Global Maritime Forum Annual Summit 2023

Confirmed speakers





Tristan Smith Associate Professor in Energy and Transport at UCL, co-founder and director of UMAS

Dr Tristan Smith, Associate Professor in Energy and Transport at UCL, co-founder and director of UMAS has, since 2010, grown a substantial group focused on modelling and analysis of shipping's efficiency and emissions. He has led various national and internationally focused research projects on shipping decarbonisation, led the 3rd IMO GHG Study, is an author in the 4th IMO GHG Study, is lead author of ISO 19030, attends IMO GHG negotiations as a delegate of IMarEST, and has been involved in numerous projects across the academic, industry and policy domains. UMAS maintains a number of models and datasets used by several multinationals to explore shipping's future scenarios and technology evolution.

Catherine Higham

Policy Fellow on Climate Change, Grantham Research Institute; Policy Fellow on Environment, LSE

Catherine is a Policy Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at LSE. In this role, she coordinates the Climate Change Laws of the World project – the most comprehensive global resource on climate legislation and policy, as well as co-authoring the Institute's flagship series of annual reports on global trends in climate change litigation. Catherine joined the Grantham Research Institute (GRI) after nearly a decade of policy and advocacy work in the not-for-profit sector.

Most recently, Catherine worked at the international environmental organisation CDP, where she led the organisation's engagement with sub-national governments in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Previously she has been involved in strategic human rights litigation, working on death penalty cases and abuses in counterterrorism.





Faustine Delasalle

Executive Director, Mission Possible Partnership

Faustine is an experienced coalition builder and recognised thought leader in the field of the energy and industry transitions. In 2019, she initiated the creation of the Mission Possible Partnership (MPP), an alliance focused on supercharging the decarbonisation of some of the world's highest-emitting industries in heavy industry and mobility. She has steered the build-up and growth of the organisation in different roles since then.

Faustine was the first Director of the Energy Transitions Commission (ETC), a founding partner of the Mission Possible Partnership, from 2016 to 2022. She spearheaded the ETC's analysis on how to achieve net-zero energy systems globally by mid-century, and developed an extensive network of global leaders across energy, industry, finance, and civil society. She continues to serve as Vice-Chair of the ETC. She is also a Partner at Systemiq, a system change firm, supporting the ETC, where she led the Energy Transition practice.

Prior to that, Faustine worked in the public sector (Parliament, local authorities), private sector (a tech start-up) and third sector (with think-tanks and NGOs). She is an alumna of SciencesPo Paris and of the London School of Economics and holds degrees in political sciences and economics. She is also an OnPurpose Fellow.

Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner

Described by The Guardian as 'the Worlds First Minister of the Unborn' Sophie Howe was the worlds first Future Generations Commissioner and for last seven years has held a legal mandate to be the 'guardian of the interests of the future generations of Wales.' In this role she has led high profile interventions holding the Government to account on how they have considered future generations in their policy making and has secured fundamental changes to transport planning and education policies ensuring they are fit for the future generations. She has served as an Adviser to two of Wales First Ministers as an adviser to the UN Secretary General on governance for intergenerational equity and has influenced the development of similar legislation in Scotland and Ireland and a UK Future Generations Bill. She is a TED speaker and has shared platforms with HRH Prince Williams Hollywood Superstars Michael Sheen and Chris Hemsworth as well as The Pope. She was named as no 5 the BBC Women's Power List 2020

She runs her own consultancy business supporting governments and progressive corporates to implement sustainability wellbeing and future generations thinking. She is a Global Ambassador for the Wellbeing Economics Alliance and holds roles advising on wellbeing economics and anticipatory governance with the School of International Futures and Apolitical supporting 150k public officials across the world to develop skills for 21st century governments.





Martin Kalungu-Banda Senior Faculty, Presencing Institute

Martin Kalungu-Banda has worked at senior levels in business, government and international development, specialising in Leadership & Organisation Development. He is Senior Faculty of the Presencing Institute, Research Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford's Said Business School and Senior Adviser to the Africa-Oxford (AfOx) Programme at the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. Martin also serves as Core-Faculty for the Global Alliance for Banking on Values Leadership Academy. He is Chair of the Selection Committee for the late His Royal Higheness Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference for Leaders. Martin is co-founder of Ubuntu.Lab Institute, a regional manifestation of the Global U.School of the Presencing Institute, with a commitment to training thousands of change-makers across the African continent. Between March 2005 and May 2008. Martin served as Special Consultant to the President of Zambia. with the responsibility to role-model and re-establish the position of Chief of Staff in the Presidency. Since then, he has served as Thinking Partner to a number of Chiefs of Staff to Heads of State and Prime Ministers in a number of countries. Martin is the author of the international bestseller Leading Like Madiba: Leadership Lessons from Nelson Mandela (2006). Other books he has authored are: It's How We End That Matters: Leadership Lessons from an African President (2009); and Driftology: How to Access Life's Greatest Opportunities by flying on the wings of others (2015).

Gemma Aiolfi

Compliance and Governance Consultant

Gemma Aiolfi, LLM, is an independent compliance and governance consultant, and is currently working with several government agencies and state-owned enterprises in Ukraine. She previously served as Head of Compliance, Corporate Governance & Collective Action at the Basel Institute on Governance from 2013 to Jan 2023, and is now a Senior Advisor on these topics to the Institute. Former roles include Legal Counsel to the Integrity Department at ABB AG, Switzerland; Global Head of Anti-Corruption at UBS AG, Administrative Director at Stockholm Institute for Transition Economics. While employed by the OECD's Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions in the early 2000s, she was seconded to work with Prof. Mark Pieth, Chairman of the OECD Working Group. During this time, she and Prof. Pieth established the Basel Institute on Governance.

Ms Aiolfi qualified as a barrister after studying Law at the London School of Economics. Postgraduate law studies were undertaken at Basel and Stockholm Universities. She served as board member, Ethics and Compliance Switzerland, and was an external adviser to the board of Graña y Montero, Peru. She is currently a member of the OECD's Steering Committee on Trust in Business. Ms Aiolfi frequently writes and speaks on anti-corruption compliance and governance related topics.



Kirsty Gogan

Strategic Advisor on nuclear competitiveness, hydrogen, innovation, and deep decarbonization

Kirsty Gogan is an internationally sought-after strategic advisor to governments, industry, academic networks and non-profit organizations on nuclear competitiveness, hydrogen, innovation and deep decarbonization. Ms. Gogan is co-founder, with Eric Ingersoll, of Terra Praxis, a non-profit organization developing scalable strategies for advanced nuclear energy to contribute to energy security and decarbonization goals. She is also managing partner of LucidCatalyst, a highly specialized international consultancy focused on large-scale, affordable, market-based decarbonization of the global economy. LucidCatalyst produced the widely cited Energy Technologies Institute Nuclear Cost Drivers Study, and was commissioned by ARPA-E to conduct a study on Cost and Performance Requirements for Flexible Advanced Nuclear Plants in Future U.S. Power Markets.

Ms. Gogan is one of the longest serving members of the UK Government's Nuclear Innovation Research and Advisory Board (NIRAB). She co-founded one of the world's first pro-nuclear environmental organizations, Energy for Humanity (EFH), focused on decarbonization and energy access. She also serves on the Board of the US Nuclear Innovation Alliance, as well as the French NGO, Voices for Nuclear. The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine appointed her to serve on the committee that led to the publication of the landmark report: Laying the Foundation for New and Advanced Nuclear Reactors in the United States (2023). International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Grossi also appointed Ms. Gogan to be the UK representative on the IAEA Standing Advisory Group on Nuclear Applications.





Maria Progoulaki

Maritime human resources specialist, ALBA Graduate Business School and Green-Jakobsen A/S

Maria Progoulaki is originally a maritime economist, with special interest on the human aspect of shipping management. Maria's passion is to improve the way the human element is dealt with in the maritime industry and assist organisations in taking measures to support, utilise and excel the value of people. She brings over 15 years of combined experience in consultancy, teaching and research in Maritime Human Resources and Cross-Cultural Management in shipping.

Maria is currently an Adjunct Lecturer at ALBA Graduate Business School of the American College of Greece, as well as Senior Consultant for Green-Jakobsen A/S, a global maritime safety and human performance advisory firm. While she is part of GJ's international team, Maria develops human resources processes, leadership training concepts and safety strategies for shipping companies with a focus on integrated maritime human performance programmes. She also lectures post-graduate students and facilitates the training and development of maritime executives, professionals and seafarers on maritime human resources, cultural diversity in shipping, soft skills and safety leadership. She holds a PhD in the 'Management of multicultural human resources as a shipping company's core

She holds a PhD in the 'Management of multicultural human resources as a shipping company's core competence' from University of the Aegean, Chios, Greece. Her published academic work can be found in international scientific journals and edited books.

Valérie van den Berg

Dispute Resolution Partner, Pinsent Masons

Valérie van den Berg is a Dispute Resolution Partner at Pinsent Masons. She brings over 20 years of litigation experience; both domestic and international. She has worked across various industries, representing clients in joint venture disputes, post M&A disputes and commercial disputes including those related to EPC contracts / FIDIC. In recent years, her practice has become increasingly focused on energy and infrastructure clients. Valérie also advises her clients on restructuring matters.

Valérie is very much involved in the ESG work that is being done at her firm, Pinsent Masons. She is part of the ESG Core Team (which covers all industries and includes both lawyers and consultants). Valérie frequently advises clients on the implications of CSRD, CSDD and greenwashing rules. This area has become one that she feels very passionate about: this is her way to stand side by side with clients that wish to develop and build their ESG awareness and use the new rules as tools to become part of a more sustainable future.

Valérie's key qualities are her ability to quickly assess very complex issues (legal or factual), her ability to explain matters to clients or in court/arbitration in a clear and concise manner and her ability to create a space where people can resolve their dispute (implying that the majority of cases gets settled before leading to a judgment).





Robyn Curnow

Anchor and foreign correspondant

Robyn Curnow is an award-winning anchor and foreign correspondent. During her career at CNN she interviewed Nelson Mandela, President Bill Clinton, President George W Bush, President Jimmy Carter, First Lady Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey as well as Oscar Pistorius, Buzz Aldrin and numerous other news makers.

She anchored live news on her shows the International Desk with Robyn Curnow and Newsroom with Robyn Curnow winning the Royal Television Society award for breaking news on the fall of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. She also has won the Du Pont Columbia award for coverage of the death of Jamal Khashoggi and has been nominated for three Emmy awards with her CNN colleagues.

Curnow's association with Mandela goes back to when she was a young reporter in South Africa during his Presidency until his death, where she was the only foreign correspondent reporting live from his funeral.

She reported from Cuba during the historic visit of President Obama, as well as during the funeral of Fidel Castro in Havana. She anchored CNN's coverage of the previous two US elections and and the Trump Presidency.

Curnow has hosted events for the World Economic Forum and given keynote speeches on her career and the lessons she's learned from being on the frontlines of history. She has a Master's degree from Cambridge University.

Since leaving CNN, Robyn Curnow has written a novel which will be published in 2024.

Daniel Susskind

Research Professor in Economics, King's College London

Dr Daniel Susskind explores the impact of technology, and particularly AI, on work and society. He is a Research Professor in Economics at King's College London, and a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Ethics in AI at Oxford University. He is the co-author of the best-selling book, The Future of the Professions and the author of A World Without Work, described by The New York Times as "required reading for any potential presidential candidate thinking about the economy of the future". His TED Talk, on the future of work, has been viewed more than 1.6 million times.





Mara Luciano

Project Officer, Red Sea Project, Maritime Security Section Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Mara Luciano has over 10 years' experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of technical cooperation programmes and major projects to support IMO's roles in safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution.

She is currently leading the implementation of the EU-funded "Regional Programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea Area", focusing on supporting governments across the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region in enhancing security measures to protect ships and ports from threats posed by terrorism, piracy and armed robbery, smuggling of arms, drugs, and illicit goods, and other illicit activities, In this role, she has led high-level capacity-building initiatives in politically sensitive contexts, supporting the development of national regulatory frameworks and fostering multi-agency collaboration for the effective application of maritime security measures.

Prior to joining the Maritime Safety Division of IMO, she spent six years at the Technical Cooperation Division of IMO, working closely with Ministries responsible for Transport, the Port Management Associations and related regional organizations in Africa, towards the establishment of permanent self-sustaining legal, policy, and institutional frameworks towards the uniform application of IMO instruments. Her key interests are: maritime governance and ocean sustainability, diversity and inclusion, social justice and human rights.

Mara studied international and diplomatic relations at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" for her degree (BA Hons), and at the University of Manchester for her Master's degree.



Jason Channell

Managing Director, Head of Sustainable Finance, Citi Global Insights

Jason Channell is Managing Director and Head of Sustainable Finance within Citi's Global Insights division, providing thought leadership to the full breadth of Citi's client base. Having previously worked at Fidelity Investments and Goldman Sachs, he joined Citi in 2011, and took Citi's Global ESG Research team to #1 ranked around the world in the Institutional Investor Survey.

His knowledge and experience have seen him advise countless institutional investors and CEO's around the world on sustainability & finance, while in the public sector arena he has advised national policymakers around the world, from Presidents & Prime Ministers, through Central Banks, to Finance, Environment and Energy ministers. His insights and renown as a public speaker have led him to present to supranational organisations such as the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations, development banks, many NGO's, charities, and to institutions as diverse as NASA and the Vatican.

Jason's publications, often written in collaboration with world-renowned academic institutions, span the entire breadth of the sustainability space, and are on the required reading lists for many academic institutions. Jason features widely in the international media in print, on-line, and on TV. He holds a degree in Engineering Science and Management from the University of Durham.

Ashwin Naik

Co-founder, Manah Wellness

Dr Ashwin Naik is an author and award-winning entrepreneur.

As an entrepreneur, he has started multiple organisations including Manah Wellness (preventive mental health for employees), Vaatsalya (India's first network of rural hospitals), Seraniti (India's first integrated mental health organization, acquired by Curefit) and We Scale Impact (a global health consulting organisation).

He is the author of – The Healthcare Gamechangers, which profiles healthcare innovations around the world, and #ChangeStartsYoung, a book about young changemakers who are starting as early as 11 years young.

Ashwin is an Ashoka Fellow, as well as a TED Fellow and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

He has a medical degree from Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli and a master's degree from University of Houston, Texas.

