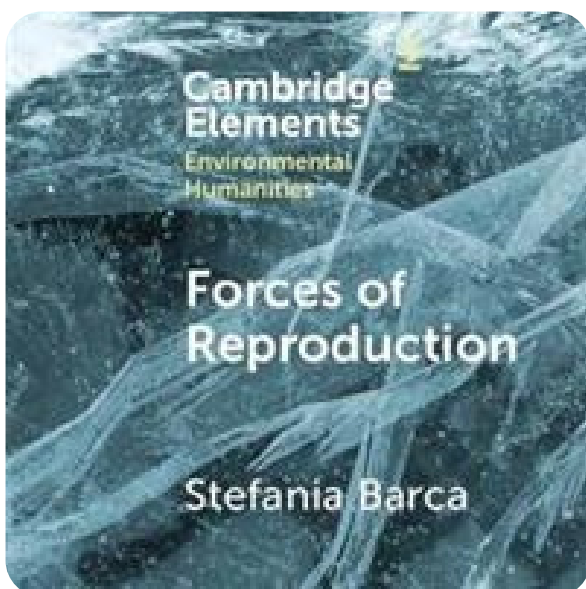


Image courtesy of Felipe Milanez (2010)

In May we shared the story of Maria do Espirito Santo and Zé Cláudio Ribeiro da Silva, nut collectors and members of an agroforestry project in the Brazilian Amazon, and discussed their legacy for environmental justice struggles in Brazil and beyond.

Stefania Barca and Bartira Fortes, of advocacy NGO Latinamerikagrupperna, held a moderated discussion with Claudelice de Silva Santos, Zé Cláudio's sister and frontline defender, and Felipe Milanez, one of Brazil's leading journalists documenting the Amazon and Professor at the Institute of Humanities, Arts and Sciences at the Federal University of Bahia. This event was held in Portuguese with English translation.

[A recording is available on Youtube and can be found here.](#)



In late 2020 Stefania Barca published her book *Forces of Reproduction: Notes for a Counter-Hegemonic Anthropocene*. The book acted as a effective starting point from which to position her time as Zennström chair. In the book Dr. Barca applies a materialist ecofeminist analysis of the world, proposing a counter-narrative to the hegemonic one around the Anthropocene that is centred around “the forces of reproduction” – those who do the work of sustaining life in its material and immaterial needs.

Critical analysis of the book's themes was the basis for a number of seminars arranged during Stefania Barca's professorship.

Cover art for *Forces of Reproduction*

Webinar Series

THE LIVING LIBRARY - CONVENING CONVERSATIONS ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

Another activity that marked Dr. Barca's professorship was hosting transdisciplinary conversations around climate justice. Over the course of Spring 2021, three online conversations brought together artists, researchers and activists to understand ways of working with different knowledge systems, listening practices, and pathways to action. The project was called "The Living Library" and was born out of a desire to unpack the approaches and assumptions underpinning climate conversations, convened around questions including:

- How does power shape our relationships to each other and to the natural world that we share?
- Where are we (individually and collectively) positioned in the global tapestry of human/earth entanglements?
- What kind of relationships and alliances would enable us to move towards global climate justice?

Gathering an online public around experiences of the guests, the Living Library became a place to share practice and perspectives around these areas, and explore different methods for hosting such spaces. The conversations were well attended and demonstrated both the opportunities and challenges of working with different knowledge systems in the efforts for sustainable societal transformations. They built on the work and collaborations initiated by third Zennström chair Keri Facer that concerned public pedagogy and artistic processes of learning around climate change.

The Living Library was a collaboration between different individuals and institutions including Pernilla Glaser, Rebecka Wigh Abrahamsson and Uppsala konstmuseum, Mistra Environmental Communication, the Stockholm Resilience Centre and Studio NAV.

*Image taken while recording
The Living Library at Studio NAV, Stockholm*



Climate
Change
Leadership

Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



Uppsala konstmuseum



Poster from The Living Library



Speakers at the third Living Library webinar (clockwise from top left); Laila Mendy, Katarina Pirak Sikku, Isabel Baudish, Stellan Vinthagen, Kalle Brolin, Joana Moll and Stefania Barca.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

MIKAEL KARLSSON, SENIOR LECTURER IN CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP

Alongside the work Stefania Barca has initiated, Uppsala University continues to invest in the research area of Climate Change Leadership. Mikael Karlsson was hired in March as a Senior Lecturer and has brought a number of new projects to Climate Change Leadership at the Natural Resources and Sustainable Development Program (NRHU), within Geocentrum, the department of Earth Sciences.



Dr. Mikael Karlsson

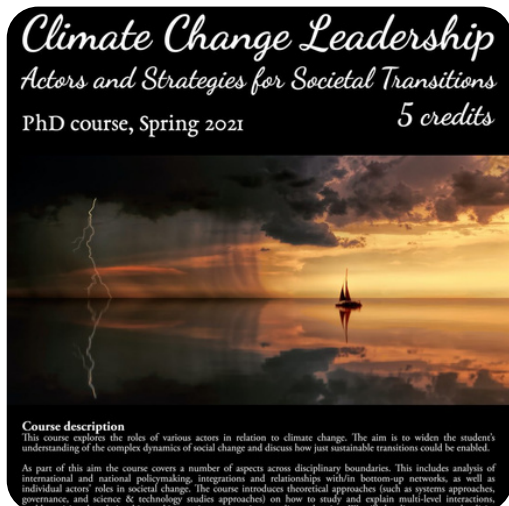
Mikael Karlsson is an associate professor in Environmental Science, whose focus for the past few years has included Swedish and European environmental policy, bioenergy conflicts, counteracting climate denial and health co-benefits of climate mitigation policies. Since beginning at Uppsala University, Dr. Karlsson has been granted funding for a PhD student who started in September 2021, for the MISTRA FAIRTRANS project, a research program, which focuses on climate policy and fair transformation strategies for staying within carbon budgets compatible with the Paris climate agreement.

Mikael Karlsson also works with educational activities at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS), as well as at NRHU. In addition he has designed two new lifelong learning courses in the CCL field, entitled "Klimatledarskap - Strategier för Omställning" and "Klimatkunskap för lärare och utbildare," running in Autumn 2021.

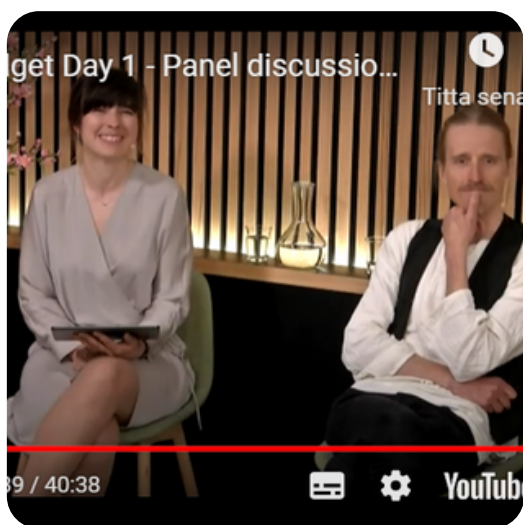
In addition to research and education, Dr. Karlsson has developed the outreach activities of Climate Change Leadership. He has recently published a series of popular articles and op-eds in major Swedish newspapers in order to place Climate Change Leadership higher on the national agenda. Dr. Karlsson will shortly embark on a FORMAS-funded science and climate information tour, aiming to highlight and counteract climate denial.

Mikael Karlsson will be closely involved with the Zennström Professorship as the most senior academic within the research area. In the coming months he plans to prepare the recruitment of the next Zennström professors. Dr. Karlsson is exploring new structures with the professorship that could enable longer term affiliations with Uppsala University.

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY



Poster for the recent Climate Change Leadership PhD course



Isabel Baudish and Isak Stoddard hosting a panel discussion



Students at the Campus Garden

A NEW PHD COURSE AND CEFO

In 2021, Climate Change Leadership ran a second PhD course that focused particularly in the area of societal transitions. The course was developed through CEFO, an interdisciplinary PhD research forum housed at CCL. The course was popular and well received, demonstrating a growing interest in the subject of CCL at the PhD level. CEFO continues to attract PhD students from across the university to its sustainability seminar series.

CO2 BUDGET 2021 CONFERENCE

In collaboration with Klimatrikstagen and Klimatsekretariat, Climate Change Leadership co-organised a three day online Carbon Budgets conference. The conference examined carbon budgets and science based policies in relation to research, regional governance and civil society. The event was very well attended. [More information can be found here.](#)

THE CAMPUS GARDEN

CCL also supported "The Campus Garden", a student-initiated project funded by Uppsala University's "Klimatpott", which provides financial support to student and staff projects across the university for emissions reductions. The students were given a campus lawn which they developed into a permaculture food forest. At the date of writing this report, the Campus Garden Association has 80 members from across the university. The project has also been featured in local news.

