

Special Lecture:

"Bridging the Gap - Connecting Arctic Science and Global Action".

By Christopher Rapley, Professor, University College London

The Abstract: "The consequences of polar amplification in the Arctic were long predicted and are increasingly evident. Their impact is global. In spite of this, the insights of polar and climate science have been translated only into muted societal actions at local, national and global scales. To bring human carbon emissions onto a trajectory that will stabilize the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gasses at a level that avoids 'dangerous' climate change will require what has been called the "greatest collective action in history". Even if the negotiations at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December are successful, the consequent technical, economic and political tasks are daunting. They will require the active engagement and support of the citizens of the world, and this in turn will require the climate science community to expand its skills and practices to address more effectively its intersection with policy-makers and the public at large."

PROFESSOR CHRIS RAPLEY CBE, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc.

Professor Chris Rapley CBE is Professor of Climate Science at University College London. He is a Fellow of St Edmund's College Cambridge, a Distinguished Visiting Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, a member of the Academia Europaea, a Board member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, Chairman of the European Space Agency Director General's High Level Science Policy Advisory Committee, and Chairman of the London Climate Change Partnership, committed to ensuring London's resilience to climate change.

His previous posts include Director of the Science Museum London, Director of the British Antarctic Survey, and Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Before that Prof Rapley established and built up the Earth Observation satellite group at UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory. His research was in the fields of observational space astronomy and Earth remote sensing from space.

Throughout his career Professor Rapley has been active in the international leadership of science, for example as a member of the Board of the European Science Foundation, President of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, and as Chair of the international planning group for the International Polar Year 2007-2008.

His current interests are in the communication of climate science, which resulted in the publication in mid-2014 of a UCL Policy Commission Report: "Time for Change? Climate science reconsidered".

Prof Rapley and the English playwright Duncan Macmillan were commissioned by the Royal Court Theatre, London, to write a play '2071' about climate change, Directed by Katie Mitchell, which Prof Rapley performed at the Royal Court and Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hamburg, in in late 2014 and early 2015.

Prof Rapley was awarded the 2008 Edinburgh Science Medal for having made 'a significant contribution to the understanding and wellbeing of humanity'. He was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2003.

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