

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: Harvey Mudd Nelson Speaker Series: Ayana E. Johnson Nov. 2

From: Nicol Melville



The 2022–2023 Nelson series, “Climate Storytellers,” will explore the power of storytelling to promote conversations about climate change and to inspire climate action. We know that the impacts of climate change are already bringing great harm to the most vulnerable in our societies. We are all beginning to experience the effects of a warming planet in heat waves, fires, droughts and extreme weather events. We know that the scientific consensus is clear: emissions from industrial activity are to blame. And yet political action to reduce emissions and to prepare for our future feels frustratingly slow. Publishing increasingly comprehensive scientific reports isn’t working. Neither is language and imagery designed to induce fear and panic.

The speakers in this series are doing something different. Drawing on a range of experiences and expertise in the sciences and the humanities, each of our speakers will share how they use storytelling as a powerful tool of climate communication. We will learn how different kinds of stories can reach different audiences, with the goal of inspiring climate justice and climate action.



Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

Co-founder, Urban Ocean Lab; co-editor of the bestselling climate anthology *All we Can Save*; co-creator, *How to Save a Planet* podcast

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Shanahan Center Auditorium
320 E. Foothill Blvd.

Claremont, CA 91711

Johnson will make a live, virtual appearance (on-screen in the auditorium).

Reception—5:15 p.m.

Talk—5:45 p.m.

"What If We Get It Right?"

Join us for a moderated discussion with Ayana Johnson as she shares her experiences as both a climate storyteller and a gatherer of climate stories. We will explore her professional arc from academic science to policy, advocacy and climate communication, and hear her thoughts on how racism derails our efforts at climate action. She will help us imagine what our climate future could look like if we get things right. There will be time at the end for questions from the audience.

RSVP at alumni.hmc.edu/nelson22-ayana to let us know you're coming to the lecture.

A bio on the speaker is available [online](#). Admission to this public lecture series is complimentary. The lecture will be held in the auditorium of the R. Michael Shanahan Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvey Mudd College, located at 320 E. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont. Direct inquiries to hixoncenter-l@g.hmc.edu, or call at 909.607.1421.

Upcoming 2022 Nelson Series Speakers



Monday, Feb. 6 Katharine Hayhoe

Climate scientist, climate activist and teacher; author of the new book *Saving Us*



Monday, March 20 Amitav Ghosh

Award winning writer of historical fiction; author of *Nutmeg's Curse*



Monday, April 17

Naomi Oreskes

World-renowned historian and co-author of *Merchants of Doubt*

The Nelson Speaker Series is co-hosted this year by the [Hixon Center for Climate and the Environment](#) and the [Hixon-Riggs Forum for Responsive Science and Engineering](#).



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