World Truth Fact

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – 2:30pm- 4:20pm Williamson Theatre

Introducing an exciting new lecture series that spans the academic year presented by the Office of the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. These lectures examine an important topic facing humanity through a variety of academic lenses.

World on Fire...

What can be done to solve the Climate Crisis?

Systemic Transformation or AI/Technological Solutions?

Dr. Ashley Dawson is Professor of English at the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center. He is the author of many books dealing with Environmental crisis, including the forthcoming *Environmentalism from Below.*

From torrential rains in NYC to wildfires across the Western US, Europe, and even the Artic, the world is in the grip of deepening climate breakdown. There is one major cause of global warming: continuing combustion of greenhouse gas-generating energy. Fossil fuels still account for 82 percent of total primary energy consumption worldwide, and consumption of coal, gas, and oil continues to increase globally. In this presentation, I will argue that the movement to abolish fossil fuels must have two complementary and connected wings. One is increasingly focused on a diversity of tactics to shut down fossil infrastructure. The other must be dedicated to a rapid buildout of publicly controlled renewables. This presentation discusses the challenges each wing of the climate movement currently confronts and speculates about successful strategies for the movement to abolish fossil fuels.
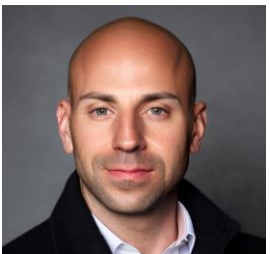
After spending 15 years as a senior systems administrator and cybersecurity professional, Joseph Frusci is now a computer science/cybersecurity and social studies teacher for the NYC DOE at Staten Island Technical High School, as well as an adjunct assistant professor for the History and Computer Science departments at the College of Staten Island.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transcended its initial connotations of robots and science fiction to become an instrumental tool in various sectors, and one of its most pivotal applications is in combating climate change. This lecture delves into the fundamental concepts of AI, shedding light on its intricacies, capabilities, and transformative potential. More importantly, we will explore how AI is revolutionizing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies – from predictive modeling of climate patterns to optimizing renewable energy sources and even monitoring deforestation in real time.

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