



The Sustainable Environment Institute of the
District Academic Senate at the LACCD presents:

Climate Politics with Aris Hovasapian and Dr. Denise Robb:

It is often said that we have the means and the technology to address the climate crisis right now. We have the science to understand the rate and intensity of change as well as the scale of impacts that result. But we “lack the political will” to act. This observation has been brought into the public view even as significant changes in US policy have been made very recently. Climate denial seems to hang on in the fossil fuel industry despite some public acknowledgement by Exxon or BP that there is a crisis and that their products play a major role.

Thanks to the activism of young people like Greta Thunberg and veteran activists like Bill McKibben and Naomi Klein, we are able to see where international efforts fail, such as the IPCC. National efforts are stymied in the US at the federal and state levels even as the Biden administration presses for significant changes in energy policy and technological advances. Some are detailed and demand action fast, but powerful interests push back. California’s electric car directive for example, a modest attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in transportation, is already seeing pushback.

Indeed, if our challenge is political...

- Where do we go from here?
- How can climate policy be best analyzed at a level and approach that allows an informed citizenry to act politically?
- What changes in approach are needed to engage younger people whose future is at stake?
- Which inevitable conflicts can be addressed in the public sphere? (finance sector, fossil fuel companies, pension funds, etc.)
- How can the science of climate change be expanded beyond the STEM silos of higher education?
- How can climate politics be both global and local?
- Is there a role for humanities, even religion, to help reshape our sense of place in the world and responsibilities to Nature?

Dr. Denise Robb is a very popular professor at Pierce, organizing town hall meetings for the whole campus to participate in climate discussions. She is active on and off campus and engages her students to participate in the political sphere. She is a graduate of UC Irvine, receiving her PhD in 2011. On the side, she is also a former stand-up comic! That makes her lectures very suited for the serious topics she covers with the healthy spoonful of humor essential to our mental health.

On September 22, Dr. Robb will be a guest in a workshop on Climate Politics hosted by the Sustainable Environment Institute of the LACCD. This is the second in the summer/fall series of workshops and lectures hosted by the SEI.

We also have the participation of Aris Hovasapian. Aris is Sr. Director/Vice President - Energy & Education at Anser Advisory, an environmental and educational consulting firm. Before this new post Aris worked on the implementation of energy conservation goals in the many buildings across the nine campuses of the LACCD. In 2018, he succeeded in getting the Board of Trustees to speed up decarbonization by ten years to the new goal of 2030.