



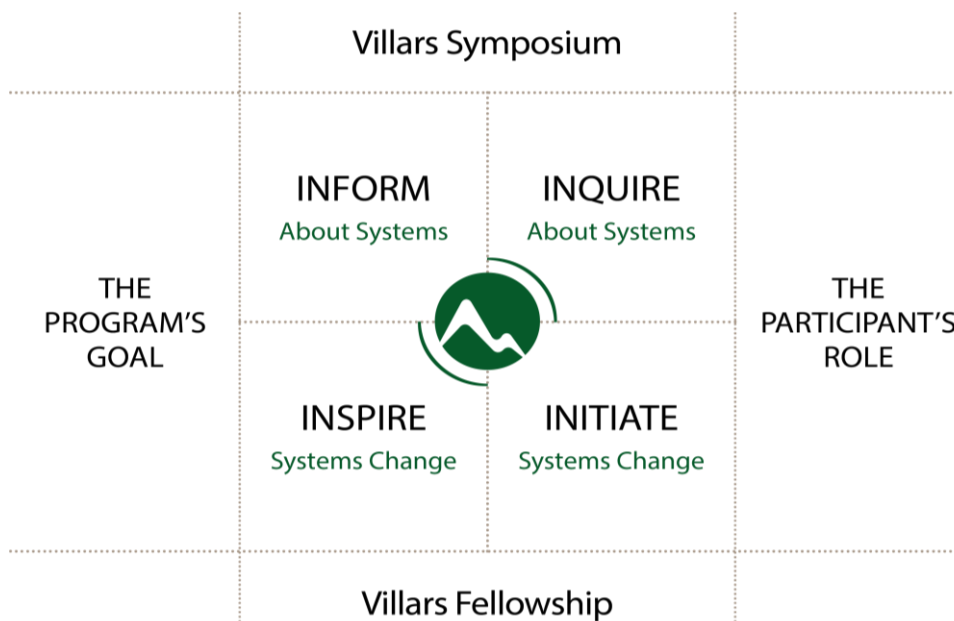
The Villars Symposium 2023

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 brings together the creativity of young people with the proficiency of experienced professionals to accelerate the energy transition, nature-based solutions, and emerging technologies.

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

The next Villars Symposium will take place from the 25th to 28th of June 2024 in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland. An overview of the 2023 program is provided below.



2023 Program (27-30 June)

The Mission of the Villars Institute

Opening Remarks from

- **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Chair, The Villars Institute



Opening Musical Performance

Performed by members of the Villars Music Academy

- **Patricia Cordero**, violin
- **Gordon Lau**, viola
- **Alex Lau**, cello



Villars Distinguished Lecture

By

- **Didier Queloz**, 2019 Nobel Laureate in Physics for discovering 51 Pegasi b, the first extrasolar planet orbiting a Sun-like star, 51 Pegasus, located 50.6 light-years (15.5 parsecs) from Earth in the constellation of Pegasus

Introduced by

- **Subra Suresh**, President, Global Learning Council



Objectives of the Villars Symposium

With

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

Prospering within Planetary Boundaries

With

- **Johan Rockström**, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- **Nathalie Seddon**, Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford & Director, Nature-based Solutions Initiative
- **Gunhild A. Stordalen**, Founder and Executive Chair of EAT Foundation

Moderated by

- **Magdalena Skipper**, Editor in Chief, Nature



Protecting the Planet through Entrepreneurship

With

- **Sofi Khwaja**, Co-Founder and CEO at Thesus
- **Sofia de Meyer**, Entrepreneur, Founder of Opaline

The Planetary Health Diet

With

- **Francesco Scaglia**, Culinary Work Project Lead, EAT Foundation
- **Gunhild A. Stordalen**, Founder & Executive Chair, EAT Foundation



The Climate-Nature Nexus

With

- **Alexa Firmenich**, Co-Director, Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich

Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change

With

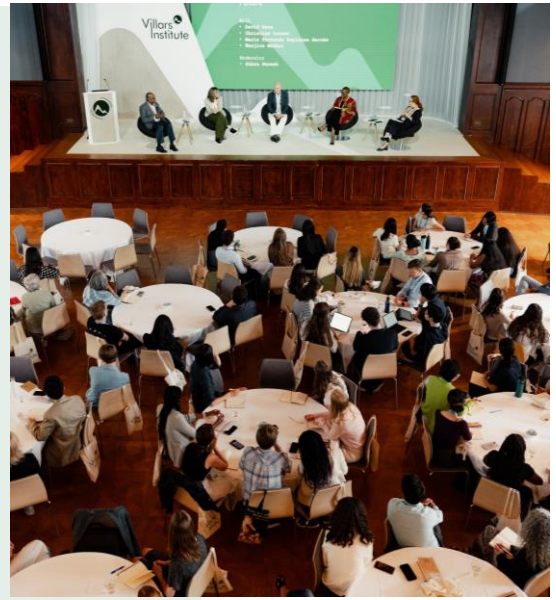
- **Nathalie Seddon**, Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford & Director, Nature-based Solutions Initiative
- **Nicole Schwab**, Director, Nature Based Solutions & It.org, World Economic Forum



Critical Skills for the Planet's Future

With

- **David Gann**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Affairs, Oxford University and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School
- **Christine Looser**, Senior Academic Director, Minerva Project
- **María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, Co-Chair, Climate Governance Commission
- **Wanjira Mathai**, Managing Director, Africa & Global Partnerships, World Resources Institute (WRI)



The Meaning and Impact of Net Zero

With

- **Thom Wetzer**, Associate Professor of Law and Finance at the University of Oxford and the Founding Director of the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme
- **Cameron Hepburn**, Director of the Oxford Smith School and Professor of Environmental Economics



A Sustainable Global Trading System

With

- **Jan Yves Remy**, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)



Mobilizing Science to Protect the Planet

With

- **Gilbert De Gregorio**, Head of Partnerships, Frontiers Planet Prize
- **George Thomas**, Public Affairs Manager, Frontiers





Circular Design in Practice

With

- **Tobias Luthe**, Program Director, ETH Zurich, and Founding Director, MonViso Institute

The Power of Nature's Narrative

With

- **Colin Butfield**, Co-Founder and Executive Director at Studio Silverback
- **Jonnie Hughes**, Co-Founder and Creative Director at Studio Silverback
- **Thijs Biersteker**, Ecological Artist and Founder of Woven Studio

Moderated by

- **Michèle Mischler**, Head of Swiss Public Affairs and Open Forum, World Economic Forum



Protecting the Planet through Entrepreneurship

With

- **Sofi Khwaja**, Co-Founder and CEO at Thesus
- **Sofia de Meyer**, Entrepreneur, Founder of Opaline

Predicting the Health of Nature

With

- **Adriana De Palma**, Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum, London
- **Camilla Tham**, International Partnerships Manager, Natural History Museum, London



The Energy Access Trilemma

With

- **Peter BenHur Nyeko**, Co-Founder & Director, Mandulis Energy



Systems Change thru Simple Narratives

With

- **J. Carl Ganter**, Managing Director, Circle of Blue

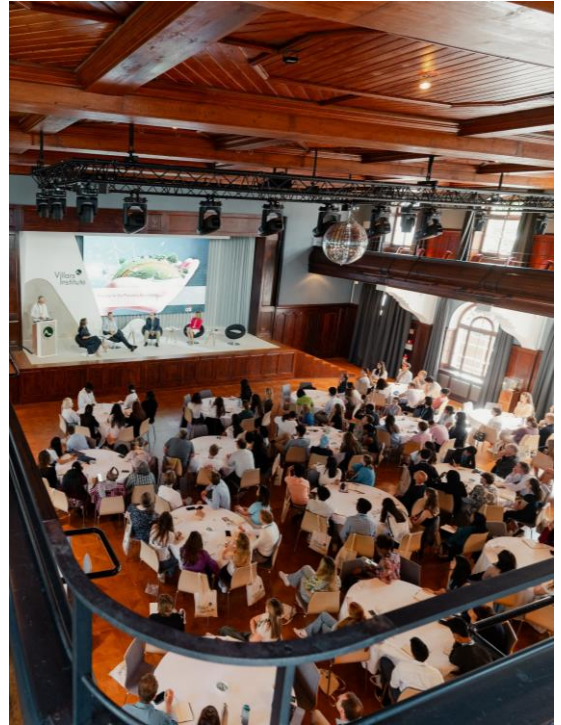
A Net Zero and Nature Positive Economy

With

- **Cameron Hepburn**, Director of the Oxford Smith School and Professor of Environmental Economics
- **Keith Tuffley**, Vice Chairman, Sustainability and Corporate Transitions, Citi
- **Anna Celner**, Former Deloitte Vice Chairman & Partner, Global Banking and Capital Markets Practice Leader
- **Andy Karsner**, Co-Founder, Elemental Labs

Moderated by

- **Meagan Fallone**, Entrepreneur in Residence & Executive Advisor on Climate Justice, Director of Climate Justice, CARE International



Converting Scientific Research to Human Emotions

With

- **Thijs Biersteker**, Ecological Artist and Founder of Woven Studio
- **Adriana De Palma**, Senior Researcher, Natural History Museum, London
- **Sophie de Krom**, Studio Director, Woven Studio

Transforming Mindsets for Climate Action

With

- **Kat Hamilton**, Director of Partnerships & Programs, Force of Nature
- **Camilla Tham**, International Partnerships Manager, Natural History Museum, London





New Frontiers of Environmental Entrepreneurship

With

- **John Dutton**, Head of Uplink, World Economic Forum
- **David Lunsford**, CEO, Stream Ocean
- **Declan McAdams**, Chairman, Pinovo, AS

Transforming Agriculture in Africa

With

- **Ibrahim Maigari Ahmadu**, Founder & CEO, Rice Afrika



The Power of Adventure to Protect the Planet

With

- **Robert Swan**, Polar Explorer and Founder, 2041 Foundation
- **Barnaby Swan**, CEO, Climate Force
- **Jaideep Bansal**, CEO, GHE Impact Ventures

Moderated by

- **Meagan Fallone**, Entrepreneur in Residence and Executive Advisor on Climate Justice, Director of Climate Justice, CARE International

Finding a Prize Winning Problem

With

- **Angela McCarthy**, CEO, The Earth Foundation
- **Team Delavo**, Treating and reusing laundry machine wastewater
- **Team Agripod**, Reducing fertilizer waste across the farming world
- **Team Agrivision**, Measuring plant health to reduce crop losses and organic waste



Anticipating Science Breakthroughs

With

- **Alice Hazelton**, Head of Summit, Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)



How to Fix the Planet

With

- **Laura Henderson**, Head of Program – Public Outreach, Frontiers Media



The Realities of the Energy Transition

With

- **Victoria Attwood Scott**, Global Head of Compliance, Mercuria



Innovating from the Bottom-Up

With

- **Navid Nathoo**, Co-Founder The Knowledge Society (TKS)
- **Nadeem Nathoo**, Co-Founder, The Knowledge Society (TKS)



Leading through Adversity

With

- **Robert Swan**, Polar Explorer and Founder, 2041 Foundation
- **Barnaby Swan**, CEO, Climate Force





Our Future through Food

With

- **Christine Schäfer**, Senior Researcher, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI)

Practicing Ecopreneurship Anywhere

With

- **Jaideep Bansal**, CEO, GHE Impact Ventures



Accelerating Systems Change from Villars

With

- **Marija Dang**, Vice Principal, Learning Innovation, UWC Atlantic College
- **J. Carl Ganter**, Managing Director, Circle of Blue
- **Maja Groff**, Convener, Climate Governance Commission
- **Jan Yves Remy**, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)

Moderated by

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

The Fellowship Journey Ahead

With

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



Villars Symposium - Plenary Sessions

