

# The Anthropocene - a new geological epoch?

## Biographies of keynote speakers, panelists

Nobel laureate, **Paul Crutzen** is a Professor of atmospheric chemistry at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany. In 2000, he and E. F. Störmer proposed the term Anthropocene to designate the current geological epoch, in order to emphasize the fundamental role that humans played in the geological and ecological state of the world. Crutzen is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, a Member of the Royal Swedish Academy and the Russian Academy of Science. In 1995, he was the Recipient of the Global Ozone Award for "Outstanding Contribution for the Protection of the Ozone Layer" by the United Nations Environment Program. During the decade 1991-2001, Crutzen was the most cited author in the geosciences.



**Will Steffen** is the Executive Director of the Australia National University's Climate Change Institute. He has a long history in international global change research, serving from 1998 to 2004 as Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), based in Stockholm, Sweden, and before that as Executive Officer of IGBP's Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems project. Prior to taking up the CCI Directorship in 2008, Steffen was the inaugural director of the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society. From 2004 he has served as science adviser to the Department of Climate Change, Australian Government.



**Dennis Dimick** is the executive editor at National Geographic Magazine in Washington, D.C. He previously was the magazine's environment editor, and continues to lead National Geographic's coverage of energy and climate issues. Three Sept. 2004 articles entitled "Signs from Earth" on climate change that he orchestrated were cited in 2005 by the Overseas Press Club for best environmental coverage, and by the Society of Environmental Journalists for explanatory journalism. During 2011, National Geographic will be highlighting the concept of the Anthropocene in the context of climate and environmental change. An Oregon native, Dimick holds degrees in agriculture and journalism from Oregon State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and his family live in Arlington, VA.



**Davor Vidas** is Director of Marine Affairs and Law of the Sea Programme at the Fridtjof Nansens Institut. Vidas has written extensively on the law of the seas in the context of biodiversity and protection of the marine environment. He is the author or editor of many books in the field of marine law and environment (including most recently, Law, Technology and Science for Oceans in Globalisation - IUU Fishing, Oil Pollution, Bioprospecting, Outer Continental Shelf), and regularly advises international organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development.



**Andrew Revkin**, author of Dot Earth blog featured in the New York Times op-ed section, is a journalist and author who has spent a quarter of a century covering subjects ranging from the Asian tsunami to environmental trauma on the Amazon, from the strife between science and politics to climate change at the North Pole. Most recently he has written The North Pole Was Here: Puzzles and Perils at the Top of the World, and in 2008 he was awarded the John Chancellor Award from Columbia University. From 1995 through 2009, he covered the environment for The New York Times. He is currently the senior fellow at the Pace Academy for Applied Environmental Studies at Pace University and continues to write his "Dot Earth" blog for The Times Op-Ed section.



**James Syvitski** is the new Chair of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme's Science Committee (<http://www.igbp.kva.se>), and Director of the Community Surface Dynamics Modeling Systems and former Director of the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder. His research interests range from modern deltas, large river flood plains and the impact of high-energy weather events on our coastlines. He is a sedimentologist, oceanographer, hydrologist, and numerical modeler of Earth surface dynamics. He and colleagues have been focusing on the documentation of sediment lost from the continents to the ocean during modern and recent times. In 2009, he was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Huntsman Medal for outstanding achievements in Marine Science, and he is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.



**Dorothy Merritts** is a geologist with expertise in streams, rivers, and other landforms, and on the impact of humans and geologic hazards on landscape evolution. Her recent research in the eastern United States tackles the role of human activities in transforming the woodland and wetland forests of Eastern North America to a predominantly agricultural and mixed-industrial/urban landscape since European settlement. She is a professor in the Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and in 2004-2005 she was the Flora Stone Mather Visiting Distinguished Professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is the author of two textbooks and more than 40 scientific articles, and the editor and contributing writer for numerous scientific books.



**Erle Ellis** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, University of Maryland, USA. He works on the ecology of densely populated landscapes as they are transformed by population growth and industrially-based technologies. He concerns himself with the global and local environmental impacts of land use change and the very high nutrient inputs that are now used to sustain food security in the villages of developing countries. Recently, he has been conducting work related to the long-Term Biogeochemical Changes in China's Anthropogenic Landscapes. I have also been investigating anthropogenic biomes, the global ecological patterns produced by human/environment interactions.

