



## REPORT OF RESULTS AND INSIGHTS



# CLIMATE & LABOR

BRINGING WORLDS TOGETHER

COIMBRA, PORTUGAL - APRIL, 2023



# 2 DAYS

# 550 ATTENDEES

Across digital and offline platforms

- 6 panels and 3 keynote sessions
  - 550+ virtual attendees from 55 countries
  - 26 speakers and 6 moderators / 16 countries
  - 62% of speakers were women
  - 60% from the Global South
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- 23,000+ clicks on the registration page
  - 10,000 visits to the event website
  - 1,889 online registrations from 79 countries
  - 95% of attendees reported increased knowledge about climate and labor issues.
  - Diverse perspectives and backgrounds enriched session discussions and the overall experience for participants

1 Hosted at the University of Coimbra—one of the world’s oldest universities—the [Climate and Labor Conference 2023](#) gathered over 30 journalists, academics, researchers, and social movement leaders from across the globe to spark a discussion on the intersection of climate change and labor rights. The event also connected this main topic to gender, health, rainforests, oceans, global power, and social justice.

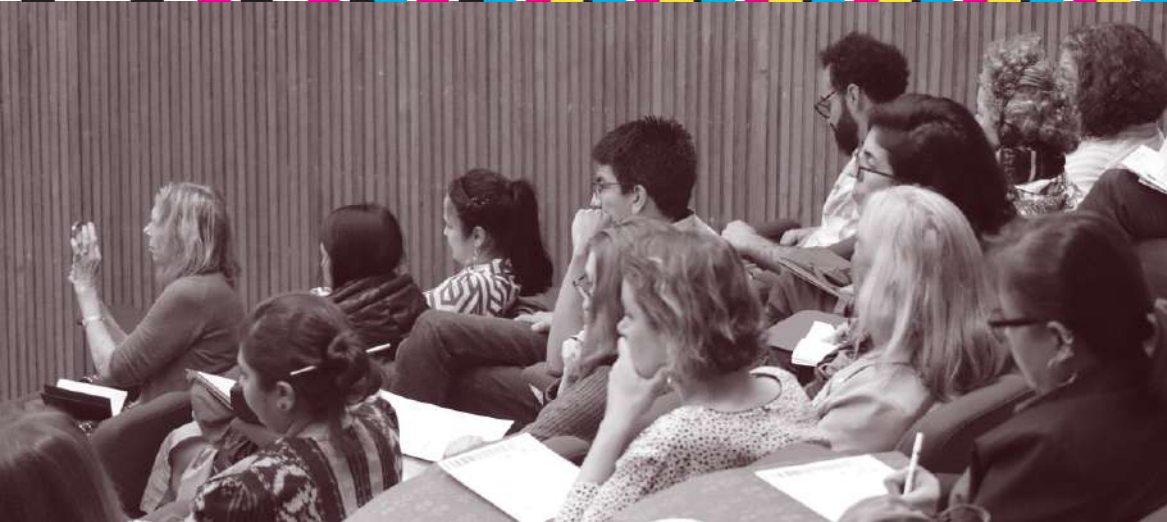
Over 550 people from 55 countries attended online across two conference days. The event had virtual and in-person programming, which consisted of three keynote sessions and six panels. The conference was organized in partnership with the Faculty of Economics, CES (Centre for Social Studies), OSIRIS (Risk Observatory), and ECOSOC (Ecology and Society Lab), all of them based at the University of Coimbra.

The discussions were fueled by stories from the Pulitzer Center’s [Your Work/Environment initiative](#), a reporting and engagement project that supports investigations focused on climate change and its effects on workers and the universe of work in general. It particularly explores how global climate risks are playing out in fields, forests, and on factory floors.

Before launching the initiative in 2022, the Pulitzer Center conducted needs-assessment research on the climate and labor media landscape: analyzing previous reporting and journalist capacity on labor and climate issues, and gathering input on what media outlets require in order to achieve a significant scaling in coverage of these issues. The [resulting report](#) identified a significant gap in current media coverage of these issues. To address these topics and make them visible, the conference in Coimbra was built.

» [pulitzercenter.org/climatelabor2023](https://pulitzercenter.org/climatelabor2023)





# CLIMATE AND LABOR

an underrepresented intersection

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As panelist and Mozambican journalist Boaventura Monjane said at the conference, “journalism, activism, and scholarship can and should work together towards the transformation of a better world.” With this reflection in mind, it can be highlighted that the main emerging narrative during the event was one of allyship, in the importance of building alliances and collaboration across sectors to further our collective understanding of the relationship between climate and labor. Allyship was repeatedly mentioned as central to building other future narratives.

Climate change is intersectional, as the conference sessions punctuated, but treating climate as an issue inseparable from labor—along with health, gender, and justice—is a gap we need to work together with journalists, researchers, activists, and social society to fill. In that sense, the event aimed to address this problem by bringing to light underreported stories and perspectives that show the intimate relation between climate disasters and their impact on workers' lives.

Our main goal was to initiate a global discussion through an interdisciplinary approach, also addressing issues like coloniality, climate justice, and citizenship, which we consider key for advances in this theme. By combining quality journalism, social movement expertise, and an educational approach, we pursued raising public consciousness about climate change and its impacts on labor relations to inform, communicate, and engage effectively across different regions, throughout several perspectives and types of knowledge.

- “Allyship for change” was a key idea
- The climate-and-labor (C&L) intersection brings along other topics of importance
- Reach public awareness across different regions, throughout several perspectives and knowledge



[» Session recordings](#)



# Themes Unraveled and Intertwined with C&L Issues

Throughout the conversations, several key insights and findings emerged regarding the intersection of work, climate change, and societal impacts. Here is an overall summary of the interventions discussed:

- Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including the elderly and Indigenous communities.
- Governments and corporations prioritize economic interests over mitigating climate damage, exacerbating inequalities and neglecting affected regions.
- Heat waves and extreme temperatures have devastating effects on agriculture, habitats, power systems, communication, and human health.
- Protective measures and goals should be established to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of workers and affected communities impacted by heat waves and extreme weather conditions.
- Journalism humanizes the impacts of climate change and holds governments and corporations accountable.
- Social organizations, such as labor unions and farmers' associations, pressure governments to adopt protective measures and support workers.
- Indigenous communities showcase resilience and community-led responses in the face of government inertia.
- Sociopolitical aspects, like biopower and biopolitics, reveal concerns about democratic principles and social control in disaster response.
- Citizenship mobilization empowers communities to advance grievances and demand recognition.
- Dignity, social memory, and memorialization counter neoliberalism and foster collective responsibility.
- Climate change in the Global South is exacerbated by certain economies and businesses.
- New economic thinking is necessary to address climate change.

- The interventions were very diversified in terms of perspectives and approaches.
- Issues like climate citizenship, social memory, biopower and biopolitics, new economic thinking, and democratic principles were discussed, as well as collective action, community-led responses, public health, and workers' rights.



# COMMS RESULTS

digital and offline platforms



Conference promotion reached over 1 million people across digital and offline platforms, promoting in-person and virtual conference opportunities through engaging video and multimedia content in five languages. Online promotion drove over 23,000 clicks to the conference registration page and brought 10,000 visits to the conference website, where prospective attendees could further engage with Pulitzer Center reporting and research on the intersection between climate change and labor rights.

Through these efforts, 1,885 people from 79 countries registered online for the climate and labor conference. The largest percentage of registered participants came from Indonesia (28%), the Congo Basin (17%), Brazil (13%), the United States (10%), and Portugal (10%). Online registrants represented global and local media outlets, NGOs, universities, government, labor movements, and student groups.

Across the two conference days, 566 participants tuned in online, representing 55 countries, with the majority coming from Indonesia, Brazil, Portugal, Congo, India, and the United States—but also the Philippines, Cameroon, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Spain, and more.

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- Online promotion drove over 23,000 clicks to the conference registration page and brought 10,000 visits to the event website.
- 1,889 people from 79 countries registered online for the conference.

## DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES

This conference had 26 speakers and six moderators coming from 16 countries, with different backgrounds in journalism, social movements, and academia working on climate change, labor, or the intersectionality of both. Specialists from the Global South were also present, among others, from India, Indonesia, Paraguay, Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Colombia, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. 16 speakers were female. Embracing diversity and providing a platform for underrepresented voices are at the heart of the work we do in the [International Education and Outreach \(IEO\)](#) projects at the Pulitzer Center.

Speakers also expressed that the knowledge shared in the conference was a learning space for each other, as the intersectionality between climate change and labor is under-discussed in their network. According to their feedback, the conference has unlocked the importance to start taking this into account in policy and practices. These points reflect the important role of the conference as a starting point for these parties to bring these issues to their communities and countries. Additionally, the event was a space to activate a global network of people working in the climate change and labor sector.

- Sixty-two percent of the speakers were women, and 60% of them were from the Global South.
- The speakers will be able to bring C&L issues to their communities and countries.
- The conference was also a space to activate a global network of people working in the climate change and labor sector.

## AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

During the conference, a survey was conducted to gather information about the experience of the online audience through the conference panels. The survey findings revealed that the majority of people (84%) agree that the content, the speakers, and the presentations of the sessions were "excellent," with an average rating of 8.7/10, and the remaining 16% said the content was "good." Additionally, 95% of the respondents mentioned that the conference sessions improved their knowledge about climate and labor issues.

The most common highlights from the conference were that it was relevant and helpful in broadening the understanding of new intersections of climate change and labor, as well as the importance of incorporating regional and local voices to comprehend how climate change impacts and adaptation differs across regions and economies.

The survey also indicated a strong interest among participants in understanding the intersections of climate change with new areas like labor, including in formal and informal contexts. It emphasized that innovative approaches and formats that bring together multiple stakeholders, including researchers, journalists, and social movements, are effective in educating audiences and creating outreach strategies on this topic.



Overall, the survey found that 96% of the respondents expressed feeling more compelled to learn more about climate and labor issues or further explore these topics in their respective areas of work. However, they also emphasized the importance of providing more context and further exploring conversations on often overlooked issues like inequalities and ecology.

The average rating for evaluating the panel format in building dialogues between researchers, journalists, and social movements was 8.5/10. The impact of climate change on communities and vulnerable subjects was consistently mentioned by the audience in the survey as an important subject.

The registered participants, 1,885 in total, were mostly from labor unions, news companies, universities, youth and human rights organizations, ecology-oriented institutions, and NGOs in general. The most frequent occupations were teacher, lawyer, student, freelance journalist, and human rights worker.

Many of the online attendees were impressed by the conversation on climate citizenship, and were also caught up by the fact that heat deeply affects productivity. Some of the participants showed appreciation, through the survey, for the diversity of topics in the conference, and highlighted the importance of approaching topics such as climate justice, inequality, gender, and coloniality.

- 96% of the audience feels more compelled to learn more about C&L issues or to further explore these topics in their areas of work.
- 95% of respondents agreed that the conference sessions improved their knowledge about C&L issues.
- 84% of respondents said the content, the speakers, and the presentations of the conference sessions were excellent, with an average rating of 8.7/10, and the remaining 16% considered the content was good.



## IEO THEORY OF CHANGE AND ACTION PLAN

In the IEO Education Action Plan for Climate and Labor—which describes the impacts we aim to reach in the education field with our initiatives—the conference was pictured as a knowledge exchange forum to discuss the profound impact of the climate crisis that is being experienced by workers of different sectors around the world.

» [pulitzercenter.org/climatelabor2023](https://pulitzercenter.org/climatelabor2023)

As the Action Plan shows, the discussion was meant to be an eye-opening session for the public, students, as well as specialists on the socio-economic impact of the factory workers, farmers, and coastal communities after being hit by extreme heat, rising sea levels, and irregular weather patterns. This initial description of the event was well achieved indeed, as the audience survey has illustrated.

The concept note of the conference highlighted that it was a way to initiate powerful multi-stakeholder conversations on the intersection between climate and labor. As mentioned above, the sessions were able to bring attention to this main issue, also bringing multiple actors and other topics to the discussion in areas like climate rights, health, oceans, and gender.

The goals achieved with the conference are also aligned with the IEO Theory of Change. Available in bahasa Indonesia, French, English, and Portuguese, the panels were promoted within the regions where the IEO team is based, increasing awareness about climate change, deforestation, labor, community-centered solutions, social justice, and so on. By reaching out to students, teachers, young professionals, social movements, community leaders, and urban workers in general, this C&L initiative was also built using the audience-centered approach aligned with our regional work.

Build trust in journalism, bring climate change issues close to home, increase critical thinking in students and teachers, connect content to a broader discussion on climate change, and build public opinion on environment protection: All items are part of the impact described in our Theory of Change (ToC), for the IEO initiatives in the regions, but also integrated into the Climate and Labor Conference 2023. This shows that our global action started by being built regionally and went beyond.

- Our main goal was, from the beginning, to initiate a conversation on the C&L intersection.
- Outcomes present in IEO Theory of Change are aligned with the impact we achieved with the conference, in terms of audience-centered frameworks and discussion-building.
- The conference brought to the global context the work perspective that IEO does locally in each region.





# LEARNINGS

The global conference we organized greatly enhanced our event organizing abilities and fostered team-wide learning. Valuable insights were gained over the two-day event, allowing us to discern which ideas to retain, transform, or further develop. Feedback and surveys revealed the success of thoughtfully curated speakers, diverse panel formats, and the inclusion of multi-language channels, making the event accessible to a global audience.

Feedback from panelists and moderators, obtained through post-event surveys, emphasized the significance of face-to-face interaction and exchange. The work of the Pulitzer Center was widely appreciated, particularly among participating journalists. Some respondents expressed a desire for increased public participation, especially from students at the University of Coimbra.

In response to this valuable feedback, we recognized the importance of providing speakers with additional time for collaborative discussions, potentially through workshops that facilitate vibrant and immersive learning experiences.

Building upon the feedback received, we are adapting our approach for future events to capitalize on our strengths, such as expanding online audience reach through increased registrations and attendance. Additionally, we aim to address identified gaps. In the next conference, we plan to allocate more time for speaker collaboration, likely through workshops that foster partnerships and alliances. Our intention is to create an environment conducive to meaningful exchanges among experts, researchers, journalists, and social movements, focused on finding solutions related to labor issues and the climate crisis. Furthermore, we seek to actively involve students, not just as audience members, but as active participants in the discussions, enabling them to share their knowledge and contribute to the conversation. These adjustments will enable us to maintain an ongoing dialogue, bringing diverse perspectives together to shape future narratives.

- Participants are keen to exchange and learn more deeply with one another.
- Workshops for the speakers may be a good format to improve the discussion among the specialists.
- Diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and approaches are key to enriching the in-person experience for the invitees.



# MATERIALS AND PHOTOS

You can access all the memories and materials of the conference here:

[Session Recordings](#)

[Event Images](#)

[Conference Media Kit](#)

[Presentations](#)



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