

## The Surprising Ecologist - Karl Marx [EN]

*Friday 10 February 2023 11:00 (1h 30m)*

If you were going away for a couple of weeks, would you trust Stalin to house sit for you? Would you be confident of seeing your pet cat or dog alive again when you got home?

Probably not.

The Soviet Union did not have a good track record of looking after the habitats of their people. From the agricultural disasters that hit millions of lives because of the fake science of Lysenko, to the dramatic the shrinking of the Aral Sea, and the dramatic meltdown of reactor 4 in Chernobyl in 1986. In the background to these failures is the figure of Karl Marx.

It would therefore seem rather weird if we turned to Karl Marx for some wisdom when we find ourselves in the middle of the 6th Mass Extinction Event. Yet, the surprising truth is that Marx offers us a deeply probing analysis of the crisis we face with our habitat, and he also points us in a very helpful way forward.

This dialectical waltz with our surprising Ecologist will step through sewage, starvation and superstructure.

Short bio: Mr. Pye is a philosophy teacher and the philosophy department coordinator at EEB2. He is also an author and the founder of the Climate Academy.

Since 2011, he has worked closely with Michael Wadleigh (Oscar Winner, Director, 'Woodstock' 1970) and Birgit van Munster (DVM), a sustainability and climate change expert. In all of their projects they together have been committed to bridging the gap between the science of sustainable development and public awareness.

The Climate Academy (est. 2011) for gifted and talented students hothouses their understanding sustainability through collaboration with leading figures in the field.

"Plato Tackles Climate Change" (2020) is the first in a series of publications that opens up both the classroom and the Academy to the wider world. This series of books: "No Common Sense", takes the greatest minds of the past (such as Nietzsche, Arendt, Descartes, Popper...) and gets them to expose the critical issues of sustainability that we face.

**Presenter:** Prof. PYE, Matthew

**Session Classification:** GENERAL ASSEMBLY #2