



# THE HUMAN FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITY

An Interdisciplinary Symposium

**March 26–27, 2015**

Featuring

Mary Robinson and Andrew C. Revkin



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

This Voices of Our Time Special Event featuring Mary Robinson is in conjunction with

# The Human Face of Environmental Inequality: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

March 26–27, 2015



Mary Robinson is President of the Mary Robinson Foundation—Climate Justice. She served as President of Ireland from 1990–1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997–2002. She is a member of the Elders and the Club of Madrid and the recipient of numerous honours and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States Barack Obama. She is also a member of the Lead Group of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Between March 2013 and August 2014 Mary served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa. In August 2014 she was appointed the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change.

A former President of the International Commission of Jurists and former chair of the Council of Women World Leaders she was President and founder of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002–2010 and served as Honorary President of Oxfam International from 2002–2012.

Mary Robinson serves as Patron of the Board of the Institute of Human Rights and Business in addition to being a board member of several organisations including the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the European Climate Foundation. Mary is the Chancellor of the University of Dublin since 1998. Her memoir, *Everybody Matters* was published in September 2012.

# About the Symposium

Human rights and the humanities are vital lenses for examining and addressing the unequal human impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and resource exploitation, as well as the values that shape our response to environmental challenges, and local and global forms of engagement. The symposium is inspired by and expands upon the work of John Knox, Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law at Wake Forest University School of Law and the first UN appointed Independent Expert on human rights and the environment. Knox's three-year mandate has been to clarify human rights obligations relating to the environment, and to identify and disseminate best practices in the use of such obligations.

All sessions, except as noted, will be held in the Benson University Center, Room 401 on the Wake Forest University campus. For directions and parking info, go to [wfu.edu/visitors](http://wfu.edu/visitors). Each session will feature speakers who will each provide an opening statement. Those statements will then be followed by moderated discussions among the speakers and questions from the audience.

The Human Face of Environmental Inequality Symposium is sponsored by the Wake Forest University Humanities Institute, its affiliate Human Rights and Global Justice research group, and the University's Center for Energy, Environment and Sustainability. The symposium is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required but would be appreciated by going to [humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu](http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu).

# March 26, 2015

**1:00 p.m. Registration**  
401 Benson Center

**2:00 p.m. Welcome**  
**Rogan Kersh**  
Provost, Wake Forest University

**Mary Foskett**

**Opening Remarks**  
**John Knox**

401 Benson Center

**2:45–4:00 p.m. Round Table on Values, Morality,  
and Environmental Inequality**  
**Larry Rasmussen, Sally Bingham and  
Stephanie Kaza**

401 Benson Center

**4:30–5:30 p.m. Reception**  
Magnolia Room, Reynolda Hall

**6:00 p.m. Voices of Our Time**  
**Keynote Address**  
**Mary Robinson**

Wait Chapel

# March 27, 2015

All Events in 401 Benson Center

**8:30 a.m. Coffee and Pastries**

**9:00–10:15 a.m. Round Table on Climate Change and Environmental Inequality**  
**Bron Taylor, Michael Gerrard and Sumudu Atapattu**

**10:15–10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30–11:45 a.m. Round Table on Indigenous Peoples, Cultures, and the Impact of Resource Extraction**  
**Jacob Olupona, Joni Adamson and Jace Weaver**

**12:00–1:00 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:15–2:30 p.m. Round Table on Community Engagement in North Carolina**  
**Will Scott, Frank Holleman, Amy Adams and Molly Diggins**

**2:30–2:45 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m. Closing Keynote Address:**  
**#IamChicoMendes—How the Global Communication Revolution Can Protect Resources and Rights**  
**Andrew C. Revkin**



Andrew C. Revkin, the Senior Fellow for Environmental Understanding at Pace University, has been writing about environmental and social sustainability for more than three decades, from the Amazon to the White House to the North Pole, mainly for *The New York Times*. He has won the top awards in science

journalism multiple times, along with a Guggenheim Fellowship. At Pace, he teaches courses in blogging, environmental communication and documentary film. He has written acclaimed books on global warming, the changing Arctic and the violent assault on the Amazon rain forest, as well as three book chapters on science communication.

Drawing on his experience with his *Times* blog, “Dot Earth,” which *Time Magazine* named one of the top 25 blogs in 2013, Revkin speaks to audiences around the world about paths to progress on a turbulent planet.

Revkin is also a performing songwriter, was a longtime accompanist for Pete Seeger and recently released his first album of original songs. Two films have been based on his work: *Rock Star* (Warner Brothers, 2001) and *The Burning Season* (HBO, 1994).

\*Panelists and times subject to change. See symposium webpage for speaker bios.