President IESF (British Section):
Roger Venables CEng CEnv FICE MCIM FCGI

Honorary Secretary:
Andrew Graham BSc, PhD
drandrewgraham@gmail.com

18.00 Wednesday 30 April 2024 – Lecture

CLIMATE CHANGE: EXISTENTIAL THREAT, MISINFORMATION AND THE NEED FOR NEW NARRATIVES

Professor Peter Stott MBE

RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY

To book your place at the lecture, please email events@iesf.co.uk

Should you wish to join us for the dinner that follows as well, please request a dinner booking form from events@iesf.co.uk

Synopsis

The recent catastrophic fires in California have highlighted the potential vulnerability of everyone, from the poorest to the richest in society, to the effects of extreme weather. The costs of heatwaves, droughts, floods and fires in lost lives and damaged livelihoods continue to mount as global temperatures rise. Despite this, concerted efforts to halt global heating remain stalled. Professor Stott discusses the mounting evidence linking human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases to the rapid increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. He also recounts his experiences with the forces of climate change denial seeking to maintain a global economy based on burning fossil fuels for as long as possible. And he proposes a way forward to tackling the climate crisis, one that involves all of us in developing new, more positive narratives of a sustainable future.

Speaker

Peter is Science Fellow in Attribution at the Met Office and Professor of Detection and Attribution at the University of Exeter. He is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Peter studied Mathematics at Durham University (BSc 1983), Part III Maths at Cambridge University (Master of Advanced Studies, 1984) and researched the environmental consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident for his PhD at Imperial College, London (PhD, 1988). He then investigated stratospheric ozone depletion in a post-doctoral position at Edinburgh University before joining the Met Office Hadley Centre in 1996 to work on the detection and attribution of climate change.

During his career, Peter has made important contributions to advancing the knowledge about how anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants are affecting our atmosphere and oceans. He led the team that provided the most important demonstrations to date (in 2000) that human activities were to blame for global warming. He also led the first study to link an individual weather event – the 2003 European heatwave – to human-induced climate change. He was a lead author of the Fourth

Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (published in 2007) and a coordinating lead author of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (published in 2013). His current research is focused on the development of "operational attribution" systems to provide regularly updated assessments of extreme weather events and their links to climate variability and change. He has also had a long-standing interest in the communication of climate science to a wide variety of people. His book *Hot Air: The Inside Story of the Battle Against Climate Change Denial* was shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize in 2022 and he appeared on The Life Scientific on BBC Radio 4 in 2024.

He was awarded the LG Groves award for meteorology in 2014 and the Climate Science Communications Prize of the Royal Meteorological Society in 2018. As well as being shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize, *Hot Air* was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Christopher Bland Prize. Peter was awarded the MBE in the 2024 New Year Honours for services to climate science.

Timings

Tea and coffee from 17.15
Lecture at 18.00

Lester Sonden
IESF British Section Events Coordinator