



Research Fund

# Press release

Paris, July 21, 2021

## The AXA Research Fund Announces the Winners of the AXA Award for Climate Science

The AXA Research Fund has selected **4 outstanding climate researchers** for its AXA Award for Climate Science in recognition of **their contribution to the understanding of climate change and related adaptation strategies**.

AXA is a leader in corporate climate change and biodiversity commitments with [a comprehensive strategy](#) that leverages business expertise to find solutions to climate change adaptation. These actions include the development of divestment policies from coal as early as 2015, green (and brown) investment funds as well as innovative insurance products and financial Instruments to promote low carbon solutions.

AXA has made climate and the environment **a priority for its scientific philanthropy initiative, [the AXA Research Fund](#)** with over 230 funded projects focusing on the issues of climate and the environment. Most recently, **the AXA Research Fund launched the AXA Awards for Climate Science to reward researchers who are recognized by their peers for their ground-breaking work in the field of climate change**.

In January 2021, the AXA Research Fund issued a call for nominations that resulted in four outstanding scientists selected by the Fund's independent Scientific Board. The four Awardees are respectively working on advancing the understanding of climate evolution, informing the predictability of occurrence and impact of extreme weather events such as heat waves and storms, describing and mitigating the effects of climate change on inequalities, and promoting more resilient and fairer societies that are better prepared to face future global changes.

***“Climate science is key to understanding and adapting to climate change and alleviating its effect on livelihoods – both of humans and nature. Supporting transformational research in the area of climate change and the environment is key to our future, as is the dissemination of findings to better inform decision-making”*** said Marie Bogataj, Head of the AXA Research Fund and Group Foresight.



## 4 AXA AWARDS FOR CLIMATE SCIENCE



**Dr. Christian BRANEON**

American

**Barnard College at Columbia University  
USA**

### **Centering Equity and Environmental Justice in the Context of Climate Adaptation**

Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of disinvested and marginalized communities, leading to wider inequalities. Despite the critical importance of environmental justice as a conceptual category and organizing principle for climate resilience, it tends to get deprioritized in adaptation planning as well as policy implementation. Dr. Christian Braneon is a climate scientist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a visiting professor at Barnard College. He uses coproduction and systems approaches to advance climate equity and assess the impacts of climate change in urban, agricultural and natural environments.

#climateresilience #climateadaptation #equity #environmentaljustice #coproduction

- More about Dr. Christian BRANEON <https://www.axa-research.org/en/project/christian-braneon>



**Pr. Vanesa CASTAN-BROTO**

Spanish

**Urban Institute  
University of Sheffield  
UK**

### **Responding to Climate Change while Advancing Social Justice and Reducing Inequality in Urban Areas**

Most emissions in the next century will be emitted by infrastructures that are yet to be built, particularly in rapidly urbanising areas where infrastructure is lacking. Prof. Vanesa Castán Broto is an urbanist at the Urban Institute, University of Sheffield. She examines the social impact of actions to



adapt and mitigate climate change in urban areas and how urban communities produce climate innovations that respond to their own needs and challenges.

#inequality #climatechange #urbanization #climateadaptation #climatejustice #urbanism

- More about Pr. Vanesa CASTAN BROTO <https://www.axa-research.org/en/project/vanesa-castan-broto>



**Dr. Emilie CAPRON**

French

**Institute of Environmental Geosciences  
University of Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IRD and Grenoble-INP  
France**

### **Investigating Past Abrupt Climate Changes to Understand Causes and Assess Future Predictability**

To help predict future abrupt changes in climate, we must investigate similar past events, to understand the mechanisms involved and assess their predictability. Dr. Emilie Capron is a paleoclimatologist at the Institute of Environmental Geosciences (CNRS, UGA, Grenoble-INP, IRD) in France. She thrives to expand our ability to forecast the evolution of climate, looking at ancient climates through natural archives.

#climatechange #climatemodels #paleoclimatology #ancientclimate #globalwarming

- More about Dr. Emilie CAPRON <https://www.axa-research.org/en/project/emilie-capron>



**Dr. Markus DONAT**

German

**Barcelona Supercomputing Center  
Spain**

### **Reducing Climate Variability Uncertainties to Improve Climate Adaptation Strategies**

The last years have seen record occurrences of unprecedented extreme weather all over the globe. To improve our resilience in the face of accelerating climate change we must understand what drives these



## PRESS RELEASE

extremes events, and how they will change in the future. Dr. Markus Donat is a climate scientist at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center studying extreme weather events, such as heat waves, heavy rains and storms. He seeks to increase our understanding on the causes and variability of climate extremes, to support the design of adaptation strategies.

#extremeweather #heatwaves #climateadaptation #climateresilience #climateforecast

- More about Dr. Markus DONAT <https://www.axa-research.org/en/project/markus-donat>

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### ABOUT THE AXA RESEARCH FUND

**The AXA Research Fund was launched in 2008 to address the most important issues facing our planet. Its philanthropic mission is to support scientific research in key areas related to risk and to help inform science-based decision-making in both the public and private sectors.**

Since its launch, the AXA research Fund has committed a total of €250M to scientific philanthropy and supported **665 research projects in the areas of Health, Climate & Environment, and Socioeconomics**. This makes the AXA Research Fund a unique initiative in the financial sector in terms of mission and level of support to scientific research.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Read more about the AXA Research Fund research projects

Website: [www.axaresearch.org](http://www.axaresearch.org)

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