

# Science for Peace

**April 22, 2021**

## President's Column



Dear Members,

Science for Peace continues to hum along. The Q & A Zoom session with Danny Harvey on April 14th attracted mainly SfP stalwarts, who posed many interesting questions and comments. I personally enjoyed the event immensely; it took the shape of a lively seminar. With COVID restrictions, we have no opportunities to meet in person. This interactive webinar was an opportunity for us to reaffirm our community and commitment to continuous learning about the challenges we face.

Our Twitter account has taken off, thanks to the willingness of board members to supply Julieta with posts deriving from their own areas of expertise. If you want to be informed on a wide range of peace and sustainability issues, our Twitter is the place to be. If you have a Twitter account, please follow ours at @science4peace and be sure to 'follow' it. And don't forget to 'Like' our Facebook page, if you have an account. Our social media need all the hoop they can garner.

Don't forget our joint webcast with World Beyond War on ***Militarism & Climate Change=Disaster in Progress*** on April 29. Followw the link provided below for full details and please register!

We are sorry to say good-bye to Sara Beiruti, who has completed her term as president of the Campus Group. She recounts her experiences in the Focus section that follows. We are also pleased to welcome Samantha Tristen, who is pursuing a Masters in Global Affairs at the Munk School, as the incoming president. We have already involved Samanth in a new joint project on disarmament with Canadian VOW for Peace and the Women's International

League for Peace and Freedom.


The executive is currently discussing whether we should hire a half-time National Coordinator to move us to the next level of effectiveness. The complexity of our existing activities are such that it is unreasonable to expect the mandate to be fulfilled solely by volunteers, assisted by our able part-time coordinator Melisa Kuc. Remember that we had four presidents resign before I assumed that role. I'm worried about the succession, quite frankly.


A National Coordinator/Executive Director is an expensive investment. Again, I urge you to remember Science for Peace in your wills. Your legacy will be a strengthened organization capable of assessing the acute dangers we face, advocating solutions, and forging partnerships to build the world we want.

Richard Sandbrook  
*President, Science for Peace*  
*Professor Emeritus of Political Science*  
*University of Toronto*


## Upcoming

[Register Here](#)

**SCIENCE FOR PEACE**  
scienceforpeace.ca

WORLD BEYOND WAR.org  
a global movement to end all wars


**WEBCAST 3 2021**  
**THURS**  
**APR 29**  
**7pm EDT**


**LIVE**

**MILITARISM +**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE =**  
**DISASTER IN PROGRESS**


**Jaggi Singh:** independent journalist , activist  
**Clayton Thomas-Müller:**  
campaigner and media producer on  
indigenous rights and environmental justice  
**Kasha Sequoia Slavner:**  
award-winning filmmaker on climate and justice issues

**REGISTER > [worldbeyondwar.org](http://worldbeyondwar.org) (Events)**


Climate Pledge Collective, University of Toronto


THE GLOBAL SUNRISE  
PROJECT


Canadian Voice  
of Women for  
Peace

CLIMATEFAST

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
SFP STUDENTS' CHAPTER

extinction  
rebellion

TORONTO 350.org

music for  
climate justice

## Recent Activities

**CLIMATE CRISIS Q&A**  
**DANNY HARVEY**  
U of T Climate Scientist, Geographer, Author  
**7-8 PM EDT WED APR 14**  
join in @  
**scienceforpeace.ca**

To view full recording, please click the button below.

[Q & A with Danny Harvey](#)

## Focus on Members: Sara Beiruti Abdulrahman



*Masters of Global Affairs Candidate, 2022  
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy  
University of Toronto*

### Science for Peace Reflection

It was my greatest pleasure to serve as the President of Science for Peace – University of Toronto Chapter - this academic year (20/21). A special thank you to my team members, without whom our accomplishments would not be possible.

During our first meeting in September, my team of six laid out its goals and objectives for this year. The message was clear: to raise awareness about the organization and its work, including its webinars, and to share information related to the intersection of militarism and climate change. Despite our other commitments and being full-time students, we managed to meet occasionally to discuss our strategy. This year challenged our communication capabilities as we had to operate despite several time zones and varying schedules. This pushed us harder to meet our deadlines as we each needed to strengthen our communication skills in order to succeed as a group. As we rapidly shifted all of SfP's operations to the digital sphere, my team also struggled to compensate for the lack of physical interaction with our community. We eventually coped through supporting one another in our tasks and complementing each other's skillset in all our endeavours.

My team focused on our digital presence and our networks to strengthen the organization's impact. We created social media accounts to connect with UofT students and other climate activists. Primarily, our team had two media communication experts, who shared articles relating to our topic of interest. We learned many lessons, especially regarding content creation and delivery

style in an effort to reach a wider audience. Additionally, we were excited to host a webinar on the intersection of indigenous issues and climate change. However, we faced many obstacles on the way preventing us from achieving this milestone in our year's plan. Though we were disappointed, this year taught us to be adaptable.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work closely with our parent company's team. Without their support and involvement with our team, it would have been difficult to navigate through these challenging times. One of my favourite moments as president was speaking during the "Overcoming the Climate Crisis" webinar alongside UofT Climate scientist geographer, Danny Harvey and Toronto Fridays for Future President, Allie Rougeot. It was a chance to learn more about the new age of presentation delivery and the wider field of climate activism.

As I reflect back on this particularly difficult year, I am proud of our achievements. The persisting pandemic, stressful schoolwork, the strive for work-life balance, and other obligations were definitely challenging to juggle. However, I owe it all to the supportive environment of Science for Peace that pushed us to learn and re-learn. Through this experience, I gained massive exposure to a wide literature on climate change and more importantly, about my responsibilities to mother earth. Though my journey with Science for Peace is coming to an end, my work has just begun. I am eternally grateful for the personal growth, skill development and climate knowledge that I have gained along the way - that, I owe to my time with Science for Peace.

## Recent Articles



### Pierre Jasmin, David Millar: Fears of War, Canada-China

#### 1. Does China deserve our hostility?

July will mark the 100th anniversary of the Communist Chinese Party founding by Mao Zedong. President Xi Jinping now has as much, if not more power, than Mao at the time.

[Continue reading](#)

Science for Peace  
355 University College  
15 King's College Circle  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5S 3H7  
[sfp@physics.utoronto.ca](mailto:sfp@physics.utoronto.ca)



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