



**APRIL 16-17, 2026**

# **CLIMATE HAVENS SYMPOSIUM**

**HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVES ON  
RESILIENCE, MIGRATION &  
RESOURCES**

**PRESENTED BY**



**URochester**  
School of Arts & Sciences

Humanities Center

**RIT** | Rochester Institute of Technology

Additional support from the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, the Institute for Human Health and the Environment of the University of Rochester, and the Central New York Humanities Corridor from an award by the Mellon Foundation

# APRIL 16, 2026 - UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

## RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, HUMANITIES CENTER

### 8:15 – 9:00. Breakfast

### 9:00 – 9:30. Welcome Remarks

- Malik Evans, Mayor/City of Rochester

### 9:30 – 10:15. Keynote address 1: “The 'Climate Haven' Myth: Why History, Place, and Race Matter”

- Dr. Earl Lewis/Director and Founder, the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions; Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies and Public Policy; President Emeritus of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2013-18).

### 10:15 – 11:00. Q&A and discussion (guided by Brad Bottoms/University of Michigan, Center for Social Solutions)

### 11:00 – 11:15. Break

### 11:15 – 12:45. Session 1: Haven for Whom? Great Lakes (Part 1)

- Alexandra Scrivner/Maxwell Schol of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. “Remembering America: Climate Havens as the Re-Frontier in an Era of Climate Crisis.”
- Daniel Macfarlane/School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability at Western Michigan University. “Human Adaptations to Climate Change around Lake Ontario: Past, Present, and Future”
- Lynn Heasley/School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability at Western Michigan University. “Ecological Climate Havens: For Whom? Revised Ecocultural Storytelling in the St. Clair Flats”
- Philippe Mesly/Director of the Great Lakes Institute for Public Humanities. “Place of Crossing: The Great Lakes in Relation and Metamorphosis

### 12:45 – 2:00. Lunch

### 2:00 – 3:15. Session 2: Haven for What? Great Lakes (Part 2)

- Kacey Stewart/Program Director; Health, Wellness, & Climate at D'Youville University. “Ironies of the Ideal: Boosterism and Toxicity in the Buffalo-Niagara Region.”
- Jane Robbins Mize/The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “When is a Haven?: Progress, Time, and Narratives of the James Bay Project.”
- Camden Burd/Clemson University. “Framing Catastrophe as Opportunity: The Chamber of Commerce and the Climate Haven in the Great Lakes Region.”

**3:15 – 3:30. Break**

**3:30 – 4:30. Session 3: Rochester Community Organizations and the City Council**

- Abby McHugh-Grifa/Executive Director and Founding Member of the Climate Accelerators and New York State’s first Mothers Out Front chapter. “Regenerative Economics for a Resilient Future.”
- Mitch Gruber/City of Rochester Councilmember. “Zoning for a Climate Haven.”

**4:30 – 4:45. Break.**

**4:45 – 6:00. Keynote address 2: “Climate Havens Under Racial Capitalism: the Fight for Social Justice.”**

- Dr. Henry Taylor/Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, founding director of the UB Center for Urban Studies, and associate director of the UB Community Equity Research Institute.

**6:00 – 7:30. Dinner (Lounge, Humanities Center)**

## **APRIL 17, 2026 - ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**8:30 – 9:00. Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:15. Keynote address (CSD Student Development Center 1300/1310).**

**"Climate Migration and Cultural Continuity: The Politics of Space and Belonging in the Global South."**

- Dr. Ala Uddin/Professor, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

**10:15 – 12:00. Session 4 (Zoom): Haven, Refuge, and Sanctuary. Global Perspectives (Part 1).**

- Bharti Chhibber/University of Delhi, India. “Seeds, Trees, and Tides: Feminist Ecologies and Climate Haven-Making in India.”
- Majhi Goutam/Sadhan Chandra Mahavidyalaya in affiliation with the University of Calcutta. “Vegetal Haven: Reimagining Refuge through the Plant World in Contemporary India.”
- Adeyemi Oresanya/Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria. “Before the Fight, the Water Disappeared: Children’s Theatre, Displacement, and the Poetics of Climate Haven in West Africa.”
- Singh Shashwat Vikram/BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus. “Selective Sanctuaries: Climate-Induced Pollution and the Uneven Geography of Refuge in Goa.”

**12:00 – 1:00. Lunch**

**1:00 – 2:15. Session 5: Haven, Refuge, and Sanctuary. Global Perspectives (Part 2). (CSD Student Development Center 1300/1310)**

- Vanessa Agnew/Associate Director, Academy in Exile; TU Dortmund University. “Green Haven: Creating a Garden of Refuge”
- Sayantika Chakraborty/University of Florida. “Climate Migration and Indigenous Women: towards the Creation of a Feminist Climate Haven in India’s Uttarakhand.”
- Paul Kramer/Vanderbilt University. “Towards a moral and political history of the climate migrant”

**2:15 – 3:15. Session 6: Just and Inclusive Havens: Indigenous Knowledges and Practices. (CSD Student Development Center 1300/1310)**

- Abigail Perez and Leonardo Figueroa Helland/The New School, NYC. “Decolonial Ecofeminist Indigenous Approaches as Climate Havens in Indigenous Territories: A Global South Approach.”
- Madeline Nyblade/, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment and State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF); Catherine Landis/ Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, and SUNY ESF; Chie Togami/ SUNY ESF; Jeanne Shenandoah/Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. “Climate Havens for Whom? Industry Appropriation, Settler Colonial Histories, and the Uneven Geography of Refuge Onondaga Nation.”

**3:15 – 3:30. Break**

**3:30 – 5:00. Session 7: Artists’ interventions. (CSD Student Development Center 1300/1310)**

- Stephanie Ashenfelder, Rose Pasquarello Beauchamp, Andrea Gluckman/University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology. “Watershed Stories. “Art and Advocacy for Climate Justice.”
- Kate Lochridge/Independent artist. “The HABs and the HAB Not’s: Art, Ecology, and the Future of Climate Havens in the Great Lakes.” Forum/ guided discussion including artistic engagement
- Eero Laine/ University at Buffalo, State University of New York. “Boundary Waters to Buffalo: Wilderness and Climate Haven Dramaturgies.”

**5:00 – 6:00. Session 8: Teaching workshop. (CSD Student Development Center 1300/1310)**

- James Spiller/SUNY Brockport. “Climate Havens: Humanistic Perspectives on Resilience, Migration, and Resources” (workshop).

**6:00 – 8:00. Dinner (Loving Cup bistro, 300 Park Point Dr, Rochester, NY 14623, [lovincup.com](http://lovincup.com)) and discussion about the edited volume.**