The Villars Symposium 2023

The Villars Institute is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to accelerating the transition to a net zero economy and to restore the health of the planet for all. Located in the Swiss Alps, it is a platform for systemic change and a place for intergenerational collaboration.

The Villars Symposium brings together the creativity of young people with the proficiency of experienced professionals to accelerate the energy transition, nature-based solutions, and emerging technologies.

It is the annual meeting of the Villars Fellows, solution-oriented teenagers nominated each year by educational and leadership organizations from around the world.

The next Villars Symposium will take place from the 25th to 28th of June 2024 in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland. An overview of the 2023 program is provided below.

**Villars Symposium**

- **INFORM**
  About Systems

- **INQUIRE**
  About Systems

**THE PROGRAM’S GOAL**

- **INSPIRE**
  Systems Change

- **INITIATE**
  Systems Change

**THE PARTICIPANT’S ROLE**

**Villars Fellowship**
The Mission of the Villars Institute
Opening Remarks from
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair, The Villars Institute

Villars Distinguished Lecture
By
• Didier Queloz, 2019 Nobel Laureate in Physics for discovering 51 Pegasi b, the first extrasolar planet orbiting a Sun-like star, 51 Pegasus, located 50.6 light-years (15.5 parsecs) from Earth in the constellation of Pegasus

Introduced by
• Subra Suresh, President, Global Learning Council

Opening Musical Performance
Performed by members of the Villars Music Academy
• Patricia Cordero, violin
• Gordon Lau, viola
• Alex Lau, cello

Objectives of the Villars Symposium
With
• Lee Howell, Executive Director, The Villars Institute
Prospering within Planetary Boundaries
With
• Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
• Nathalie Seddon, Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford & Director, Nature-based Solutions Initiative
• Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair of EAT Foundation
Moderated by
• Magdalena Skipper, Editor in Chief, Nature

Protecting the Planet through Entrepreneurship
With
• Sofi Khwaja, Co-Founder and CEO at Thesus
• Sofia de Meyer, Entrepreneur, Founder of Opaline

The Planetary Health Diet
With
• Francesco Scaglia, Culinary Work Project Lead, EAT Foundation
• Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder & Executive Chair, EAT Foundation

The Climate-Nature Nexus
With
• Alexa Firmenich, Co-Director, Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich

Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change
With
• Nathalie Seddon, Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford & Director, Nature-based Solutions Initiative
• Nicole Schwab, Director, Nature Based Solutions & 1t.org, World Economic Forum
**Critical Skills for the Planet's Future**

With

- **David Gann**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Affairs, Oxford University and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School
- **Christine Looser**, Senior Academic Director, Minerva Project
- **María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, Co-Chair, Climate Governance Commission
- **Wanjira Mathai**, Managing Director, Africa & Global Partnerships, World Resources Institute (WRI)

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**The Meaning and Impact of Net Zero**

With

- **Thom Wetzer**, Associate Professor of Law and Finance at the University of Oxford and the Founding Director of the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme
- **Cameron Hepburn**, Director of the Oxford Smith School and Professor of Environmental Economics

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**A Sustainable Global Trading System**

With

- **Jan Yves Remy**, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)

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**Mobilizing Science to Protect the Planet**

With

- **Gilbert De Gregorio**, Head of Partnerships, Frontiers Planet Prize
- **George Thomas**, Public Affairs Manager, Frontiers
The Power of Nature's Narrative
With
• Colin Butfield, Co-Founder and Executive Director at Studio Silverback
• Jonnie Hughes, Co-Founder and Creative Director at Studio Silverback
• Thijs Biersteker, Ecological Artist and Founder of Woven Studio
Moderated by
• Michèle Mischler, Head of Swiss Public Affairs and Open Forum, World Economic Forum

Protecting the Planet through Entrepreneurship
With
• Sofi Khwaja, Co-Founder and CEO at Thesus
• Sofia de Meyer, Entrepreneur, Founder of Opaline

Predicting the Health of Nature
With
• Adriana De Palma, Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum, London
• Camilla Tham, International Partnerships Manager, Natural History Museum, London

The Energy Access Trilemma
With
• Peter BenHur Nyeko, Co-Founder & Director, Mandulis Energy

Circular Design in Practice
With
• Tobias Luthe, Program Director, ETH Zurich, and Founding Director, MonViso Institute
A Net Zero and Nature Positive Economy

With

- **Cameron Hepburn**, Director of the Oxford Smith School and Professor of Environmental Economics
- **Keith Tuffley**, Vice Chairman, Sustainability and Corporate Transitions, Citi
- **Anna Celner**, Former Deloitte Vice Chairman & Partner, Global Banking and Capital Markets Practice Leader
- **Andy Karsner**, Co-Founder, Elemental Labs

Moderated by

- **Meagan Fallone**, Entrepreneur in Residence & Executive Advisor on Climate Justice, Director of Climate Justice, CARE International

Converting Scientific Research to Human Emotions

With

- **Thijs Biersteker**, Ecological Artist and Founder of Woven Studio
- **Adriana De Palma**, Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum, London
- **Sophie de Krom**, Studio Director, Woven Studio

Transforming Mindsets for Climate Action

With

- **Kat Hamilton**, Director of Partnerships & Programs, Force of Nature
- **Camilla Tham**, International Partnerships Manager, Natural History Museum, London

Systems Change thru Simple Narratives

With

- **J. Carl Ganter**, Managing Director, Circle of Blue
New Frontiers of Environmental Entrepreneurship
With
• John Dutton, Head of Uplink, World Economic Forum
• David Lunsford, CEO, Stream Ocean
• Declan McAdams, Chairman, Pinovo, AS

Transforming Agriculture in Africa
With
• Ibrahim Maigari Ahmadu, Founder & CEO, Rice Afrika

The Power of Adventure to Protect the Planet
With
• Robert Swan, Polar Explorer and Founder, 2041 Foundation
• Barnaby Swan, CEO, Climate Force
• Jaideep Bansal, CEO, GHE Impact Ventures
Moderated by
• Meagan Fallone, Entrepreneur in Residence and Executive Advisor on Climate Justice, Director of Climate Justice, CARE International

Finding a Prize Winning Problem
With
• Angela McCarthy, CEO, The Earth Foundation
• Team Delavo, Treating and reusing laundry machine wastewater
• Team Agripod, Reducing fertilizer waste across the farming world
• Team Agrivision, Measuring plant health to reduce crop losses and organic waste
Anticipating Science Breakthroughs
With
• Alice Hazelton, Head of Summit, Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)

How to Fix the Planet
With
• Laura Henderson, Head of Program – Public Outreach, Frontiers Media

The Realities of the Energy Transition
With
• Victoria Attwood Scott, Global Head of Compliance, Mercuria

Innovating from the Bottom-Up
With
• Navid Nathoo, Co-Founder The Knowledge Society (TKS)
• Nadeem Nathoo, Co-Founder, The Knowledge Society (TKS)

Leading through Adversity
With
• Robert Swan, Polar Explorer and Founder, 2041 Foundation
• Barnaby Swan, CEO, Climate Force
Our Future through Food
With
• **Christine Schäfer**, Senior Researcher, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI)

Practicing Ecopreneurship Anywhere
With
• **Jaideep Bansal**, CEO, GHE Impact Ventures

Accelerating Systems Change from Villars
With
• **Marija Dang**, Vice Principal, Learning Innovation, UWC Atlantic College
• **J. Carl Ganter**, Managing Director, Circle of Blue
• **Maja Groff**, Convenor, Climate Governance Commission
• **Jan Yves Remy**, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)

Moderated by
• **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, The Villars Institute

The Fellowship Journey Ahead
With
• **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, The Villars Institute
Villars Symposium - Plenary Sessions