

Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication

Committee

Rajul Pandya

Chair

RAJUL "RAJ" PANDYA (Chair) is Fulton Presidential Professor of Practice and Executive Director of the Global Futures Education Alliance at Arizona State University. Raj strives to build systems that invite all people—including people who have been left out in the past—to learn and work together for futures where people and nature thrive. He is a member of the advisory boards for the Anthropocene Alliance, Community and College Partners Program, ISET International, and the Aspen Institute for Global Change. He also serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the American Red Cross and the Advisory Board for Advancing Research Impact in Society. Pandya contributes to the National Academies through the Education for Thriving in a Changing Climate Consensus Study Committee, the Climate Crossroads Advisory Committee, the Gulf Health and Resilience Board, the Resilient America Roundtable, and as a Climate Community Network Advisor. He earned his PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington and a BS in Physics from the University of Illinois.

Yong-Yeol Ahn

Member

YONG YEOL AHN is the incoming Quantitative Foundation Professor at the School of Data Science at the University of Virginia and a Professor at the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering at Indiana University. His research areas include information diffusion, social media, science of science, and science communication, using methods from network science and machine learning to study how knowledge spreads and innovation emerges. He was a Visiting Professor at MIT (2020–2021), and previously held positions at Northeastern University's Center for Complex Network Research and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Systems Biology. He is a recipient of the Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship and the LinkedIn Economic Graph Challenge Award. He earned his PhD in Statistical Physics from KAIST in 2008.

Tabia Akintobi

Member

TABIA H. AKINTOBI is Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, and as associate dean for community engagement at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She is a globally sought social behavioral scientist and public health practitioner leading or collaborating in community-driven translational research and programs contributing to the eradication of health disparities thereby advancing community and population health transformation. She is an extensively published contributor to community-engaged research and practices texts including but not limited to *The Morehouse Model: How School of Medicine, Revolutionized Community Engagement and Health Equity*, the 2nd and 3rd editions of *Principles of Community Engagement Primer* (CDC/NIH) and *Community-Centered Public Health: Strategies, Tools, and Applications for Advancing Health Equity*. Akintobi also serves as Principal Investigator of a Prevention Research Center funded by the CDC designed to advance the art and implementation science of community-based participatory research grounded in community governance. She is also principal investigator for institutes and networks funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences and the Department of Health and Human Services, among many others. She earned her MPH and PhD from the University of South Florida.

Elyse L. Aurbach

Member

ELYSE L. AURBACH is Assistant Provost for University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University and consultant with the Pew Charitable Trusts. She specializes in translating research into tools for practice, building training and capacity-building programs, and developing frameworks that synthesize scholarship and practitioner knowledge to help university and public engagement systems evolve. Aurbach has held a variety of roles supporting public engagement in higher education, including most recently as Director for Public Engagement & Research Impacts in the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Michigan and Civic Science Fellow with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. She also led a number of projects locally and nationally to improve science communication and public engagement. She served on the planning committee for a National Academies workshop on institutionalizing engaged research. She also developed and taught communication courses in person and online, Co-Bossing with Nerd Nite Ann Arbor, and co-founded and directed RELATE, a science communication and public engagement organization. Aurbach was a NSF Graduate Research Fellow, a finalist for the American Association for the Advancement of Science Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science, and an Advancing Research Impact in Society Fellow. She holds a PhD in neuroscience.

James Bell

Member

JAMES "JAMIE" BELL, is a Special Advisor at the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC). Prior to joining CAISE in 2010, Mr. Bell held a variety of leadership roles in the STEM education field, including in youth program and museum exhibit development at the Exploratorium, professional learning for teachers at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics Science Media Group, and as a consultant on mathematics exhibit development at TERC. Jamie also spent 3 years in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, leading the development of a Center of Learning division at Petrosains: The Discovery Center and has consulted with many science centers and museums internationally. He received a BA degree from Carnegie Mellon University in 1977 and an Ed.M. from Harvard University in 1996. Mr. Bell was named an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow (in education) in 2020 and an Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Fellow for Outstanding Contributions to the Field in 2022.

Jennifer K. Benz

Member

JENNIFER K. BENZ is Vice President of Public Affairs & Media Research at NORC at the University of Chicago and deputy director of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Benz is a political scientist whose research focuses on public opinion and elections, media behavior and news consumers, and survey methodology. With training and experience in political science, social psychology, and public health, Benz's research uses an interdisciplinary approach in both theory and method, and much of her research complements survey research with qualitative and experimental methods. She has a successful track record of distilling and packaging complex research for different audiences including journalists, policy makers, and the mass public. Benz is active with American Association for Public Opinion Research and served as co-chair of the association's Transparency Initiative. Benz earned her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she held an interdisciplinary fellowship.

Amanda D. Boyd

Member

AMANDA BOYD is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta. She is the Co-Director of the Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) and Associate Professor in the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, both at Washington State University. She has more than 16 years of communication practice and research experience with rural and Indigenous populations in the United States and Canada. Dr. Boyd's work draws from an interdisciplinary education, which includes a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Indigenous and Environmental Studies (Trent University, 2013), Ph.D. in Communication Studies (University of Calgary, 2013), M.Sc. in Rural Sociology (University of Alberta, 2008), and B.Mgmt. in Management Studies (University of Lethbridge, 2006). Dr. Boyd co-leads the Dissemination Cores of two NIH-funded research centers that focus on controlling blood pressure and reducing alcohol-related health disparities among American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Her K01 Career Development Award, funded by the National Institute on Aging, advances knowledge about Alzheimer's disease communication and recruitment science among American Indians. Dr. Boyd's current work also includes examining communication about COVID-19, assessing Inuit perceptions of traditional foods and contaminants in Arctic regions, and working with Indigenous youth to create health messaging for their communities. In 2022, Dr. Boyd served on a panel as part of the Re-Imagining Science Communication in the COVID Era and Beyond: The 5th National Academies Science Communication Colloquium.

Siri Carpenter

Member

SIRI CARPENTER is executive director and editor-in-chief of The Open Notebook, a non-profit organization that is a leading source of training and educational materials for journalists who cover science. She is also an award-winning science journalist and editor whose writing and editorial work has appeared in The New York Times, Science, Discover, Scientific American, bioGraphic, Science News, Science News for Students, and many other publications. Carpenter is the editor of The Craft of Science Writing, published by the University of Chicago Press. She has been a member of the National Association of Science Writers since 1998 and was president of NASW from 2018-2020. She is also a member of the Online News Association, the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Association of Health Care Journalists, and other professional organizations. In 2023, she won the Online News Association's Community Award. Carpenter has served on the jury for numerous journalism awards and honors, including the National Academies Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards for Excellence in Science Communication. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in psychology from Yale University.

Anthony Dudo

Member

ANTHONY DUDO is an Associate Professor in the Moody College of Communication and the program director of science communication in the Center for Media Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on the intersection of science, media, and society. His recent work has examined factors influencing scientists' likelihood to engage in public communication, how scientists identify and prioritize goals for public engagement, and the growing infrastructure of stakeholders that support scientist communicators (e.g., science communication training and fellowship programs, professional scientific societies). Dudo has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and co-authored two books, *Strategic Science Communication: A Guide to Setting the Right Objectives for More Effective Public Engagement* and *Science Communication for Scientists: Linking Strategy with Creativity, Practice, and Respect*. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and is the faculty committee chair of UT's cross-disciplinary minor in science communication. Dudo has won numerous awards for his research and teaching, among them the UT system's Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. Dudo worked in strategic communication for the Academy of Natural Sciences, a natural history museum and scientific research institution operating in Philadelphia since 1812. Dudo earned his PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011), a master's degree from the University of Delaware (2005), and a bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College (2000).

Insoo Hyun

Member

INSOO HYUN is the inaugural director of the Center for Life Sciences and Public Learning at the Museum of Science and an Affiliate of the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School. Previously, he was professor of bioethics and philosophy at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine for more than 18 years. Dr. Hyun's research interests include stem cell ethics and policy, emerging technologies in the life sciences, and new strategies for community engagement. Since 2005, Dr. Hyun has been heavily involved with the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), helping to draft all its international research guidelines and serving twice as the chair of the ISSCR Ethics Committee. Dr. Hyun is also a member of NExTRAC, a federal advisory committee that provides recommendations to the NIH Director and a public forum for the discussion of the scientific, safety, and ethical issues associated with emerging biotechnologies. He previously served on the National Academies Committee on a Review of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Dr. Hyun received his BA and MA in Philosophy with Honors in Ethics in Society from Stanford University and his PhD in Philosophy from Brown University.

Katherine A. McComas

Member

KATHERIN A. MCCOMAS is a professor at Cornell University, specializing in science, risk, and environmental communication. Since 2018, she has been Cornell's Vice Provost for Engagement and Land-Grant Affairs, stewarding a broad range of relationships, programs, and initiatives that further the university's land-grant mission. Dr. McComas' research focuses on understanding motivations and barriers surrounding communication about scientific and environmental risk issues and community engagement in risk-based decision making. She is the author or coauthor of 80+ refereed journal articles and two books, including co-editing the SAGE Handbook of Risk Communication. She served on the FDA's Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee and its Blood Products Advisory Committee. For eight years, she served as Area Editor for Risk Communication for the journal Risk Analysis. She is a Fellow for the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), served as SRA's President 2018-2019, and received its "Distinguished Educator" award in 2024. She received a BA and BJ from the University of Missouri; an MA in international relations/international communication from Boston University; and a doctorate in communication from Cornell.

M. Anthony Mills

Member

M. ANTHONY MILLS is a Senior Fellow and director of the Center for Technology, Science, and Energy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). He studies the federal government's role in science and innovation and the relationship between scientific expertise and democratic governance. Mills is concurrently a senior fellow at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy and a scholar associate of the Society of Catholic Scientists. Before joining AEI, Mills was a senior fellow at the R Street Institute, where he also launched and led a program on science policy and served as associate vice president for policy. He previously worked for numerous publications, including The New Atlantis, Big Questions Online, and RealClear Media Group. His writings have appeared in such publications as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Politico, National Affairs, and Issues in Science and Technology, as well as various peer-reviewed journals. Mills holds a PhD and an MA in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and a BA in philosophy, French, and comparative literature from Northwestern University, where he also completed a concurrent MA in French.

Monica Feliu Mojer

Member

MÓNICA FELIÚ-MÓJER is a bilingual science communicator who taps into her training (a PhD in neurobiology), personal background, and culture (a woman from a rural working-class community in Puerto Rico) to engage marginalized and overlooked audiences, especially Puerto Ricans and other Spanish-speakers, with science. She has more than 19 years of experience in multimedia and inclusive science communication, community engagement, filmmaking, and media relations. Dr. Feliú Mójer serves as Director of Public Engagement with Science for Ciencia Puerto Rico, a nonprofit organization democratizing science, transforming science education and professional development, and putting science in service of Puerto Rico through the civic engagement of their global community of scientists, students, educators, and allies. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the California Academy of Sciences, Emerson Collective, and the US-Japan Leadership Program. Dr. Feliú Mójer holds a bachelor's degree in human biology from the University of Puerto Rico in Bayamón and a PhD in neurobiology from Harvard University.

Katherine Ognyanova

Member

KATHERINE OGNANOVA is an associate professor at the School of Communication & Information, Rutgers University. Her research examines the effects of social influence on civic and political behavior, confidence in institutions, information exposure/evaluation, and public opinion formation. Ognyanova's methodological expertise is in computational social science, network science, and survey research. Her recent work examines the links between misinformation exposure and political trust. Ognyanova is one of the founders and a principal investigator for The COVID States Project – a large multi-university initiative exploring the social and political implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ognyanova received her doctoral degree in Communication from the University of Southern California (2013). She also holds an MA in Virtual Culture (2006) and BSc in Computer Science (2003) from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria. Ognyanova's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. Her work has been covered in news outlets including New York Times, NPR, Politico, Washington Post, and WIRED, among others.

Shobita Parthasarathy

Member

SHOBITA PARTHASARATHY is Professor of Public Policy and Women's and Gender Studies, and co-founder and Director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy (STPP) Program, at the University of Michigan. Her research investigates how science, technology, and related public policies can better achieve the public interest. She usually takes a cross-national perspective in her work and has published widely on genetics and biotechnology, humanitarian technologies, intellectual property, artificial intelligence/machine learning, and the use of knowledge and expertise in public policymaking. She is the author of numerous articles and two books: *Building Genetic Medicine: Breast Cancer, Technology, and the Comparative Politics of Health Care* (MIT Press, 2007) and *Patent Politics: Life Forms, Markets, and the Public Interest in the United States and Europe* (University of Chicago Press, 2017). The former influenced the 2013 US Supreme Court case that determined human genes were not patentable; the latter won the 2018 Robert K. Merton Award from the American Sociological Association. She has received fellowships at the American Council of Learned Societies, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Institute for Advanced Study. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and master's and PhD from Cornell University.

Brian Southwell

Member

BRIAN SOUTHWELL is Distinguished Fellow at RTI International, an independent nonprofit research institute. He also is an adjunct professor of Internal Medicine with Duke University, an adjunct associate professor with UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health, and an adjunct faculty member with the University of Delaware. Southwell has co-led the All of Us Researcher Academy to improve access and representation in scholarly publishing for the National Institutes of Health. He is an active participant in efforts to address public understanding of science through peer-reviewed publications as well as public commentary, talks in venues such as the Aspen Ideas Festival, and advising for projects such as NOVA Science Studio. Southwell also has served several National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committees, including a consensus study on misinformation about science and the Standing Committee for Advancing Science Communication. Southwell's award-winning research and theoretical contributions appear in more than 150 journal articles and chapters and four books. For more than a decade, he also has hosted a public radio show for WNCU 90.7 FM called *The Measure of Everyday Life*. Southwell holds a PhD and MA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from the University of Virginia.

Sara Yeo

Member

SARA K. YEO is a Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Communication at the University of Utah. She also serves as the director of the STEM Ambassador Program (STEMAP), and is a faculty affiliate with the Global Change and Sustainability Center and Environmental Humanities program at the University of Utah. Her research interests include strategic science and risk communication, public opinion of STEM issues, and information seeking and processing. Her recent research interests have focused on humor as a tactic for strategic science communication. She has held a number of leadership positions for efforts such as the Committee on Science and Technology Engagement with the Public (CoSTEP) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Risk Communication Specialty Group of the Society for Risk Analysis. Yeo is a member of the National Academies Board on Life Sciences. She holds a MS in Oceanography and Life Sciences Communication and a PhD in Science Communication.