

COLLOQUIUM

How to Change Minds about our Changing Climate

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April, 20, 2016

4:00 p.m. - Wilson Hall, One West

We are regularly confronted with arguments that deny climate change is happening or is a problem. These claims come from many directions, including news reports on TV and radio, newspapers and blogs, and even in direct conversations with climate-change skeptics. As a result of this divergence of messages, the general public is understandably confused. Using clear and understandable explanations of what we know and don't know about the science, this presentation is intended to distinguish facts from fiction. You don't need to have a degree in science to understand the basic principles of climate change, but you do need to have some facts straight. Effects of climate change are already apparent in everything from rising seas to more extreme weather to the fact that native plants once flourishing in our backyards are dying as local climate zones shift. The responsibility for maintaining the Earth's climate lies with each of us. While power plants may be some of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, we are all consumers, in one way or another, of the power they produce. This isn't about pointing fingers – it is about identifying and understanding the problem, so that you can find ways to do something about it.