



Institut für transformative
Nachhaltigkeitsforschung

August 9, 2019

Climate Change and the Politics of Disinformation:

Implications for Democratic Governance

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam

Workshop ~ August 19, 2019

As the evidence for disruptive climate change has mounted over the last decades, organized attacks on climate science have grown, along with the production of large volumes of disinformation that has discouraged more decisive political action. This workshop examines the organization and the political aims of these attacks, the role of social and conventional media in their spread, and the importance of radical right movements and parties in providing visible public support. A primary goal is to draw lessons for improving the clarity, public reach, and policy impact of science communication.

Speakers will examine the social, psychological, political, and communication aspects of campaigns against science in order to explain how public doubt and political resistance are constructed, and to understand the impact on policy processes. Participants in the workshop will join breakout sessions with each speaker following the talks for open discussion and exploration of future research and action agendas.

The workshop is open to participants from IASS, from the Potsdam Summer School, and from the Berlin-Potsdam scientific community. The format is designed to promote interaction among these participants, with the aim of networking researchers and policy advocates to better address the challenges to science-based policy making.

Workshop organizers at IASS:

Lance Bennett Lance.Bennett@iass-potsdam.de

Frank Fischer ffischer@gmx.com

Dorota Stasiak Dorota.Stasiak@iass-potsdam.de

Support from Achim Maas, Angela Borowski, Jana Fasheh, & the Fellows Program.

Location: Berliner Str 130, Potsdam ("The Villa" building)

More about the location at: <https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/contact-how-find-us>

(Tram 93 leaves Potsdam Hbf every 20 min., richtung Glienicker Brücke. Exit Schiffbauergasse/BerlinerStr)

PROGRAM

9.15 Coffee, registration and welcome in the Villa

9.45 Introductory Remarks: Patrizia Nanz, Scientific Director IASS

Sessions: Talks (25 min talk, 20 min discussion) Breakouts (facilitated discussions)

10.00 The Political Organization of Disinformation about Climate Science

Lance Bennett, Senior Fellow IASS and University of Washington,
Seattle

Moderator: Ira Shefer, Research Fellow, IASS and Technical University
of Munich

10.45 Climate Denial and Think Tanks: Organizations, Knowledge Networks
and Funding

Dieter Plehwe, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Civil Society Program

Moderator: Kathleen Mar, IASS

11.30 Coffee and networking

12.00 Breakout sessions with

- a) Dieter Plehwe
- b) Lance Bennett and Ira Shefer

13.00 Lunch in the garden

14.00 Post-Truth Uncertainties: The Function of Scientific Evidence for Complex Policies

Ortwin Renn, Scientific Director IASS

Moderator: Thomas Bruhn, IASS

14. 45 Climate Denial and Post-Truth: Rethinking Policy Advice

Frank Fischer, IASS and Humboldt University, Berlin

Moderator: Danniell Gobbi, Ministry of Economy, Brazil and Free University, Berlin

15.30 Coffee break and networking

16.00 Breakouts:

a) Kathleen Mar and Charlotte Unger, IASS

b) Maria Proestou, Institute for the Transformation of Human-Environment Systems, Humboldt University, Berlin and Frank Fischer

16.45 Science, Climate Denial and the Post-Truth World: How Should Scientists and Policy Makers Respond?

Stephan Lewandowsky, University of Bristol

Moderator: Frank Fischer, IASS and Humboldt University, Berlin

Responses and reflections:

Edgar Göll, Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment, Berlin,

Mark Lawrence, Scientific Director IASS

18.15 Closing remarks: Frank Fischer and Lance Bennett

19: 00 Joint dinner with IASS Summer School Participants