

Wanderers of Changing Worlds: Walk and Talk through Europe's Climates

Introductory overview for potential partners



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“Life itself is as much a long walk as it is a long conversation,
and the ways along which we walk are those along which we live”
(Ingold/Vergunst 2008: 1)

Introduction

Wanderers of Changing Worlds is a combined research, education and media project. It is about *walking* across Europe to understand regional experiences of Climate Change. It is about *listening* to local perspectives, *learning* from them and *connecting* these stories together to construct a holistic, people-centric understanding of these complex phenomena. It is about *bringing people together* to form bonds of cooperation and solidarity. We are a group of young researchers who have grown up in a European context and understand that on a continent of interconnected identities, the solution to Climate Change must also be so. *Wanderers of Changing Worlds* aims to enable the creation of interconnected solutions to Climate Change across Europe by collecting and connecting individual perspectives to global solutions.

What is the gap in knowledge?

The gap in knowledge we are addressing is that, until now, most research about Climate Change has either been from a macro or micro level perspective, not from a multi-local and multi-vocal perspective. Research around Climate Change has largely been based on quantitative data coupled with highly technical analysis. While useful in scientific contexts, this approach can make the problem of Climate Change and its solutions highly abstract in an everyday setting. This contributes to the misconception that Climate Change is not imminently impacting people living in Europe. In short, current Climate Change research has struggled to capture the lived experience of people grappling with Climate Change in a European context.

What solution do we propose?

Transforming our world into one capable of surviving Climate Change will require a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary understanding of the challenges we face. Using an ethnographic, multi-local approach, we aim to collect European perspectives, connect them to each other and contribute to the creation of stronger, inter-connected solutions. We intend to understand what is being done in the European context; to enable a greater connectivity between these solutions; and to contribute to a deeper understanding of local perspectives on this global issue.

We will apply this approach in three interconnected projects.

I. Research Project

The following question best summarizes our research interest:

How do people experience Climate Change and Changing Climates¹ throughout Europe?

We aim to understand how people experience Climate Change and all its biophysical and sociocultural repercussions. Through a unique and transdisciplinary approach of walking, listening and (re-)telling we aim to understand, explain and connect the experiences and practices of local actors from across Europe. This research process will be circular, challenged and integrative of both quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis and theory building. The combination enables a deeper understanding of the complex realities of the biophysical processes of Climate Change and to fully comprehend the strategies of individuals, local communities and national and international organizations to overcome them.

The research project aims to generate impact by collecting novel data testifying to the urgency of Climate Change and Changing Climates. It will utilise a distinct combination of research styles to generate academic impact by collecting a large body of qualitative and quantitative data, open for use by any subsequent research project. Not only will this data provide us with the answers critical to our thinking, but by making it public access we hope to encourage other researchers to do the same.

II. Education Project

While we see ourselves as researchers, we are also activists and mediators. That is why we aim to conduct participatory action workshops in each region to help fully engage local actors with the global challenges posed by Climate Change. These actors will include local climate action groups, institutions such as schools or universities, pre-existing research projects in the field, local political action groups and interested citizens. Many of these actors will already be involved in climate action but from varying perspectives and so, these workshops will provide a creative space for knowledge exchange.

The education project's main pathway to impact is to instill a sense of agency in local action. The intention of this is to drive momentum for individual and collective action on a local level which will support and be supported by the SDG framework. It will create agency by providing training in collective action, action planning and sustainable development, utilising researchers' previous experience, including e.g. through grassroots community labour organising linked to national union structures. Using these tools for and experience in collective action, solutions best suited to location and community will then be created, using researchers' previous project "Zukunftskaravane" as a model for community action and sustainable further development.

¹ There is an analytical distinction between Climate Change and Changing Climates. People experience Climate Change and all its biophysical and sociocultural repercussions in a multitude of ways. It is these locally-specific manifestations of Climate Change which we refer to as "Changing Climates".

III. Media and Art Project

The media and art project aims to extend the academic knowledge generated in the research project and the local to global collaboration facilitated in the education project. The core purpose of the project in its entirety is to listen and collect the stories and experience of the people we meet along the way. It is important to the overall aim of this project that these stories are told. That is why the third pillar is devoted to creating podcasts, films, blogs, and works of art which will communicate these local stories to a global audience.

To do this, we will cooperate with the “DAS FILMBÜRO”, who will act as our central media center. They will work with us to produce an episodic series filmed en route, which will capture and reflect the various experiences, landscapes, practices and voices we interact with. We will also actively seek out local artists and filmmakers to participate in this series, to ensure a truly collaborative final product. We want these episodes to express local perspectives, as well as ours as mediators between local and global.

This media and art project will facilitate the impact of the previous two projects in raising public awareness of Climate Change and Changing Climates through the episodic series, as well as the potential for further projects such as podcasts, exhibitions and screenings to educate wider audiences on the potential for collaborative solutions. This will also enable follow-on impact by representing regional perspectives to European audiences and European community perspectives to international community audiences, with the aim of forging connections and inspiring future collaboration.

How can you be involved?

We are a passionate team but there is only so much we can do by ourselves. We need support from organizations like yours to realise the full potential of this project. Whether through funding, expertise, publicity or contacts - we are excited to potentially collaborate with you. Outlined below are some of the ways in which we can work together.

- I. **Become an official Project Partner:** We heavily depend on the support of institutional and corporate partners such as yours^{2*}. As an official Project Partner, we will keep you up-to-date as the project progresses, we will invite you to participate in the fun parts of the project (like the walk itself!) and you will be recognised as an official supporter of our shared goals. To become an official Project Partner, please contact us directly at contact@climatewalk.eu. We will work with you to create a mutually beneficial partnership agreement - the possibilities are limitless.
- II. **Become a Promoting Member („Fördermitglied“):** As a Promoting Member of our association „Europäische Klimawanderung“, your organisation and company/institutional logo will be regularly mentioned on our homepage and across our social media channels*. We will keep you up-to-date on the project's progress and will receive a complimentary copy of all book, article, film and photographic outputs which may result from the project's success. You and your organisation can become a Promoting Member by sponsoring us either with a singular payment of minimum 4800€ or with a yearly membership fee of 1200€.
- III. **Be a Singular or Regular Donor:** If you would like to support our project*, but cannot afford or do not want to become a Promoting Member, you can donate a minimum of 10€ to our association „Europäische Klimawanderung“ as often as suits you. As a Donor, you will be named on our website as such and receive regular updates on the project's progress. You will also receive a complimentary copy of one of the project's final outputs, such as any books, articles, films or photographs which may result from the project's success.
- IV. **Be a Project Supporter:** We are grateful for any support you can provide! You can become a Project Supporter by visiting our [website](#), following and sharing our social media channels and talking to your friends about the aims of the project. If you are an artist, musician, writer etc. and you want to contribute, feel free to share your ideas with us! We are grateful for your interest in the project and all support is valuable.

² * Please note that we believe in a high level of socio-ecological compatibility between ourselves and our official partners. For this reason, we only take funding from companies which fulfill specific social and ecological criteria.

- V. **Walk With Us:** The most physical support you can provide is to join us in our walk across Europe. On our [homepage](#), there is a GPS-based map which will show you our route. We are walking from the North to the South of Europe so chances are, we'll be in your area at some point. Walk with us! As a Wanderer of Changing Worlds, you can support us by walking with us, giving us your local insights and guiding us with your local knowledge. Tie up your shoes and walk with us! What are you waiting for?

Contact us: contact@climatewalk.eu

For questions regarding cooperation and funding: +43660/4666181

Who are the Wanderers of Changing Worlds?

Timo Bühler has studied Business Information Management and worked at IBM. Then, he started a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and is currently finishing his Master's degree in Science-Technology-Society, both at the University of Vienna. His general interest concerns the relations of societies and information technologies and thus how digital infrastructures can be made more sustainable. contact: timo.buehler@climatewalk.eu



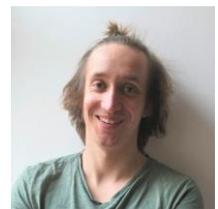
Gerald Hofbauer studies Political Science at the University of Vienna, where he is currently writing his Master's Thesis about Democratic Theory of Degrowth. In his studies he has focussed on political and democratic theory, international politics, and conflict studies. He is also currently involved with organising the Degrowth Vienna Conference 2020 as part of the PR team. contact: gerald.hofbauer@climatewalk.eu

Eva-Maria Holzinger studies in her Master's degree Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Vienna and Social and Human Ecology at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt, Austria. She has focused on different perceptions of nature-culture relations, infrastructural studies, sustainable communication and food-systems. contact: eva.holzinger@climatewalk.eu



Julia Plattner has studied social work at the FH Campus Wien in her previous studies and has worked in different sectors of social services in Austria. At the moment Julia is finishing her Master studies in social ecology at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt and writes her master thesis about social farming. In the last years Julia worked on a SDG Project with teenagers of a youth center in Lower Austria. contact: julia.plattner@climatewalk.eu

Alexandra Sabine Stieger is finishing her Master's in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna. In her Master's thesis, she demonstrates the relation between economic, ecological, and ideological factors on the example of whale meat in Iceland. Besides her studies, she works as a freelance project associate in the field of applied education and labor market research at *3s research laboratory*. contact: alexandra.stieger@climatewalk.eu



Martin Thalhammer has studied Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Vienna and Environmental Management at the University of Life Sciences Vienna. He is currently finishing a Master's degree in Social and Human Ecology at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt and is about to start a PhD in Environmental Sciences and Policy at the Central European University. contact: martin.thalhammer@climatewalk.eu