

20th Energy and Climate Research Seminar

Speaker Bios

Joe Aldy

Joseph Aldy is an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, a Visiting Fellow at Resources for the Future, a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. His research focuses on climate change policy, energy policy, and mortality risk valuation. He also serves as the Faculty Chair of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government Regulatory Policy Program. In 2009-2010, he served as the Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Environment at the White House. Aldy previously served as a Fellow at Resources for the Future, Co-Director of the Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements, Co-Director of the International Energy Workshop, and worked on the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He earned his doctorate in economics from Harvard University and MEM and bachelor degrees from Duke University.



Matt Bennett

In 2005, Matt joined his three fellow co-founders in establishing Third Way, believing that there is a tremendous need for fresh thinking and moderate ideas in a time of extreme political immoderation. In his current capacity, Matt oversees Third Way's work on clean energy, communications, and external affairs. Matt's pursuit of center-left politics has taken him from the campaign trail to the White House, and from the pages of The New York Times to appearances on Meet the Press and 60 Minutes. He served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs in the Clinton House, where he was the principal White House liaison to governors and covered issues ranging from disaster response to Medicaid to immigration. Prior to that, Matt traveled with Vice President Al Gore on his White House staff. He was Director of Communications for Wesley Clark's presidential campaign in 2004, and from 2001-2004 he was Director of Public Affairs for Americans for Gun Safety.



Geoffrey J. Blanford

Dr. Geoffrey J. Blanford is a leading expert on integrated assessment and energy economy modeling. His research activities include development of analytical tools such as the MERGE model and the US-REGEN model with applications including electricity markets, end-use electrification, and international climate policy. Dr. Blanford is currently a Technical Executive and Program Manager for Energy and Climate Policy Analysis with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in Palo Alto, CA, where he has worked since 2006. He was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and serves as co-director of the International Energy Workshop (IEW). He holds a B.A. in mathematics from Yale University, a M.S. in operations research from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in management science and engineering from Stanford University.



Rob Chapman

Rob Chapman is Vice President, Energy and Environment, at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). The Energy and Environment Sector's research and analysis spans across a large segment of the energy industry. His knowledge of the cross-EPRI research synergies, his relationships with EPRI's membership, and his understanding of the industry perspectives provide him with the right combinations of skills and experience to lead this sector. Chapman joined EPRI in 1999 as the Director of North American Technical Advisory Services and transitioned to Vice-President of Member & Technical Services in 2006. Prior to joining EPRI, Chapman was Director of Western Sales for PG&E Energy Services during which time he led efforts to establish premium power services for technology companies in the Silicon Valley, California. Chapman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and has completed executive business courses at The University of Chicago.



Rory Christian

As EDF's Director, New York Clean Energy, Rory Christian focuses on energy and clean air in New York. Rory works with state and city officials, the Public Service Commission, and large utilities such as Con Ed to develop policies supporting an evolving utility landscape. He also works with the Green Bank and private sector clean energy companies to develop opportunities for financing clean energy projects in New York state and New York City.



Rob DeConto

Rob DeConto is a Professor of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he is a senior scientist in the Climate System Research Center. Rob's background spans geology, oceanography, atmospheric science, and glaciology, and he has held research positions at both the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Rob's research is focused on the polar regions- including fieldwork in Antarctica, the development of numerical climate and ice sheet models, and the application of those models to a wide range of past and future climate and sea-level scenarios. Rob serves on a number of national and international science boards and advisory panels and he is the 2016 recipient of the Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica.



Francisco de la Chesnaye

Dr. Francisco C. de la Chesnaye is the Senior Program Manager for the Energy and Environmental Analysis Group at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). His current research portfolio covers both domestic and international climate change issues. On domestic issues, his work focuses on modeling of the U.S. energy system, in particular the electric power sector, to evaluate the possible transformation of the system under alternative policies. In addition to his research at EPRI, Dr. de la Chesnaye has served on various external expert panels, including EPA's Scientific Advisory Board panel on Economy-Wide Modeling, 2015-2017; lead author on the 2014 U.S. Climate Assessment's Mitigation chapter; National Academies of Sciences report that evaluated the "Effects of Provisions in the Internal Revenue Code on U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions" in 2013; National Academies Panel 2010 report titled "Limiting the Magnitude of Future Climate Change"; and a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report. Prior to joining EPRI, Dr. de la Chesnaye was the Chief Climate Economist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. de la Chesnaye earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Norwich University, the Military College of Vermont, a master's degree in Environmental Science from



Johns Hopkins University, a master's degree in Economics from American University, and a doctorate in Public Policy from the University of Maryland.

Delavane Diaz

Dr. Delavane Diaz is a Senior Technical Leader in the Energy and Environmental Analysis program at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), focused on the implications of climate and energy policy on the electric sector. Currently she leads research initiatives on climate resiliency and risk management strategies as well as impacts valuation and the social cost of carbon. Delavane joined EPRI in 2008, working on research projects related to decarbonization policy proposals and generation capacity planning. Before joining EPRI, she served as an Air Force acquisitions officer, working on a space surveillance radar program at Hanscom AFB. She is a distinguished graduate of the US Air Force Academy with a B.S. in Astronautical Engineering. Delavane earned a M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and a Ph.D. in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. Her dissertation examined the representation of climate impacts, adaptation, and technology costs in integrated assessment models



William F. Gould

William F. Gould is Director, Strategic Analysis, Safety & Sustainability at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), where he leads a team of nationally and globally renowned engineers, scientists, and economists. This team provides thought leadership, insights and analyses on a wide range of energy and environmental issues including national and global carbon reduction strategies, workforce and public safety and sustainable electric energy production and use. Prior to joining EPRI, Mr. Gould was the Large Business Market Manager for Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G), where he directed activities associated with varied and unique needs of their top 2,500 customers. He began his career at Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., where he managed the well-known "Enlightened Energy" program, an ambitious and highly successful energy efficiency program focused on a wide range of commercial and industrial electric end uses. Concurrent with his EPRI role, Mr. Gould was an Adjunct Professor for Lehigh University's Energy Systems Engineering graduate program from 2009-2013. Additionally, he is a member of the Conference Board Sustainability Council and NYISO's Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Gould has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a MS in Energy Management from the New York Institute of Technology, where he received the prestigious "Energy Management" award for excellence in the field.



Jerald "Chico" Hunter

Chico began working at SRP in 2003 and is currently the manager of Research and Environmental Policy. He previously has worked in a number of areas at SRP including as a senior engineer in the Renewable Energy and Technology group and as a principal engineer in Resource Acquisition and Analysis. In his current role he has responsibility for both evaluating proposed environmental regulations and for corporate research and development. The environmental policy work includes evaluating new regulations and supporting SRP compliance activities for air permits, water permits, endangered species and hazardous materials. The R&D side of the group helps coordinate research projects throughout the company including transmission, distribution, conventional generation technologies, renewable energy technologies, water distribution and management, customer service and emerging customer sited technologies like rooftop solar and electric vehicles. Prior to his career at SRP, Chico worked for 11 years as a process control and automation engineer for



several manufacturing companies in Arizona. He holds a Bachelor's in mechanical engineering and a Master's in manufacturing engineering, both from Arizona State University.

Haresh Kamath

Haresh Kamath is Senior Program Manager for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), managing the Institute's research into the development, assessment, and application of energy storage technologies for grid storage applications as well as fossil distributed generation and microgrids. Kamath joined EPRI in 2002 as a project engineer in energy storage and distributed generation. He was an author for the first edition of the EPRI-DOE Handbook of Energy Storage and served on the board of directors of the Energy Storage Association from 2005 to 2013. After taking the role of Program Manager, Kamath took steps to create the EPRI Energy Storage Integration Council (ESIC), a technical forum to facilitate the deployment and use of utility-scale energy storage systems. Before joining EPRI, Kamath worked at Lockheed Martin Space Systems as a product engineer responsible for spacecraft batteries. He also served as an applications engineering and business development manager at a startup energy storage company. Kamath received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in chemical engineering from Stanford University.



Miles Keogh

Miles Keogh is the Director of the Research Lab at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where he and his staff advise State Commissions on energy, environmental, and security issues. Miles has managed projects, authored papers and run training programs on all kinds of things Public Utility Commissioners are interested in, including cybersecurity, risk management, rate design, disaster planning, decoupling, solar energy, coal technology, gas system modernization, carbon capture and storage, transmission siting, energy efficiency policies, and infrastructure finance. He's on a number of advisory boards related to the power system. Prior to joining NARUC in 2005, Miles worked in the wind power industry, spent several years at a climate and energy policy think tank, and sited power infrastructure for the Massachusetts Commission. He also spent five years as an ambulance driver and medic in Washington DC. He received a Bachelors in International Relations from Georgetown University and a Masters in Environmental Management from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Katharine J. Mach, PhD

Katharine Mach is a Senior Research Scientist at Stanford University, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and a Visiting Investigator at the Carnegie Institution for Science. She leads the Stanford Environment Assessment Facility (SEAF). Advancing foundations for action, her research is focused on integrative assessment of climate change risks and response options. The goal is innovating and evaluating new approaches to assessment, simultaneously applying them to inform decisions and policy. Priorities include advancing methods for integrating evidence, applying expert judgment, and communicating resulting syntheses of knowledge. From 2010 until 2015, Mach co-directed the scientific activities of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which focuses on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. This work culminated in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report and its Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. The associated global scientific collaborations have supported diverse climate policies and actions, including the Paris Agreement. Mach received her PhD from Stanford University and AB from Harvard College.



Jim Neumann

James Neumann is a Principal at Industrial Economics, Incorporated (IEc) who specializes in air pollution policy analysis and the economics of adaptation to climate change and, within that area, analysis of the impacts of sea-level rise (SLR) in coastal areas. In recognition of this expertise he was named a Lead Author for the IPCC Working Group II chapter on the Economics of Adaptation, and a Lead Author for the Coastal chapter of the National Climate Assessment. He has been lead author on a series of studies on the national and regional economic impacts of SLR in the United States, including a recent analysis of the joint effects of SLR and storm surge. He frequently consults for the USEPA, the World Bank, and other clients on topics involving applying economics to climate change impacts and adaptation problems. His recent work involves coordination of EPA's Climate Impacts and Risk Analysis (CIRA) project, including development of the 2015 report "Climate Change in the United States: Benefits of Global Action", which outlines the potential for GHG mitigation to reduce physical and economic impacts in the infrastructure, energy, water resources, agriculture and forestry, human health, and ecological health sectors. Other books and technical reports he has directed and/or edited include co-editing, "The Impact of Climate Change on the United States Economy" published in 1999 (with EPRI support); assessing potential impacts of climate change to resources in the Tennessee Valley Authority's service area (jointly with EPRI); coordinating USEPA's "The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act" series, which concluded in 2011; editing two World Bank published books on agriculture and water resource investments in the Baltics, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus countries; and editing two World Bank books on water/power pool and transport sector investments in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Richard Newell

Dr. Richard G. Newell is the President and CEO of Resources for the Future (RFF), an independent, nonprofit research organization that improves environmental, energy, and natural resource decision making through rigorous economic analysis. From 2009 to 2011, he served as the administrator of the US Energy Information Administration, the agency responsible for official US government energy statistics and analysis. Dr. Newell is an adjunct professor at Duke University, where he was previously the Gendell Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics and Founding Director of its Energy Initiative and Energy Data Analytics Lab. He has also served as the senior economist for energy and environment on the President's Council of Economic Advisers and was a senior fellow, and later a board member, at RFF. Dr. Newell has published widely on the economics of markets and policies for energy and the environment, including issues surrounding global climate change, energy efficiency, and energy innovation. He is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a member of the National Petroleum Council. He has provided expert advice to many institutions, such as the National Academy of Sciences, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the International Energy Forum. Dr. Newell holds a PhD from Harvard University, an MPA from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a BS and BA from Rutgers University.



Benjamin L. Preston

Benjamin Preston is a senior policy researcher and Director of RAND's Infrastructure Resilience and Environmental Policy Program. At RAND, he helps to coordinate research on energy policy, environmental policy, community and infrastructure resilience, climate risk management, and workplace health and safety. Prior to joining RAND, he served as the Deputy Director of the Climate Change Science Institute at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). While working at ORNL, he engaged in research on vulnerability and resilience of U.S. energy systems to climate variability and change as well as opportunities and constraints associated with climate risk management. Previously, he served as a research scientist in Australia with the CSIRO's Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Pew Center on Global Change. Benjamin has contributed dozens of publications to the scientific literature on climate change impacts, adaptation, and environmental assessment, and he currently serves as editor-in-chief for the Elsevier journal *Climate Risk Management*. He has participated in a range of national and international scientific assessments including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the National Climate Assessment, *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic*, and the Quadrennial Energy Review. In 2015, he was the recipient of the Charles S. Falkenberg award from the American Geophysical Union, and in 2016 he became one of the inaugural fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Leshner Leadership Institute.



Kenneth Ragsdale

Kenneth Ragsdale is a Principal at ERCOT and has over 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry, including experience in Market Design and Implementation, Settlements and Billing, Market and Utility Operations, Power Marketing, Resource Planning and Alternative Energy. He has been at ERCOT since 2000 and was part of the start-up teams for the ERCOT Zonal Market and the ERCOT Nodal Market. Prior to joining ERCOT, he worked at Austin Energy and at the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Kenneth Ragsdale is a Registered Professional Engineer and earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.



Steve Rose

Dr. Steve Rose is a Senior Research Economist and Technical Executive in the Energy and Environmental Analysis Group at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). His research focuses on long-term modeling of energy systems and climate change drivers, mitigation, and potential risks. Dr. Rose serves on the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' committee on modeling the social cost of carbon, the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board panel on Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Biogenic Sources. He also co-chairs the bioenergy modeling subgroup of Stanford University's Energy Modeling Forum. Dr. Rose's was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth and Fourth Assessment Reports, and the U.S. National Climate Assessment. His research and publications include long-run climate management strategy and policy design, climate change risks and responses, the marginal costs of climate change, mitigation institutions, investment risks and incentives, and the role of bioenergy and land use in long-term climate management, including the economics of REDD+ and agricultural productivity. Dr. Rose earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a doctorate in Economics from Cornell University.

