

**Committee on Understanding and Addressing  
Misinformation about Science**

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE)  
Board on Science Education (BOSE)

Meeting #4 – July 11, 2023

**Speaker Biographies**

**AFUA BRUCE** (Moderator, Committee Member) is a leading public interest technologist who has spent her career working at the intersection of technology, policy, and society. She has worked in and across the government, non-profit, private, and academic sectors as well as held senior science and technology positions at DataKind, New America, the White House, the FBI, and IBM. With Afua's background in software engineering, data science, and artificial intelligence, combined with experience developing and deploying technology in and with communities, she incorporates an equity-based framework into her engagements. Afua is currently the principal of the ANB Advisory Group LLC, a consulting firm that supports organizations developing, implementing, or funding responsible data and technology. The ANB Advisory Group works with philanthropic institutions, tech companies, and nonprofits to change how technology is developed and used. Afua is an adjunct professor of the Heinz College of Information Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, a Visiting Practitioner for Cornell Tech's Public Interest Tech (PI-Tech) program, an affiliate of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, and an affiliate of the Tayarisha is The African Centre of Excellence for Digital Governance at the University of Witwatersrand-Johannesburg. Afua has a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan. Her newest book, *The Tech That Comes Next: How Changemakers, Technologists, and Philanthropists can Build an Equitable World*, describes how technology can advance equity.

**SARAH KREPS** is the John L. Wetherill Professor in the Department of Government, Adjunct Professor of Law, and the Director of the Cornell Tech Policy Institute at Cornell University. Her teaching and research focus on the intersection of international politics, technology, and national security. She has written five books, including, most recently, *Social Media and International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). Dr. Kreps's work has appeared in a number of academic journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, and *International Security*, and policy outlets such as *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*. Her opinions have been featured in a series of media outlets including *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *BBC*, *USA Today*, *CNBC*, and *CNN*. Dr. Kreps is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and has held fellowships at the Council on Foreign Relations (and is a life member), Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, West Point, and the University of Virginia's Miller Center for Public Affairs. She has a BA from Harvard,

MSc from Oxford, and PhD from Georgetown. Between 1999-2003, she served as an active-duty officer in the United States Air Force.

**MICHAEL STREVE**NS is a professor of philosophy at New York University. His academic work is principally concerned with the nature of science, covering topics such as scientific explanation, understanding, complex systems, probability of various sorts, causation, and the social structure of science; he also applies contemporary research in cognitive psychology to explain aspects of both philosophical and scientific thinking. In *The Knowledge Machine*, a trade book, he explains why science is so successful at creating knowledge and why it took so long for humans to figure out how to do it right. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Rutgers University.

**KASISOMAYAJULA “VISH” VISWANATH** (Committee Chair) is Lee Kum Kee Professor of Health Communication in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) and in the McGraw-Patterson Center for Population Sciences at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI). He is also the Faculty Director of the Health Communication Core of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC). Dr. Viswanath’s work, drawing from literatures in communication science, social epidemiology, and social and health behavior sciences, focuses on translational communication science to influence public health policy and practice. His primary research is in documenting the relationship between communication inequalities, poverty and health disparities, and knowledge translation to address health disparities. He has written more than 280 journal articles and book chapters concerning communication inequalities and health disparities, knowledge translation, public health communication campaigns, e-health and digital divide, public health preparedness and the delivery of health communication interventions to underserved populations. Dr. Viswanath earned both a Ph.D. and a M.A. in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota, and a MCJ from Osmania University in India.

**JEVIN WEST** (Moderator, Committee Member) is an Associate Professor in the Information School at the University of Washington. He is the co-founder of the new Center for an Informed Public at UW aimed at resisting strategic misinformation, promoting an informed society and strengthening democratic discourse. He is also the co-founder of the DataLab at UW, a Data Science Fellow at the eScience Institute, and Affiliate Faculty for the Center for Statistics & Social Sciences. His research and teaching focus on the impact of data and technology on science and society, with a focus on slowing the spread of misinformation. He is the co-author of the new book, *Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World*, which helps non-experts question numbers, data, and statistics without an advanced degree in data science.

**JENN WORTMAN VAUGHAN** is a Senior Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research, New York City. She currently focuses on Responsible AI—including transparency, interpretability, and fairness—as part of MSR’s FATE group and co-chair of Microsoft’s Aether Working Group on Transparency. Jenn’s research background is in machine learning and algorithmic economics, but she now frequently incorporates techniques from HCI into her research in order to better understand the interaction between people and AI systems. Jenn came to MSR in 2012 from UCLA, where she was an assistant professor in the computer science department. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 2009, and subsequently spent a year as

a Computing Innovation Fellow at Harvard. She is the recipient of Penn's 2009 Rubinoff dissertation award for innovative applications of computer technology, a National Science Foundation CAREER award, a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), and a variety of best paper awards. Jenn co-founded the Annual Workshop for Women in Machine Learning (WiML), which has been held each year since 2006, and recently served as Program Co-chair of NeurIPS 2021.