Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Nuclear versus Renewable Energy: Deconstructing Arguments and Exposing Subjective Judgements

Public understanding and government policy on climate and energy policy is polarized. In the UK and several other countries nuclear and renewable energy are competing for providing the major part of the solution to the global climate crisis. Even Australia, with no nuclear power and huge renewable energy resources, has a small but politically influential nuclear lobby. The latter claims, both in scholarly articles and public campaigning, that on objective criteria nuclear energy is safer, cleaner and healthier than renewable energy. This seminar will deconstruct the arguments of both sides in this debate, exposing the assumptions and subjective judgements of the contenders and the presenter.

About Dr Mark Diesendorf

Before 'retiring' in mid-2016, Dr Mark Diesendorf was Associate Professor in Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies, School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, at UNSW Sydney. Previously he was a Principal Research Scientist in CSIRO and then Professor of Environmental Science and Founding Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney. Currently his principal research is on rapid mitigation of global climate change. His most recent books are *Sustainable Energy Solutions for Climate Change* (Routledge-Earthscan, 2014) and *Climate Action: A campaign manual for greenhouse solutions* (UNSW Press, 2009). He is also involved in debates about the public health impacts of low-level ionising radiation.

Light refreshment is provided
Venue: Room 305, Level 3, Samuels Building, UNSW Upper Campus, Randwick
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Parking: Available on L5 of the parking station; enter via Gate 11 Botany St, Randwick
Map: www.facilities.unsw.edu.au/getting-uni/campus-maps

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Seminar Invitation

Wednesday 17th May
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Room 305 Samuels Building

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