



The Road Report & More

Health, Science, & Climate Action

Dr. Shahir Mastri

Escape to Peru

Those of you who have been following our journey know that Athina and I have been hard at climate advocacy for well over a year. Having taken virtually no rest for ourselves, we decided it was finally time for a vacation, particularly in light of our recent engagement. Thus, we spent the month of March in Peru. Why Peru? Besides the beautiful landscapes and rich history, it was a place where Athina could practice her Spanish and I could set foot in the Amazon rain forest to both appreciate its majesty as well as document firsthand the impacts of deforestation and the plight of endangered species. I'll be bringing you a variety of videos on those issues in the coming weeks. Near the end of our trip, we got to visit Machu Picchu. Instead of taking the train, we decided to take the historic 4-day trek via the Inca Trail. The photo above was therefore one of particular celebration!



News & Blog

While in Peru, we visited Lake Titicaca. Not only is it one of the highest navigable lakes in the world (12,500 ft), but it is also home to a civilization that even pre-dates the Incas. These tribes have been able to reside in this region successfully for ages due in part to their

ability to live harmoniously with nature. They fish sustainably from the lake, and they build their tools and homes from materials that breakdown and return back to the ecosystem. Shockingly, they don't live on land. but rather on floating "islands" made out of reed plants. Yes, I'm referring to thick mats of vegetation that are literally floating on the lake. This is where they call home. Several times a year, these tribes add new dry reed to their island to replace that which has been swallowed by the lake. I think we can all learn a little something from the simplicity of their ways. Thus, I did some filming. [Click here](#) to check out this short video and get a glimpse into their lives.

Book Sale

In celebration of Earth Day, I'm offering free shipping all this month on my new book *Beyond Debate: Answers to 50 Misconceptions on Climate Change*. The book has been endorsed by Citizens' Climate Lobby founder Marshall Saunders as well as several prominent scientists. If you're a climate activist, this book is a must! Packed

with over 170 science-based references, it's your perfect resource. Have a book club? Beyond Debate is a great way to bring climate conversation into your group. Conveniently, the book reads like a field guide, so the chapters don't have to be read in order. And importantly, the final two chapters are dedicated to climate solutions. Each book purchased through my website serves as a donation to help keep our climate outreach moving forward. [Click here](#) to buy your discounted copy today!



Why is the Climate Top Priority?

When we think of national priorities, climate change is often viewed as its own issue.



We think of poverty, immigration, violence, the economy, national security, and then, quite separately, we think "climate change." However, a critical psychological transition that is necessary to expedite meaningful climate action is the realization that climate change is deeply tied to each

of these other issues. Take immigration; there are now more environmental refugees than political refugees. The new phrase "climate refugee" has evolved as a result. How about national security? The Pentagon identifies climate change as a major threat to political stability and U.S. military infrastructure. The economy? Future climate impacts are expected to cost the U.S. literally hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of this century, due to sea level rise, increased natural disasters, lost work hours, etc. Public health? Warming temperatures are expanding the ranges of mosquitoes and other vectors, bringing diseases such as malaria, Lyme disease, and Zika virus to new areas. Additionally, as climate impacts worsen, we can expect more conflict over dwindling water and land resources, particularly affecting impoverished communities. Because of its close inter-relatedness with a variety of top national priorities, there is no question that climate change is our top priority. The key is realizing the connection between climate change and other key issues. To contribute to the public's understanding of these connections, it's critical to discuss climate change in the context of other issues. [Click here](#) to access key reports that speak to these connections. I'll be updating this resource regularly. You can also read my new book for additional points and insights.

April Calendar

I'm very excited this month as I've been invited to speak at the upcoming Garson & Shaw annual textile reuse and recycling conference in Atlanta. Garson & Shaw, LLC specializes in the sale of secondhand clothing, with work that spans 40 countries. This year, climate change is their theme. I look forward to sharing my climate work. [Click here](#) to learn more about Garson & Shaw and to

watch their video on the positive impacts that secondhand clothing can make in the world! I'm also excited for the variety of Earth Day events taking place this month, many of which I'll be speaking at. If you're in the California area, come pay a visit! To the right you'll find the list of events where you can find me in April. [Click here](#) to view my full calendar, which is updated regularly.

April 26th
Atlanta, GA
Conference on Textile Reuse and Recycling
[More info >>](#)

April 20th
Newport Beach, CA
Newport Bay Conservancy
Earth Day Festival

April 18th
Newport Beach, CA
Newport Bay Conservancy

April 18th
Laguna Woods, CA
Earth Day Panel

April 14th
Claremont, CA
Earth Day Celebration 2019: Reimagining Our Resources
[More info >>](#)

April 13th
San Juan Capistrano
St. Andrews by the Sea Methodist Church
10AM, Fellowship Hall

April 12th
Tustin, CA
Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

**Cheers,
Dr. Shahir Masri**

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