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Cambridge
Global
Conversations



ANNUAL REPORT

CAMBRIDGE GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

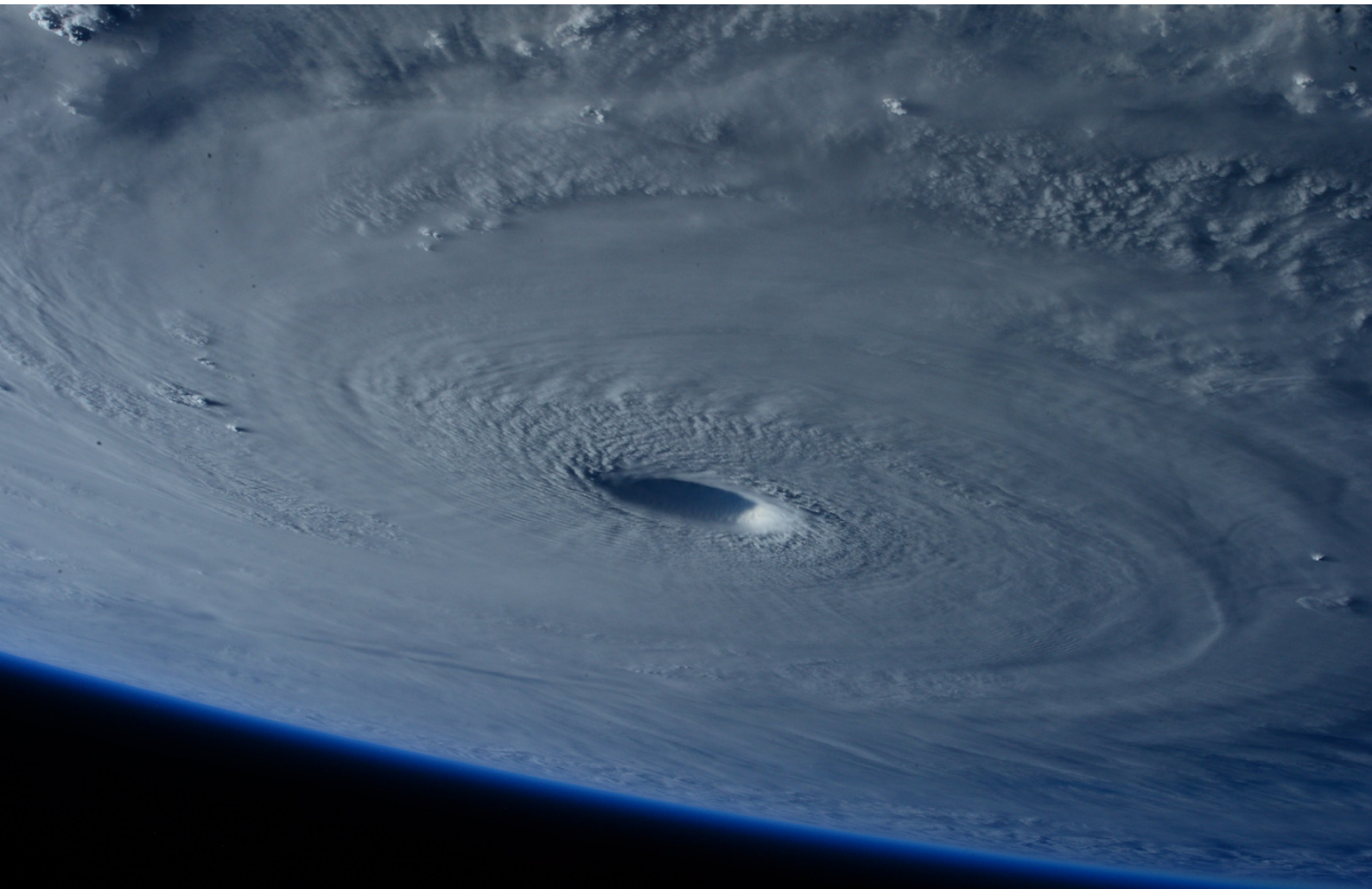


Introduction



Cambridge Global Conversations (CGC) is a discussion platform based at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. We seek to discuss and inform on those problems that lie beyond the capacity for individual nation states (or even small groups of nation states) to resolve. Thought-leaders from across the generations and across **multiple disciplines** are brought together to share and promote insights that help to illuminate problems and guide human responses to complex global challenges.

Daniel Fung, the former Solicitor-General of Hong Kong, founded Cambridge Global Conversations after several discussions with key figures in Cambridge University and beyond. With a range of partners, Steering Committee members and advisors in support, in 2018, Cambridge Global Conversations began exploratory and planning work in preparation for our first event - 2019's **CGC #1: Climate Ethics**.



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Letter from CGC Chair



Dear Fellow Global Thinker,

A warm welcome to the first Annual Report of Cambridge Global Conversations. I am pleased to share our mission and vision with you, as well as highlight a few of our accomplishments in 2019.

2018 was dedicated to laying the foundations of a truly global conversation. This was a complex challenge that required extensive consultations and strategic planning. In July of 2019, we hosted our first conversation, CGC#1: Climate Ethics. We are grateful to the Intellectual Forum for hosting the event at its well-appointed Conference Centre at Jesus College, University of Cambridge. During the CGC#1 event, subject matter experts from around the world gathered in roundtable discussions to exchange views on one of the most pressing issues of our time. I am pleased to share the details of this successful event with you in this Report.

This event would not have been possible without guidance and support from the Centre for Study of Existential Risk, Cambridge Governance Labs, the Intellectual Forum and the WEL Foundation team, along with a wider team of advisors and friends. A special thank you is extended to all who participated in the event, a comprehensive list of whom can be found in this report. I'd also like to thank CGC's Paul Harding who worked "on the ground" to organise and plan the event, and University of Cambridge Vice Chancellor Stephen Toope for generously opening the first day with some inspiring remarks.

In the year under review, CGC also established an online presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, where we will continue to participate in ongoing conversations. CGC published an outreach campaign following the CGC#1 event, which received over a quarter of a million views on Twitter. CGC has also launched a Chinese language website and joined the Chinese social media platform, Weixin GongZhongHao. Work is well underway to publish our Arabic language website in 2020. Our goal is to expand into more languages in the future.

At the American Renewable Energy Institute Summit in August 2019, I took the stage to discuss Climate Ethics with WEL Foundation Patron Marjorie Layden. A highlight reel of *CGC#1:Climate Ethics* content was also shown to the audience of influential activists, technologists, advocates and funders, and received a round of applause.

One of the accomplishments of which I am most proud is the introduction of the Cambridge Global Conversations Scholarship programme to support promising young scholars in Hong Kong to pursue their studies. The first recipient of this distinguished scholarship is Mr Charlie Liu, a law student at the University of Oxford. We wish him well and we are grateful for his assistance in promoting CGC's important work.

We hope you are as inspired by the accomplishments outlined on the following pages as we were in sharing crucial knowledge and insights into one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.



Daniel Fung
Founding Chair, CGC

CGC#1: Climate Ethics



Cambridge Global Conversations' Climate Ethics event brought together a multi-disciplinary, international roster of participants. The included an Executive Chair from the UNFCCC, several best-selling authors, researchers on existential risk, a lead climate economist from influential *Stern Review*, the former science advisor to the UK government (and current head of the UK's *Independent SAGE*), the **lead scientist on China's geoenvironmental programme**, a climate-resilient farmer from Zimbabwe, other climate economists and finance experts, a top climate communications expert, representatives from Extinction Rebellion, the Fridays4Future movement, and of course the student body at the University of Cambridge.



CGC#1 participants Lord Martin Rees and Morgan Sheil discuss climate and more in a pre-event media video shoot.



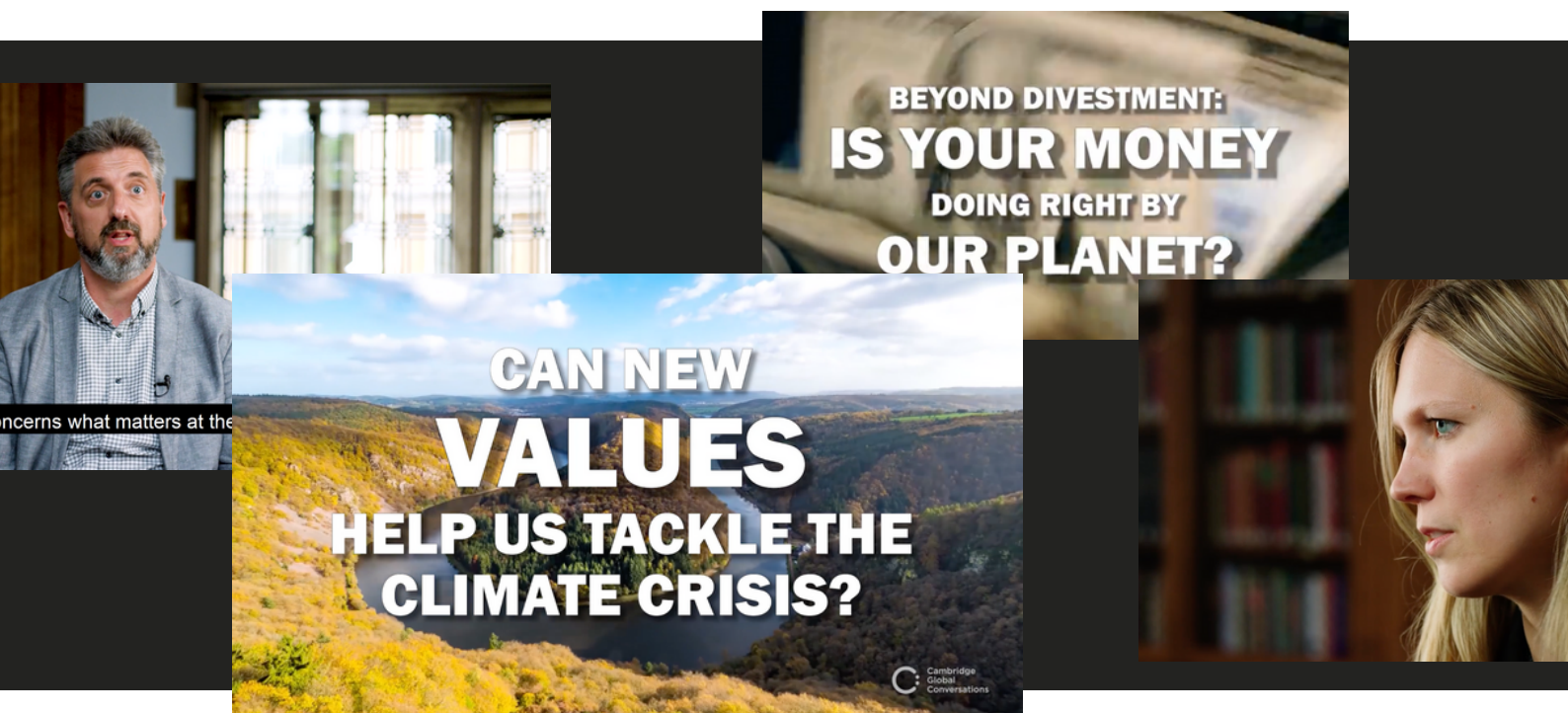
Sir David King addresses a CGC round-table session.

The CGC#1: Climate Ethics event took place over 1.5 days in July 2019 at Jesus College, University of Cambridge, organised by CGC's Operations Director Paul Harding with support from the team at The Intellectual Forum. The West Court at Jesus College and its world-class conference facilities played host to dynamic roundtable discussions that were held over several sessions. There were no presentations, no audience-speaker divide, and full participation by all attendees. The sessions held included:

- **The Ethics of Climate Change,**
- **The Ethics of Geoengineering for Climate,**
- **Climate & Food,**
- **The Empowerment of Women and Marginalised Groups,**
- **Climate Economics / Finance.**



CGC#1: Climate Ethics Media



Our team filmed high-quality, professional interviews with the participants of CGC#1:Climate Ethics events. These were published online as an integrated pipeline, the aim to guide users from short fun social clips to longer-form in-depth interviews. The nine short social media ready clips (including 'sound-off' subtitles, lively bed music, and animated main titles), were released on Twitter.

They included introductions to climate ethics, climate justice, economists and the climate, our values and the climate crisis, polarisation in the climate sphere, leadership for climate and more. The longer videos explored these topics (and others) in more detail.

CGC's Pre-event media included shareable social media quote cards - featuring quotes by CGC Participants and other relevant experts that helped frame the issues.



"The dominant discourses about the nature of the climate threat are scientific and economic. But the deepest challenge is ethical."

STEPHEN M. GARDINER
Author *The Perfect Moral Storm*
CGC Participant



Image: Asian Development Bank
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/legalcode>)

CGC#1: Climate Ethics Media Impact and Audience

Over a series of campaigns targeting English-speaking audiences in Europe, North America, Australasia, Asia, and Africa, the social videos achieved more than **250k views** and **thousands of engagements** by early 2020. This hook was successful and boosted metrics for the longer videos on CGC's Vimeo account and CGC's website. The in-depth long Vimeo videos gained 13,000+ impressions and **2000+ views** as a result of this Twitter campaign, and were also distributed on LinkedIn. Several participants also arranged to embed the videos on their own organisation's websites.



260,000+

**Global Video Views
on Twitter**



and those that pollute the least tend to be the most vulnerable.

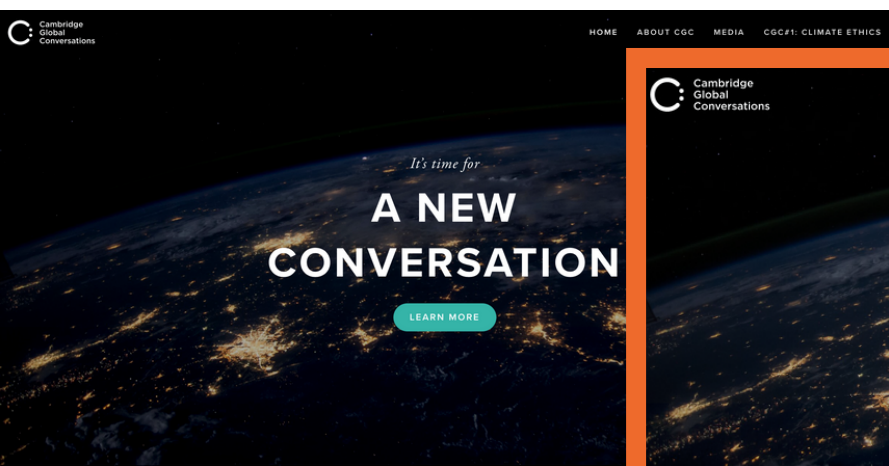
CGC Participant and author Professor Stephen Gardiner explains Climate Justice (and Injustice) in a CGC Twitter Video that was viewed more than 41,000 times.

CGC Foreign Language Channels



Although the content from **CGC#1:Climate Ethics** was primarily in English due to budget constraints, CGC is expanding its linguistic reach. Towards the end of 2019, with more and more content coming online, CGC prepared a **Chinese language** version of the CGC website (conversation.global).

CGC registered for a social media channel account on China's **Weixin GongZhongHao** platform. CGC also began translating social media quote cards and other content for distribution on these new Chinese channels. CGC is currently working on an Arabic Language version of the website.



剑桥全球论坛 (CGC)



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CGC's Partners and Supporters



JESUS COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

THE INTELLECTUAL FORUM

The Jesus College Intellectual Forum provides a 21st century research environment — an outward- and forward-looking centre that fosters critical thinking and creative excellence and supports the growing importance of multidisciplinary activities and networking on a global level.

CAMBRIDGE GOVERNANCE LABS

Cambridge Governance Labs is an interdisciplinary initiative at the University of Cambridge which seeks to reduce decision-making risk by translating knowledge and lessons about decision-making into practical tools for citizens and those who exercise authority on their behalf.



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF EXISTENTIAL RISK

The Centre for the Study of Existential Risk is an interdisciplinary research centre at CRASSH within the University of Cambridge dedicated to the study and mitigation of risks that could lead to human extinction or civilisational collapse.



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
EXISTENTIAL RISK

CGC#1: Climate Ethics was supported by:

THE WEL FOUNDATION

The WEL Foundation is a UK-based charitable foundation dedicated to inspiring ethical decision making and moral leadership across generations. WEL focuses on the importance of ethics, leadership and governance in business, politics, life, and science.



WEL FOUNDATION

CGC Scholarship + Internship



Hong Kong Student **Charlie Liu** was awarded the first CGC Scholarship and also came onboard as CGC's intern. Charlie is studying for a Bachelor of Civil Law at The University of Oxford. He has a top-flight academic record. On top of this, part of the reason for his selection was his commitment to voluntary work - in 2019 he had spent two periods doing voluntary teaching in Yunnan, China.

In 2019, Charlie took responsibility for translating CGC's content for a Chinese-speaking audience.



Charlie Liu teaching in an under-served area, Yunnan Province, P.R.C., 2019



Appendix - CGC#1 Participants



VC Stephen Toope
Lord Martin Rees
Prof. Stephen Gardiner
Sir David King
William Skeaping
Katie Javanaud
Catherine Boyce
Joseph Poore
Clarah Zinyama
Dr Emily Brearley
Dimitri Zenghelis
Dr Matthew Agarwala
George Marshall
Prof. Mike Berners-Lee
Daniel Fung
Katie Hoffman

Dr Emily Shuckburgh
Prof. Hugh Hunt
Prof. John Moore
Dr Kira Vinke
Dr Petra Gomersall
Dr Ellen Quigley
Morgan Sheil
Marcel Pasquina
Dr Falk Parra Witte
Dr John Barker
Dr Julian Huppert
Marjorie Layden
Sven Wang
Lady Patricia Mirrlees
Dr Temur Yusanov
Dr Sarah Steele



Some of the CGC#1 Climate Ethics Participants at the end of Day 2