

# CLIMATE POLICY

Addressing Cross-Disciplinary Challenges and Solutions

## SEMINAR SERIES

Jon Krosnick

Stanford University

"What Americans Really Think About Climate Change -  
Attitude Formation & Change in Response to a Raging Scientific Controversy"

April 22, 7:00 PM

Berg Auditorium

100 Life Sciences Building



**Dr. Krosnick** is an expert on (1) attitude formation, change, and effects, (2) the psychology of political behavior, and (3) the optimal design of questionnaires used for laboratory experiments and surveys, and survey research methodology more generally. For over ten years, Professor Krosnick has been conducting survey research on the American public's views of global warming. The goal of this work has been to understand Americans' beliefs and attitudes on energy and climate change in order to inform public debate and policy-makers. Many of his papers and public presentations on the topic can be seen on his webpage at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford, which has provided support for much of his recent work on this topic.

**ABSTRACT:** During the past decade, many scientific experts have been frustrated by the American public's apparent indifference to climate change and the threats it may pose. And even during the last year, headlines on newspapers across the country have proclaimed: "Scientists and the American Public Disagree Sharply Over Global Warming." Is it really true? Do Americans really not accept the opinions of scientific experts on climate change? In this presentation, Professor Jon Krosnick will describe findings from a series of national surveys that he has conducted since 1996, tracking what Americans do and do not believe on this issue and what they do and do not want to have done about it. Experiments embedded in national surveys illuminate the factors that shape people's preferences. Surprising results challenge many widely-held presumptions about public opinion, illuminate the increasing politicization of the issue, and help set the stage for future legislation on climate change.

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