

## UNICA Green and SDGs webinar

### Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Academic Networks

Promoted by the University of Vienna

24 February 2022 | 10:30 – 11:45 CET

### Biographies and abstracts of the speakers

#### Regina Hitzenberger | Vice Rector for Infrastructure, University of Vienna



Regina Hitzenberger has been Vice-Rector for Infrastructure since 2015. She studied physics, astronomy and mathematics at the University of Vienna and obtained her doctoral degree in 1982. Following research stays in the US and Japan, Hitzenberger received her habilitation degree in 1993. From 1997 to 2011, she was associate professor at the Faculty of Physics. Since 2012, she has been Professor of Aerosol and Cluster Physics at the University of Vienna. Regina Hitzenberger is a member of the American Association for Aerosol Research and the American Geophysical Union.

#### Matthew Lawson | Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager, University of Edinburgh's Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability & Coordinator of the UNICA Green and SDGs Working Group



Matthew is currently the Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager at the University of Edinburgh's Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability. Matthew has over ten years of experience of working on sustainability, social and civic responsibility projects in the higher education sector. This has included working on projects in the academic curriculum, operations, student experience and partnerships, including the Erasmus+ funded 'European Students, Sustainability Auditing' Project. He is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, and is currently working towards fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

**in Thilo Hofmann | Director, Environmental Research Network, University of Vienna**



Thilo Hofmann is the director of the University of Vienna's Environmental Research Network, which he established in 2014. Since 2005 he has been Full Professor for Environmental Geosciences at the University of Vienna. His group works in nanogeosciences, investigating trace contaminants, sorption to carbonaceous materials, environmental impacts of nanotechnology, and microplastic. In 2017 he was appointed Adjunct Full Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke University (US). In 2018 he was honoured as Guest Professor at the College of Environmental Science and Engineering at Nankai University, Tianjin (China) and co-founded the interdisciplinary research platform PLENTY (Plastics in the Environment and Society).

**in Judith Mühlbacher | Coordinator, Environmental Research Network, University of Vienna**



Judith Mühlbacher (they/them) has been the coordinator of the Environmental Research Network since 2020. They hold a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and International Development Studies from the University of Vienna and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science from Lund University, Sweden. Beyond their work at the University of Vienna, their additional fields of interest and engagement lie in sustainable activism-, community- and work practices, queer ecologies, and just transformations.

**The Environmental Research Network** (ERN) team will present a brief overview of the ERN's development and status quo. The network's mission - to strive for advances that sustain the planet today and for generations to come by connecting environmental researchers across all levels and disciplines at the University of Vienna - is present in all of its activities, which we will outline shortly. To give an example of the excellent research that emerges from these endeavours, the research platform PLENTY (Plastics in the Environment and Society) will be introduced. To further contribute to our collective learning, the opportunities and challenges of the ERN's work will be discussed.

 **Jamie Cross | Director, Edinburgh Earth Initiative, University of Edinburgh**



Jamie Cross is a Professor of Social and Economic Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, specialising in the study of energy, technology, and economy in the global south. Jamie is Principal Investigator for the Cool Infrastructures project, a 3-year research project that examines the materials, technologies and social relationships through which marginalised people keep cool in overheating global cities. Jamie has recently been appointed as Director of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative, which aims to draw on academic strengths from across the University and by working with global partners, will deliver ambitious solutions for a future that effectively manages and mitigates the effects of climate change.