

SPEAKER BIOS (in alphabetical order by last name)

Film Premiere and Webinar: In Times of Crisis - Stories from the Gulf of Mexico

Webcast Live Here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/06-14-2022/film-premiere-and-webinar-in-times-of-crisis-stories-from-the-gulf-of-mexico>

June 14, 2022 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM ET

Jeffrey Carney, *Associate Professor, University of Florida*

Jeff Carney is Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Director of the [Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience \(FIBER\)](#) at the University of Florida. Jeff is a registered architect and certified urban planner working at the interface of housing, neighborhoods, and ecosystems, with a focus on climate change adaptation. Jeff's work in Florida is focused on the resilience of communities achieved through transdisciplinary and community engaged design processes. Current projects include a HUD funded effort to design post-disaster modular housing, and projects to assist the Cities of Port St. Joe and Jacksonville reduce flood risk and balance health, environment, and housing needs. Previously, Jeff was the director of the [LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio \(CSS\)](#) where he led the development of the [Louisiana Resiliency Assistance Program \(LRAP\)](#) that continues to assist communities throughout Louisiana; additionally, he led the design and fabrication of the 10,000sf permanent exhibition for the [LSU Center for River Studies](#) called "[shifting Foundations](#)" which told the story of coastal Louisiana's changing landscape. He co-directed his team's award-winning submission for the [Changing Course competition](#) entitled "The Giving Delta". Shortly before moving to UF, Jeff initiated the project "[Inland from the Coast](#)," supported by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Jeff's work has been exhibited and published widely. His projects have been recognized through awards including the 2018 Baton Rouge chapter of the American Institute of Architects Rose Award winner for the Shifting Foundations exhibit; the 2016 New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Award, for "The Giving Delta"; the 2014 American Planning Association Planning Excellence Award for Education, for the Louisiana Resiliency Assistance Program; the 2012 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Collaborative Practice Award, for the Coastal Sustainability Studio; and the 2011 Environmental Design Research Association Great Places Awards in Design Research for "Measured Change: Tracking Transformations on Bayou Lafourche."

Craig E. Colten, *Professor Emeritus, Geography, Louisiana State University*

Craig Colten is Professor Emeritus of Geography at Louisiana State University where he held the title of Carl O. Sauer Professor. For more than twenty years his research focused on human efforts to contend with hazards in coastal Louisiana. He has published several books including the award winning *An Unnatural Metropolis* (2005), along with *Perilous Place*, *Powerful Storms* (2009), *Southern Waters* (2014), and *State of Disaster* (2021). His research has been funded by the National Park Service, the Corps of Engineers, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the National Institutes of Environment Health Science, the Water Institute of the Gulf, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Mellon Foundation. He received the Gilbert White Distinguished Public Service Honor from the American Association of Geographers.

Ari Daniel, NPR

Ari Daniel is a reporter for NPR's Science desk where he covers global health and development. Ari has always been drawn to science and the natural world. As a graduate student, Ari trained gray seal pups (*Halichoerus grypus*) for his Master's degree in animal behavior at the University of St. Andrews, and helped tag wild Norwegian killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) for his Ph.D. in biological oceanography at MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. For more than a decade, as a science reporter and multimedia producer, Ari has interviewed a species he's better equipped to understand — *Homo sapiens*. Over the years, Ari has reported across five continents on science topics ranging from astronomy to zooxanthellae. His radio pieces have aired on NPR, The World, Radiolab, Here & Now, and Living on Earth. Ari formerly worked as the Senior Digital Producer at NOVA where he helped oversee the production of the show's digital video content. He is a co-recipient of the AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Gold Award for his stories on glaciers and climate change in Greenland and Iceland. In the fifth grade, Ari won the "Most Contagious Smile" award.

Melissa L. Finucane, Ph.D., Senior Social and Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation

Melissa Finucane is a senior social and behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. Her interdisciplinary and policy-oriented research focuses on understanding the human dimensions of environmental health risks. Finucane is codirector of the RAND Climate Resilience Center, which supports innovative policy research and tool development to help decisionmakers at all levels address the impacts of climate change. She is also director of the Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities, which aims to assess and address community impacts from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Finucane is principal investigator with the NOAA-funded Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) program, an interdisciplinary partnership supporting decisionmakers with climate-sensitive issues such as flooding, fresh water management, coastal infrastructure, transport, and agriculture. Her NSF-funded research examines the perceptions of and responses to environmental health risks among different demographic groups, including impoverished communities. She also has examined relationships among large-scale changes such as rapid modernization in Vietnam, perceptions of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and avian influenza, and on-the-ground tools for building community resilience. Finucane received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Western Australia and has more than 20 years of experience working with many different communities around the world.

Janel Lowman, MHA, Senior Manager of Community Outreach, University of South Alabama, Mitchell Cancer Institute.

Janel has over a decade's worth of experience in community outreach and education at the University of South Alabama, beginning her career as a Certified Asthma Educator and Coordinator of the University's *BreathMobile*. From 2010 – 2016, Ms. Lowman served as Assistant Director for several major grants totaling \$7.3 million in external funding. The largest of these grants is the Community Health Workers Training Project funded by the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program as part of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Medical Settlement. This program is designed to enhance health care capacity and strengthen communities in coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, by training and placing Community Health Workers in areas affected by the spill. Currently, Ms. Lowman's current role is Senior Manager of Community Outreach with the University of South Alabama's Mitchell Cancer Institute. Her role encompasses developing and implementing cancer screening initiatives throughout the region. Ms. Lowman regularly collaborates with community leaders and organizations to help identify and meet the needs of underserved communities. She has been extensively involved in developing training curricula, creating and organizing training materials, recruiting program

participants, planning and facilitating training sessions. Ms. Lowman maintains an active academic research agenda, presenting papers at conferences and publishing in outlets such as the Journal of Applied Social Science. She has served as co-chair of the American Public Health Association's Community Health Workers Award Committee. Her professional memberships include the American Public Health Association, National Asthma Educators, and the Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. She is also a State of Texas trained CHW Instructor and has completed the Dr. Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Training in New York, New York.

Dr. Sabrina McCormick, *Associate Professor, Milliken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University*

Sabrina is a sociologist and filmmaker whose work focuses on climate change. She has investigated how climate change affects human health, social movement tactics to affect climate outcomes, including engagement with the judicial system, and what motivates politically and geographically diverse audiences to act in response to stories about climate. She was a Lead Author on the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and under the Obama Administration served on several committees for the Office of Science Technology & Policy. She also advised members of Congress and the U.S. Department of State. She served as an expert for the National Academies' review of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's report *Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*. Dr. McCormick produces media to convey climate change issues. Among other projects, Dr. McCormick's film work includes her current feature fiction film, *Sequestrada*, set in the Brazilian Amazon; *After the Cap*, an interactive documentary on the Deepwater Horizon spill; and *The Years of Living Dangerously*, which won the Emmy for Best Documentary Series. She is the author of two books and more than 50 articles and book chapters. Dr. McCormick's work is regularly featured in the media, including NBC Nightly News, National Public Radio, Time Magazine, the Chicago Tribune, and many other media outlets. She is an Associate Professor at The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and a Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. She received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and her Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University, and she was a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Liesel Ritchie, *Professor of Sociology; Associate Director of the Center for Coastal Studies, Virginia Tech*

Dr. Liesel Ritchie is a Professor of Sociology and an Associate Director of the Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech. During her career, Ritchie has studied a range of disaster events, including the Exxon Valdez and BP Deepwater Horizon oil spills; the Tennessee Valley Authority coal ash release; Hurricane Katrina; and earthquakes in Haiti and New Zealand. Since 2000, her focus has been on the social impacts of disasters and community resilience, including conducting social impact assessments, with an emphasis on technological hazards and disasters, social capital, and rural renewable resource communities, and she has published widely on these topics. Ritchie has more than 30 years of experience in research and evaluation. Prior to joining VT, she served as Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events at Oklahoma State University (2018-2020) and as Associate Director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder (2007-2018). Ritchie was a Senior Research Associate at the Evaluation Center (Western Michigan University) and served for six years as Coordinator for the Social Science Research Center's Evaluation & Decision Support Laboratory (Mississippi State University). Ritchie has been PI or co-PI on more than 95 projects and authored or coauthored more than 100 technical reports working with agencies and organizations including NASA, NIST, NSF, USGS, FEMA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Feeding America, NOAA, and U.S. Department of the Interior. She currently serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow with Northeastern University's Global Resilience Institute and is a Visiting Scholar at

Northumbria University in the UK. Ritchie has also served as a National Institute of Standards and Technology Disaster Resilience Fellow, a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee for Measuring Community Resilience, and as an Advisory Board member for the National Academies Gulf Research Program and LabX.

Dr. Heather Stone, *Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

Stone is an educator who seeks out stories that need to be told. Her work takes her beyond the classroom and into communities facing disruptive environmental change. Stone's work helps people in these communities explain how they are adjusting and what their journey to resilience looks like. Together, they integrate oral histories and virtual reality to create one-of-a-kind stories, curated by the people who live them. When Stone shares these stories with students, local officials, and policymakers, they all learn more about what it means to sustain vibrant lives on a changing planet.

Matthew S. VanDyke, PhD., *Assistant Professor, University of Alabama*

Matthew S. VanDyke is an assistant professor and graduate program coordinator in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at The University of Alabama. His research examines processes, effects, and problems associated with the public communication of science and environmental risk information. Most often he employs quantitative and qualitative research methods to understand how organizations communicate about science and environmental risks, and the effects of such communication strategies on audiences. His work is published in journals including *Science Communication*, *Environmental Communication*, *Risk Analysis*, *Journal of Risk Research*, *Applied Environmental Education & Communication*, *Politics and the Life Sciences*, and *Public Relations Review*. He serves as a member of the steering committee for the Science Public Engagement Partnership (SciPEP) organized by the Department of Energy's Office of Science and The Kavli Foundation.