



“Climate Change, the Brain and the Next 100 Years”

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Hosted by: Asst. Professor Inna Nechipurenko & the Neuroscience Program

Tuesday, September 17th 12:00 pm

Gateway 1002

Pizza will be served

Abstract:

What is it about the design of the human brain that makes climate change such a difficult problem for us? Does viewing this crisis through a brain lens help us recognize better solutions for the unique moment we are in today? This talk will bring together themes from neuroscience, environmental science, medicine, psychology, public health, demography, and policy to sketch out how we got here, the forces that will influence our choices, and some of their potential consequences. We will explore why changing our priorities on climate presents unique challenges and whether taking this into account can make it easier to move in a more effective direction.

Bio:

Dr. Duhaime is a senior pediatric neurosurgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and is the Nicholas T. Zervas Distinguished Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School. Her neuroscience research investigates mechanisms, pathophysiology, imaging, and treatment of injury in the immature brain, using translational and clinical approaches to study injuries occurring in infants and young children, including those seen most commonly in child abuse. The work also investigates plasticity, recovery, and return of brain function in children and adolescents during maturation.

Dr. Duhaime also has a longstanding interest in the relationship between brain and behavior, and in environmental issues. She is a Faculty Associate of the Harvard University Center for the Environment. Beginning with a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute in 2016 she has explored the neurobiology of reward circuitry and plasticity and its relevance to pro-environmental behavior, and also worked with a diverse team to design a prototype advanced “green” biophilic pediatric hospital. Her book on this work, *Minding the Climate* (Harvard University Press), was awarded the Sustainability Book of the Year in 2023 by Project Syndicate. She now serves as Associate Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for the Environment and Health, supervising the Research pillar, as Associate Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Climate Change and Health*, and is pursuing interdisciplinary collaboration on the intersection of climate change, war, and health.