The Villars Symposium

The Villars Institute is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to accelerating the transition to a net zero economy and to restore the health of the planet for all. Located in the Swiss Alps, it is a platform for systemic change and a place for intergenerational collaboration.

The Villars Symposium combines the creativity of young people with the proficiency of experienced professionals to accelerate the energy transition, the use of nature-based solutions, and the adoption of emerging technologies.

It is also the annual meeting of the Villars Fellows, who are solution-oriented teenagers nominated each year by educational and leadership organizations from around the world.

The next Villars Symposium will take place from 27 through 30 June 2023 in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland. An overview of the 2022 program is provided below.
Introducing the 2022 Villars Fellows

- Over 100 Fellows
- 34 schools participating
- Some 30 nationalities represented

Female Fellows 76%
Male Fellows 24%

Age distribution
2022 Program (21-24 June)

Systems Leadership for All Generations

Introduced by
• Marco Dunand, Co-Founder, Villars Alpine Resort & Mercuria Energy Group

Opening Remarks from
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair, Villars Institute Foundation

Fixing the Planet through Food

Conversation with
• Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder & Executive Chair, EAT Foundation
• Meagan Fallone, Founder, Step Up Advisors
• Nik Gowing, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable

Respecting Planetary Boundaries and Restoring Planetary Health

Presentations by:
• Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
• Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder & Executive Chair, EAT Foundation

Chaired by:
• Keith Tuffley, Vice Chairman, Sustainability & Corporate Transitions, Citi

Green Innovation in the Himalayas

Case study by
• Jaideep Bansal, CEO, Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)

How to Anticipate the Future

Breakthrough Radar briefing by
• Sandro Giuliani, Executive Director, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)
Rethinking Energy Solutions
Briefing by
• Frankin Servan-Schreiber, Co-Founder & CEO, Transmutex SA

Understanding Climate Mitigation
Briefing by
• Sonia Medina, Executive Director for Climate, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

What is Systems Thinking
Briefing by
• Lee Howell, Executive Director, Villars Institute

The Role of Philanthropy in Systems Change
Briefing by
• Etienne Eichenberger, Chairman, Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

Understanding Planetary Boundaries
Conversation with
• Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair, Villars Institute Foundation
• Bruno Giussani, Global Curator, TED

Creating Biodiversity for the Net Zero Economy
Case study by
• Suzan Craig, Founder, CEO and Owner, Tahi Estate
Exploring the Explorer’s Mindset
Presentation by
• Robert Swan, Polar Explorer & Founder, 2041 Foundation
Discussion with
• Jade Hameister, Polar Explorer & Environmental Advocate
• Keith Tuffley, Vice Chairman, Sustainability & Corporate Transitions, Citi & Polar Explorer

How Science Drives Systems Change
Conversation with
• Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Honorary Professor, the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques IHÉS
• David Gann, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Affairs, Oxford University and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair, Villars Institute Foundation

How to Visualize our Changing Planet
EarthTime Platform briefing by
• Mickey McGlasson, Senior Consultant, CreateLab, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)

New Opportunities for a Net Zero Economy
Workshop with
• Jean-Philippe Bonardi, Professor of Strategic Management, University of Lausanne, Co-Managing Director, Enterprise for Society (E4S)

Understanding Nature-based Solutions
Briefing by
• Giulia Carbone, Director, Natural Climate Solutions Alliance, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
Wicked Problems that Could Save Our Planet

Group Brainstorming with

- **Nik Gowing**, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable

Building Trust as a Very Young Leader

Discussion with

- **Mariah Levin**, Head of the Forum of Young Global Leaders, World Economic Forum
- **Richard McDonald**, Board Member, Villars Institute Foundation

Practicing Systems Thinking

Workshop with

- **Scott David**, Founder and Innovation Director, Shapeable

An Introduction to Ocean Ecosystems

Briefing by

- **Heather Bouman**, Associate Professor of Biogeochemistry, Oxford University
- **Antoinette Vermilye**, Co-Founder, Gallifrey Foundation

An Introduction to Nuclear Fusion

Briefing by

- **Nick Walkden**, Senior Consultant, Frazer-Nash Consultancy

The Role of Elites in Systems Leadership

Elite Quality Index briefing by

- **Michael Hilb**, Vice Chair, Foundation for Value Creation
Accomplishing the Extraordinary: A Discussion on Systems Leadership with Hillary Institute Laureates

Interactive panel with

• **Michael Brune**, (2014 Laureate), Former Executive Director, Sierra Club

• **Aimée Christensen**, (2011 Laureate), Founder, Christensen Global

• **Meagan Fallone**, (2018 Laureate), Founder, Step Up Advisors

• **Atossa Soltani**, (2013 Laureate), Director of Global Strategy, Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative

Chaired by

• **Bruno Giussani**, Global Curator, TED

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An Environmental Look at Behavioral Economics

Briefing by

• **Stefania Innocenti**, Departmental Research Lecturer in Environmental and Resource Management, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

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Finding a Prize-Winning Problem

Case study of the 2022 Earth Prize Projects

• **Peter McGarry**, Founder, Earth Foundation

• **Angela McCarthy**, CEO, Earth Foundation

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Finding the Right Systemic Challenge

Uplink Platform briefing by

• **John Dutton**, Head of Uplink, World Economic Forum

• **Michael Anthony**, Co-Founder, Earth Analytics

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How to Realize your Dream as a Fellow

Discussion with

• **Robert Swan**, Polar Explorer & Founder, 2041 Foundation
Innovating for Global Impact
The Knowledge Society case studies with
• Navid Nathoo, Co-Founder, The Knowledge Society (TKS)
• Nadeem Nathoo, Co-Founder, The Knowledge Society (TKS)
• Ananya Chadha, TKS Alumni, Stanford University
• Okezue Bell, TKS Alumni, MIT Media Lab

Global Change through Systems Standards
Discussion with
• Silvio Dulinsky, Deputy Director General, International Standardization Organization (ISO)
• Katherine Milligan, Director, Collective Change Lab, Inc.
• Amanda Ellis, Global Partnership Director, ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

Success Factors for Healthier Ecosystems
Discussion with
• Michael Brune, Former Executive Director, Sierra Club
• Atossa Soltani, Director of Global Strategy, Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative
• Heather Bouman, Associate Professor of Biogeochemistry, Oxford University

Unlocking the Power of Data and Collaboration
Hub Ocean Platform briefing by
• Victoria Attwood Scott, Global Head of Compliance, Mercuria Energy Trading
• Mogens L. Mathiesen, Head of Lighthouses, HUB Ocean

The New Protein Mix: Pathways to an Animal-Free Diet
Briefing by
• Christine Schäfer, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI)
**Success Factors for Greener Entrepreneurship**

Discussion with

- **Jaideep Bansal**, CEO, Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE)
- **Suzan Craig**, Founder, CEO and Owner, Tahi Estate
- **Meagan Fallone**, (2018 Laureate), Founder, Step Up Advisors

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**Success Factors for a Powerful Narrative**

Discussion with

- **Aimée Christensen**, Founder, Christensen Global
- **Adrian Monck**, Managing Director, Head of Public & Social Engagement, World Economic Forum (WEF)
- **Bruno Giussani**, Global Curator, TED

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**Davos Debrief: An Intergenerational View of the Global Agenda**

Presentation by

- **Adrian Monck**, Managing Director, Head of Public & Social Engagement, World Economic Forum (WEF)

Chaired by:

- **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, Villars Institute

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**Accelerating the Transition to a Net Zero Economy**

Interactive panel with

- **Cameron Hepburn**, Professor of Environmental Economics, Oxford University and Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
- **Stefania Innocenti**, Departmental Research Lecturer in Environmental and Resource Management, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

Chaired by

- **David Gann**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Affairs, Oxford University and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School
Addressing Systemic Challenges

Introduced by

- Lee Howell, Executive Director, Villars Institute

Closing Remarks from

- Subra Suresh, President, Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Symposium Debrief & Program Co-Design with Fellows
2022 Symposium Partners

- Aiglon College
- ASU Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation
- Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab
- Collège Alpin Beau Soleil
- Collège Champittet
- Collège du Léman
- The Content Engine
- Earth Foundation
- EAT Foundation
- Ecolint/International School of Geneva
- Enterprise for Society Center (E4S)
- Foundation for Value Creation
- Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)
- The Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute
- Hillary Institute
- Hub Ocean
- Institut Le Rosey
- International Board Foundation
- International School Basel
- International School of Lausanne
- International School of Zug and Luzern
- The Knowledge Society
- La Côte International School
- La Garenne International School
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- Office du Tourisme de Villars
- Punahou School
- Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Oxford University
- Schweizer Jugend Forscht/Science et Jeunesse
- Shapeable
- Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
- University of Oxford
- Victoria Hotel & Residence
- Villars Alpine Resort
- Villars Palace Hotel
- Zurich International School