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 (Mellichamp Professor in Green Chemistry): Plastics from Nature for a Prosperous Future
- Roland Geyer (Professor, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management): Production, Use, and Fate of All Plastics
- 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) and Imke Hoppe (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Hamburg): Responsibility Framing in Californian and German News Coverage of Marine Debris
- 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
- Jessica Schmitt (Recycling and Compost Coordinator, Associated Students), Heather Perry (Sustainable Procurement Analyst, Purchasing), and Tanner Dorrough (Associated Students): 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

- Keynote: Dylan de Thomas (Vice President of Industry Collaboration, The Recycling Partnership): What’s Next for Plastics Recycling’s Future Past?
- Stacy Rebich Hespanha (Flourish Strategy and Analytics; Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management; and Goleta Family School): Video: Goleta Family School science project funded by NOAA: Save Our Seas News: Kids Taking Action against Microplastic Pollution (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.