

Science-Policy Interface, and Decision-Making in Society

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It is becoming increasingly important for scientists to communicate their findings effectively to those informing and formulating policy. Climate change requires exceptional abilities to communicate complex science, whilst managing the uncertainties that characterise it. With growing pressure on policy makers, practitioners, civil society organisations, businesses and members of the public to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to impacts of climate change, scientists need to find innovative ways to produce accessible evidence to engage with these audiences effectively. But are we still relying on linear models of information dissemination with the assumption that this will suffice to inform complex decision making processes?

Dr Candice Howarth will draw on her experience of working in government and leading projects on co-production of knowledge to explore how scientific evidence can be better communicated to more efficiently inform decision-making on climate change. Through a range of case study examples, she will address issues such as how to make scientific evidence accessible to decision makers, how processes of co-production can ensure alignment with end user needs, and how complexities of context and barriers can affect decision making processes.