While we have been causing the extinctions of species since the Pleistocene, humans are now poised to cause the disappearance of an entire ecosystem. Coral reefs as we know them could disappear from the Earth by 2050, all because of things we did to them. As a coral reef ecologist, Peter Sale has a particular perspective on the environmental crisis, and he uses his experience in this seminar to illustrate how the future for coral reefs depends intrinsically on decisions we make about other things. He will review the range of our impacts on reefs, their consequences, and likely trends in each. Synergies between impacts also need consideration. The overall prognosis is grave, and in a very short time-frame. While we have the technical capabilities to remedy nearly all of our impacts, for the most part we do not yet have the will to do so. Our environmental problem is much more serious than most people realize, serious for people as well as for ecosystems like coral reefs or the arctic. The decisions we take, and the changes in behavior which we adopt, over the next few years will determine which of several possible futures will emerge. Will we make the right choices, and will we do so in time to save coral reefs?