



### **Invitation to Seeds of Good Anthropocenes: Urban Futures Dialogue**

We would like to invite you to attend a workshop and dialogue session on “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes”, focussing on the urban environment.

**Venue:** Fire & Ice Protea Hotel, New Church Street, Cape Town

**Date:** 12 August 2015

**RSVP:** [RSVP here](#) by Monday 20th July

**Enquiries:** [Rika@sun.ac.za](mailto:Rika@sun.ac.za)

The scale of human changes to the Earth have shepherded us into a new planetary era – the Anthropocene. In this new geological era, humanity faces profound social and ecological risks, including the possibility of crossing critical thresholds that could undermine key functions of the Earth system. At the same time, there is an imperative to improve the living conditions of millions of people who remain in poverty, particularly in developing countries.

The “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes” initiative aims creatively to solicit, explore, and develop a diverse set of plausible visions of the future that are socially and ecologically desirable, just, and sustainable. Such futures will likely be radically different from the world in which we are currently living, and go far beyond small improvements to the way we currently do things. Urban areas will be especially central to such futures, and the rapid processes of urbanization currently underway likely constitute a major opportunity for leveraging change towards more desirable futures.

The “Urban Futures Dialogue” aims to scope out possible pathways to radical transitions by identifying potential seeds - experimental initiatives and innovations that already exist but are not mainstream - that could contribute to creating a variety of positive futures. The dialogue forms part of a larger global initiative under the auspices of *Future Earth*; for more information, see the project [blog](#). The Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS) is leading a component of this project that focuses specifically on contributing a southern African perspective on the Good Anthropocene. The “Urban Futures Dialogue” is part

of this initiative and builds on a previous [workshop](#) that started to collect a range of seeds based on perspectives from a variety of regional actors.

The “Urban Futures Dialogue” will be professionally facilitated and centred on dialogue breakout groups. A combination of futures tools and techniques, design principles, and appreciative inquiry will be used to stimulate and creatively engage participants. To facilitate in-depth discussions, the workshop will be limited to around 30 participants from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. At the same time as discussing novel conceptions of the future, the initiative hopes to foster a network of change agents in the region, by bringing together and connecting a diverse group of people with a particular interest in envisioning and shaping positive regional futures. We have confirmed two keynote speakers who will provide thought-provoking perspectives to stimulate dialogue during the breakout discussions. They are Prof Mark Swilling from the Sustainability Institute at the University of Stellenbosch and Mr Rashiq Fataar from the Future Cape Town initiative.

In order to register for the event, we ask that you submit something that you think is an urban ‘seed’ of the Good Anthropocene. ‘Seeds’ are initiatives that exist, at least in prototype form, but are not currently dominant in our world. They can be projects, networks, organisations, ways of thinking or doing, or any initiative that you think could contribute to creating positive urban futures. Please follow this [link](#) to submit your seed- it shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes and then please RSVP for the event online via the following [response form](#). Registration will close on Monday 20th July.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch for more information and please see below for more information on the project.

Yours sincerely,

Oonsie, Laura, Tanja and Rika