



**Advancing a Systems Approach to Studying the Earth:
A Strategy for the National Science Foundation**

***Accelerating Integration of the Social Sciences in
the Study of Earth System Interactions***

A Two-Part Workshop

Part 1: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 2:00 - 4:00pm ET

Part 2: Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 2:00 - 4:00pm ET

Public Agenda

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee on “*Advancing a Systems Approach to Studying the Earth: A Strategy for the National Science Foundation*” has been tasked to develop a compelling vision for a systems approach to studying the Earth in order to inform approaches to integrated research at NSF and to provide guidance as to how NSF can support the research community. The final report will also identify the facilities, infrastructure, coordinating mechanisms, computing, and workforce development needed to support a more integrated approach for studying components of the earth system. This two-part workshop seeks feedback from the social science community as well as natural science researchers to inform committee deliberations. The workshops will focus on and answer critical questions:

1. What is the critical role of social science in understanding the Earth system?
2. What is the value of an integrated approach at NSF and the role of social science in studying earth system interactions?
3. What are current/new exemplars of transdisciplinary research and where are their gaps?
4. What could/should NSF do to accelerate the integration of social science in studies of Earth system interactions? How do we elevate social science?

Additional details on the full study can be found here:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/advancing-a-systems-approach-to-studying-the-earth-a-strategy-for-the-national-science-foundation>

**Advancing a Systems Approach to Studying the Earth:
A Strategy for the National Science Foundation**

**Part 1: Integrated Approaches
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
2:00 - 4:00pm ET**

- 2:00 PM** **Welcome and Purpose of Social Science Webinar Series**
Ruth DeFries, Committee Chair
- 2:05 PM** **The Critical Role of Social Science in Understanding the Earth**
Naomi Oreskes, Harvard University
- 2:20 PM** **Panel Conversation: The Value of an Integrated Approach for NSF**
Moderator: Courtney Flint, Committee Member
Panel:
Naomi Oreskes, Harvard University
Crystal Ng, University of Minnesota
Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan
Susie Crate, George Mason University
- 2:55 PM** **BREAK - 5 minutes**
- 3:00 PM** **Discussion with Panelists, Committee and Audience**
Moderator: Courtney Flint, Committee Member
- 3:50 PM** **Wrap-up**
Melissa Kenney, Committee Member
- 4:00 PM** **Adjourn**

**Part 2: Transdisciplinary Exemplars and the Future of the
Social Sciences in Integrated Research on Earth System Interactions
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
2:00 - 4:00pm ET**

- 2:00 PM** **Welcome and Purpose of Workshop**
Courtney Flint, Committee Member
- 2:05 PM** **Exemplars of Transdisciplinary Research**
Lori Peek, University of Colorado Boulder

Advancing a Systems Approach to Studying the Earth: A Strategy for the National Science Foundation

**2:20 PM Panel Conversation: Exemplars and Operationalizing Stronger Integration of
Social Science in Studies of the Earth**

Moderator: Melissa Kenney, Committee Member

Panel:

Lori Peek, University of Colorado Boulder

Margaret Palmer, SESYNC, University of Maryland

Brian O'Neill, Joint Global Change Research Institute

Eric Tate, University of Iowa

Bilal Butt, University of Michigan

2:55 PM BREAK - 5 minutes

3:00 PM Discussion with Panelists, Committee and Audience

Moderator: Melissa Kenney, Committee Member

3:50 PM Wrap-up

Ruth DeFries, Committee Chair

4:00 PM Adjourn