

# Event programme and speakers

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## ● Financing net zero: How can investment meet the climate challenge?

On 5 December 2019 the Society hosted a knowledge exchange event on the role of the financial sector in the green transition and net zero economy. Discussions centred on practical methods of financing green innovations; greening the financial sector itself; and decarbonisation across the value chains of business and industry.

### Opening panel

- Organisers' introduction: Harriet Bulkeley, University of Durham/Utrecht University; Lars Nilsson, Lund University; Andries Hof, PBL The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
- Josué Tanaka, Managing Director Operational Strategy and Planning, EBRD
- Ray Dhirani, Head: Sustainable Finance, WWF UK

### Panel: Financing Green

Chaired by: Sarah Knuth, Durham University

*What is the progress being made to finance green innovations and transitions that can help meet the UK's Net Zero target?*

- Sofiane Belmiloud, Investor Outreach Manager, FAIRR Initiative
- Bregje van Veelen, Research Associate REINVENT, Durham University
- Sarah Colenbrander, Head Of The Global Programme, Coalition For Urban Transitions, World Resources Institute

### Roundtable discussions: Financing Green

Coffee break

### Panel: Greening Finance

Chaired by: Gavin Bridge, Durham University

*What is the potential for greening the finance sector, and how can such dynamics help to contribute to a just transition towards a net zero economy in the UK and beyond?*

- Sarah Kemmitt, Manager, Major UK Banks Supervision, Bank of England
- Simon Messenger, France and UK Director, 2 Degrees Investing Initiative
- Will Irwin, Policy Analyst Sustainable Finance, London School of Economics

### Roundtable discussions: Greening Finance

### Closing panel

- Andy Gouldson, Leeds University
- Karen Lai, Durham University
- Lars Nilsson, Lund University