

Conversations in the Disciplines

Depolarizing the Environment

Thinking broadly about science, policy, and politics

Friday 13 February 2015

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (*Reception to follow*)

Gateway Building

SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

Syracuse, New York

From land use conflict to climate change to hydrofracking, environmental issues often polarize our politics and culture. Why should this be? Is it political opportunism? Is it scientific ignorance? Is it an academic monoculture, insulated from the realities of the world? What avenues, if any, exist for constructive engagement across political divides? What can we, as academics, do to improve things?

Join us at SUNY ESF for a thought-provoking *Conversations in the Disciplines* on the topic “*Depolarizing the Environment. Thinking broadly about science, policy and politics*”. We will explore how the science of the environment can better engage the political and social realms we inhabit, and how to foster a culture of intellectual openness at the difficult interface of environment, politics, culture and science.

Please join us for what promises to be a stimulating day of formal presentations, breakout meetings and panel discussions. Our guests for the day will be:

Dr Steven F Hayward is the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University’s Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2013-14. He is the author of six books including *The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order, 1964-1980*, *The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counter-Revolution, 1980-1989.*, and the *Almanac of Environmental Trends*. He writes daily on powerlineblog.com, one of the nation's most-read political websites.



Dr Sarah Pralle is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is the author of several articles on environmental politics and policy, and is author of the book, *Branching Out, Digging In: Environmental Advocacy and Agenda Setting* (Georgetown University Press, 2006).



Dr Quentin Wheeler is President of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Prior to joining ESF, he was professor of systematic entomology at Cornell University, director of the division of environmental biology at the National Science Foundation, keeper and head of entomology in London’s Natural History Museum, and vice president and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. He writes a feature on recently discovered species for the Observer newspaper in London and is author or editor of six books, most recently *What on Earth? 100 of Our Planet’s Most Amazing New Species*.

