



Workshop: Connecting Innovations in Greenhouse Gas Removals with the Arts and Humanities

11 October 2023, Rich Mix London

Background Document

Shaping a vision

A broad set of questions will guide activities and discussion at the workshop, such as:

- What role do the arts and humanities play in shaping and amplifying our responses to the complexities of the climate crisis and its solutions, particularly GGR?
- Where and how do we situate GGR in our broader cultural imagination and ensuing public discourse about the environment?
- How can a sensitivity towards the nuances of varied socio-cultural contexts, reflections on historical processes of anthropogenic destruction and repair, and the work of artist-activists inform debates about the ethical promise and concerns around GGR?
- Can, and to what extent does, the development and deployment of GGR present pathways for societies across the globe to re-imagine and co-create equitable opportunities for climatic recovery and repair?
- How and to what extent can societies and economic systems that are most responsible for previous climate harms draw on the promise of GGR to work with those who confront its most severe consequences and costs?
- What are the social, humanistic, and policy implications of various GGR approaches for the UK and different communities and cultures across the globe? Where do the burdens of various solutions lie?

Attendant to these questions, we invite artists, arts and humanities researchers, and social theorists to reflect on the role that a vibrant exchange of knowledge and ideas across the sciences, arts, and humanities can play in forging socio-culturally aware, responsible, and cohesive responses to the delivery of GGR.

Given the urgency of a rapidly warming planet and the enormous ecological, political, socio-cultural, and economic challenges of deploying of GGR, this workshop will enable participants to collectively imagine ways of integrating broader humanistic critique and cultural production within this key intervention at the frontier of climate science.

The Flexible Fund will announce a programme agenda and related funding opportunities in late autumn based on ideas exchanged during the workshop.

Why participate?

Besides placing participants well to bid for our upcoming grants in this burgeoning field of research, artistic practice, and cultural production, participants can also:

- enhance their chance to successfully secure funding and engagement opportunities under the upcoming programme;
- develop their networks across sectors and disciplinary interests;
- expand the remit of discourse about GGR to wider communities of specialists and non-specialists, specifically drawing the focus on people's experiences and public interest;
- help fill gaps in the UK's outlook on the role of arts and humanities thinking in its net-zero strategy, scale-up of GGR, and broader response to the climate crisis;
- form a nascent community of experts working at the crossroads of arts, humanities, and climate science to forward essential GGR; and
- exchange knowledge and insights with experts across different fields in an affirmatively open, friendly, and non-competitive environment.

A non-comprehensive list of objectives for the CO2RE's Arts and Humanities Programme

As currently imagined by members of the Hub, the Programme's potential vision might aim to fill gaps in existing research about the humanistic implications of GGR and its solutions. While they are subject to extensive critique, reflection, and alteration based on responses from workshop participants, some possible objectives include:

- Recognise cultural spaces, museums, and centres for creative exchange as prospective leaders in a new public pedagogy and public communications about climate change and its solutions.
- Define opportunities to research and reflect on the historical trajectories, shifting power relations, gender dynamics, and broader socio-cultural considerations that will inform the appeal of GGR in different contexts across the globe.
- Scrutinise existing and perennially unequal power dynamics to reflect on, shape, and move towards justice and ethics thinking in the scale-up of GGR.
- Shift away from understanding public responses through the narrower (albeit instrumental) prism of 'perceptions' to instead ask how GGR approaches intimately interact with the ecological intimacies and futurity of people's everyday lives, aspirations, and anxieties.
- Capitalise on the transformative power of storytelling, imagination, and expression to mobilise action and support for removals as a necessary supplement to reductions.
- Scope out interventions in contemporary and new media art, museum and curatorial design, socio-cultural theory, indigenous studies, migration and refugee studies, the digital humanities, and climate and queer studies to shape novel engagement opportunities with the GGR-D Programme.