

Lucia Harrison Colloquium

2021-2022 Series

Quo vadis engaged science? -
Addressing the paradox of slow
science in a fast world

Susanne Moser, Ph.D.

Susanne Moser Research & Consulting

Date: November 12, Time: 2 P.M.
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Location: [Virtual](#)

Day: Friday

Scientists' interactions with decision-makers across sectors and places have gone through several revisions of the so-called "social contract of science with society". In this talk I will briefly characterize prior stages in science-policy/practice interactions, and then argue that there is no reason to believe that the evolution of this relationships has come to an end. I will speculate where engaged science might go, especially in light of the implications of accelerating climate change ("the fast world"), which constitutes not only a uniquely challenging site of (physical, natural and social science) research, but also imposes new demands on engaged science that wishes to be "decision-relevant." I will propose possible if contradictory pathways for the engaged science of the future, placing these possibilities into the contentious debate between "the accelerated academe" and "slow science." In doing so, the paper aims to raise questions and foster reflexivity among both experienced and early-career researchers about what it means to be a "scientist" in a fast, chaotic and increasingly difficult world and how to prepare for a career in engaged science.



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