GCSC Seminar Series

February 28, 2017
4:00-5:00 PM

Anthony Barnosky
Stanford University, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

210 ASB
(Aline Skaggs Building)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Refreshments & meet the speaker at 3:45
Abstract

Extinctions. Zika virus. The migrant crisis. Climate change. ISIS. The economy. What we read in the news almost every day now seems like a string of unrelated problems, but they’re not. In fact they are intimately intertwined and feed back on one another to poise humanity on the brink of a societally dangerous tipping point we’d hit in just a decade or two—if we don’t start doing things differently. This lecture will point out how we know that planetary tipping points happen (though rarely), why we seem on the brink of one, and what each of us can do to help the world tip in a direction that is good for people and the planet, rather than one that will harm both. The talk will relate some key points of the speakers’ new book, Tipping Point for Planet Earth—How Close Are We To The Edge? (April 2016, Thomas Dunne / St. Martin’s Press).

Bio

Anthony D. Barnosky is Executive Director of Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. Author of numerous scientific publications, op eds, blog posts, and books, he has spent three decades conducting research related to past planetary changes, and what they mean for forecasting the changes to come on Planet Earth in the next few decades. His research has taken him to South America, India, China, Africa, Europe, and wild lands of the western United States, in a quest to learn how past species reacted to major environmental changes and what that tells us about the changes to come in our future. Further information about Professor Barnosky’s work is available from his website: http://ib.berkeley.edu/labs/barnosky/

He can be followed on Twitter @tonybarnosky.