

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a wood grain, showing wavy, concentric patterns in shades of light brown and tan. A dark grey rectangular area is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text.

**Public Communication of
Science – US Regulatory
and Cultural Context:
*A Tale of Two Conversations***

Matt Rasette

Disclaimer

This presentation represents my own opinion and does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of my employer, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I have no financial conflict of interest to declare.



Roadmap

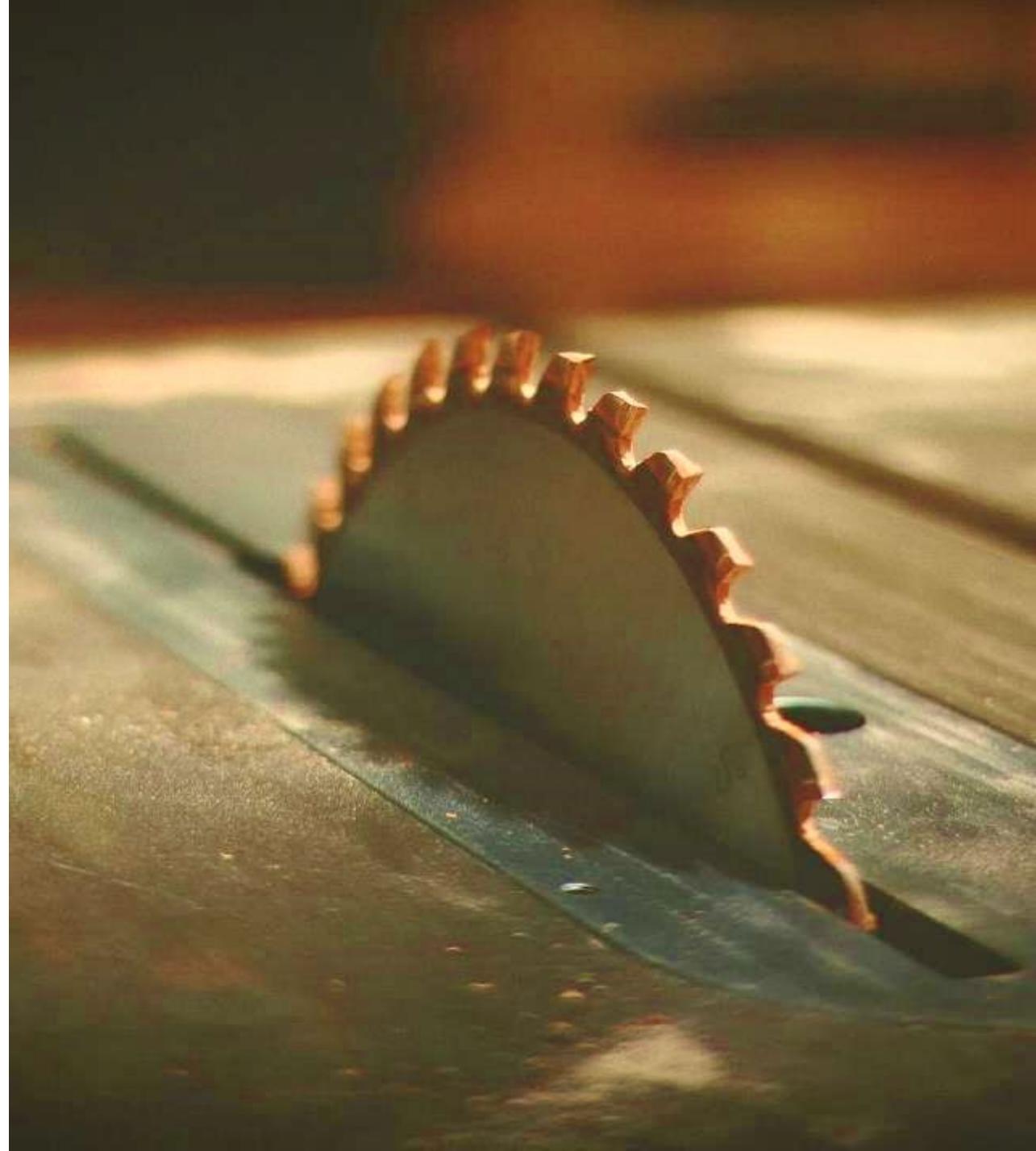
Framework: Two Conversations

Regulations

Institutional Transparency

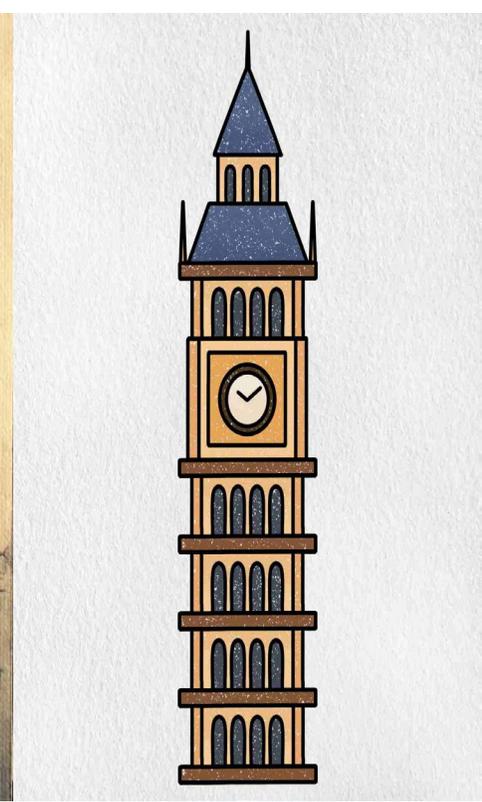
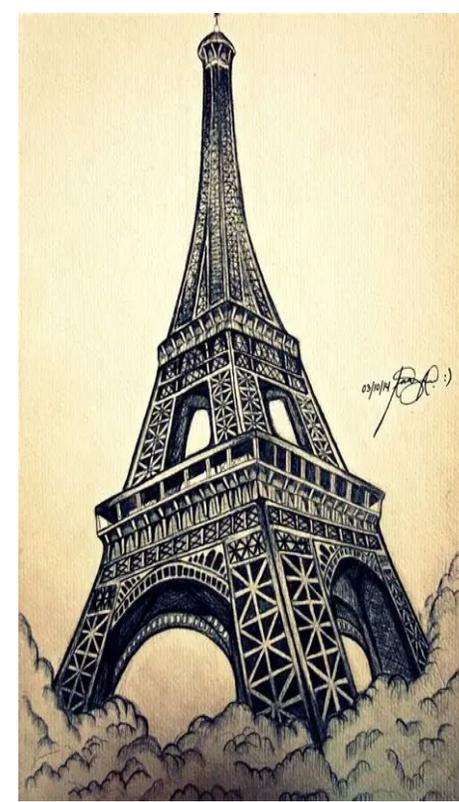
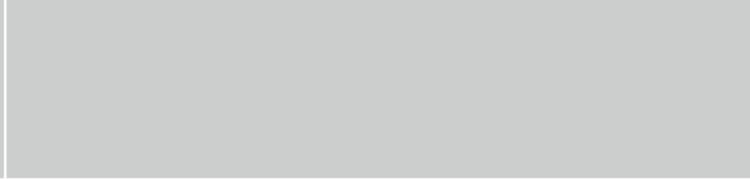
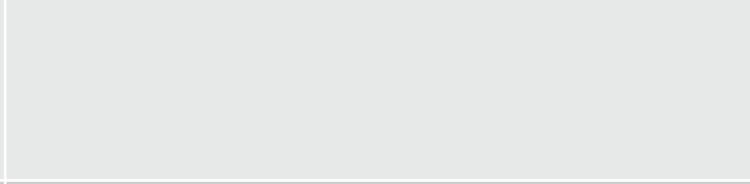
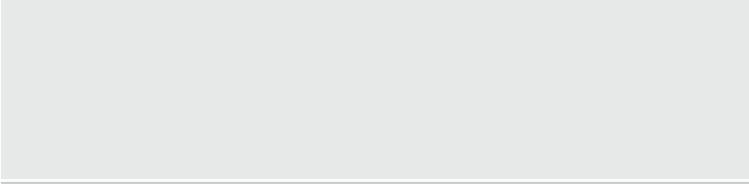
Cultural/Professional Norms

Reflections and Opportunities



Conversation One

Conversation Two



Two Conversations

Conversation One

Conversation Two

Institution: Large, land-grant university



Two Conversations

Conversation One

Conversation Two

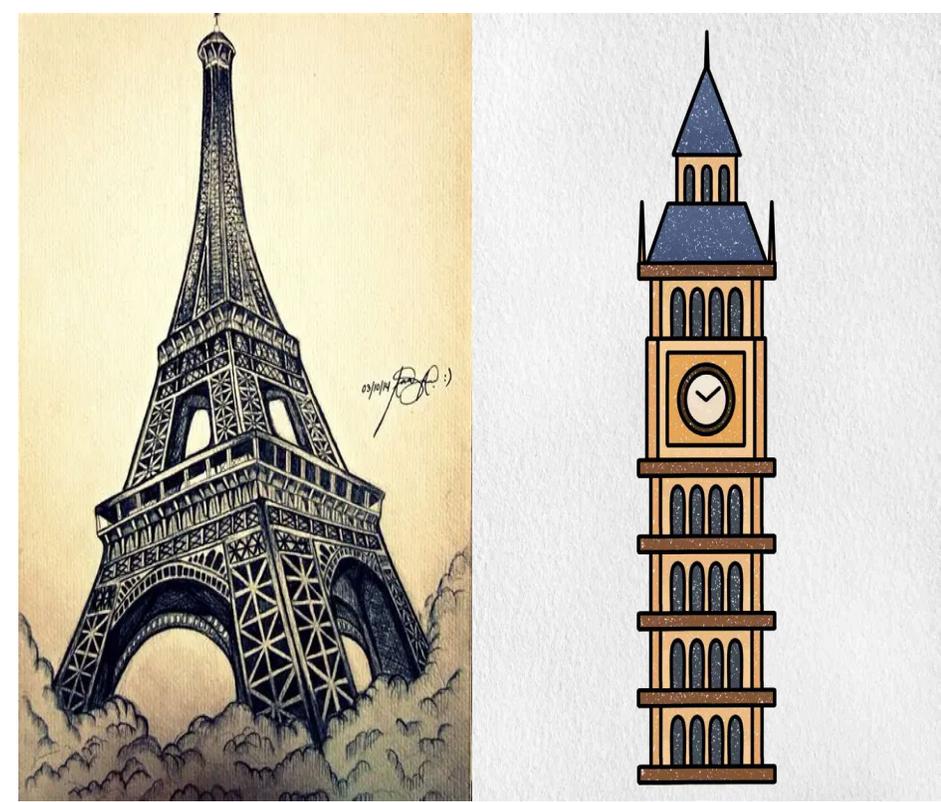
Institution: Large, land-grant university

Location: Local Church



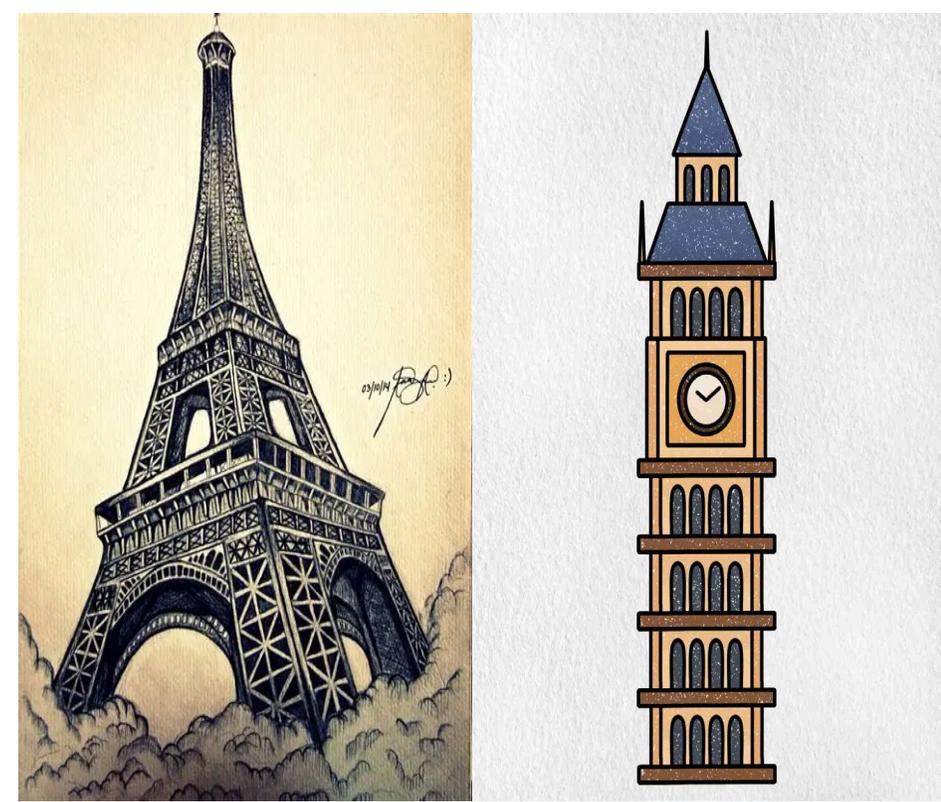
Two Conversations

Conversation One	Conversation Two
Institution: Large, land-grant university	
Location: Local Church	
Who: panel involving the pastor (bioethicist), a local animal rights activist, myself in front of the public	



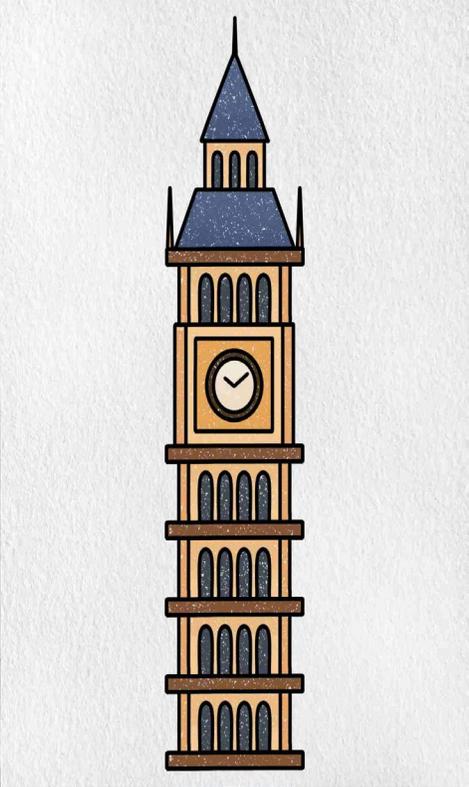
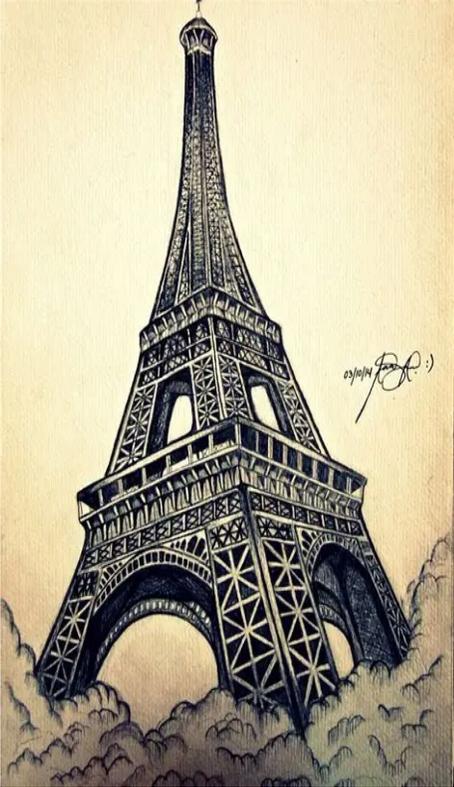
Two Conversations

Conversation One	Conversation Two
Institution: Large, land-grant state university	Institution: US federal agency
Location: Local Church	
Who: panel involving the pastor (bioethicist), a local animal rights activist, myself in front of the public	



Two Conversations

Conversation One	Conversation Two
Institution: Large, land-grant state university	Institution: US federal agency
Location: Local Church	Location: a plane
Who: panel involving the pastor (bioethicist), a local animal rights activist, myself in front of the public	



Two Conversations

Conversation One

Institution: Large, land-grant state university

Location: Local Church

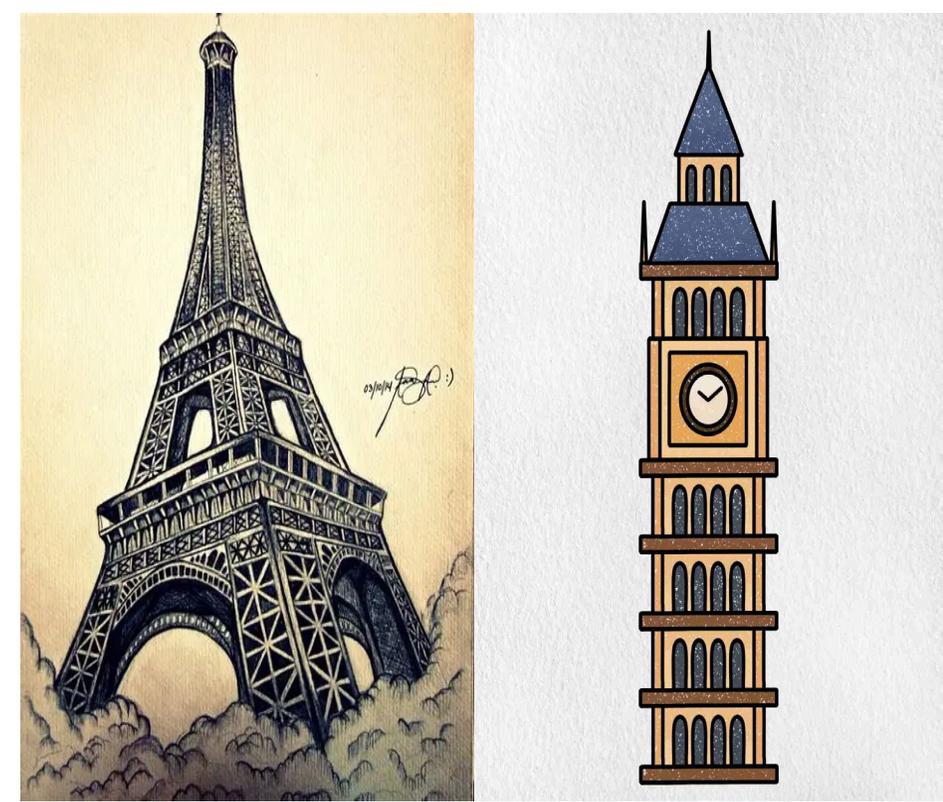
Who: panel involving the pastor (bioethicist), a local animal rights activist, myself in front of the public

Conversation Two

Institution: US federal agency

Location: a plane

Who: the person next to me



Two Conversations



Context: Regulations



Context: Regulations

There are three relevant laws in the US context:

Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. sec. 2131-2159)



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Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. sec. 2131-2159)

Health Research Extension Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-158)

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. sec. 552)

Context: Regulations

Animal Welfare Act (sec. 2157):

“...It shall be unlawful for any member of an Institutional Animal Committee to release any confidential information of the research facility including any information that concerns or relates to – 1. the trade secrets, processes, operations, style of work, or apparatus; or 2. the identity, confidential statistical data, amount or source of any income, profits, losses, or expenditures, of the research facility.”

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“...A violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section is punishable by – 3. removal from such Committee; and 4. A. a fine of not more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than one year; or B. if such violation is willful, a fine of not more than \$10,000 and imprisonment of not more than three years.”



Context: Regulations

Health Research Extension Act (P.L. 99-158 sec. 495 (e)):

“...No guideline or regulation promulgated under subsection (a) or (c) may require a research entity to disclose publicly trade secrets or commercial or financial information which is privileged or confidential.”



Context: Regulations

Health Research Extension Act (P.L. 99-158 sec. 495 (e)):

“...No guideline or regulation promulgated under subsection (a) or (c) may require a research entity to disclose publicly trade secrets or commercial or financial information which is privileged or confidential.”

Per the NIH/OLAW, this means that the US Public Health Service requires all material reviewed by IACUCs to be treated as confidential.



Context: Regulations

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)

State ‘open records’ laws

Allow the US public to request documents from public entities, subject to certain restrictions or exemptions protecting sensitive information.



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Can be weaponized

Have to keep these in mind moving forward with communications

The image features a background of stacked wooden logs with visible grain patterns. A dark blue, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing white text. The text is centered and reads "Context: Institutional Transparency".

Context: Institutional Transparency

The background of the slide features a close-up of wood grain, showing various shades of brown and tan. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text in white.

Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation One:

Large, land-grant state university with no formal transparency agreement

The image features a background of stacked wood logs with a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band across the top. The text is centered within this band in a white, serif font.

Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation One:

Large, land-grant state university with no formal transparency agreement

Mixed reactions from coworkers



Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation One:

Large, land-grant state university with no formal transparency agreement

Mixed reactions from coworkers

Reason for concern (?)



Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation Two:

Federal agency attempting to be proactive and thoughtful in enhancing transparency



Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation Two:

Federal agency attempting to be proactive and thoughtful in enhancing transparency
Website sharing information about animal research and selected protocols



Context: Institutional Transparency

Conversation Two:

Federal agency attempting to be proactive and thoughtful in enhancing transparency
Website sharing information about animal research and selected protocols

Received positively within the conversation

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Institutional Norms:

Vary considerably

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Institutional Norms:

Vary considerably
Influenced by institutional mission

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Multiple intersecting cultures and norms

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Multiple intersecting cultures and norms
-norms of my employer

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Multiple intersecting cultures and norms

- norms of my employer
- norms of my profession

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

- Multiple intersecting cultures and norms
 - norms of my employer
 - norms of my profession
 - norms / culture of hosting institution
-

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Multiple intersecting cultures and norms

- norms of my employer
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Different, yet overlapping, expectations of how communication happens and is consumed

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Multiple intersecting cultures and norms

- norms of my employer
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Different, yet overlapping, expectations of how communication happens and is consumed

Defines the boundaries of the conversation

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Key to this conversation: boundaries facilitated 'bidirectional dialogue'

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Key to this conversation: boundaries facilitated 'bidirectional dialogue'
-participants could 'signal back' authenticity to their respective groups

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation One:

Key to this conversation: boundaries facilitated 'bidirectional dialogue'

- participants could 'signal back' authenticity to their respective groups
 - also able to indicate an openness to critically engage with our values and each other
-

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation Two:

Fewer norms at play...

Context: Cultural and Professional Norms

Conversation Two:

Fewer norms at play...

...but every bit as complex and potentially more vulnerable

A stack of cut logs is shown on the left side of the image. The logs are cut into circular cross-sections, revealing a light-colored, fibrous interior and a darker, textured outer bark. A dark blue, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "Summary" in a white, serif font.

Summary

These conversations:

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several slices of cork bark stacked together. The slices are roughly circular and show the characteristic porous, fibrous texture of cork. The colors range from light tan to dark brown, with some slices showing a distinct reddish-brown inner layer. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures and creating deep shadows.

Summary

These conversations:

- highlight some of the complexities of communications surrounding science involving animals in the US regulatory and normative context.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several slices of cork bark stacked together. The slices are circular and show the characteristic porous, cellular structure of cork. The colors range from light tan to dark brown, with some slices showing a more fibrous texture. The lighting is warm, highlighting the natural grain and texture of the material.

Summary

These conversations:

- highlight some of the complexities of communications surrounding science involving animals in the US regulatory and normative context.
- demonstrate a pragmatic usage of the NASEM ‘foundational principles’

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several slices of cork bark, stacked and overlapping. The cork has a characteristic porous, cellular structure and a warm, reddish-brown color. A dark blue semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word 'Summary' in white serif font.

Summary

These conversations:

- highlight some of the complexities of communications surrounding science involving animals in the US regulatory and normative context.
- demonstrate a pragmatic usage of the NASEM ‘foundational principles’
- unearth potential ways forward

Possibilities

EDUCATE

Add science communication to grad school curriculum

Neil deGrasse Tyson:
“Scientific Thinking and Communication”

<https://www.masterclass.com/classes/neil-degrasse-tyson-teaches-scientific-thinking-and-communication>

TELL THE STORY

Share how people are impacted by science

“How the Gila Monster Gave the World Ozempic”

<https://nautil.us/how-the-gila-monster-gave-the-world-ozempic-1266814/>

LEVERAGE THE MOMENT

Have conversations that make sense for you:

-in person

-on social media

ADVOCATE

Know how to reach your state and federal representatives



Thank you!

Put the horse before Descartes.

~BERNIE ROLLIN

References

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<https://www.masterclass.com/classes/neil-degrasse-tyson-teaches-scientific-thinking-and-communication>
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