

Climate Change in Southern Europe:

Building Transversal Skills for Understanding and Action

2, 3 and 4 February, 2026

**La Corrala - Carlos de Arniches, 3, Madrid
(Metro La Latina)**

TO REGISTER [CLICK HERE](#) until Friday 16th January

Addressed to:

**MA students in all disciplines
Experts / practitioners in climate change**

Preference will be given to UAM/CIVIS MA students



Universidad Autónoma
de Madrid



Climate Change in Southern Europe:

SHORT PROGRAMME

Monday 2nd February

9:30 Welcome

MIGUEL MANSO. Vice-rector for Campus and Sustainability, UAM

9:45 - 11:15 **From Science to Policy for Climate Neutrality:
Challenges, Constraints and Responses**

CONSTANTINOS CARTALIS. Member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, lecturer and Director of the Laboratory of Environmental Physics-Meteorology, University of Athens.

11:15 -11.45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13.30 **Managing climate disinformation: the role of science-based communication in a post-truth society**

FERRY PRINS. Lecturer, Department of Physics of Condensed Matter, UAM.

ANA ROMERO. Counter-disinformation researcher and independent consultant. EUDisinfoLab.

Tuesday 3rd February

9:30 - 11:15 **Heatwaves, energy poverty and urban inequality in Southern Europe**

SERGIO TIRADO. Researcher Ramón y Cajal, Department of Geography, UAM.

CARMEN SÁNCHEZ-GUEVARA. Lecturer and Coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project COOLTORISE, UPM.

11:15 -11.45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13.30 **From risk to resilience: Skills to transform Mediterranean Cities in the era of Climate Change**

BÁRBARA POLO. Lecturer, Department of Geography, UAM

ANA MERENCIANO. Health and Environment Technician, RED CROSS SPAIN

Wednesday 4th February

9:30 - 11:15 **Two challenges: Biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change and the integration of sustainability and its employability in global companies**

AGUSTÍN CAMACHO. Lecturer, Department of Biology, UAM

AZAHARA OJEDA. Global HSE Capability Specialist, HITACHI

11:15 -11.45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13.30 **From Adaptation to Transformation: Political and Social Dimensions of Resilient Food Systems**

CAROLINA YACAMÁN. Lecturer, Department of Geography, UAM

JOSÉ LUIS VICENTE. Researcher and co-author of the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C in 2019, CSIC

Climate Change in Southern Europe:

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Monday 2th February

9:30 **Welcome**

MIGUEL MANSO. Vice-rector for Campus and Sustainability, UAM

9:45-11:15 **From Science to Policy for Climate Neutrality:
Challenges, Constraints and Responses**

The session will explain climate change as a scientific fact and global challenge. It will emphasize on the policies and measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will discuss on the priorities of the EU and UNFCCC towards climate neutrality as well as on the urgency and complexity of political responses in light of geopolitical tensions. Examples of successful climate policies across countries will be presented, whereas the interplay between climate change and the road map towards the phase out of fossil fuels and the exploitation of clean energy will be examined. Special consideration will be given to the unequal impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and countries as well as to policies to address climate justice and equity. Open issues such as international carbon credits, the carbon border adjustment mechanism, carbon dioxide removal, will be examined in conjunction with international relations and international trade. Finally, political barriers to climate policy effectiveness will be discussed in an effort to recognize how should governments balance climate action with scientific priorities and economic/political constraints.

CONSTANTINOS CARTALIS is Professor of Environmental and Climate Physics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He is Lead Author for IPCC Assessment Report 7 WG II on Adaptation, acting member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change and of the National Committee of Greece on Adaptation to Climate Change. He has served as a member of the Experts Group on Indicators of the Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA) of the UNFCCC. Additionally, he is Principal Investigator for the European Space Agency, focusing on climate change impacts on urban areas. Previously, he has acted as a UNDP Technical Expert on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation, served on the Bureau of the United Nations Subsidiary Body for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as in the scientific committee of the European Environment Agency. He has served as a member of the Hellenic Parliament, where he chaired the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment and Sustainable Development. He has published over 270 papers in international scientific journals and conferences, with 116 of them being in peer-reviewed journals.

11:45 - 13.30 **Managing climate disinformation: the role of science-based communication in a post-truth society**

This session examines the growing challenge of climate disinformation and its impact on public understanding and policy action. It will explore how policy frameworks (particularly recent EU regulations) shape responsibilities, transparency requirements, and enforcement mechanisms for countering misleading climate narratives. The discussion will also highlight scientific tools and data portals that enable rigorous fact-checking, helping researchers, journalists, and citizens verify claims and strengthen evidence-based communication.

FERRY PRINS is a Permanent Professor in Physics at the UAM where he directs, since 2017, a research laboratory on nanomaterials for energy conversion. He holds a PhD from Delft University of Technology

and performed postdoctoral stays at MIT and ETH Zurich. To date, he has been PI on over 10 projects from both National and European funding sources. Since 2023, he has coordinated UAM's university-wide course on Climate Change and he currently leads a national project from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) on bringing science-based climate communication to primary schools.

ANA ROMERO VICENTE, based in Spain, is currently a researcher in #disinformation #climatechange #monetisationofdisinformation #medialiteracy at EU DisinfoLab. Ana Romero Vicente brings experience from previous roles at Freelance Ana RV, GOPA PACE, elEconomista and Agencia EFE. She has a robust skill set that includes Social Media, Economics, Communications, Press Releases, Media Relations and more.

Tuesday 3rd February

9:30 - 11:15 **Heatwaves, energy poverty and urban inequality in Southern Europe**

Southern Europe is at the frontline of the climate crisis, with increasingly frequent and intense summer heatwaves disproportionately affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged urban populations. This session will examine the intersection of summer thermal discomfort, energy poverty, and broader social inequalities in the cities of the EUROSUD region, and explore summer heat-related risks at both the building and urban scales. It will critically reflect on domestic air conditioning as the default individual response and present urban-scale, low-energy solutions, drawing on real-life experiences and interventions with a particular focus on the city of Madrid.

SERGIO TIRADO-HERRERO is a 'Ramón y Cajal' Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Geography Department of Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). He conducts social-environmental research on the human, spatial and material dimensions of household

energy and low-carbon transitions, with an emphasis on energy poverty and justice. He has served as Principal Investigator of the Horizon 2020 project EmpowerMed.

CARMEN SÁNCHEZ-GUEVARA is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture of the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) and Director of UPM's Master's Programme in Environment and Bioclimatic Architecture. Her research focuses on energy poverty through the lens of the right to adequate housing and thermal comfort, with particular emphasis on summer energy poverty. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the project OLADAPT and previously served as Coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project COOLTORISE, focused on summer energy poverty

11:45-13:30 **From risk to resilience: Skills to transform Mediterranean Cities in the era of Climate Change**

This session explores how to address climate change in Southern European cities by developing cross-cutting skills and using infrastructure as an integrative approach. Starting with a complex and contextualized understanding of the territory, it addresses competencies such as systems thinking, climate literacy, intersectoral collaboration, negotiation, and climate justice. Through participatory activities—such as creating a “living risk map” and analyzing “decision-in-tension” scenarios—the session transforms the city into a learning laboratory where participants identify vulnerabilities, understand the interrelationship between social and environmental factors, and experiment with collaborative solutions. The aim is to demonstrate how infrastructure can act not only as a climate adaptation tool but also as a platform for activating fairer, more resilient, and socially inclusive urban transformation processes.

BÁRBARA POLO is an Assistant Professor of Geography at the Autonomous University of Madrid. A specialist in geography, history, and cartography, she earned her PhD in Geography, Territorial Planning, and Environmental Management from the University of Barcelona in

2020. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a project on urban climate resilience entitled "Modeling geohistory to predict the future of urban resilience: a methodological proposal to address temporal changes."

ANA MARÍA MERENCIANO holds a degree in Geography and Environment from the University of Valencia and an Inter-University Master's degree in Ecosystem Restoration from the University of Alcalá. She has experience in education and environmental management. She currently serves on the board of the Madrid Association of Geographers and manages health and environment projects for the Red Cross, focusing on urban climate resilience, energy poverty, and community health.

Wednesday 4th February

9:30 - 11:15 Two challenges: Biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change and the integration of sustainability and its employability in global companies

This session will be divided into two presentations, showcasing two very different facets of sustainability that must be connected within the context of climate change. The first will address biodiversity conservation from the perspective of the relationship between regulations, administrative institutions, NGOs, societies, and research. A platform designed to help guide actions to halt biodiversity loss in the face of climate change will be presented. The second will introduce HITACHI ENERGY, a global company committed to sustainability, demonstrating how sustainability can be integrated into business operations and the professional profiles that such integration brings together.

AGUSTÍN CAMACHO is a Professor of Animal Physiology at the Autonomous University of Madrid. He has devoted 17 years of his life to studying biodiversity in Brazil, where he obtained a Master's degree in Ecology and Biomonitoring and a PhD in Zoology.

He returned to Spain during the pandemic with a Marie Curie research contract awarded by the European Research Council. He has published various scientific and outreach articles on how and where climate change will lead to the extinction of endangered species populations. He coordinates the platform www.VULNERAWEB.com and has served as coordinator and advisor in climate change adaptation projects related to biodiversity protection.

AZAHARA OJEDA is a Global Specialist in Competence Management in HSE at Hitachi Energy, a world-leading company in technologies and solutions for energy transmission and distribution, driving the transition towards a more sustainable, secure, and flexible energy system. With a global presence, Hitachi Energy connects renewable energies, industries, and communities, offering high performance digital solutions for a carbon neutral energy future. In her role, Azahara leads HSE (Health, Safety & Environment) competence management initiatives, promoting the transformation towards an advanced HSE culture and the attraction and development of specialised talent.

11:45 -13:30 **Beyond Climate Adaptation: Political and Social Dimensions of Transformative Territorial Food Systems**

This session will analyze the bidirectional relationship between food systems and climate change. The agri-food system is currently one of the main causes of planetary boundary transgressions and plays a key role in global warming. At the same time, climate change generates increasing risks to food security, especially in regions like Southern Europe, where rising temperatures, dwindling water resources, and altered weather patterns are already transforming agricultural production. Special attention will be paid to the challenges of coordinating multi-level responses, reducing inequalities in access to food, and promoting inclusive governance that prevents the marginalization of at-risk groups. The session will also introduce the debate on what constitutes scientific evidence when discussing the food system and how other types of knowledge beyond the purely scientific and academic can be incorporated.

In the second part of the session, a Living Lab in the city of Fuenlabrada will be presented. This is an innovation space where diverse stakeholders collaborate in the co-creation of knowledge.

CAROLINA YACAMÁN

Holds a degree in Environmental Sciences and a PhD in Geography from the Autonomous University of Madrid. She is lecturer and researcher in the Department of Geography at the Autonomous University of Madrid. She is the deputy director and academic coordinator of the Master's Program in Ecological Humanities, Sustainability, and Ecosocial Transition. Her interdisciplinary scientific work focuses on the study of territorialized agri-food systems, encompassing areas such as agroecology, short supply chains, food sovereignty, alternative food networks, and land governance. A central focus of her research is the spatial analysis and design of policies for the conservation, management, and planning of peri-urban agricultural areas, which are especially relevant in the context of the climate crisis. From this perspective, she works on the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to contribute to building more resilient and sustainable food systems.

JOSE LUIS VICENTE

Holds a degree in Environmental Sciences and a PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences. He is a Senior Scientist at the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography in the Center for Human and Social Sciences of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). He has reviewed several IPCC reports and for the past three years has coordinated the International School on Methodologies for Synthesizing Scientific Evidence. His research focuses on the territorialization of food systems, combining an agroecological approach with a transdisciplinary perspective, and developing co-innovation platforms (e.g., living labs) to scale transformative food initiatives across different regions. One of his current research focuses is combining traditional local agroecological knowledge with the creation of new knowledge to generate solutions in the agri-food sector, taking into account the territorial context and the specificities of each area in climate change mitigation and adaptation.