



Traveling!





Maria Piñeros-Leaño

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

Key Takeaway: "Climate change predominantly impacts women and children, who are being forced to migrate. The detrimental consequences of climate migration will have long-lasting consequences. Therefore, it is important to officially add migration to COP agendas in order to mitigate its impact on vulnerable populations".





Julia DeVoy

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students and Programs, Lynch School of Education and Human Development

Key Takeaway: “As a psychologist committed to environmental and health context as developmental facets of justice, my main takeaway from COP28 was that **textile industry-elicited environmental and health context damages are fundamentally missing from strategic sustainable development and climate resilience dialogues and approaches.** -Julia DeVoy, PhD, MTS, MBA”





Gabby D'Angelo

Class of 2025

Majors: Environmental Geoscience
and Economics

Key Takeaway: “COP28 changed my perspective about global climate discussion and my own passion for sustainability. I engaged in discussions about the **Just Transition**, and the connection to **innovative agriculture** and **labor economics**. I am so grateful for this experience to speak to sustainability experts!





Anna Davis

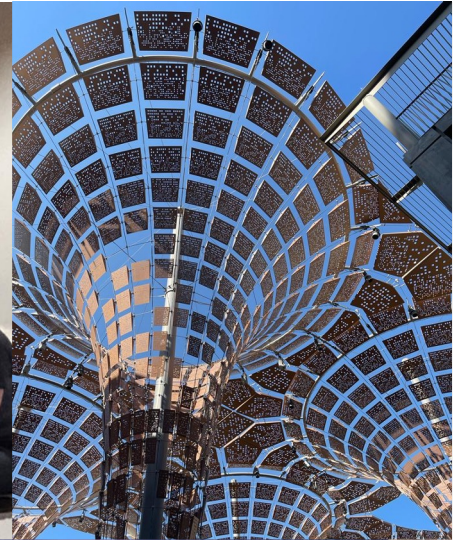
Class of 2024

Major: History

Minors: Managing for Social Impact
and the Public Good and German

Key Takeaway: “At COP28, I truly grasped how multifaceted the issue of climate change is and how every perspective matters. The countless issues posed by climate change require a wide range of solutions, necessitating collective action that not only involves world leaders and country representatives, but also community leaders and youth activists. It was inspiring to see people from around the world and of all different backgrounds and ages use their voice to make a difference!”







Emily Forand

Class of 2024

Majors: Global Public Health and
the Common Good and Biology

Key Takeaway: “COP28 was an amazing experience that helped to **deepen my understanding** of both current **climate issues** and how **policy** is revised and put into practice. As someone interested in healthcare and looking to pursue an MD and Masters of Public Health, COP28’s health day was my favorite! Listening to speakers advocate for their **health oriented goals** and **finally seeing health get its own day**, putting it at the forefront of the climate agenda, was great. Although I recognize there is still a lot of progress to be made, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend such an important COP!”





Gabby Levitt

Class of 2024

Majors: Environmental Studies and
Political Science

Key Takeaway: “Attending COP28 last December was the opportunity of a lifetime to learn from global scientific experts, political leaders, and frontline activists. There, I learned more about the **mechanisms of global climate cooperation** and overall expanded my knowledge of **international climate politics**. I also deepened my understanding of the **intersectionality of climate change**, especially concerning **health, gender, and a just transition**. Even more, I constantly absorbed groundbreaking ideas to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, inspiring a **new sense of optimism** and affirming my passion for climate action. In the face of an unprecedented crisis and climate inaction, it was **truly life-changing to see people work together despite our differences.**”





Sophia Riordan

Class of 2024

Major: Environmental Studies

Minor: Global Public Health and the
Common Good

Key Takeaway: “I felt overwhelmed by the constant need to distinguish superficial solutions from real ones, which tend to confront unpleasant social realities. This was evident in the attendance of more sponsored fossil fuel lobbyists than Indigenous peoples, and the COP28 president being the CEO of an oil company. The most important climate change action will not come from technological advancements; it depends on sociological change, and the places I found these honest conversations were during the small side events. The structure of COP28 highlighted the importance of listening to the voices of those who are excluded from decision-making in our current system yet who are the most disproportionately impacted.”





kumarpravee



Sancia Sehdev

Class of 2025

Major: Biology

Minor: Medical Humanities



Key Takeaway: “It was most fascinating for me to see just how many aspects of human life and practices the **effects of climate change have already seeped into**, and how large the scale of its impact is even in the most interesting niches. For example, I attended an event at COP28 that discussed how **increasing temperatures have strained livelihoods** and led to a **rise in rates of female genital mutilation** in parts of Africa, a connection that is terrifying but also one that not many would think to draw. I found it incredible that organizations and individuals had not only identified such niche areas of impact, but were also **actively developing and executing strategic plans** to mitigate the adverse effects. Being surrounded by so **many remarkable people** who were so **passionate** about climate change was absolutely **inspiring**, and I came back with a **renewed sense of hope and passion for climate advocacy.**”





Leonard Alsleben

Class of 2026

Majors: Human Centered
Engineering and Economics

Key Takeaway: “Although change feels far too slow for the climate disaster we are facing, I’m optimistic that change will come. The most encouraging change from this year’s COP is the move to an ‘Enhanced Transparency Framework’, which holds nations more closely accountable to the climate goals they set. Although significant progress still needs to be made towards a phase-out of fossil fuels, ensuring that our goals are realized and holding the worst polluters accountable can help set us on a path in the right direction.”



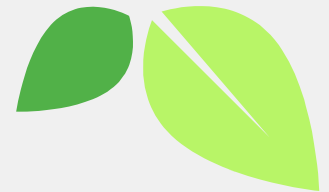


Jack Strang

Class of 2024

Majors: Environmental Studies,
Concentration in Environmental
Justice and Policy

Key Takeaway: “My biggest takeaway from COP28 is the **urgency of the crisis** that the world faces. As members of the Boston College community, we can help contribute to the battle against climate change by continuing to **engage in difficult conversations** and by **reflecting on our consumption habits**—both as individuals and as a community. I left COP28 feeling simultaneously **troubled by the current state of global climate policy** and **highly inspired** by the work that so many across the world are engaging in to attempt to **keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.**”







Praveen Kumar

Associate Professor, School of
Social Work

Key Takeaway: Critical progress and gaping pitfalls characterized COP28 in Dubai, reinforcing how **difficult climate negotiations** are. However, it was **inspiring** to witness how **invested youth** were in **participating, driving, and engaging** in the COP meetings. As long as we have **vigor and momentum from young people** to address climate correction, I am optimistic!



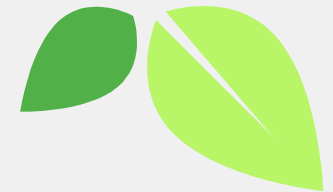


Gergana Nenkov

Associate Professor, Marketing Department

Key Takeaway: “For me, the good news from COP28 was that, for the first time, the summit named fossil fuels as the main climate problem.”

“Getting the fossil fuel language into the COP28 agreement was no small feat due to the requirement of full consensus, necessitating **unanimous agreement** from nearly 200 countries. As you can imagine, Saudi Arabia and its allies in the OPEC oil cartel were not keen on this language. This may seem like a small step, but the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) heralded it as a **signal of the “beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era.”** While it doesn't impose any mandates, it is expected to contribute to generating momentum for further action!”





Yi Ming

Professor, Earth & Environmental
Sciences Department

Institute Professor of Climate
Science and Society

Key Takeaway: (1) There is a **genuine desire** among the parties to move forward toward the Paris goals, but much needs to be done. (2) The **youth movement** is making palpable **impacts on the negotiation**, and has the potential of being a **game changer** down the road. (3) It is critical to address climate inequality issues in the pursuit of a **just, green transition**. The **loss and damage fund** is the **first step in the right direction**, but the efforts have to be **multiplied**. (4) The **climate education** at BC needs to be **modernized to better prepare students** for emerging industries, business opportunities and social responsibilities all at the same time.





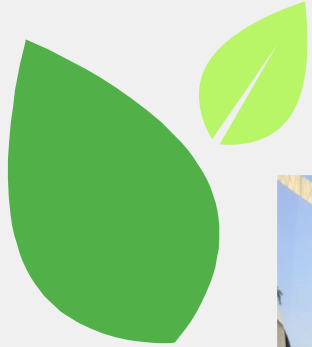


Caity Bolton

Assistant Professor, Lynch School
of Education and Human
Development

Key Takeaway: “I was fascinated by how COP almost entirely centered around language, given the purpose of drafting documents in English that the parties could agree upon. That meant that there was a lot of **“productive ambiguity”** in terms that **allowed for multiple interpretations** (like “phasing down” fossil fuels), but also fault lines in how global responsibilities were negotiated, for example in using **phrasing that either does or does not recognise the differences between “developing” and “developed” nations** (and therefore **differentiated accountability** between them).”

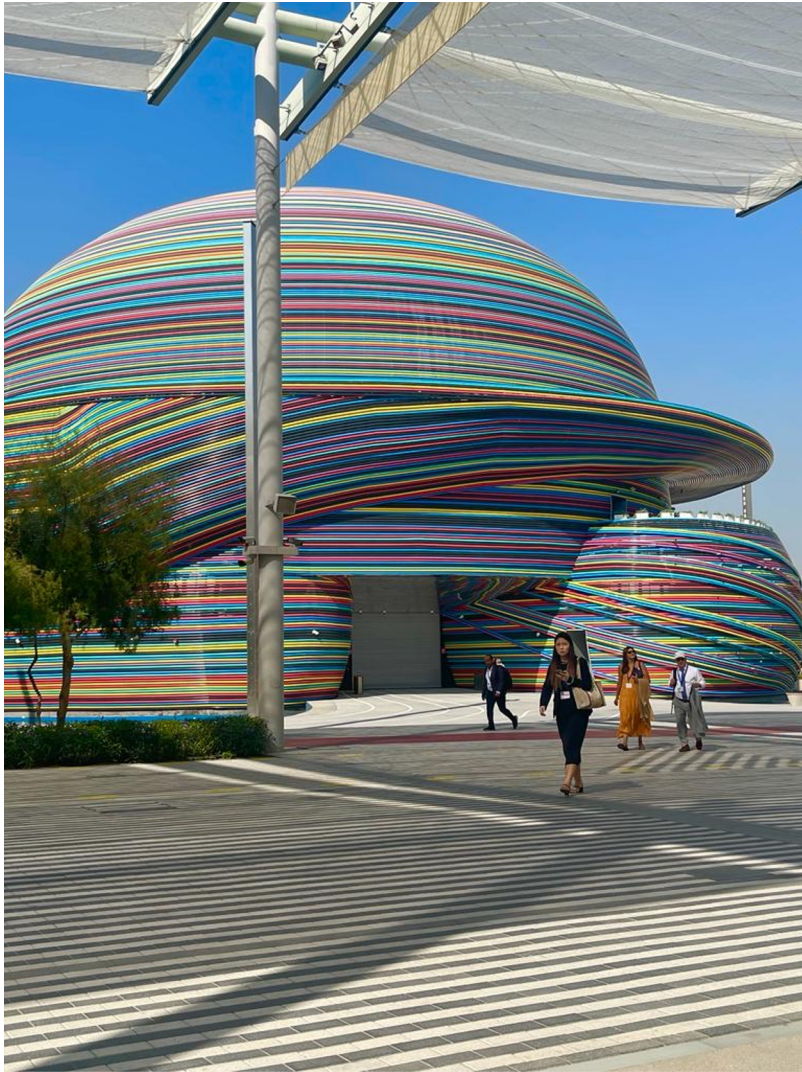




Kathleen Archibald

Masters of Social Work Candidate







Leila Ismaio

J.D. Candidate

Key Takeaway: “COP requires everyone's participation and involvement, we cannot leave the future of our planet to legislating bodies and scientists. It requires everyone from all disciplines, ages, and corners of the planet to **come together to find a solution that is interdisciplinary and reflective of all our unique life experiences.** It's only when we come together and acknowledge everyone's contribution will things **start to change.**”





Jini Kim

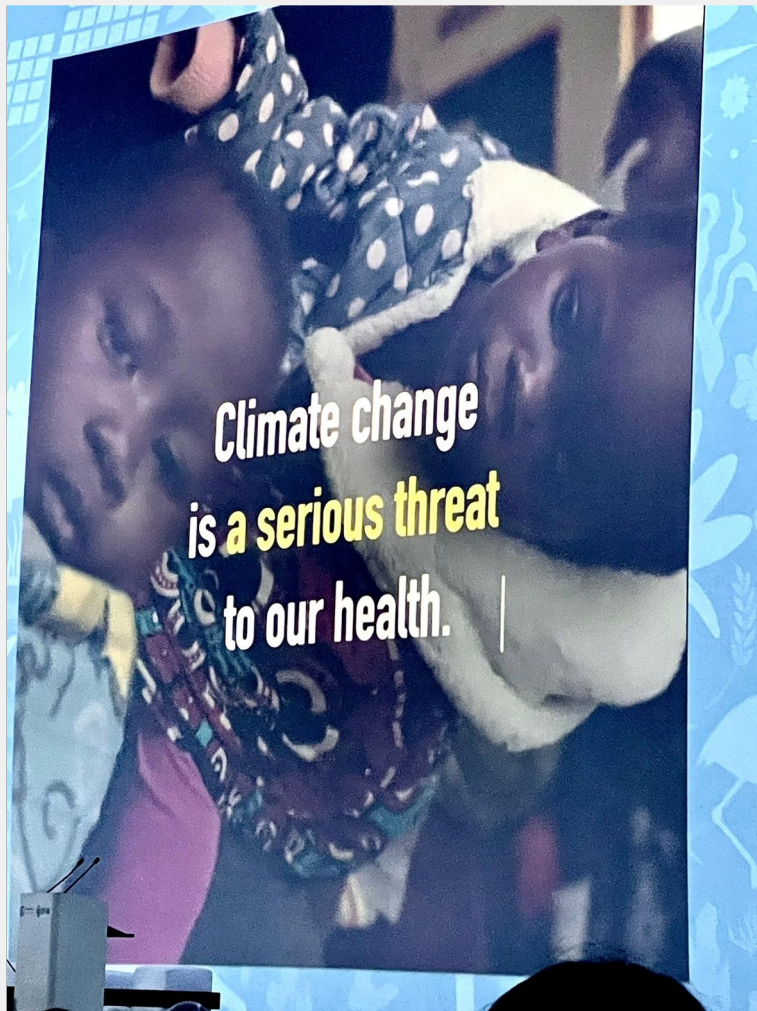
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
Candidate

Key Takeaway: “The healthcare sector is responsible for almost 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions inherently leading towards long term impacts in the health of children, families, and communities.



As a pediatric nurse practitioner candidate I was exposed to **global perspectives shaping world climate action** from sustainable climate change panels to high-level events on **artificial intelligence for climate action**. The immersive event on energy efficient health center in India demonstrated the **importance of electricity access based on local renewable energy** (via solar panels) **enabling timely healthcare** for remote communities, which in turn strengthens the community’s climate resilience while promoting overall quality health. COP28 has not only been an **enriching experience** but also a **transformative** one where I **learned to adapt** and become more responsive and responsible for the effects of climate change in the healthcare industry.”





TREE OF LIFE #COP28UAE5723

COP28 UAE I PLEDGE TO ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

➤ I pledge to lead by engaging with local policymakers and businesses to advocate for the infrastructure needed to use electric vehicles in my community.

#Actionism #TreeOfLife #COP28UAE



Chanelle Robinson

Theology PhD Candidate

Key Takeaway: Attending COP28 taught me that we have a global responsibility to keep climate change at the forefront. The installation of the inaugural Faith Pavillion reaffirmed that diverse spiritualities and world religions remain inseparable aspects of this global effort to address the climate crisis. Likewise, listening to Indigenous communities must shape a primary part of our way forward. Indigenous knowledge systems, music, foodways, folklore, and senses of the sacred can teach us how to relate to the land in a holistic manner. Pope Francis reaffirms this commitment to Indigenous communities in Laudato Si.





Matt Mersky

English PhD Candidate

Key Takeaway: “At COP28 I learned about the nuances of intergovernmental negotiating language. A victory for this year's COP was simply including the words “Fossil Fuels” in the COP agreement. This may seem redundant, but a huge part of the struggle is simply having a majority of countries agree on language that's as specific as possible.”





Eddie Ward

Dual Degree Candidate: J.D. and
M.A. Law and Urban and
Environmental Policy and
Planning

Key Takeaway: “Since I was fifteen years old, I’ve known that I wanted to make a difference in environmental policy and law. Meeting and working with other youth delegates from around the world, and having our demands submitted to the plenary by Estonia was incredibly fulfilling. Attending as part of Boston College’s delegation not just any COP, but the COP where the nations of the world agree to finally end the era of fossil fuels, is a dream come true.”

