

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

Resilient Planet – Our Future

A lecture by Carl Folke / Stockholm Resilience Centre on November 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm via Livestream

The scale, speed, and connectivity of human actions across the planet create new dynamics that play out in new, uncertain, and surprising ways and differently for different people and places and all embedded in the biosphere, the thin layer of life around planet Earth. The biosphere connection is an essential observation if sustainability is to be taken seriously. Resilience refers to the capacity to learn to live with change, incremental or abrupt, expected or surprising, and in relation to diverse pathways of development and thresholds and tipping points between them. It is about having the capacity to navigate a complex and dynamic ever changing world, the new world of the Anthropocene. Taken together, human actions are currently challenging the biosphere foundation for a prosperous development of civilisations.

The new reality of rising turbulence on the human dominated planet calls for transformative change towards sustainable futures. Emerging technologies, social innovations, broader shifts in cultural repertoires, as well as a diverse portfolio of active stewardship of human actions in support of a resilient biosphere are highlighted as essential parts of such transformations. Examples of biosphere stewardship ranging from green space for human wellbeing in urban areas to collaboration with global dominant actors like transnational corporations will be presented.

About

Carl Folke is a systems thinker in integrative science for sustainability, recognized internationally as leading scientist in social-ecological systems and resilience research. He is Professor, Founder and Science Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre and also Director of the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Since the mid-1980s, Folke has broken new grounds in understanding the dynamic interplay of humans and nature, of economy and ecology, and developed research on social-ecological systems and resilience thinking from management and stewardship of ecosystem services in the seas and on the land to global sustainability.

He has created inter- and transdisciplinary collaborative platforms and contributed to the development of new areas of research, concepts and approaches that have spread across science, education, policy and practice disciplines, and more recently into the business community. Folke's work has illustrated how progress, prosperity and wellbeing will benefit from reconnecting development to the biosphere.

Folke is among the founders of the Resilience Alliance, was involved in the development of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), and engaged in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He has been in the forefront of transdisciplinary science for sustainability, generating understanding for action towards sustainable futures in collaboration

with diverse actors in society, from local landscapes in Sweden to international organisations and transnational corporations.

His contributions have been recognized through awards like the Gunnerus Prize in Sustainability Science, the Planet and Humanity Medal, and a Pew Scholar Award in Conservation and Environment. He is genuinely engaged in the arts-science-interface. Folke is elected member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences, USA.gj