

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Public engagement with climate technologies in post-truth times

10 October 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EA.G.19 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

Climate change is prompting discussions of all kinds of technological responses, from renewables to hydrogen to energy storage and carbon capture technologies. Public engagement is important for legitimacy and climate justice, and there is a strong demand for public involvement in decision-making about new technologies. Yet public discussions are infused with conspiratorial thinking and misinformation, and groups of people can end up inhabiting very different realities. How can public engagement take place when there is not a shared understanding of climate change, including its causes and impacts, as well as the risks and feasibility of the various technological responses? Using both interview-based research in different regions of the US as well as new survey research, this talk makes observations about how different social actors are currently confronting this dilemma of engagement in post-truth times.

Biography

Holly Jean Buck is an Associate Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University at Buffalo. She is an environmental social scientist and human geographer whose research focuses on public engagement with emerging climate and energy technologies. She holds a Ph.D in Development Sociology from Cornell University. Currently, she is a 2024-25 Radcliffe-Salata Climate Justice Fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, where she is working on a book about rural futures.

Presenter: Holly Jean Buck
Discussant: Paul James
Chair: Louise Crabtree-Hayes

NEXT SEMINAR:
17 OCTOBER