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PRACTICAL IDEAS TO HELP SLOW GLOBAL WARMING

By Kevin Krajick
Lamont-Doherty News

For years the governments of industrialized nations have wrangled over setting limits on carbon emissions to slow the pace of global warming. Now scientists say they have identified a less contentious path that would help accomplish the same goal—14 cheap and easy steps to reduce methane and soot, two common pollutants that are byproducts of industry and farming.

They estimate their approach would reduce global warming by nearly 1 degree Fahrenheit by mid-century, about a third of the projected warming, and have the added bonus of averting premature deaths from air pollution and boosting crop yields. Their study, which builds on a report last year from the UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, appears in the Jan. 13 edition of *Science*.

“Ultimately, we have to deal with CO₂, but dealing with these pollutants is more doable, and it brings fast benefits,” said lead author Drew Shindell, a researcher at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Columbia’s Earth Institute.

Carbon dioxide, a byproduct of burning fossil fuels, is the major cause of global warming. But the political, economic and technological challenges of reducing emissions are huge. Methane and soot contribute to warming too, but there are already ways available to deal with them, say the authors.

“Ultimately, we have to deal with CO₂, but dealing with these pollutants is more doable, and it brings fast benefits.”

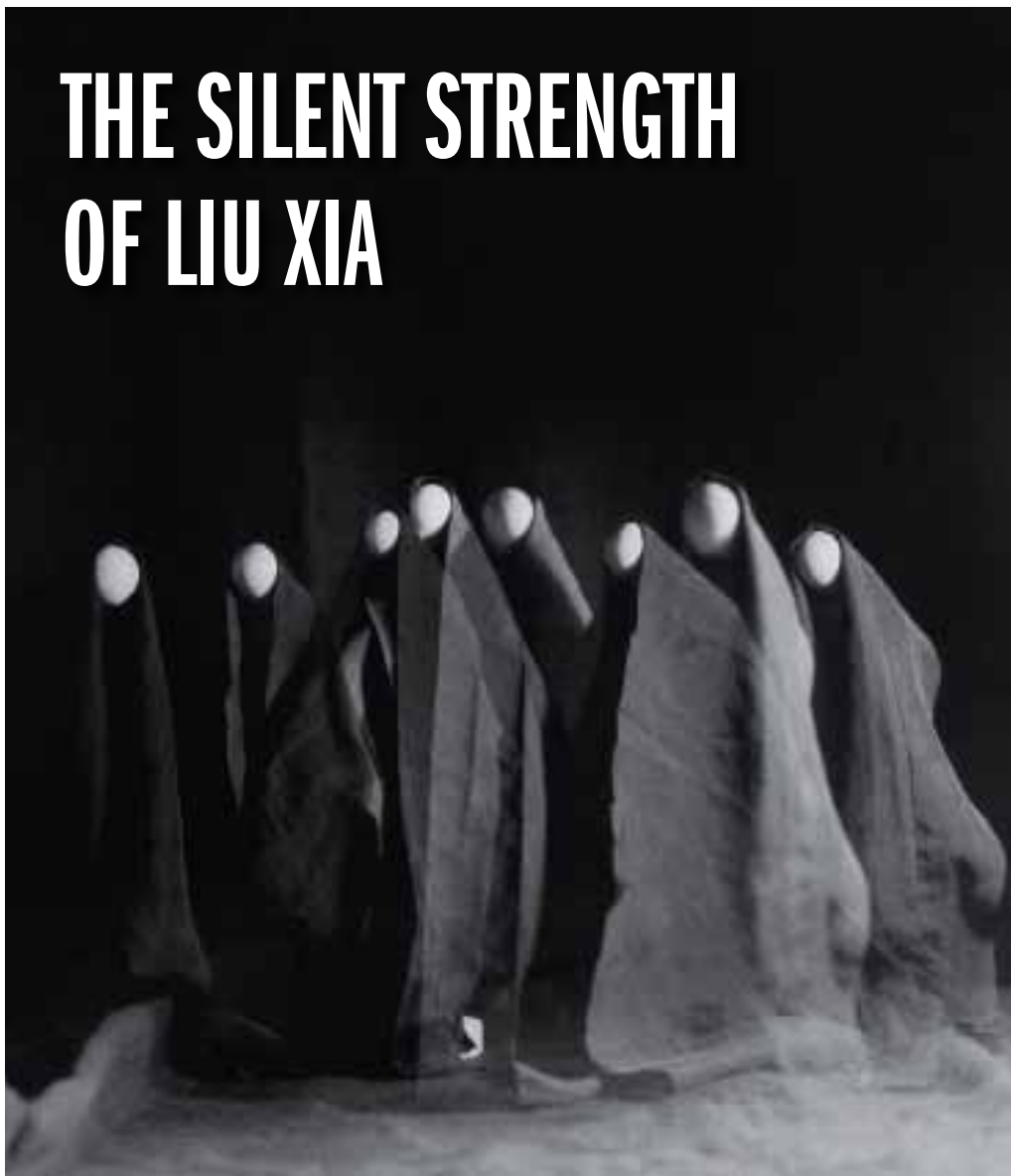
Methane, a flammable constituent of natural gas and natural byproduct of decay and digestion processes, is a greenhouse gas similar to CO₂, but pound for pound far more potent. It also reacts with other gases to form ground-level ozone, a major pollutant that damages both crops and human health.

Soot, technically known as black carbon, comes from incomplete combustion of wood, dung, coal and other fuels. It absorbs radiation from the sun, warming both the air and land and causing rainfall patterns to shift. It also worsens cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

Shindell and 23 colleagues from North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia looked at some 400 existing pollution control measures that might cut global warming. Then they used computer models to zero in on 14 that would have the most immediate ef-

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THE SILENT STRENGTH OF LIU XIA



LIU XIA

Columbia hosts the only U.S. exhibit of Chinese artist Liu Xia’s work when a show of her photographs at the Italian Academy opens on Feb. 9. Liu Xia, however, will not be in attendance. She has been under house arrest since her husband Liu Xiaobo was named the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner, and her work is forbidden from display or publishing in China. See page 4 for a story on the exhibit.

DURST GIFT HELPS LAUNCH NEW CENTER ON URBAN REAL ESTATE

By Adam Piore

Without real estate, there could be no architecture, no planning, no preservation. Now the graduate school devoted to all those things has launched the University’s first Center for Urban Real Estate, a research group whose mission is to identify solutions for a rapidly urbanizing world.

The center is led by Vishaan Chakrabarti, an architect, former city planner and real estate developer, who joined Columbia in 2009 as the Holliday Professor of Real Estate Development and director of the real estate development program in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Chakrabarti’s ambitious goals for the center, established last fall, got a big boost recently when one of New York’s leading real estate families, the Durst Organization, announced a \$4 million gift to GSAPP and Columbia Libraries’ Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.

A quarter of the gift establishes the Durst Fund for Research, which will support research and programming in the real estate development program. Another \$1.8 million is designated for a digital research laboratory in the graduate school’s forthcoming Center for Global Design

and Development; another \$1.2 million will be used to catalog and house the Old York Library Collection in Avery Library, which will be digitized for broader access.

The collection includes books and ephemera, about New York and architectural renderings, plans and photos from the Durst Organization.

“For nearly 100 years, my family has been assembling, building and operating real estate in New York City, and we have accumulated a vast amount of knowledge and information that will be invaluable for anyone interested in New York’s history and real estate,” said Douglas Durst.

Carole Ann Fabian, director of the Avery library, called the gift “extraordinary and outstanding” in its focus “on all that is New York and all that it takes to build a city like New York.”

The gift will have a “transformative” effect on the real estate program, said Chakrabarti, whose projects include an attention-grabbing proposal to connect lower Manhattan to Governors Island with a land bridge to create 80 million square feet of new development.

“Worldwide growth statistics and those of the New York region show the world is urbanizing at a very rapid rate,” says Chakrabarti. “But the fact is most of it is suburban growth.”

In other words, cities are growing outwards,

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Pulitzer’s *New York World* Reborn As Online News Site

By Meghan Berry

Last fall, a private bus company operating under a city contract permitted its passengers, primarily Orthodox Jews, to enforce a religious tradition—in order to prevent physical contact between the sexes, women were required to sit in the back of the bus. The *New York Times*, *New York Post* and CBS 2 ran the story, which was later picked up by the BBC and Belgian and Israeli news outlets. But it was an enterprising reporter from *The New York World*—a new Graduate School of Journalism endeavor—who first broke this story of segregation.

Sasha Chavkin (JRN’10), one of six reporters who contribute to the news site covering city and state government, posted the story the day the *World*’s website launched in October. One week later, the bus company agreed to stop the practice, which violates city anti-discrimination policies, and Chavkin wrote a follow-up story for *The Jewish Daily Forward*.

“This story is a really great example of something unique *The New York World* does,” said its editor, Alyssa Katz, a veteran journalist who has covered urban policy, politics and housing in New York. “We’ll take seemingly mundane things about how life works in New York City and say, ‘Well actually, this is what’s really going on.’”

The case for launching a local news site based at Columbia finds its root in the pages of a 2009 Journalism School report proposing steps to reinvigorate American media amid economic challenges and changing technology. Its authors, Professor Michael Schudson and Leonard Downie, former executive editor of *The Washington Post*, called upon universities to take on accountability journalism as budgets at for-profit news outlets shrink.

Columbia President, and First Amendment scholar Lee C. Bollinger has similarly said that universities are among the organizations in society that can contribute to filling the void left by decline in both local and international news reporting.



A 1926 issue of *The World*

“This was the one recommendation we had the power to implement,” said Nicholas Lemann, the journalism school’s dean. “We want to provide important coverage that others are not doing and to establish a model for ongoing news production at a journalism school.”

Accountability journalism, said Katz, is a two-way street: It is holding government officials accountable and simultaneously

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Only U.S. Exhibit of Liu Xia's "Ugly Babies"

By Wilson Valentin

Poet, painter and photographer Liu Xia has been a noteworthy figure on the contemporary Chinese art scene for more than three decades. Today she is better known as a symbol of the Chinese government's displeasure with her husband Liu Xiaobo, the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights dissident, who was a visiting scholar at Columbia in 1989 as the pro-democracy movement swept China. Though never charged or convicted, Liu Xia has been under house arrest since her husband was named for the prize and is prohibited from public exhibitions or publishing her work in China.

Liu Xia's art, which focuses on freedom of expression and is rooted in traditional styles, is shown only in private or on the Internet. But following a recent exhibit in France, Columbia University's Alliance Program and the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies, in cooperation with the Ville de Boulogne-Billancourt, will present the only U.S. exhibition of her work.

"Her work has been banned in China since 1989, even though she was not a participant in Tiananmen and did not sign Charter 08, the liberal manifesto that triggered Liu Xiaobo's latest and longest prison sentence, an 11-year sentence imposed in December 2009," writes Andrew Nathan, the 1919 Professor of Political Science, in his introduction to the exhibition catalog.

Curated by French scholar Guy Sorman, a former deputy mayor of Boulogne-Billancourt who worked to get the art out of China and obtain her consent to display it, the exhibit features 26 photographs of lifelike dolls that represent the Chinese people, the artist and her husband. Liu created the "ugly babies," as she refers to the dolls, during the time of her husband's labor reeducation in 1996-1999. They are positioned in what Sorman has described as a series of tableaux that evoke confinement and repression.

"These strangely disturbing and moving photographs reveal profound truths about today's China," writes Nathan, "not only in their content and style, but also in the history of their creation, suppression, and now, their exhibition abroad."

Born in Beijing in 1959, Liu Xia was a member of the city's rich arts scene in the 1980s when she met and fell in love with the young college professor and public intellectual Liu Xiaobo, but it was not a meeting of political minds. Liu Xia once told a journal-



In a photograph taken by Chinese artist Liu Xia, her husband, imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, holds one of the artist's self-titled "ugly babies."

ist from *Der Spiegel*, "I am not politically involved. I behave as if I live in a different world. We discuss politics as little as possible at home. My husband knows that it doesn't interest me."

An essay in the catalog by Cui Weiping delves into her disinterest in becoming involved in the events in Tiananmen Square in 1989, which spurred her husband to leave his post at Columbia in hopes of bridging the gap between the government and the student demonstrators. She is now Liu Xiaobo's spokesperson to the outside world. *The Silent Strength of Liu Xia* opens at the Italian Academy on Feb. 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and continues through March 1.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see a slideshow of Liu Xia's work, visit news.columbia.edu/liuxia

North Korea

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gram dismantled. Those talks are currently on hold during North Korea's period of mourning.

Kim Jong Un also inherits tense relations with South Korea, made worse when the two nations exchanged fire in a November 2010 skirmish that Armstrong called the most serious clash since the 1953 armistice. Kim also must navigate North Korea's complicated relationship with China, an ally that supports North Korea less out of shared political views than a desire for stability in the region.

Armstrong finds little reason to believe North Korea will become less isolated in any official way under its new leader, although the secretive nation recently allowed The Associated Press to open the first international news bureau in Pyongyang. There is no freedom of speech or press for its own citizens, cell phones cannot reach outside the country, and travel outside of North Korea is heavily controlled.

North Koreans caught with foreign movies are punished harshly. Kim Jong Il, however, had a tremendous collection of U.S. movies and loved the *Friday the 13th* series, James Bond films and anything starring Elizabeth Taylor, says Armstrong. And although radios and televisions are rigged to broadcast only state-controlled media, he also enjoyed CNN and other U.S. programming.

Still, some movies and other banned media are smuggled into the country, and some North Koreans obtain illegal foreign cell phones.

"While there is no government-sanctioned opening up, there is a de facto opening up," says Armstrong. "North Koreans get more information from the outside world today than they did a decade ago. That affects their views even if they can't say so openly. And there is a growing gap between what North Koreans are told by the regime and what they believe."

SIPA Expert Says Leaner Pentagon Better Targets 21st Century Threats

By Tanya Domi

President Barack Obama's new national defense strategy represents "a move in the right direction and a chance to do more of what we should have done after the Cold War and before the second war against Iraq," according to Richard Betts, the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies.

Betts, who directs the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at the School of International and Public Affairs, spoke to the Council on Foreign Relations on Jan. 10 about the Pentagon's revamped defense policy that sets out to strategically cut defense spending by more than \$480 billion over the next 10 years. Obama announced the Defense Strategic Review at the Pentagon five days earlier.

The president's defense budget was described in more detail by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who said U.S. forces will be smaller and leaner, more agile and flexible, and capable of deploying quickly through the use of innovative technology. He described a greater focus on the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region and the elimination of the long-standing doctrine that the U.S. military should be capable of waging two wars at the same time.

"It's a move toward a more modest definition of national security that doesn't confuse it with the more ambitious missions of shaping world order that got us into trouble in the last dozen years," Betts said. "By keeping a lot of emphasis on counterterrorism, which involves comparatively small-ticket expenditures, and focusing on the Pacific, where the long-term

significant potential threats exist ... it's a chance to move at least more in a direction of a mobilization strategy of focusing on readiness to get ready."

Betts said he thinks the Pentagon's proposed cuts are "about right"—especially if the U.S. can shift more of its defense burden to its allies—but "maybe not quite as large as might be desirable."

Betts, who also directs the international security policy concentration at the School of International and Public Affairs, said that the main problem he has had with defense policy during the past 20 years is the failure to appreciate the difference between the challenges of the 20th century—"the century of total war"—and those the U.S. faced after the Cold War.

The "excessive attention" to dealing with "minor" challenges today, such as peacekeeping missions, detracts from the resources available in the future, "when we may face big ones again, such as a more difficult China." Betts views the Iraq war as a "totally self-inflicted wound, an unnecessary war," when "the Bush administration confused counterterrorism with war against Saddam Hussein."

Calling the Afghanistan conflict a "legitimate war" of self-defense, Betts said that tragically it has been difficult to resolve. "We'll never know whether the premature shift of resources from Afghanistan to Iraq in the run-up to the war in 2002 made a difference or not," he said.

"Maybe we would have wound up with the same difficulties we've had in recent years. But we need to distinguish which elements of response to major terrorist incidents are appropriate and which are expensive and not necessarily connected."



Director of the Saltzman Institute, Richard Betts

REGISTRAR BARRY KANE PUTS ACADEMIC TRAINS ON TRACK

By Bridget O'Brian

If Barry Kane does his job right, you may never know he exists. As associate vice president and University Registrar for all 17 of Columbia's divisions, he oversees the invisible but vital tasks of academic life: class registration and course enrollment, classroom assignments, final exam schedules, transcripts for tens of thousands of students, and mandatory reports to the federal government and NCAA. And, of course, the 10,000-plus diplomas conferred each year.

"I've often said that the very best registrar's offices are those that are utterly and completely taken for granted," said Kane, who took over as Columbia's registrar a year ago, succeeding the long-serving John Carter, who retired.

Kane comes to Columbia with plenty of experience, having served as the senior registrar at six colleges and universities. They were as small as Colgate—enrollment 2,900, where he managed a staff of five—and as large as Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, with 10,000 students. There the registrar's office numbered over 50 employees, whose responsibilities included producing major academic publications, building a suite of electronic applications for faculty and students and helping coordinate an advisory program for undergraduates.

"The bigger the school, of course, the more complicated the task," he says. Columbia, with



University Registrar Barry Kane

a student enrollment of 28,211, is Kane's biggest undertaking yet. His mandate is to make sure the University is at the forefront of developing technology to replace cumbersome manual forms and eliminate lines at the registrar's office. Priorities include updating and enhancing the 20-year-old database currently in use; replacing printed transcripts with electronic records transmittable via the Internet; developing tools to add or drop courses online; and establishing uniform, clear policies for all schools to report and process student withdrawals.

Already, he has overseen several projects requiring collaboration among dozens of University administrators, such as the recent effort to build an online Curricular Planning Statement offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which allows departments to schedule courses only at approved time blocks. That means fewer courses overlap and translates into fewer scheduling conflicts for students.

"Being new to an institution is a great thing," said Kane, "not because I have some special wisdom or skill set but because it allows a new set of eyes to be viewing and thinking about an old set of problems. And, hopefully, coming up with some solutions that will work for the institution, given its unique history, set of circumstances and special ways of doing business."

In 1996, Yale hired him away from Colgate to merge the formerly separate registrar's offices in Yale College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and to implement the new Banner student information system. Both came with the challenges of changing business practices at institutions that pride themselves on tradition.

The lessons Kane learned there were put to good use when he joined Harvard in 2003, where class registration was still done on paper card stock and course listings were available in printed catalogs the size of small phone books.

"When Barry got to Harvard, the registrar's

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