

## **Cosmopolitan Knowledge: Climate Science and Global Civic Epistemology**

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The contentious global politics of climate change presents a special puzzle because it contradicts expectations that a strong scientific consensus will promote policy convergence. In this talk, I examine why political consensus building on responses to climate change cannot rely on science alone but requires a more differentiated and culturally sensitive—indeed, *cosmopolitan*—approach to confronting the climate phenomenon. I begin by placing science itself in a changing historical context, in which the ideal of science as a detached, curiosity-driven inquiry, guided by truthfulness to nature, has gradually yielded to the social reality of sciences that are more problem driven and politically accountable. I then draw on comparative studies of three national science and decision-making cultures (US, UK, and Germany) to show how the credibility of public knowledge claims relates to long-established, culturally situated practices of interpretation and reasoning, or civic epistemologies. I conclude with reflections on the institutional changes that will be needed to build robust cosmopolitan knowledge for collective action on climate change and other global problems.