

Altered. Verified. Challenged.

A year-long series about knowledge crises and politics from humanistic perspectives

MAY 7, 2018

4:30 to 6 pm (Reception to follow)
Harris Hall #108

Truth Under Siege

Making Climate Knowledge in an Age of Transparency, Skepticism, and Science Denial

Paul N. Edwards

Stanford/University of Michigan

New media environments have created a "glass laboratory," exposing climate data, methods, models, and results—including consistent sampling over long periods—to unprecedented public scrutiny. Meanwhile, since 2017, science deniers and non-scientist ideologues have been appointed to lead key American knowledge institutions. This threatens the continuity of the "long data" vital to tracking climate change and environmental disruptions, with significant consequences for domestic and international security. The glass laboratory thus holds the potential to democratize expertise and improve public trust—yet in practice, it has empowered science deniers and sown distrust, with possibly catastrophic consequences for truth.





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