

The Centre for Psycho-Social Studies

# Conferences and Continuing Professional Development Programme

The Psychological and Political Challenge of

## Facing Climate Change

One day conference

March 7th 2009

UWE, Frenchay Campus



University of the  
West of England

bettertogether



The Centre for Psycho-Social Studies  
**booking form**

# Facing Climate Change

## The Psychological and Political Challenge of Facing Climate Change

**A one day conference co-sponsored by Psychotherapists and Counsellors for Social Responsibility**

**March 7th 2009,**

**9:00 – 17:00**

**UWE, Frenchay Campus**

This is an issue which clearly transcends psychotherapy, but it is one in which psychological perspectives are of the utmost importance. Ever since Freud's discovery that mental health often means thinking the unthinkable, the need to face painful truths and to understand the power of denial has been at the heart of therapeutic work.

The evidence is now irrefutable that man-made climate change poses a huge and unprecedented threat to the global ecosystem and therefore to ourselves. Combined with the fact of "peak oil", this means that our future depends on how proactive, imaginative and courageous we can be in dealing with our addiction to fossil fuels.

Psychological extremes, like political ones, can be closer to each other than at first appears. The extremes of complacency (denial) and despair (retreat), with their common feature of narcissism, are equally lethal in face of this pressing challenge. The conference aims to address the obstacles both to recognition and to effective action.

**FEE £50\***

### Speakers :

**Mary-Jayne Rust**

Jungian analyst, Ecopsychologist

**Paul Hoggett**

Psychotherapist, SIP/Lincoln, Professor of Politics, UWE, and Director of CPSS

**George Marshall**

Founder, Climate Outreach and Information Network, author of "Carbon Detox"

**Conference Chairman: Adrian Tait**

Member: Guild of Psychotherapists, Transition activist

### Programme:

- 09.00 - 09.30 Registration and coffee
- 09.30 - 09.45 Chair's opening comments
- 09.45 - 10.15 George Marshall – Sleepwalking into Disaster – Strategies of Evasion and Denial in Social Attitudes to Climate Change
- 10.15 - 11.15 Paul Hoggett - The Politics and Emotions of Climate Change Denial
- 10.15 - 11.45 Break
- 11.45 - 13.00 Mary-Jayne Rust – The Myths By Which We Live - Or Die? The Psychological Dimensions of Our Environmental Crisis
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 15.30 Themed groups  
Zita Cox – Environmental Constellation;  
Nick Totton – Embodying Ecopsychology;  
Dr Chris Johnstone - The Psychology of Inspired Action; Renee Lertzman – The Myth of Apathy; Jim Wilson – Eco Fascism. A final list of the groups will be circulated with confirmation details. Everyone attending will be asked to book their groups by the first break; spaces on a first come, first served basis.
- 15.30 - 14.00 Break
- 16.00 - 17.00 Open Forum
- 17.00 Close



For further information call 0117 3281311 or e-mail [cpss@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:cpss@uwe.ac.uk)  
 To register, please complete this registration form and post to:  
 Centre for Psycho-Social Studies  
 Room 3L7  
 The University of the West of England  
 Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY  
 Your cheque should be made payable to "Bristol, UWE"  
 For an on-line form please E-mail [cpss@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:cpss@uwe.ac.uk)

\*A limited number of bursaries are available for students and the unwaged. Please write with request.



Event name/date: **Facing Climate Change**

Name:

Mailing Address:

Tel:

E-mail:

Institutional Affiliation:

Occupation:

Interests: