

The Call to Action: Climate Change, Pandemic and a Vulnerable World



Presented by David Peritz, PhD

David Peritz (PhD, Oxford University) is a leader in the field of lifelong learning. His lectures and webinars cover a wide range of topics in contemporary politics, philosophy, culture, society, and technology. Those who attended or watched his presentations, describe him as "dynamic . . . engaging . . . information and educational." Prof. Peritz is the senior member of the Politics faculty at Sarah Lawrence College and has also taught at various universities including UC Berkeley and USF Fromm Institute.

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Throughout the world 2020 presented extreme challenges to human communities. The corona virus pandemic spread suffering and misery. Uncontrolled climate change continued to accelerate the growth of extreme weather events: mega-fires and hurricanes, droughts and floods. This presentation will briefly survey the complex but certain science of global climate change and relate it to the pandemic via what is called the "vulnerable world hypothesis". Though as human beings we are equipped with worldviews and cognitive patterns that served us well in the world "up to yesterday," we are perhaps less able to cope with the ways the size, power, and technological sophistication of the human species are now rendering the world vulnerable. One focus of this conversation will be ethics and politics, and specifically how we might develop capacities for collective action to address the new threats we face.

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