

# *Scientific Uncertainty and Professional Ethics: Getting from Strong Public Science to Sound Public Policy*

December 5-6, 2016

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

## **Workshop Day One: Monday, December 5**

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

**9:00 am – 9:45 am                      Welcome and Introduction**

- Welcome—John Pendergrass (Vice President, Environmental Law Institute) and David Verardo (Director, NSF Paleoclimate Program)
- Workshop Goals—Jay Austin (ELI) and Mona Behl (University of Georgia)
- Participant Introductions

**9:45 am – 10:45 am                      Communicating Scientific Uncertainty: A Dialogue**

- Moderator—Paul Huttner (Minnesota Public Radio)
- Mandy Joye (University of Georgia)
- Richard Somerville (Scripps Institution of Oceanography)

**10:45 am – 11:00 am                      Break**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm                      Case Study (Part I)  
GMO Science & Uncertainty**

- Moderator—Dan Charles (National Public Radio)
- Fred Gould (North Carolina State University)
- Belinda Martineau (University of California – Davis)

**12:30 pm – 1:15 pm                      Lunch**

**1:15 pm – 2:45 pm                      Case Study (Part II)  
Science Communication in the Public Arena:  
The Debate Over GMO Labeling**

- Moderator—Helena Bottemiller Evich (*Politico*)
- Sylvia Wu (Center for Food Safety)
- Steve Armstrong (Campbell Soup Company)

**2:45 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Break**

**3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**Scientific Uncertainty & Public Policy through the Lenses of Three Professions**

- Facilitator—Dave Rejeski (Environmental Law Institute)

The group, through facilitated discussion, will:

- Identify other key topics of current public policy debate where communicating scientific uncertainty is central to informed, effective decision-making; and
- Explore the opportunities for and potential obstacles to effective communication about those topics from the perspectives of science, law, and journalism.

**4:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Day One Summary and Preview of Day Two**

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Reception**

## **Workshop Day Two: Tuesday, December 6**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

**Breakfast**

**9:00 am – 10:15 am**

**New Tools for Strengthening the Effective Communication of Scientific Uncertainty**

Participants from the April 2016 workshop will briefly report on related work and projects that are contemplated or now underway. The group will offer ideas for new projects, tools, and approaches.

**10:15 am – 10:30 am**

**Break**

**10:30 am – 11:30 am**

**New Tools and Approaches: Mini-Breakouts**

Leaders of prospective and ongoing projects will conduct two short networking sessions, allowing participants to interact to discuss their related work and offer ideas and support.

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm**

**Report Back, Wrap-up, & Next Steps**

Discussion leaders will report on the breakout sessions and discuss likely next steps. Plenary discussion will cover workshop wrap-up and consider the direction and future of the broader scientific uncertainty initiative arising from the ELI workshops.