

ADVANCES >>>

## The Newsletter of the Western Academy

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### A new approach to smart cities

As Canada's population grows, more cities are turning to digital technologies for solutions to complex problems.

The Smart Cities and Communities theme is hosting an all-day event that brings together diverse perspectives on the future of urban planning and design. Be prepared to explore cutting edge applications, leading developments, and emerging challenges in the growing field of smart cities and communities.

**When: Wednesday, July 17th**

**Where: International and Graduate Affairs Building atrium, Western University**

Register via [Eventbrite](#) or contact Lindsey Bannister at [lbannis@uwo.ca](mailto:lbannis@uwo.ca).

### In conversation with Naomi Klinghoffer

Western Fellow Naomi Klinghoffer (Western Engineering) advocates for a "zero-waste" approach to sustainability.

*From the interview:*

#### What interests you about biochar in particular?

I am interested in the concept of leaving no waste. I look at it in this way: how can we create a circular economy? That's the goal. In any chemical process, you have to look at all the byproducts and try to understand how to make use of everything. Developing sustainable processes and reducing our environmental impacts means developing technologies that use everything and avoid waste disposal.

Read the full interview:

[https://uwo.ca/academy/news/Interviews/2024/naomi\\_klinghoffer.html](https://uwo.ca/academy/news/Interviews/2024/naomi_klinghoffer.html)

# "It feels like we have so many ways of developing new solutions, and now is the time to do it."

Dr. Naomi Klinghoffer  
Western Fellow



## "New frontiers" in disaster resilience

A new project aims to empower coastal communities in the face of climate change.

The [CIRCLE Project](#) helps communities prepare for flooding, storm surges, tsunamis, and other disasters. CIRCLE is led by Western Fellow Katsu Goda (Earth Sciences) and Reza Najafi (Western Engineering). The project was awarded a multi-year grant [New Frontiers in Research Fund](#) (NFRF) in recognition of its potential to transform how community leaders tackle climate change.

As Western Fellow with the [Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings](#) (CRIB) research theme, Goda developed innovative approaches to disaster risk management, particularly in coastal regions like the District of Tofino, BC.

[Read about it in the Western News.](#)

## Summer residencies at the Western Academy

The Western Academy is excited to announce its summer residencies!

Beginning in July, we will host carbon capture and renewable energy specialists Paola Giudicianni (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) and Mojtaba Jarrahi (Université Paris-Saclay), and smart cities and communities expert Katharine Willis (University of Plymouth).

In June, the Academy welcomed wireless and mobile networks expert Jalel Ben Othman (Université Paris Sorbonne Nord). For more information about Western Academy Visiting Fellows, please contact **Lindsey Bannister** ([lbannis@uwo.ca](mailto:lbannis@uwo.ca)).

## Awards & Distinctions

Theme Leader **Ayan Sadhu** was awarded the Whitman Wright Award in recognition of his highly innovative contributions to civil engineering. Congratulations, Ayan!

## Current & Upcoming visitors

>>> July—August 2024

**Katharine Willis,**

*University of Plymouth (Plymouth, UK)*

Interdisciplinary Research to Address Technical and Social Barriers in Smart Cities and Community

>>> July—August 2024

**Paola Giudicianni,** *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Naples, Italy)*

Nature-Inspired Solutions for Carbon Transformation

>>> July—August 2024

**Mojtaba Jarrahi,** *Université Paris-Saclay (Saclay, France),*

Nature-inspired solutions for Carbon Transformation



**The Western Academy for Advanced Research**

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