More and more people are becoming aware of plastics gyres and microplastics in the oceans, cities around the world are banning plastic bags and straws, China has stopped accepting most of the world’s plastic for recycling, and scientists, industries, and countries are struggling with the positive and negative implications of plastic. This event brings together experts from the UCSB campus, science/social science/humanities, government, non-profit agencies, and industry, and a film, to discuss these and other timely questions:

- How are plastic and its alternatives designed, made, used, re-used, trashed, burned, recycled, and spread throughout the earth and oceans?
- What do biodegradable, compostable, and sustainable actually mean?
- What are UCSB, local agencies, and industries doing about plastic recycling?
- How do, and should, we communicate about the uses and consequences of plastic?
- What are industry, legal, and policy initiatives and challenges in managing plastics?

**Session 1: 2:00-3:15; Session 2: 3:30-4:45 (presentations, discussion, audience Q&A)**

**Participants:**

- Mahdi Abu-Omar (Professor, Mellichamp Chair in Green Chemistry): *Designing Plastic and Alternative Materials*
- Chemical Company representative: *Industry and Policy Perspectives*
- Roland Geyer (Assoc. Professor, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management): *The Fate of All Plastic*
- Patricia Holden (Professor, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management; Director, UCSB Natural Reserve System): *Synthetic Microfibers: Emissions, Pathways, and Fates*
- Aaron McKinnon (University of Hamburg, Germany) and Imke Hoppe (Professor, University of Hamburg, Germany): *Public Discourse in California about Microplastics*
- Carlyle A. Johnston (Project Leader, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, Public Works Department, County of Santa Barbara): *China, Global Trade, and How They Impact Recycling in Santa Barbara*
- Stacy Rebich-Hespanha (recently of National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis; environmental, visualization, and collaboration design consultant): *Microplastics in your Washing Machine*
- Ronald E. Rice (Professor, Communication): *Plastic Recycling Communication Campaigns*
- Jessica Schmitt (Recycling and Compost Coordinator, Associated Students) and Heather Perry (Sustainable procurement Analyst, Purchasing): *Managing Plastic at UCSB*
- Susannah Scott (Professor, Chemical Engineering, Mellichamp Cluster Chair in Sustainable Catalytic Processing, Director of the Mellichamp Academic Initiative in Sustainability)

**Session 3: 4:45-5:15**

Students: Meet with presenters to discuss your interests!

**Session 4: 7:00-9:00**

- Video: Local high school citizen science project: *Microplastics in Your Washing Machine* (5 min)
- Film: *Oceans: The Mystery of the Missing Plastic* (55 min)
- Discussion: Panel and Audience

This event is part of an ongoing series on *Sustainable Science Communication*, co-sponsored by the Arthur N. Rupe Professor in the Social Effects of Mass Communication (http://www.comm.ucsb.edu/news/annual/arthur-n-rupe) and the Mellichamp Academic Initiative in Sustainability (http://sustech.ucsb.edu/). More details, including presenter bios and many online resources at http://sustech.ucsb.edu/conferences/2019-slp.

Free of charge. Refreshments provided.

Your professor may offer one of the sessions as extra credit; sign-up sheets will be provided.