

To the UConn Community,

Since 2011, our University has been enriched by the UConn Reads initiative, where a single book is selected as the focal point of an academic year's worth of learning, cultural programming, and stimulating, respectful debate. This has been an excellent way to bring our entire diverse community together – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the public at large.

It's my pleasure to announce that [this year's UConn Reads selection is Amitav Ghosh's "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable."](#) This work of nonfiction by the acclaimed Indian novelist argues that the extreme nature of the climate crisis represents an unprecedented challenge to the human imagination, which in turn imperils our ability to respond effectively.

Although I am excited for our community to engage with this important work, it is with a certain amount of regret that I note this year is an especially appropriate time for this selection. The devastating wildfires on the West Coast, the hurricane season battering the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico, and the other examples of extremes in weather and climate around the globe have made it agonizingly clear how important this subject is not just for our country, but for the entire world.

UConn is well positioned for an extended meditation on the significance of Ghosh's book. Our faculty and students are [engaged with climate change](#) and its ramifications across a number of disciplines and research projects, which focus on the "big picture" as well as [the effects of climate change we can see on our campuses](#). As a land-grant University with campuses in settings ranging from the rural to the urban to the shores of Long Island Sound, this will become an ever-greater part of our mission over the course of the century.

Particularly exciting for me is that Ghosh's book cuts across the artificial lines of specialty that sometimes obscure the extent of climate change's effects on our world. This is a book about climate science, but it's also a book about art and literature, anthropology and history, and the ineffable qualities that make up human civilization in all its diversity.

I'm eagerly anticipating our engagement with this important book, and there will be forthcoming announcements about specific programs and projects related to it, beginning now and lasting through the spring semester. I am also grateful to UConn Reads Book Selection Committee and [the UConn Reads Steering Committee](#) for their work in making this selection, and their continued leadership in this vital program.

Thank you, and happy reading.

Warm regards,

Thomas Katsouleas
President, University of Connecticut