

Climate Communications Initiative

Committee

Mariette DiChristina

Co-Chair

Mariette DiChristina is dean of Boston University's College of Communication and a professor of the practice in journalism. Before arriving in 2019, DiChristina was editor-in-chief and executive vice president of Scientific American, as well as executive vice president, Magazines division, of its publisher, Springer Nature. Previously, DiChristina was president of the National Association of Science Writers and executive editor of Popular Science. She also served as a part-time associate professor and visiting scholar in the graduate Science, Health, and Environmental Reporting Program at New York University and as a science writer in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. An elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, DiChristina chairs the Steering Group for the "Top 10 Emerging Technologies" for the World Economic Forum. Boston University recognized her work in 2016 with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

William K. Hallman

Co-Chair

William K. Hallman is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Human Ecology and is a member of the graduate faculty of the Department of Psychology, the Department of Nutritional Sciences, and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at The State University of New Jersey. He is also a Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis, Distinguished Research Fellow of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, a member of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute at Rutgers, and a core member of Rutgers Global Health Institute. An expert in risk perception and risk communication, Dr. Hallman has written extensively on public perceptions of controversial issues concerning food, technology, health, and the environment. He currently serves as a member of the National Academies' Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication Research and Practice. He has also served as a member of the National Academies' Committee on the Science of Science Communication: A Research Agenda, which authored the report *Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda*. He has served as a member of several National Academies' committees focused on food safety, as Director of the Rutgers Food Policy Institute, and as the Chair of the Risk Communication Advisory Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Hallman holds a B.S. (biology, psychology) from Juniata College (1983) and received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1989.

Karen Akerlof

Member

Karen Akerlof is an assistant professor in George Mason University's Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Her research focuses on the intersection between governance and science and risk communication. She explores this nexus across three areas of study: 1) communication of science with policymakers; 2) public participation in decision-making; and 3) the use of social science within government programs. She leads an environmental science communication concentration within the department's master's program and teaches courses on this topic as well as evidence-informed policymaking. As an environmental social scientist, Dr. Akerlof explores the ways in which communities create, interpret, and employ scientific knowledge, whether at the local level or that of national legislatures. For example, she has innovated techniques to develop science policy research agendas in the emerging field of legislative science advice. She has studied use of science by policymakers, evaluated the effects of public deliberation, and conducted research to inform government program implementation. Her work has been published in journals such as *Nature*, *Environmental Science & Policy*, *Global Environmental Change*, and *Coastal Management*. She served as a visiting scholar at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2017-2018) and as an American Geophysical Union congressional science fellow (2016-2017). Dr. Akerlof earned her M.S. (2009) and Ph.D. (2012) in environmental science and policy from George Mason University. She participated in the National Academies 2017 "Rising to Coastal Challenges: Social Science Perspectives on Research Needs for Responding to Rising Seas" scoping meeting and served as a Gulf Research Program reviewer.

Dominique Brossard

Member

Dominique Brossard is a Professor and the Chair in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison and an affiliate of the UW-Madison Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, the UW-Madison Center for Global Studies, and the Morgridge Institute for Research. Her teaching responsibilities include courses in strategic communication theory and research, with a focus on science and risk communication. Dr. 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 a former board member of the International Network of Public Communication of Science and Technology, Dr. 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. SCIMEP's recent work has focused on scientific discourse in online environments, such as Twitter. She has published more than 100 research articles in outlets such as Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Science Communication, International Journal of Public Opinion, Public Understanding of Science, and Communication Research. Dr. Brossard earned her M.S. in plant biotechnology from the Ecole Nationale d'Agronomie de Toulouse (1987) and her M.P.S (1998) and Ph.D. (2002) in communication from Cornell University. Dr. Brossard served as a member of the National Academies' Committee on Genetically Engineered Crops: Past Experience and Future Prospects (2014-2016) and the National Academies' Committee on Science Literacy and Public Perception of Science (2015-2016).

Caitlin Coble-Choate

Member

Caitlin Choate is a marketing executive with experience across a variety of industries. She has spent her career building disruptive brands through massive growth stages, including TOMS, Google Nest, and Airbnb. She is currently SVP of Brand at modern food sciences brand YUMI, charting a new course for functional nutrition for kids. She lives in Los Angeles, CA with her husband and son.

David Goldston

Member

David Goldston became the Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT's) Washington Office in May 2017. In that role, he directs MIT's federal relations and helps develop policy projects on campus. Prior to that, he was the Director of Government Affairs at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental group, for 8 years, where he helped shape NRDC's federal political strategy, policies, and communications. He came to NRDC after spending more than 20 years on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, working primarily on science policy and environmental policy. He was the Chief of Staff of the House Committee on Science from 2001 through 2006. After retiring from government service, Mr. Goldston was a visiting lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 2007 and at the Harvard University Center for the Environment in 2008 and 2009. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University. From 2007 through November 2009, he wrote a monthly column for Nature on science policy titled "Party of One." Mr. Goldston also was the project director for the Bipartisan Policy Center report Improving the Use of Science in Regulatory Policy, which was released in August 2009. He authored a chapter in The Science of Science Policy: A Handbook (Stanford University Press, 2011). He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Academies' Division on Earth and Life Studies and has served on numerous panels of the National Academies and other science policy organizations. He holds a B.A. (1978) from Cornell University and completed the course work for a Ph.D. in American history at the University of Pennsylvania

Maureen Lichtveld

Member

Maureen Lichtveld, is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and a member of NAM's leadership Council with over 35 years of environmental public health expertise. She is the Dean of the School of Public Health, the Jonas Salk Chair in Population Health, and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Pittsburgh. As Dean, Dr. Lichtveld oversees seven academic departments, 640 students, 160 faculty and 320 staff. Her research focuses on environmentally-induced disease, health disparities, climate and health, environmental health policy, disaster preparedness, public health systems, and community resilience. Dean Lichtveld is a member of the NAS Board on Global Health, NAM's planning committee on Climate and Health, the NASEM Resilient America Roundtable, and fulfills a leadership role in NAM's Special Interest Group on Climate and Health. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the NASEM Climate Communications Initiative and is a member of the NASEM Advisory Committee of the Division of Earth and Life Sciences. Dr. Lichtveld is a member of several NASEM consensus report committees and reviewer of numerous NASEM reports. She currently chairs the NASEM Committee on Progress Towards Human Health and Community Resilience in the Gulf of Mexico Region. Dean Lichtveld is the Vice Chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and is a member of the CUGH research and workforce development committees and the climate and health working group. Honors include: Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, CDC's environmental health scientist of the year, and woman of the year of the City of New Orleans for her contributions to science.

Sabrina McCormick

Member

Sabrina McCormick 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, *Tribe*, 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.

Christopher P. Michel

Member

Christopher Michel is the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. His appointment is focused on leveraging visual storytelling to elevate the work of scientists, engineers and medical professionals in society. Previously, Chris founded and sold two technology companies. He is also the founder of Nautilus Ventures, a seed venture fund. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Chris flew for the Navy as a Navigator and Mission Commander aboard P-3C patrol aircraft. Chris graduated from the University of Illinois and holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School and an honorary Doctorate from Tiffin University. Chris serves on the board of Dale Carnegie and Catchlight, a non-profit focused on supporting photographers and innovative leaders in the field of visual storytelling. Chris is also an advisor to the Union of Concerned Scientists, a Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute, a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, and a member of the Explorers Club.

Philip W. Mote

Member

Philip Mote is Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at Oregon State University. He has served as a lead author for the Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on three US National Climate Assessments, and on ten committees of the National Academies, including as chair of the Review of the Climate Science Special Report. He has served in various leadership capacities with the American Geophysical Union including on its Board of Directors. He was founding director (2009-19) of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, and holds a faculty appointment in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. He has given more than 800 public talks about climate change, testified more than 12 times before committees of the U.S. Congress and the legislatures of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and has given hundreds of media interviews, appearing in Time Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Fox News, National Public Radio, The Seattle Times, Seattle Magazine, and many more. He earned a B.A. in physics from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington.

Andrew Revkin

Member

Andrew Revkin is one of America's most honored and experienced environmental journalists and the founding director of the new Initiative on Communication and Sustainability at Columbia University's Earth Institute. At Columbia he is building programs, courses, tools and collaborations bridging communication gaps between science and society to cut climate risk and boost social and environmental resilience. Revkin has written on climate change for more than 30 years, reporting from the North Pole to the White House, the Amazon rain forest to the Vatican - mostly for The New York Times. He has held positions at National Geographic and Discover Magazine and won the top awards in science journalism multiple times, along with a Guggenheim Fellowship. Revkin has written acclaimed books on the history of humanity's relationship with weather, the changing Arctic, global warming and the assault on the Amazon rain forest, as well as three book chapters on science communication. Two very different films have been based on his work: "Rock Star" (Warner Brothers, 2001) and the triple-Golden-Globe-winning 1994 HBO film "The Burning Season," based on Revkin's biography of slain rain forest defender Chico Mendes. A lifelong musician, he was a frequent accompanist of Pete Seeger and is a performing songwriter.

Susan F. Tierney

Member

Susan Tierney, a Senior Advisor at Analysis Group, is an expert on energy economics, regulation, and policy, particularly in the electric and gas industries. She has consulted with businesses, government agencies, foundations, tribes, environmental groups, and other organizations on energy markets, economic and environmental regulation and strategy, and climate-related energy policies. She has participated as an expert in civil litigation cases, regulatory proceedings before state and federal agencies, and business consulting engagements. Previously, she served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy, and was the Secretary for Environmental Affairs in Massachusetts, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council. She co-authored the energy chapter of the National Climate Assessment, and serves on the boards of ClimateWorks Foundation, Barr Foundation, Energy Foundation, Resources for the Future, and World Resources Institute. She taught at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the University of California, Irvine, and has lectured at Harvard University, Yale University, New York University, Tufts University, Northwestern University, and the University of Michigan. She earned her Ph.D. and Masters in regional planning at Cornell University and her B.A. at Scripps College.

Amanda C. Purcell

Staff Officer