

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010

PUBLIC PROGRAM

SCIENTISTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE PUBLIC

Chris Mooney, Science and Political Journalist and Commentator

Robert Fri, Visiting Scholar and Senior Fellow Emeritus, Resources for the Future

AAAS Auditorium, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20005

3:30 p.m. Registration

4:00 p.m. Presentation and discussion

5:00 p.m. Reception and light refreshments

6:00 p.m. Program adjournment

Please register online at: <https://www.amacad.org/events/cEventRegForm.aspx?id=48>
or contact Sarah Narhi at 617 576-5021 or snarhi@amacad.org.

While considerable attention has been paid to strengthening public education in science and technology, less effort has gone into helping researchers understand what lies behind the public response to new advances and discoveries. Public concerns about scientific developments can come not only from ignorance, but also from legitimate worries. In 2008, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences launched a study on what the scientific community knows or should know about the public and its concerns. Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, this project considers the role of the scientist and the public in deliberations about the tradeoffs inherent in scientific or technological developments.

The American Academy brought together leading scientists and technologists, ethicists, public policy experts, former public officials, science journalists, and others to discuss and improve awareness of the broader social and cultural context for scientific work. The project focused on four topics identified as timely and likely to benefit from the type of public deliberation envisioned by the project. The first workshop focused on **The Next Generation of the Internet** and was chaired by **David Clark** (MIT), a leader in the development of the Internet. A second workshop focused on the **Public Perceptions of Nuclear Waste Repositories**; it was chaired by **Thomas Isaacs** (Stanford University and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory). The third workshop on **The Spread of Personal Genetic Information**, was chaired by **David Altshuler** (Broad Institute). The fourth workshop, chaired by **Robert Fri** (Resources for the Future), explored the **Risks and Benefits of Emerging Energy Technologies**.

Please join the American Academy and the Washington Science Policy Alliance to learn more about the findings and recommendations of the Scientists' Understanding of the Public project.



Robert Fri is a Visiting Scholar and Senior Fellow Emeritus at Resources for the Future, a nonprofit organization that studies natural resource and environmental issues. He has served as director of the National Museum of Natural History, president of Resources for the Future, and deputy administrator of both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Research and Development Administration. Fri is a National Associate of the National Academies, where he served as vice-chair of the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems at the National Research Council, and on several NRC committees, most recently on America's Energy Future and America's Climate Choices. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Chris Mooney is a science and political journalist and a contributing editor to *Science Progress*. He is the author of *The Republican War on Science* (2005) and *Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics, and the Battle Over Global Warming* (2007), and *Unscientific America: How Scientific Illiteracy Threatens Our Future*, co-authored by Sheril Kirshenbaum. They also write "The Intersection" blog together for Discover blogs. His essays have been nominated for a National Magazine Award and featured in *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2006*. He has been a visiting associate in the Center for

Collaborative History at Princeton University and a 2009-2010 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT. For summer of 2010, he is a Templeton-Cambridge Fellow in Science and Religion.