

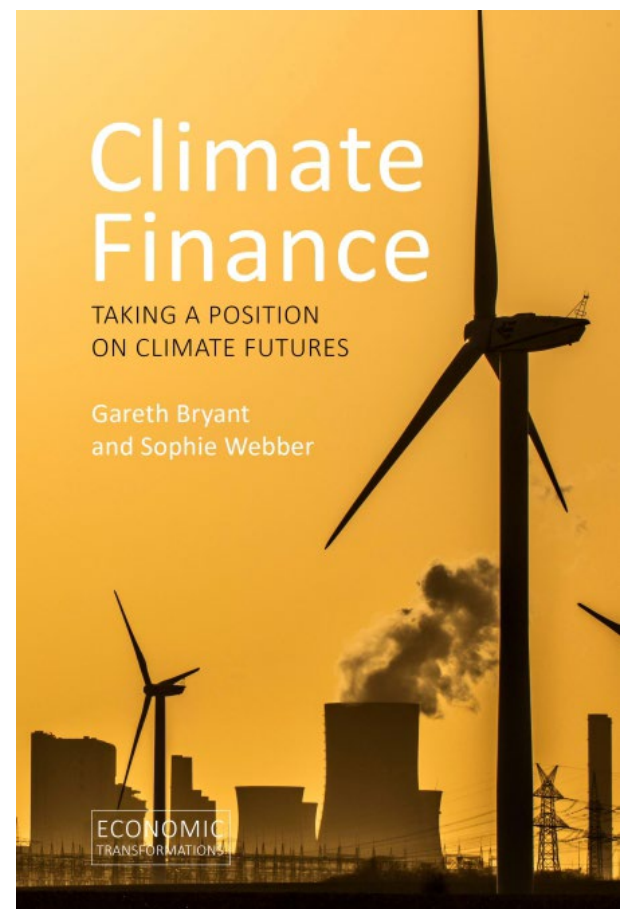


Climate Finance: Taking a Position on Climate Futures

- Speaker:** **Dr Sophie Webber**
University of Sydney, Australia
- Chair:** **Dr Nathan Green**
Department of Geography, NUS
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, 21 August 2024, 12pm
- Place:** Earth Lab, AS2 #02-03

Abstract

Climate change is increasingly conceptualised in financial terms. International climate politics and domestic climate policies are dominated by ‘gap talk’, where the central problem of climate change is the gap between current flows of climate finance and the estimated financial costs of mitigation and adaptation activities. In this talk, based on a recently released book co-authored with Gareth Bryant, I will seek to move beyond the ‘gap talk’ approach and develop an account of the economic geography of climate finance as an indicator and mediator of climate futures. Tracing developments such as the emergence of climate infrastructure as an asset class, index insurance for climate losses, and growing calls for recognition of and compensation for climate debts, I explore how climate change is being subsumed by global finance, and how financial markets are being contested through climate politics. I analyse the political economy and geography of climate finance across six simultaneously financial, geographical, and political ‘positions’: climate capital; climate risk; precision markets; speculative markets; big green states; and climate finance justice. These positions each act to configure different possible climate futures and open up different strategies and tactics for advancing more democratic and just climate finance future.



About the Speaker

Sophie Webber is Senior Lecturer and ARC DECRA Research Fellow in Geography in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. Sophie is an economic geographer who studies the use of market and financial mechanisms in contributing to adaptation and resilience in the Asia-Pacific region.

There will be light refreshments at the end of the presentation.

Convenors

Professor Brenda Yeoh

Professor James Sidaway

Professor Lu Xi Xi