ILP-MIT Joint Program Webinar: Climate-Related Physical and Transition Risks

November 17, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

10:00am - 10:05am Opening Remarks

10:05am - 10:15am Introduction and Framing
Ronald Prinn
Director, MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change
TEPCO Professor of Atmospheric Science, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS)
Director, Center for Global Change Science (CGCS)

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Professor Prinn's research interests incorporate the chemistry, dynamics, and physics of the atmospheres of the Earth and other planets, and the chemical evolution of atmospheres. He has been a faculty member at MIT since 1971, and headed the MIT Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences from 1998 to 2003. He is currently involved in a wide range of projects in atmospheric chemistry and biogeochemistry, climate science, and integrated assessment of science and policy regarding climate change. He leads the Advanced Global Atmospheric Gases Experiment (AGAGE), in which the rates of change of the concentrations of the trace gases involved in the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion have been measured continuously over the globe for the past three decades. He is pioneering the use of inverse methods, which use such measurements and three-dimensional models to determine trace gas emissions and understand atmospheric chemical processes, especially those processes involving the oxidation capacity of the atmosphere. He is also working extensively with social scientists to link the science, economics and policy aspects of global change. He has co-led the development of a unique integrated global system model coupling economics, climate physics and chemistry, and land and ocean ecosystems, which is used to estimate uncertainty in climate predictions and analyze proposed climate policies. He has made significant contributions to the development of national and international scientific research programs in global change. He served as one of the Lead Authors in the Fourth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2007. He has served as Chairman for Atmospheric and Hydroospheric Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and has chaired the Steering Committees for the IGBP/IAMAP International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Project, the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) Committee on Earth Sciences, and the U.S. Global Tropospheric Chemistry Program. He has been a member of the Steering Committees of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP), and the NASA Network for Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change, and a member of the IAMAP International Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution, the NRC Space Science Board, the NRC Committee for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program, the NASA Space Science and Applications Advisory Committee, and the NASA Earth System Sciences Committee. He has twice testified to the United States Congress on climate change science and its implications for policy. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), a recipient of AGU's Macelwane Medal, and a Fellow of the AAAS. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed scientific papers, co-authored Planets and their Atmospheres: Origin and Evolution (Academic Press), and edited or co-edited Global Atmospheric-Biospheric Chemistry (Plenum), Atmospheric Chemistry in a Changing World (Springer), and Inverse Methods in Global Biogeochemical Cycles (AGU).

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10:15am - 10:40am
Assessing Physical Risks
C. Adam Schlosser
Deputy Director, MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change
Senior Research Scientist, Center for Global Change Science (CGCS)

Adam Schlosser is interested in land-climate Interactions, the global water cycle, land
biogeochemistry, arctic processes, and regional climate change (uncertainty and extremes).
His primary interests are the modeling and prediction of global hydrologic, ecologic, and
biogeochemical change using the MIT’s Integrated Global Systems Model (IGSM) that
includes model development of its terrestrial component – the Global Land System (GLS).
Other research endeavors work to improve our observational capabilities for monitoring,
understanding and predicting the Earth’s global water and energy cycles, and currently
serves as a member of the NASA Energy and Water Cycle Study (NEWS) Science
Integration Team. Current collaborative research activities include the study of extreme
precipitation events and associating their potential changes to shifts in climate regimes, the
fate of the arctic permafrost under potential climate warming and subsequent impacts on its
biogeochemistry and trace-gas emissions, and climate-water issues on adaptation.

A Senior Research Scientist in the Center for Global Change Science since 2014, Schlosser
also serves as the Assistant Director of Research for the Joint Program at MIT.

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10:40am - 11:05am
Assessing Transition Risks
Sergey Paltsev
Deputy Director, MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change
Senior Research Scientist, MIT Energy Initiative and MIT Center for Energy and
Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR)
Director, Energy at Scale Center

Dr. Sergey Paltsev is a Deputy Director of the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of
Global Change and a Senior Research Scientist at MIT Energy Initiative and MIT Center for
Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR), Massachusetts Institute of
Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA. He is the lead modeler in charge of the MIT Economic
Projection and Policy Analysis (EPPA) model of the world economy. His research covers a
wide range of topics including energy economics, climate policy, taxation, advanced energy
technologies, and international trade. Sergey is an Advisory Board Member for the Global
Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) Consortium and a Member of the Economy-Wide Modeling
Panel for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board. Dr.
Paltsev is an author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and
books. He is a recipient of the 2012 Pyke Johnson Award (by the Transportation Research
Board of the National Academies, USA, for the best paper in the area of planning and
environment), the Best Policy Analysis Paper of 2012 by Environmental Science and
Technology Journal of the American Chemical Society and the Best 2004 Research Award
by Tokyo Electric Power Company, Japan. Sergey was a Lead Author of the Fifth
Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In
2007-2008 Dr. Paltsev was a member of the Expert Panel on the Economics of Climate
Change for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Before joining MIT in 2002,
Sergey Paltsev worked as a Consultant for International Management and Communication
Corporation and The World Bank, and as an Executive Director of the Program in
Economics and Management of Technology at Belarusian State University. He received a
Diploma in Radiophysics and Electronics from Belarusian State University and PhD in
Economics from University of Colorado at Boulder.

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Panel Discussion with Q&A

Moderator:
Henry Jacoby
Professor of Management (Emeritus), Sloan School of Management

Henry Jacoby is the William F. Pounds Professor of Management (Emeritus) in the M.I.T. Sloan School of Management and a founding Co-Director of the M.I.T. Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, which is focused on the integration of the natural and social sciences and policy analysis in application to the threat of global climate change. An undergraduate mechanical engineer at the University of Texas at Austin, he holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University where he also served on the faculties of the Department of Economics and the Kennedy School of Government. He has been Director of the Harvard Environmental Systems Program, Director of the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Associate Director of the MIT Energy Laboratory, and Chair of the MIT Faculty. He currently serves on a U.S. National Academies Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

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Jill Engel-Cox
Director, Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis
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Director, Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis

Jill Engel-Cox is director of JISEA. Over her 25-year career, Engel-Cox has been an engineer, researcher, program manager, and strategic planner for a diverse suite of renewable energy, clean technology, and environmental programs in the United States, Asia, and Middle East. Her first job was climbing smokestacks in Los Angeles, followed by leading industrial pollution prevention programs for small and medium sized businesses and R&D laboratories in the United States and internationally. In the past decade, she has led international strategic planning and technology assessments for renewable energy and environmental sustainability research programs, working extensively in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. She also teaches industrial processes and environmental communications courses at Johns Hopkins University Engineering for Professionals Program.

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