

Building Institutional Capacity for Public Engagement with Science

Speaker Biosketches

Elyse L. Aurbach is Assistant Provost for University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University and consultant with the Pew Charitable Trusts. She specializes in translating research into tools for practice, building training and capacity-building programs, and developing frameworks that synthesize scholarship and practitioner knowledge to help university and public engagement systems evolve. Aurbach has held a variety of roles supporting public engagement in higher education, including most recently as Director for Public Engagement & Research Impacts in the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan and Civic Science Fellow with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. She also led a number of projects locally and nationally to improve science communication and public engagement. She served on the planning committee for a National Academies workshop on institutionalizing engaged research. She also developed and taught communication courses in person and online, Co-Bossing with Nerd Nite Ann Arbor, and co-founded and directed RELATE, a science communication and public engagement organization. Aurbach was a NSF Graduate Research Fellow, a finalist for the American Association for the Advancement of Science Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science, and an Advancing Research Impact in Society Fellow. She holds a PhD in neuroscience.

Liz Crocker is the director of Thriving Earth Exchange at the American Geophysical Union. Alongside her doctoral work on sacred geographies and identity, she was the research assistant to the director for Boston University's Emerging Media Studies. After graduating, she started at AAAS in the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program helping scientists develop toolkits to engage communities of faith. She then joined the Center for Public Engagement where she ran the day-to-day operations of the AAAS IF/THEN Ambassador Program supporting women in STEM as role models. She was also the Communications Director for March for Science Boston and spent 8+ years moderating spaces online for public engagement with science. Crocker has a Ph.D. in anthropology from Boston University and a MA in anthropology from Louisiana State University.

Erica Kimmerling is at the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) as the Senior Director for their Future of Science Strategies. Most recently she was the Assistant

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Director for Community Driven Health at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Her health outcomes portfolio included rare diseases, cancer prevention, participatory biomedical innovation, environmental justice and environmental public health, social drivers of health, and the built environment. In her previous OSTP role as Senior Policy Advisor for Public Engagement in Science, she increased public participation in, and developed policy across, OSTP's portfolio including pandemic prevention, STEM participation, and climate and the environment. In these roles she advised on issues related to science communication and engagement, the societal and ethical implications of science, public perception of science, misinformation/disinformation, and building community/civic capacity in science. Prior to OSTP she was a Civic Science Fellow at the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC). In her role, she managed the development and activities of a network for Leaders in Science and Technology Engagement Networks (LISTEN) committed to nurturing relationships between all people and science. At the American Academy of Arts and Sciences she advanced their Public Face of Science Initiative as a Hellman Fellowship in Science and Technology Policy. Erica was the lead drafter of the project reports *Perceptions of Science in America*, *Encountering Science in America*, and *The Public Face of Science in America: Priorities for the Future*. Prior to her work on science and health policy she received her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Tufts University.

Todd P. Newman is an associate professor in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an affiliate of the Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and the Morgridge Institute for Research. Newman's research broadly focuses on public opinion dynamics related to science and emerging technologies. More specifically, he examines how various entities strategically communicate and engage on these issues with different publics, and how the scientific community connects with a changing society. Newman is the editor of *Theory and Best Practices in Science Communication Training* (Routledge, 2019) and the co-author of *Brand* (Kendall-Hunt, 2018). He has published extensively on the topics of public opinion, strategic communication, and public engagement in academic journals and popular media outlets. Newman received his Ph.D. in Communication at American University, and previously served as a postdoctoral research associate at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University.

Susan D. Renoe is Associate Vice Chancellor at the University of Missouri. She also serves as Executive Director of the NSF-funded Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (OIA-1810732) and is an assistant professor of strategic communication in the MU School of

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Journalism. She was elected a AAAS Fellow in 2021. She serves on several advisory boards including the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering, the Network for Advancing & Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science, the Research Impact Assessment Advisory Board for the Centres de Recerca de Catalunya and the University of Missouri Museum of Anthropology. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in education from the University of California-Santa Barbara and B.A. and M.A. in anthropology from the University of Missouri.

Byron P. White is a senior consultant with SOVA Solutions, which specializes in helping higher education leaders create robust strategic plans that drive meaningful change. Previously, he served as Associate Provost for Urban Research and Community Engagement at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. There, he oversaw urbanCORE (Community-Oriented Research and Engagement) an office that mobilizes, assesses, and advances efforts that connect the University's research resources to community assets. Prior to joining UNC Charlotte, White was Executive Director of Strive Partnership, a Cincinnati-based collective impact organization focused on education improvement for urban learners from cradle to career. He previously was Vice President for University Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer at Cleveland State University, Vice Chancellor for Economic Advancement for the University System of Ohio, and Associate Vice President for Community Engagement at Xavier University in Cincinnati. White began his career as a newspaper journalist and was as an editorial writer for the Chicago Tribune and editor of the Tribune's Urban Affairs Team. He has been active in grassroots, community development efforts, working with community-based organizations in Cincinnati and on Chicago's West Side through the Asset-Based Community Development Institute. He has a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University.