

Global Conversation with Mark Herstgaard.

Youth, Trump Resistance, Climate Survival.



Mark Herstgaard – is a prominent journalist, writer and public speaker. He presented his researches about the importance of the global warming issue and had prolific, interactive discussions with the Global Governance students. His successful books are “Earth Odyssey: Around the World in Search of Our Environmental Future”, “Bravehearts: Whistle Blowing in the Age of Snowden” and more related to the current topic – “Hot: Living through the Next Fifty Years on Earth”.

His professional work on climate change starts from the year of 1989. He has been working in 19 different countries, including China and South America. Mr. Herstgaard described that his attitude has totally changed when his daughter was born. Apparently, we act better when the particular issue directly concerns us.

All of us (youngsters) are part of the generation “hot”. Climate change is a depressing topic, but we need to face the truth. The biggest achievements have been occurred in climate change only the last couple of years and by people just like us.

Hurricane Katrina — was the first feature of huge climate change catastrophe for the US government. Afterwards Mr. Herstgaard has done investigation for Vanity Fair journal. He went to London to speak to the professors about the danger level of climate change. The scientists confessed that it’s even more serious than terrorism. That day he decided to dedicate his life for tackling the climate change impact.

There are a lot of good news, but we are not doing our best. 1988 was the year of acknowledging the global warming. In 2016 majority of the countries all over the world ratified Paris Agreement, to response and reduce the climate change level on our planet.



The most devilish fact about the climate change is its cumulateness. CO₂ molecules stay in atmosphere for hundreds of years. We need to shift from the carbon economy to the green economy immediately, in order to abate the impact in the upcoming future.

If our economic, political systems were working right, they would talk about climate change all day. Climate change is not obvious, but extremely important. Young people in US are getting jailed for the climate change resistance. When that happens the media writes about it. And politicians get active, because they want to be re-elected.

Barack Obama was the first president acknowledging the priority of Climate change. He made some mistakes in this way, but he faced strong opposition, hatred from Republicans for his race mostly. Obama received 3 times more death treats than any other president, mostly racial. Oppositions wanted to emphasize that he was not born in USA. It was the highest hostility after the Lincoln's assassination. In the final years Obama managed to achieve important things in climate change. There also was a climate march on September 2014, when 300-400 thousand people that changed political dynamics. It matters because when there that many people in the street, any government will do something.



Nowadays, Trump is having failing presidency. Because 3-5 million people went to the streets. "I'm not alone and we're going continue on", "We are not going away, welcome to your first day" were the most popular slogans. All media gets the idea that people don't like Trump. Even Supreme Court judges read newspapers too. Seeing people in the streets helping them to say

the rights things. This clearly describes the necessity of the actions by the citizens.

After the talk Global Governance students had the opportunity to ask the questions regarding the spoken issue:

One student asked about the role of the Media. Mr. Herstgaard answered that they get to decide what political reality is. Which topics are essential and what should gain our attention. For instance, 97% of scientists say climate change is emergency while the remaining 3% - who oppose this theory - are mostly funded by the oil companies. Commercialization of media, and also arrival of the internet what made news free might be dangerous for society.

Another question was: We have to fight on lots of issues, how can we go to the streets for different reasons?

"That's why we have various political parties".

Mr. Hertsgaard concluded with that we must be active for seeking the information. There are a lot of activists on climate change. If we all take action and co-operate, we can provide safe future for ourselves and next generations. There are millions of people who think just like us and we can make global impact on this vital concern.

Shahmar Hasanov & Elettra Schininà.