

Occasional Talk



Jennifer Kuzma

Friday, August 31, 2018

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Memorial Union, La Paz

Please RSVP to:

bit.ly/Kuzma_SFIS

Systems Thinking for Governance of Emerging Biotechnologies

Emerging technologies arise from and are placed into a complex web of social, environmental, ethical, and cultural contexts. Often, years after the introduction of a technology, we are surprised by, and sometimes regret, its societal impacts. Motivated by this problem, my work for the past two decades has centered around understanding the dynamics and outcomes of governance systems (retrospective and observational) and applying these insights to future policy design (prospective and normative). Specific projects have examined how to 1) make responsible, fair, and effective regulatory decisions about emerging biotechnologies in the face of uncertainty and complexity, 2) engage and incorporate diverse perspectives into governance design and policy change, and 3) integrate multiple types of criteria (e.g. economic, health and environmental to ethical) in the evaluation of policies or decisions. This presentation will highlight our key projects in these areas, and while doing so, I will share my experiences within the multi-disciplinary and translational settings that have enabled the work. In closing, I will reflect on the leadership positions I've held at the nexus of innovation and society with the hope to spark dialogue with the audience about the joys and challenges of integrative research, education, and engagement to better inform and improve our futures.

Kuzma is the Goodnight-NCGSK Foundation Distinguished Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs, and co-founder and co-director of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center, at NC State University. Prior to her current position, Professor Kuzma was associate professor of science and technology policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota (2003-2013); study director at the National Academies (1999-2003); and an AAAS Risk Policy Fellow at the USDA (1997-1999). She has over 100 scholarly publications on emerging technologies, risk analysis, regulatory policy, and governance and has been studying these areas for over 25 years.

Kuzma has held several national and international leadership positions, including a member of World Economic Forum Global Futures Council on Technology, Values and Policy; the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Preparing for Future Biotechnology, Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council Member and Secretary, Chair of the Gordon Conference on Science & Technology Policy, Member of the US FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee, and a Member of the UN WHO-FAO Expert Group for Nanotechnologies in Food and Agriculture. In 2014, she received the SRA Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer Award for recognition of her contributions to the field of risk analysis and in 2017-2018 she was awarded the Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Science Policy at the U of Ottawa Institute for Science, Society and Policy. She is interviewed frequently in the media for her expertise in technology policy, including the New York Times, Science, Nature, NPR, Washington Post, Scientific American, PBS Nova, Wired, and ABC & NBC News.

