

Scientific Uncertainty and Professional Ethics in Science, Law, and Journalism

April 21-22, 2016

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Conference Center
1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Pre-Workshop Webinar: Friday, April 15, 1:00-2:30 pm EDT

Issues in Communicating Scientific Uncertainty, online webinar archived at
<http://www.eli.org/events/issues-communicating-scientific-uncertainty>

- Moderator—Jay Austin (ELI)
 - Science communication—Sunshine Menezes (University of Rhode Island)
 - Weather & climate communication—Jason Samenow (*Washington Post*)
 - Scientific uncertainty and policymaking—Margaret Davidson (NOAA)
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Workshop Day One: Thursday, April 21

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Registration & Breakfast**

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Welcome and Introduction**

- Welcome—Scott Fulton (President, Environmental Law Institute)
and David Verardo (Director, NSF Paleoclimate Program)
- Workshop Goals—Jay Austin and Kathryn Mengerink (ELI)
- Participant Introductions

10:00 am – 11:15 am **Ethics of Communicating Scientific Uncertainty**

- Recap and moderator—Leslie Carothers (ELI)
- Science—Jay Odenbaugh (Lewis & Clark College)
- Law—Tom Lininger (University of Oregon Law School)
- Journalism—Bud Ward (*Yale Climate Connections*)

11:15 am – 11:30 am **Break**

11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Topics in Communicating Scientific Uncertainty**

- Moderator—Judge Merideth Wright (Vermont Environmental Court, retired)
- *Climate change*—Richard Somerville (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD)
- *Genetically modified organisms*—Greg Jaffe (Center for Science in the Public Interest)
- *Climate & food security*—Lisa Palmer (Journalist; Fellow, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC))

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm Pre-Workshop Questionnaire

- Presentation and Discussion of Questionnaire Responses—Kathryn Mengerink (ELI)
- Introduction to Breakout Groups

2:45 pm – 4:30 pm Small Breakout Groups

Small breakout groups (6) will explore the issues raised in the panel discussions and/or the questionnaire responses and will identify priority issues for further attention.

- Legal ethics/norms and communicating scientific uncertainty (Facilitators—Jim Hilbert, Holly Doremus) (2 groups)
- Science ethics/norms and communicating scientific uncertainty (Facilitators—Mona Behl, Paul Higgins) (2 groups)
- Journalism ethics/norms and communicating scientific uncertainty (Facilitators—Dave Poulson, Nancy Gaarder) (2 groups)

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm Report Back & Preview of Day Two

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm Reception (sponsored by Keller and Heckman LLP)

Workshop Day Two: Friday, April 22

8:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:45 am The Search for Solutions

Plenary discussion of key issues and challenges identified, and refining ideas and approaches for potential work products (draft reforms, opinion pieces, scholarly or popular articles, etc.).

9:45 am – 11:00 am Combined Breakout Groups

Combined breakout groups (3) explore what is needed to expand collaboration on and deepen public understanding of the ethical and disciplinary constraints on scientific, legal, and media professionals who communicate scientific uncertainty. Groups will focus on identifying specific work products, how to move forward with them, and who may be interested in being involved, with ELI and advisory team serving as organizers, coordinators, facilitators.

11:00 am – 11:15 am Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm Wrap Up & Next Steps

Reporting out of agreed-upon approaches and plans of work to get input and recruit additional participants to development of work products.