Nov. 4, 2014  _ “Environmental Communications – Lessons Learned from Climate Change” roundtable discussion coming to MSU Union

MSU’s Environmental Science and Policy Program is bringing a diverse panels of experts together to discuss what environmental communicators have learned from the climate change debate and what are the best paths to explain complicated scientific issues.

The panel includes Dr. Aaron McCright, MSU Associate Professor of Sociology and contributor to The New York Times. Dr. McCright is most well-known for his work to sociologically explain the political dynamics and public understanding of climate science and policy in the United States. He seeks to explain how the American conservative movement has effectively challenged and blocked climate policy in the U.S. He also has appointments in Lyman Briggs College and ESPP and was named a 2007 Kavli Frontiers Fellow in the National Academy of Sciences.

Also on the panel is Dr. Bruno Takahashi, MSU Assistant Professor of Journalism and Communication. Dr. Takahashi is the Research Director at the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, and associated with the Health and Risk Communication Center, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and ESPP. His research includes how to communicate environmental risks and concerns, especially through the Latin American and U.S. Latino media.

Joining the MSU experts is Dr. Kevin Ells, Associate Professor of Mass Communication from Texas A&M University – Texarkana. Dr. Ells is a recent Fulbright Scholar who will teach Communication in Complex Environments in Azerbaijan in 2015. His studies focus on the practice and critique of environmental discourse in the media.

The final panel member is Kent Taylor, an MSU alum who was appointed by Vice President Al Gore to The Climate Reality Project. He has traveled the country presenting Mr. Gore’s slide presentation on climate change. A lecturer for Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Mr. Taylor has a long history of grassroots education on the effects of climate change on coral reef ecology.

The discussion will moderated by Dr. Jinhua Zhao, MSU Economics Professor and Director of ESPP. It will take place in the Lake Huron room of the MSU Union, beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The event is free and open to the public. Please go to http://environmentmsu.givezooks.com/events/environmental-science-communication-lessons-learned-fro to register.

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