

# Leveraging the National Climate Assessment to Empower Communities – A Workshop

## Speaker Biographies

### Workshop Committee Members



#### **Rachel Gallery**

**Thomas E. Lovejoy Endowed Chair and Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment  
University of Arizona**

Dr. Rachel E. Gallery is the Thomas E. Lovejoy Endowed Chair in Biodiversity, Conservation Science, and Policy and a Professor of Microbial Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona. With an emphasis on enhancing equity and inclusion in STEM, Dr. Gallery builds opportunities to support global biodiversity conservation. Her research focuses on the ecology and conservation of soils and on sustaining ecosystem resilience in the face of wildfires, droughts, species invasions, and climate change. Dr. Gallery holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a B.S. in Biology from American University. A former Research Fellow of Wolfson College and Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Oxford, she was also a Staff Scientist at the National Ecological Observatory Network before joining the University of Arizona faculty. A Fulbright Scholar and a former fellow and current member of the American Association of University Women, Dr. Gallery serves on nonprofit advisory boards, international working groups, and proposal review panels and regularly speaks at local outreach events and international conferences.



**Jamaji Nwanaji-Enwerem**  
**Health Equity Presidential Assistant Professor of Emergency**  
**Medicine**  
**University of Pennsylvania**

Dr. Jamaji C. Nwanaji-Enwerem is a Health Equity Presidential Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as the Executive Director of EInd, a community environmental education/improvement organization. Dr. Nwanaji-Enwerem graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Valedictorian from Morehouse College. He earned his PhD in the Harvard University Biological Sciences in Public Health program, his Master's in Public Policy (MPP) from Harvard Kennedy School, and his MD from Harvard Medical School. He completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and served as chief resident. He is an NIH National Research Service Award Principal Investigator and has served as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, the White House Office of Public Engagement Roundtables on Clinical Innovation and Health Equity, the World Health Organization technical advisory group for the occupational burden of disease estimation, and the International Society of Exposure Science Board of Directors. Dr. Nwanaji-Enwerem is the recipient of numerous honors including being named a National Minority Quality Forum 2021 40 Under 40 Leader in Health, a Schmidt Futures International Strategy Forum Fellow, a Paul & Daisy Soros New American Fellow, and an Agents of Change in Environmental Justice Fellow. He has authored several peer-reviewed publications and given many domestic/international lectures on his research, which leverages molecular biomarkers to better understand how environmental exposures impact human aging and health, particularly for the underserved. His work further emphasizes the need for public policy solutions aimed at fostering greater health equity and environmental justice.



**Julian Reyes**  
**Climate Adaptation Program Lead**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

Dr. Julian Reyes is the Climate Adaptation Program Lead at the Bureau of Land Management, where he integrates climate science, services, and adaptation strategies across programs and decision-

making processes. Julian was recently Assistant Director for Climate Services at the White House Office of Science and Technology and U.S. Global Change Research Program advancing a whole-of-government effort to cohesively and collaboratively advance on actionable climate science and services. He has experience building decision-support tools, translating science for diverse audiences, and nurturing partnerships while the National Coordinator for the USDA Climate Hubs program helping farmers, ranchers, and foresters understand their climate risks and co-producing useful and usable climate and risk management data, tools, and resources. Julian was also an author on the Fifth National Climate Assessment providing expertise on agriculture, natural resources, and climate services. He has received two USDA Secretary Honor Awards for his contributions to the NCA5 and 2021 USDA Climate Adaptation Plan. Julian is a member of the American Geophysical Union and American Meteorological Society.



**Lynée Turek-Hankins**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow, Neukom Institute for Computational**  
**Science and Thayer School of Engineering**  
**Dartmouth University**

Dr. Lynée Turek-Hankins is a postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth College, in the Neukom Institute for Computational Science and Thayer School of Engineering. She researches equitable climate change adaptation and mitigation responses with an emphasis on the interconnected housing and energy sectors. Dr. Turek-Hankins combines data science and co-production to identify multisector drivers of residential extreme heat risk and to assess response opportunities for the housing–energy nexus. Her data-driven research approach is decision relevant and rooted in collaborations with diverse knowledge holders and practitioners, such as state and municipal governments and community groups. She also studies procedural justice in knowledge production and decision-making processes. Dr. Turek-Hankins received her PhD in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Miami as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and her B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. She served as a chapter author for the Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment’s Chapter 18, “Sector Interactions, Multiple Stressors, and Complex Systems,” and she was an adjunct researcher with the RAND Corporation.



**Jim Yoon**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**

Dr. Jim Yoon is a Senior Scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. His research focuses on the development and application of advanced modeling and simulation techniques to understand, quantify, and evaluate climate and socioeconomic impacts on coupled human-natural systems, identifying solutions that can enhance system resilience, sustainability, and equity under changing and adverse conditions. Dr. Yoon leads several climate adaptation and agent-based modeling research efforts being conducted for the Department of Energy Office of Science Multi-sector Dynamics (MSD) Program and the Department of Defense. He is a member of the MSD Community of practice scientific steering group and chair of the MSD Human Systems Modeling Working Group. Dr. Yoon obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford University where he was integrated model lead on the Jordan Water Project, an international interdisciplinary research project focused on the development of a multi-agent hydrologic-economic model for evaluation of water security in Jordan and the Middle East. Prior to his work at Stanford, Dr. Yoon spent several years working as a water resources engineer at MWH Global in Southern California, consulting for municipal clients across the western U.S. He is also co-founder of WellDone International, a non-profit organization working to support clean water and sanitation projects in underserved regions across the developing world. Dr. Yoon holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering with an English Literature minor from the University of California, Los Angeles.

## Keynote Speaker



**Laura Petes**  
**Chief of Staff for Climate and Environment**  
**White House Office of Science and Technology Policy**

Laura Petes serves at the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) as the Chief of Staff for Climate & Environment and the Assistant Director for Climate Resilience. In this role, she works with other White House offices and Federal agencies to advance the climate and environmental priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration. She comes to OSTP from her role as the Manager of the

Communities Program in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management. At NOAA, Laura oversees implementation of the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a state-federal partnership with 34 Great Lakes and coastal states and territories that balances coastal resource use, economic development, and conservation. Laura entered the U.S. Government through a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship in the NOAA Climate Program Office. She holds a BA in Biology from Cornell University and a PhD in Zoology from Oregon State University.

## Panel I Speakers



**Kai Lee**  
**Principal**  
**Owl of Minerva, LLC**

Dr. Kai N. Lee is the principal of Owl of Minerva, LLC, a consulting firm working with philanthropic foundations, universities, and nonprofit organizations. He is a consultant on environmental DNA and its applications to environmental decision making. He is also a fellow of the Center for Ocean Solutions at Stanford University.

Dr. Lee taught environmental studies and political science at the University of Washington, beginning in 1973. He went to Williams in 1991 to direct its Center for Environmental Studies; he is Rosenberg Professor, emeritus, there. Dr. Lee later served as Program Officer for Science at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, where he developed novel means of linking scientific knowledge with policy and action. He is the author of *Compass and Gyroscope*, a pioneering book on adaptive management. He is also the coauthor, with Richard Howarth and the late William Freudenburg, of *Humans in the Landscape*, a textbook. He was a member of the National Academies board that wrote *Our Common Journey*, an influential statement of the scientific field of sustainability science.

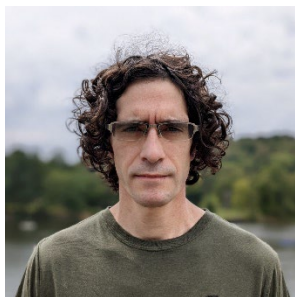
He has served on more than a dozen committees of the National Academies of Science, Engineering & Medicine, advising government agencies on a range of policies where scientific issues play a critical role. In 2024 he served as chair of the Committee on Developing a Strategy to Evaluate the Fifth National Climate Assessment. He was a chapter review editor for the Fourth National Climate Assessment. He has also served on the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Lee was a White House Fellow at the U.S. Department of Defense, and a member of the Northwest Power Planning Council. He holds degrees in physics from Columbia and Princeton.

He and his wife Dana live in Indianapolis. They have two grown daughters.



**Glynis C. Lough**  
**Director of Science for Climate Action Network**  
**Aspen Global Change Institute**

Dr. Glynis Lough is an Affiliate at the Aspen Global Change Institute (AGCI), where she also directs two collaboratives: the Practitioner Exchange for Effective Response to Sea Level Rise (PEERS) and the Science for Climate Action Network. Previous positions have included Vice President, Grants for the National Geographic Society; Deputy Director and Research Director, Food & Environment Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Chief of Staff for the Third National Climate Assessment with the U.S. Global Change Research Program; and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air, Office of Policy Analysis and Review. Dr. Lough works with AGCI to advance collaborative learning processes that accelerate climate solutions, supporting effective co-development of practical, vetted, real world knowledge. Throughout her work, she seeks to solve complicated issues by centering humans' lived experiences and co-developing knowledge to achieve meaningful outcomes. With a background in engineering, Dr. Lough brings a wealth of experience in air quality, climate change, food systems, social justice, public health, and conservation. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry and technology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a B.S. in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University.



**Scott Kalafatis**  
**Deputy University Director of the Northwest Climate**  
**Adaptation Science Center**  
**University of Washington**

Dr. Scott Kalafatis is the Deputy University Director of the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center and is affiliated with the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. Previously, Dr. Kalafatis was an Assistant Professor of Sustainability at Chatham University, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Dickinson College, a National Science Foundation Ethical



STEM Postdoctoral Researcher with the College of Menominee Nation, and a researcher with Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments. Dr. Kalafatis is a social scientist with a research background focused on understanding collaborations between scientists and decisionmakers, including how these collaborations contribute to decisions informed by climate science, what the ethical implications of these collaborations are, and how to train and support scientists pursuing them. In the course of this work, Dr. Kalafatis has leveraged training methods and research design strategies from across a variety of social science and applied fields to evaluate the use of climate science in decisions made by local governments, tribal governments, and resource managers throughout the United States. With the NW CASC, Dr. Kalafatis focuses on developing and implementing training and capacity building efforts that enhance the potential for scientists to successfully engage with those who may benefit from having access to more actionable science informing climate adaptation decisions. Dr. Kalafatis holds M.A.s in environmental policy and urban planning, and a Ph.D. in resource policy and behavior from the University of Michigan.

## Panel II Speakers



**Kripa Akila Jagannathan**  
**Research Scientist**  
**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**

Dr. Kripa Jagannathan is a Research Scientist at the Earth and Environmental Sciences Area (EESA) of Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL). She is an interdisciplinary social scientist, and her work focuses on improving the usability of science for decision-making. Her specific fields of research include co-production of actionable science, the science of actionable knowledge or SOAK, and climate change adaptation & climate-resilient planning. Dr. Jagannathan co-leads the co-production engagements for the Department of Energy funded project - HyperFACETS as well as the California Energy Commission funded project - Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine. Her current research also focuses on how institutional changes and reforms can enable the scaling-up of actionable sciences. Dr. Jagannathan was a Contributing Author for IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report Working Group II, and a Chapter Author for the Fifth US National Climate Assessment report. She is also the current President-Elect of the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Science and Society Section (Jan 2023 onwards), and serves on AGU's Council Leadership Team.



**Kathie Dello**  
**Director**  
**North Carolina State Climate Office**

Dr. Kathie Dello is the State Climatologist of North Carolina, serving as the Director of the North Carolina State Climate Office at NC State University. With over a decade of experience in climate research and policy, she is an expert in using science to inform decision-making, especially in the context of climate change and its impacts on communities, public health, and agriculture. She is committed to fostering collaborations that bring together climate science, policy, and on-the-ground solutions, ensuring that climate data serves to benefit communities most vulnerable to extreme weather and climate change.

Prior to her role in North Carolina, Dr. Dello worked in Oregon as the Associate Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, where she played a key role in advancing climate resilience efforts across the Pacific Northwest. Her work there included collaborations with policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, focusing on helping communities adapt to emerging threats like long-term drought. Dr. Dello is frequently sought after for her insights and has contributed to numerous academic publications, reports, and public forums. She is frequently quoted by the local and national media on weather and climate stories.

She was an author on the Southeast Chapter of the 5th National Climate Assessment and is the lead author of the Southeast Chapter of the 6th National Climate Assessment. She led Oregon's first Climate Assessment Report and was an author on North Carolina's first climate assessment report. She has contributed to state-level adaptation planning in New York, Oregon, and North Carolina.

Dr. Dello holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from Oregon State University.





**Galen Treuer**  
**Climate Tech and Economic Innovation Manager**  
**Miami-Dade County**

Dr. Galen Treuer leads Climate Tech and Economic Innovation for Miami-Dade County. He works with the Mayor, the Chief of Innovation and Economic Development, Chief Resilience Officer, and the private sector to pursue the County's climate resilience goals and catalyze regional investment in climate technology by bringing together a network of entrepreneurs, investors, businesses, academics, and community leaders. He is on the leadership team for the ClimateReady Tech Hub, designated and funded by the US Economic Development Administration in 2024, and serves on the Department of the Interior's Climate Adaptation Science Advisory Council. Dr. Treuer has worked to instigate just climate solutions and policy for over a decade and holds a Ph.D. in environmental science and policy from the University of Miami and a B.A. in economics from Oberlin College.

## **Guest Speaker on Communicating on Climate Change**



**Katharine Hayhoe**  
**Chief Scientist**  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist who studies how climate change impacts us and how we can effectively respond. She is globally recognized as a United Nations Champion of the Earth and an Oxfam Sister of the Planet, and has been named to TIME's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers, and FORTUNE's World's Greatest Leaders.

Dr. Hayhoe is known for her ability to translate complex climate issues into accessible public discourse. She publishes a weekly Talking Climate newsletter, hosted the PBS Digital Series, Global Weirding, and writes for broad range of outlets, from TIME to Good Housekeeping. Her TED talk, "The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it" has more than 4 million views and her most recent book is "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World."

Currently, she is the Chief Scientist for The Nature Conservancy and holds the positions of Horn Distinguished Professor and the Political Science Endowed Professor in Public Policy and Public Law at Texas Tech University. Dr. Hayhoe earned her B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Toronto and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Illinois. She is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, and the American Scientific Affiliation, and serves on advisory boards for organizations such as Netflix, UBS, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. In recognition of her contributions to science communication and engagement, she has received a number of awards and four honorary doctorates.

### **Panel III Speakers**



**Ava Richardson**  
**Director of Sustainability**  
**City of Baltimore**

Ava Richardson has over a decade of experience leading public health initiatives, advocating for environmental policies, and managing programs designed to address social, racial inequities and environmental justice. She previously served as the Sustainability Manager and a Food Matters Technical Advisor in the office, where she led the implementation of special projects, supported the Commission on Sustainability, and helped to pilot new sustainability programming such as the Farmer's Market-based food scrap collection pilot. During her time with the city, Ava also served as the ReCAST Project Director at the Baltimore City Health Department, advancing efforts to address decades of trauma in west Baltimore. She holds a BS in Biology from Frostburg State University, an MPH from Morgan State University, and is currently obtaining a Doctorate of Public Health with a focus on environmental health and engineering from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

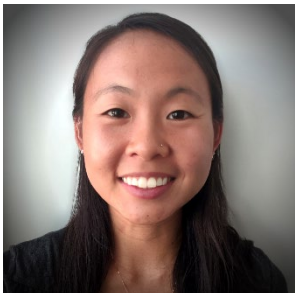


**Stefanie Smallhouse**  
**President**  
**Arizona Farm Bureau**

Stefanie Smallhouse is serving in her 7th year as the elected President of Arizona Farm Bureau Federation. She and husband Andrew Smallhouse, own and operate a sixth-generation farm and ranch along the Lower San Pedro River in SE Arizona. The ranch was established in 1884 and raises English cross cattle. The farm is used mainly to grow forage crops for their own cattle and in 2013 they added a saguaro cactus nursery operation to wholesale cactus to retail nurseries and others around the state. With Stefanie's education and background, she worked professionally as a wildlife biologist and resource consultant very early on in her career, and then later in executive administrative positions for the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts State Association, and the Arizona Water Protection Fund for the State of Arizona Dept. of Water Resources.

Stefanie is a member of many industry organizations, committees and boards, including an advisory board/council member for the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center at the University of Arizona, Ag West Farm Credit, U.S. Senators Kelly and Sinema, U.S. Congressman Ciscomani and a CARET delegate for the University of Arizona.

In her role as Arizona Farm Bureau President, she also serves on the Executive Committee for the American Farm Bureau Federation, representing the Western Region of Farm Bureaus, and sits on the Board of Directors for Farm Bureau Financial Services Companies and American Ag Insurance Co.



**Margaret Wang**  
**Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer**  
**Subject to Climate**

Margaret Wang is the Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of SubjectToClimate, a nonprofit organization empowering all educators to easily and effectively teach about climate change, justice, and action. Previously, she co-founded Novustack (also known as Innovate for Africa), which trained, placed, and supported 3 cohorts of Nigerian, Kenyan, and Ugandan graduates in innovative start-ups

to strengthen the African innovation ecosystem.

She taught economics, business & management, entrepreneurship, and history for several years before she pursued an M.Ed. in International Education Policy at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Working with Professor Fernando Reimers, she authored and edited several books regarding education reform and climate change education. She worked with Harvard Library and Harvard Office for Sustainability to train Harvard staff members to be climate educators. She also was a product manager at an EdTech Learning Management startup. Outside of work, Margaret is an avid ultramarathon runner and triathlete.