

Inequality in air quality

Talk by Katja Džepina

Abstract

Air quality in a modern world is shaped by human activities. Man-made or anthropogenic pollution is a consequence of human activities. The effects of anthropogenic pollution on the air quality increased dramatically since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Recent Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) report found that warming of the Earth system after pre-industrial times is unequivocal and caused by anthropogenic activities. Particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and low air quality are the people living in the areas where the air quality standards are not regulated or enforced, such as those living close to the sources of pollutants' emissions or in developing societies. In this talk, we will explain the basics of anthropogenic pollution and its effects on the current air quality over the globe. We will give examples of differences in the air quality in the developed and emerging societies, and open the discussion for the ethical considerations of life quality in today's Anthropocene period.

Short Biography

Katja Džepina is an assistant professor at the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Rijeka. Currently, she is working on chemical characterization of ambient aerosol in the urban and remote environments of Primorsko-goranska County by combining the measurements and modeling. Prior to joining University of Rijeka she was a post doctoral researcher at the Department of Chemistry at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, USA and in the Particle Chemistry Department of Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany. Katja received a Ph.D. in chemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder. During her PhD, Katja was a Fellow of Advanced Study Program and Atmospheric Chemistry Division at NCAR in Boulder, CO. Prior to this she was at the Laboratory for Chemical Kinetics and Atmospheric Chemistry of Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb, Croatia. Finally, Katja received her B.Sc. in chemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Zagreb.