



Critical Futures: Designing Sustainable Ecologies

February 7-8, 2025

Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi

The 2020 Global Climate Risk Index report cites Pakistan as one of the top ten countries impacted by climate change. Ironically, however, Pakistan is responsible for under 1% of the total carbon emissions globally. The inequality of the climate crisis is such that it bears down hardest on countries that contribute the least to it. The fault lines between responsibility for climatic degradation and its consequences, now more than ever, necessitate a shift in our discourses and practices. There is an unmistakable need for localised urgency, ideation, capacity-building and leadership within the Global South to address the accelerated timelines leading to the inequity of the southern fallout, as global temperatures continue to rise.

Although sustainability has been elevated to the top of agendas as an economic and ethical imperative in practices and institutions globally, it has often led to reductive outcomes. There has been scant investigation into meaningful or long-term connections to environmental ecologies, especially as they pertain to the fragility of the Global South. There is a further need to view the climatic vulnerability of Pakistan's territories and its resources not just through the lens of global conversations but through regional frameworks for preparedness and design innovation. Through such shifts in sensibilities, dialogue and collaboration, there is room to focus on creating resilient, creative and socially responsive environments that can incorporate and accommodate the inherently conflicting conditions between ecologies and cities.

The Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture is hosting a conference in February 2025, titled 'Critical Futures', that juxtaposes the latest research and interdisciplinary dialogue on climate and sustainability with the imperative task of crafting and addressing localised strategies. While the conference remains accommodating to various regions, communities and built environments in the Global South, our aim for Critical Futures is to focus the lens on Pakistan. Understanding the causes and consequences of how we have arrived here, engendering empowerment and fostering impact are the central tenets of this gathering, with which we embark on the task of transforming a foreboding critical future into a sustainable possibility.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

We invite you to submit a 350-500 word abstract for one of the following categories:

- ◆ Paper presentation
- ◆ Exhibit/Installation
- ◆ Short film/documentary

Your proposal should be relevant to any one or more of the following thematic areas:

THEMES:

1. Rethinking Urbanism: Climate change and the built environment in the Global South
2. Decentering the West: The discourse and semiotics of sustainability
3. Pedagogies for critical futures
4. Contextualizing circular systems of material, production and economies
5. Social equity and climate justice
6. Technology and data driven approaches in design
7. Landscapes, biodiversity and ecological integrity
8. Imaginations: The role of creative practices in crafting sustainable futures

Abstracts must be submitted by the 1st of August, 2024, 11.59pm to the following e-mail address:

criticalfutures@ivs.edu.pk

TIMELINE:

April 26, 2024 - Open call for proposals

August 1, 2024 - Abstract submission deadline

August 15, 2024 - Abstract selection announcement

January 3, 2025 - Final submission deadline

February 7-8, 2025 - Conference weekend

VENUE:

Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi