

YES Courses

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AVINA STIFTUNG



Faculty

An expert team of course organisers, faculty and facilitators are brought together on a course by course basis. In this manner myclimate ensures that the best possible team for the particular content focus leads each course.

Dr. Roger Baud

YES founder and former Director ETHsustainability, ETH Zürich



Dr. Roger Baud founded YES in 2000 as executive director of the "Alliance of Global Sustainability" and ETHsustainability. He operated YES for 14 years – of which during 5 years as director of the ETH Spin Off ACTIS Education. Dr. Roger Baud is currently YES faculty member.

Dr. Roger Baud has a PhD. in Social Psychology and Journalism from the University of Zürich (1973). He began his career as a high school teacher and psychology assistant at University of Zurich, where he conducted social research in the public sector. Dr. Baud has also been the director of various tourism enterprises and an environmental NGO and has acted as an environmental tourism consultant leading research projects with the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Dr. Matthew Gardner

Harvard University / Sustainerv, Inc.



Dr. Matthew Gardner is a Director and Managing Partner of Sustainerv, Inc., a Boston Massachusetts and Zurich Switzerland based firm that works with the world's leading companies to help them design and implement corporate sustainability strategies.

Matt earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Haverford College, and his doctorate in chemistry from Michigan State University. He spent 10 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including five years as the Executive Director of the Earth System Initiative, an environmental research program.

He currently teaches in the Sustainability and Environmental Management program at Harvard University.

"I get as much personally out of the YES program as I think the students take away from it. To have the opportunity to work with such a smart, committed, and engaged group of students is a privilege and truly a highlight of my career."

Michelle Grant

Our News

YES Costa Rica: High-profile lecturers confirmed



For the upcoming YES course (5th July – 18th July 2015),

we are proud to announce the involvement of Dr. René Castro and Sarah Cordero Pinchansky. The course on "low-emission strategies in practice" will take place at CATIE, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, Turrialba, Costa Rica. Dr. René [...]

YES Costa Rica 2015 – Final places left!



In order to make the transformation towards a sustainable society happen, it is crucial for future decision makers to learn about key sustainability issues in an integrated and systemic way. This is the core vision of YES. myclimate organises a course in Costa Rica, which will take place from [...]

World Food System Center, ETH Zürich



Michelle Grant is currently the Executive Director of the World Food System Center at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich.

She holds a Bachelor and Honors in Chemical and Environmental Engineering from the University of Queensland in Australia, along with Master in Management, Technology and Economics from the ETH Zurich.

After working for several years as an Engineer in Australia, Norway and Costa Rica, she first joined the ETH in 2004 as the lead Project Manager at the former ETHsustainability. In this role she was responsible for the education, research and outreach programs of the Center, including running and expanding the YES program in six different world regions. More recently she ran her own consultancy business in Australia, which included a large project to establish the International Energy Center, a joint research and education initiative of 3 leading universities and a large industry partner.

“I attended the YES course for the first time in 2002, and since 2003 have been facilitating and teaching in the program. Through the combination of world class faculty, inspiring locations and great participants, the YES programs creatively blend academic content and rigor within an immersive, experiential learning context.

The social setting of the program is equally as important, as it provides a unique platform to join a network of likeminded and motivated change agents from all around the world. I always return from the YES program invigorated, inspired by innovative ideas and with new friends from around the world.”

Klaus Elle

Integral Art (www.elle-elle.de)



Klaus Elle studied fine arts and photography in Leipzig and has a degree in photographic design. Since 1981 he has worked with exhibitions and art projects in Paris, Zürich,



Berlin, New York, Houston, Helsinki, Bratislava, Cologne, Warsaw and Hamburg.

Since 1996, Klaus also works as a visual process manager and consultant. He has developed the Universal process guide, the Colour cycle analysis and the Sustainable Business Navigator. Klaus is author of several books about creativity, business and change management, including "Metaphoric Management" (Springer-Verlag, 2011).

Klaus teaches art and creativity in the YES courses, and has also worked in collaboration with ETH Zürich, MIT Boston and the University of Tokyo in global sustainable education program. He has also been involved with an MBA program at the University of St. Gallen.

“I like the YES program, because it is a visionary laboratory for new learning and collaborative teaching methods. It offers space creating creative-sustainable solutions towards a new solar world and last but not least it is practical peace work for all the international students with their different backgrounds.

I see this program as a new format of a global think-tank. We should invest more time as postmodern humans to imagine a more balanced world – make it compulsory that each person takes two weeks off to readjust their mental systems!

As an artist I see the power of creativity as a consciousness booster. Imagination is a wonderful renewable energy, essential to reach the next step (for a sustainable plateau) in our cultural evolution.”

Dr. Stefan Gara
ETA Environmental Consulting



Dr. Stefan Gara is founder and managing director of ETA



Environmental Consulting focusing on sustainable development, smart city issues, energy strategies, mobility & transport solutions, and environmental management, based in Vienna, Austria. Since 1995 he is Austria's first accredited environmental verifier under the European EMAS regulation, lead auditor for ISO 14001, sustainability & CSR reports, and carbon footprinting. He is also engaged in cleaner production projects in Africa for UNIDO.

Stefan worked as a product manager for VAI Environmental Technology, now Siemens VAI Metals Technologies. He holds a PhD in physics with emphasis on semiconductor analysis from Vienna University of Technology. He was a visiting scholar at the MIT Center for Technology, Policy and Industrial Development.

Stefan is a passionate photographer.

“Sustainable development needs diversity and open minded people willing to engage in change for a better planet.

The YES course is about diversity ever since. Students and faculty from all over the world, different places, art and ideas create a unique experience. It is this kind of spirit that makes teaching for me inspiring. I always look forward to meet young people that start their ideas in class and pursue them in their professional life.”

Kizito Masinde

International Water Association



Kizito Masinde is a Programme Officer with the International Water Association and holds both BSc and MSc degrees in Natural Resources Management from Egerton University, Kenya. His active involvement in the YES Movement began in July 2004 after he attended the YES course in Braunwald Switzerland. He has been instrumental in organising the two YES courses in Kenya in addition to facilitating several other YES courses.

“My enthusiasm in the YES movement is driven by the belief that for the world to achieve sustainable development, it is fundamental that the youth get a chance to be educated, trained and to gain experience through

*informed guidance in facing up to
the challenges of the century.”*

Dr. Ludwig Ellenberg

Humboldt University, Berlin



Ludwig Ellenberg is a Geographer with 90 semesters experience at ten universities and some years involvement in nature conservation projects. He grew up in Germany and Switzerland and studied Geography and Geology in Zürich and Göttingen. The professional life as professor for Geoecology – mainly questions of sustainable resource management – brought him to more than 100 countries, most of them in tropical and subtropical regions of the World.

Humboldt University in Berlin was his base during the last 20 years.

He joined the YES movement from the beginning. Approaches to sustainable land use in mountain areas or arid regions, nature conservation and ecotourism are his favorites for teaching and as impact in projects of development cooperation, mostly in Latin America and Africa.

“I am enthusiastic about YES courses because curious and creative young women and men from very different academic and cultural backgrounds come together and discuss with high engagement and beautiful openness and amazing confidence topics of carrying capacities, limits to growth and own responsibility in personal and professional behaviour.”

Prabhu Gupta

William Carey University / University of St. Gallen



Born and educated in India, Prabhu is Distinguished Professor of Global Business, Management and Public Policy, William Carey University, India, and Member of the Board of the Institute of Management, University of St Gallen, Switzerland. For over 15 years, Prabhu was Executive Director of Organisation Development at Wolfsberg, a subsidiary of UBS, responsible for think tanks, briefings, and Wolfsberg's Distinguished Speaker Series.

His contribution in the YES program is based on a detailed knowledge of the global financial system, combined with moral and ethical perspectives. The outcome is often a debate around fundamental questions: What is money? How does the financial system really work? Should we allow usury? What is the impact on sustainability?

“I always enjoy YES courses because the participants are

thoroughly international and interdisciplinary, so I find myself learning about different perspectives, from different disciplines and in relation to different countries: that's a rich mixture, which YES orchestrates brilliantly and very productively."

For more faculty members, please have a look at the [ACTIS faculty brochure 2011](#).