

Cornell Atkinson Topical Lunch:

Title: *Trends, challenges and research opportunities in climate finance*

Speaker: Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi

Hosts/Organizers: Natalie Mahowald and Sharon Tennyson

Date: Monday, September 30th, 2019; 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: 300 Rice Hall

Abstract: Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi, Director of Climate Change and Emerging Environmental Topics at The Geneva Association, a platform of 90 Group CEOs of the global insurance sector, and Senior Advisor to the Canadian Government on sustainable finance, climate resilience and climate risk analytics, will join us at this topical lunch.

With over 20 years in international executive and senior advisory positions, Maryam has been working with governments, industry, international agencies and the scientific community to develop proactive strategies, policies, public-private partnerships and innovative solutions for building social and economic resilience to extreme events and climate risks and developing sound pathways for transitioning to a low carbon economy. From 2004 to 2014 Maryam was the Chief of the international program on Disaster Risk Reduction at the World Meteorological Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. She was actively involved in drafting of the UN international framework agreements in disaster risk reduction and climate change with hands-on experience in translating these into national priorities, policies and programs.

The urgent need for public and private sector responses to climate risks is reshaping international finance and development. The public and private sectors are increasingly considering sustainability, climate change, and disaster risk management in a more integrated fashion in their decision-making. Global actions on climate change have been refocused on economic development, financial stability, investing, job creation and trade. An overarching concern is the need to finance climate resilience and decarbonisation of the economy. While climate and sectoral policies and regulatory regimes remain major barriers, sustainable finance initiatives aiming to pave the way for enabling access to “long-term” private capital are growing.

As part of this topical lunch, Maryam will discuss these trends, and the implications for private and public sector engagement in climate change and resilience. She will see to engage faculty in a discussion of research and knowledge gaps, with the aim of identifying potential opportunities for impactful interdisciplinary research with non-academic partners.