

**SOCIETAL EXPERTS ACTION NETWORK (SEAN)
FALL 2024 SYMPOSIUM
*Presenter and Facilitator Biographical Sketches***

Presenters and Speakers

Bo Drake became Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at Chattanooga State Community College in November 2017. In January of 2024, Bo was appointed to lead the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Chattanooga State Community College. He and his teams strive for excellence as they work with business and industry leaders to develop programs to address the most pressing workforce development challenges.

Prior to Chattanooga State, he served nearly five years as Executive Director of Corporate College for Ivy Tech Community College, in southwest Indiana. He completed Harvard Business School's Young American Leader Program and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission Leadership and Fellows program. Bo holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in business administration from Ivy Tech Community College as well as a Bachelor of Arts in speech communication from Northern Kentucky University, and a Masters in Human Services from Liberty University. He resides in Chattanooga, TN with his wife and two sons.

Corinne Espinoza is the Co-Director of the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART), a community resource program that responds to public and private crises, engages in conflict resolution processes, and coordinates mutual aid to support material needs. Grounded in transformative and disability justice principles, Cambridge HEART leverages existing resources for short and long term community cohesion. Corinne values community, people power and the importance of centering marginalized community members. Corinne brings non-profit leadership, social innovation, and administrative experience to their role with Cambridge HEART.

Manisha Juthani is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). She is the first Indian American to serve as a commissioner in the State of Connecticut. She is on a leave for public service from the Yale School of Medicine where she served as Professor of Medicine through September 2024, and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Medicine. She served as Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program from 2012 to 2021. Dr. Juthani received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania and MD from Cornell University Medical College, completed Internal Medicine residency training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Campus, and served as Chief Resident at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She came to Connecticut in 2002 as an Infectious Diseases Fellow at Yale School of Medicine.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Juthani was a leader in the COVID response at Yale which led to her appointment as Commissioner of CT DPH in 2021. In the early days of the pandemic, she was a voice to help educate the public in both local and national media outlets, a role she was able to expand in her role as Commissioner.

As she continues in her role as DPH Commissioner, she continues to combat emerging infectious diseases and is committed to revitalizing public health by refocusing efforts on the opioid crisis, lead abatement, gun violence, mental health, climate and health, maternal health, and drinking water infrastructure improvements. In order to do this work, she is committed to growing the public health workforce and

partnering with local health departments who are essential partners in implementing public health policies. She sees all these goals through an equity lens which is essential to ensuring that our focus on health as a human right is maintained.

Breanna McArdle is the epidemiology supervisor for the Washington Wastewater-Based Epidemiology program. She holds a BS in statistics from San Diego State University and an MPH in epidemiology from Oregon Health and Science University. In addition to wastewater-based epidemiology, she has experience in sexually transmitted infection surveillance and health care data systems.

Meida McNeal works with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events as the Deputy Commissioner of the Cultural Grants & Resources Division. Previously, Meida served as Senior Manager of Art and Community Impact Investments at DCASE where she spearheaded the design, implementation, coordination, and execution of technical assistance for grant programs and launched the Chicago Arts and Health Pilot Program for Creative Workers (now publicly known as Healing Arts Chicago), an innovative arts and mental health focused training and apprenticeship program. Prior to this role, Meida worked with the Chicago Park District as Arts & Culture Manager supporting community arts partnerships, youth arts, cultural stewardship, and civic engagement initiatives. Projects included cultural planning projects from neighborhood cultural center activations and citywide asset mapping to developing special arts & civic engagement residencies, and a cultural stewardship training program, focused on neighborhood resource development through the lens of arts & culture in communities.

Meida is also Artistic and Managing Director of Honey Pot Performance. She received her PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University and her MFA in Choreography & Dance History from Ohio State University. Over the past two decades, she has produced numerous creative projects as both a solo artist and with Honey Pot Performance, with works performed in Illinois, Rhode Island, Ohio, California, and Trinidad. Positioning her work as an Independent Artist and Scholar at the intersection of performance studies, dance and critical ethnography, she has taught courses in dance, critical performance ethnography, and black diasporic cultural production at Northwestern University, Brown University, Governors State, Columbia College Chicago, and University of Chicago.

Justice Onwordi (she/her/hers): Justices' passion in public health is to serve underrepresented communities as an advocate and ally. She aims to utilize the social determinants of health to bridge the gaps that have been created through systemic barriers. Justice's current role is to ensure all people have access to the foods they deserve when they want them. She previously worked on one of Kaiser Permanente's Community Health teams and focused on housing, economic security, and healthy equity. Justice earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus, with an emphasis in Maternal and Child Health and Global Health. She is now the Impact Director at the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger leading their grant equity work, data and evaluation efforts, and collaborating with organizations across the state to invest in a more sustainable food system.

Lisa Rachowicz serves as the Director of Outreach and Temporary Shelter of the City and County of San Francisco where she directs the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's (HSH) strategy for implementing services for adults, transition-age youth, and families in temporary shelter and street outreach programs. Lisa oversees a portfolio of over 4,000 shelter beds and HSH outreach teams including the San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT).

Lisa has worked for the City and County of San Francisco for over a decade with a focus on programs for the unhoused community and persons with disabilities. Lisa was previously the HSH Manager of Shelters and Navigation Centers for 4 years. Prior to her work with the HSH shelter team, Lisa served as a Behavioral Health Clinician with the Homeless Outreach Team and as a Medical Social Worker Supervisor with the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services.

Before joining the City, Lisa worked as a clinician and program director at Progress Foundation, with a passion for providing crisis behavioral health treatment in community settings as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. Lisa has also been a university lecturer of social work courses in Vienna, Austria and a shelter case manager in San Diego, CA. Throughout Lisa's 21-year social work and public service career she has demonstrated a deep commitment to people experiencing homelessness and an expertise in system and program development to address this crisis.

Monica Schoch-Spana is a medical anthropologist, Professor of Community Health, and Director for the Community Health Degree Program in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at Texas A&M University – San Antonio. For over 25 years, she has conducted research on public health emergency management, focusing on community resilience, behaviorally realistic emergency plans, public engagement in health disaster policymaking, post-epidemic recovery, and crisis and emergency risk communication. She has also worked diligently to translate scholarly research into actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners, including as Principal Investigator for PanREMEDY, an initiative to guide local and state leaders in holistic and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and for CommuniVax, a national ethnographic research coalition working toward COVID-19 vaccine equity. National advisory roles include the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which she formerly co-chaired. She previously worked as a Senior Scholar with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and Research Professor with the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She received her PhD in cultural anthropology from Johns Hopkins University.

Umair Shah was appointed Secretary of Health for Washington State in December 2020. He is the first Asian-American physician and first South Asian to serve in this role in Washington's history. He previously served as Executive Director and Local Health Authority for Harris County (Texas) Public Health (HCPH).

Dr. Shah began his distinguished career as an emergency department physician for over two decades at Houston's Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center. He started his formal public health journey in 2003 as Chief Medical Officer at Galveston County, Texas' Health District.

Dr. Shah has held numerous leadership positions with respected entities like the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Trust for America's Health; Network for Public Health Law; Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute; and the National Association of County and City Health Officials, where he served as president.

Dr. Shah earned his BA (philosophy) from Vanderbilt University; his MD from the University of Toledo Health Science Center; and completed an Internal Medicine Residency, Primary Care/General Medicine

Fellowship, and MPH (management), at the University of Texas Health Science Center. He also completed an international health policy internship at World Health Organization headquarters in Switzerland.

Lori Stegmann was elected to her first term as a Multnomah County, Oregon Commissioner representing District 4 in 2016 and re-elected for a second term in 2020. Prior to serving on the Multnomah County Board, Commissioner Lori Stegmann served six years on the Gresham City Council and as City Council President in 2014.

In her time on the board, she has been a champion for underserved communities in East County addressing areas of housing stability, economic development, and public safety. As board vice chair in 2018, Commissioner Stegmann introduced resolutions to create the Construction Diversity Equity Fund and to dedicate funding to supportive housing in Multnomah County. She led regional efforts for a complete and accurate Census 2020 count and represents Multnomah County in a national cohort through the National Association of Counties and the Gates Foundation to develop local strategies for economic mobility and recovery. One of her first budget amendments supported the creation of a new School Based Health Clinic at Reynolds School District, a multi-year project that just opened in 2021. Commissioner Stegmann is pleased to lead efforts for a new flagship Multnomah County Library and the Vance Properties master plan which will transform 90 acres of underutilized brownfield into a regional asset.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Commissioner Stegmann has prioritized testing and vaccine sites at geographically specific locations, distributed over \$1 million in business recovery grants to east Multnomah County, identified funding for a new pantry location to increase food access, and supported the capacity of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) serving organizations to stabilize community resources. She has secured \$100,000 from the Gates Foundation to focus resilience and recovery efforts in East County, and has prioritized service delivery enhancements to the Tri-Met Transit Crisis Response Team and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office HOPE outreach team to better serve our communities.

Quinton Zondervan is an entrepreneur, climate activist, and former City Councilor in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Quinton has been involved in local, city, state and federal conversations on climate change policy since his freshman days at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. In 2015, Quinton attended the UN Climate negotiations in Paris as an official observer on behalf of the business community. Quinton has founded and serves on the board of several climate change and environment related non-profits, and has founded for-profit software, cleantech, and biotechnology companies. Quinton holds a master's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT and two bachelor's degrees in the fields of mathematics and computer science from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and serves on the board of trustees at Eckerd College. Quinton retrofitted his family home in Cambridge to be net zero emissions.

Moderators & Facilitators

Sonia Angell is a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of the Practice at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and an Assistant Clinical Professor at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is a practicing physician and an expert in public health, policy and systems change. Her research aims to build out public health department capacity in climate and health surveillance, policy, and communications. Additional areas of Dr. Angell's research focus on health care delivery resilience, including related to the impact of COVID-19. Previously, she served as Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer, as Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Health Department, as senior advisor on Global Noncommunicable Diseases at the CDC. She received the American Heart Association's Chairman's Award in 2020. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. She is board certified in internal medicine. She received her medical degree from the University of California San Francisco and completed an Internal Medicine residency at Brigham Women's Hospital. She has a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan.

Layan Ammouri is a dedicated policy professional with a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a track record of advancing equitable policies that strengthen community resilience. Currently serving as the Policy and Planning Director for Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, she brings over 10 years of expertise in project management, policy analysis, and strategic leadership. Known for collaborative initiatives like developing a common application system to streamline access to essential services, Layan's foundation in research and strategic planning, paired with her commitment to innovation, supports meaningful policy outcomes and inclusive solutions.

Her background includes trauma-informed initiatives, state education program enhancement, and building community partnerships centered on economic mobility.

Fluent in Arabic as a second language and enriched by international experiences, she has built lasting partnerships with BIPOC and refugee communities, collaborating across sectors to implement sustainable policies. Layan's experience navigating complex government structures and fostering strategic relationships reflects her dedication to equity, community empowerment, and long-lasting positive change.

Dominique Brossard is a professor and chair in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an affiliate of the UW-Madison Robert & Jean Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, the UW-Madison Energy Institute, the UW-Madison Global Health Institute, and the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. She is also a principal investigator at the Morgridge Institute for Research. Brossard's research agenda focuses on the intersection between science, media and policy with the Science, Media and the Public (SCIMEP) research group, which she co-directs. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the International Communication Association, Brossard is an internationally known expert in public opinion dynamics related to controversial scientific issues. She is particularly interested in understanding the role of values in shaping public attitudes and using cross-cultural analysis to understand these processes. She has published more than 150 research articles in outlets such as Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Science Communication, Public Understanding of Science, the

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

International Journal of Public Opinion, and Communication Research and has been an expert panelist for the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) on various occasions. Brossard is a member of the Board on Life Sciences of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. She is also on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences and she is the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. Brossard has a varied professional background that includes experience in the lab and the corporate world. Notably, she spent five years at Accenture in its Change Management Services Division. She was also the communication coordinator for the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSP II), a position that combined public relations with marketing communication and strategic communication. Her family worked dairy farms for many generations. Brossard earned her M.S. in plant biotechnology from the Ecole Nationale d'Agronomie de Toulouse and her M.P.S and Ph.D. in communication from Cornell University.

Emily Brunson is a Professor of Anthropology at Brigham Young University. She has an MPH in Epidemiology and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Washington. Dr. Brunson's research addresses issues of health care access and decision-making, particularly how political, economic, and social structures, including class and racial/ethnic inequalities, social networks, and personal experience intersect to produce health outcomes for individuals and communities. In collaboration with diverse stakeholders, she has translated her scholarly research into actionable recommendations for both practitioners and policy makers. From 2020-2023 she co-led CommuniVax—a national coalition of social scientists, public health experts, and community advocates who sought to strengthen local and national COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the United States, and to develop long-standing, local governance systems that enable underserved groups to exercise collective agency over their own health during the pandemic and moving forward. Her research has been recognized through funding from the National Science Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Bridget B. Kelly is Principal Consultant of Burke Kelly Consulting, based in Port Townsend, Washington. She specializes in integrating multiple information sources, analysis methods, and modes of engagement to grapple with complex questions for policy analysis, strategy development, and evaluation. She currently supports the work of the Societal Experts Action Network, the Washington State Academy of Sciences, and the Ruckelshaus Center, a joint initiative of Washington State University and the University of Washington. Previously she worked at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine leading a portfolio of multidisciplinary projects that included early childhood, mental health, chronic diseases, global HIV, and evaluation science, culminating in a term as the interim director of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families. More recently she co-founded the nonprofit Bridging Health & Community, with the mission of helping the health sector work more effectively with communities. Her formal education includes training in medicine and developmental neurobiology through an MD and PhD from Duke University, preceded by a BA from Williams College and followed by a Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship. She is also an experienced dancer, choreographer, and grassroots arts administrator.

Mike Hout is professor of sociology at New York University. In his research, he uses demographic methods to study social change in inequality, religion, and politics. In 2006, Dr. Hout and Claude Fischer published *Century of Difference*, a book on twentieth-century social and cultural trends in the United States, that exemplifies this approach. A few recent publications include "Part of the gender gap in voting for Democrats arises because a higher proportion of women than men voters are Black," *Proceedings of the*

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

National Academy of Sciences (2022) and “Social mobility in the Tang Dynasty as the imperial examination rose and aristocratic family pedigree declined, 618-907 CE,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2024). Dr. Hout's honors include election to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He taught at the University of Arizona from 1976 to 1984 and at the University of California, Berkeley from 1985 to 2013. While at Berkeley, Dr. Hout chaired the Sociology Department from 1988 to 1991 and the Demography Department from 2008 to 2013. He also directed the Survey Research Center from 1992 to 1998 and the Berkeley Population Center from 2007 to 2013. He has chaired the National Academies Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education Advisory Committee since 2018. Dr. Hout received a Ph.D. in sociology from Indiana University.

Linda Langston is the President of Langston Strategies Group serving as a consultant to those interested in resilience planning. Langston served on the Linn County, IA Board of Supervisors for 14 years and also served as the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo). She served 2 terms on FEMA's National Advisory Council, multiple terms on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Resilient America Roundtable and two terms as chair. She presently serves on the Division of Earth and Life Sciences Committee. She has served on a variety of local, state and federal committees and commissions, including 2 terms as the chair of her local board of health. She continues to serve as an adjunct instructor for Emergency Management Institute and FEMA.

Maria Carmen Lemos is Professor of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Senior Policy Scholar at the Udall Center for the Study of Public Policy at the University of Arizona. She has MSc and PhD degrees in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT. During 2006-2007 she was a James Martin 21st Century School Fellow at the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University. Her research focuses on environmental public policymaking in Latin America and the U.S., especially related to the human dimensions of climate change, the co-production of science and policy, and the role of technoscientific knowledge and environmental governance in building adaptive capacity to climate variability and change response. She is a co-founder of Icarus (Initiative on Climate Adaptation Research and Understanding through the Social Sciences), which seeks foster collaboration and exchange between scholars focusing on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. She is a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a contributor to the US Climate Change Science Program Synthesis Reports. She has served in number of NRC/NAS committees including Restructuring Federal Climate Research to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change, America Climate Choice Science Panel and the Human Dimensions of Environmental Change Committee.

Adam Seth Levine is the SNF Agora Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. Many questions pique his interest and excitement, such as when ordinary citizens become engaged in civic life and with what impact and how people with diverse forms of expertise such as researchers, practitioners, and policymakers collaborate to tackle problems. He has published research findings addressing these questions in a variety of political science, public health, transportation planning, climate change, communication, law, and economics journals. In 2024 he published his second book, entitled *Collaborate Now! How Expertise Becomes Useful in Civic Life*. He is also President and co-founder of research4impact, a nonprofit that creates powerful new collaborative relationships among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

Arthur Lupia is the Gerald R Ford Distinguished University Professor and Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan. He was previously Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation. In that role, and with Daniel Goroff, he developed the Societal Experts Action Network concept and arranged for its funding. His research improves communication, coalition-building, and quality of life in a wide range of social and scientific contexts. His career awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Carnegie Fellowship, and the 1998 National Academy of Sciences Award for Initiatives in Research. He previously served on the Advisory Board for the NASEM Division on Behavioral and Social Science and Education and currently serves on the NASEM's Strategic Council for Excellence, Integrity, and Trust and on Advisory Board for the Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Marcus Plescia was the Chief Medical Officer for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) from 2017-2024. He provided medical leadership and expertise across the agency and lead for the agency's response to emerging public health issues. He served as ASHTO's principal spokesperson since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic and was ASTHO's primary liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is now in a new role as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Medicine in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health.

Dr Plescia has served in public health leadership roles at the local, state, and federal levels in North Carolina and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In these roles he has led successful efforts to enact systemic public health interventions including expanded cancer screening coverage, prescription drug and disease reporting requirements, revised clinical guidelines, and state and local tobacco policy. He led the implementation of the CDC's national colorectal cancer screening program.

Dr Plescia received his Medical Degree, Master of Public Health, and Bachelor of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He trained in Family Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine and has practiced in a variety of settings serving homeless, urban poor, and rural underserved populations.