NEUROSCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

WHAT ROLES FOR SCIENTISTS IN POLICY AND POLITICS

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4:00 PM
341 BARDEEN

Under the Administration of George W. Bush, issues associated with scientists in policy making became a surprising hot topic. Allegations of a Republican “war on science” were followed by President Barack Obama promising to restore science to its “rightful place.” But much of the optimism that accompanied President Obama’s promise has been tempered by concerns that little has changed in Washington with respect to scientists in policy making. This talk argues that scientists, and experts more generally have choices about the roles that they play in today’s political debates on topics such as pollution, genetically modified foods, and food and drug safety, just to name a few. This talk is about understanding these choices. I argue that rather than waiting for politicians to place science into its proper place (whatever you political allegiances may be) securing the effective use of science in decision making depends more on how experts manage that process. This talk will discuss the choices faced by scientists and other experts and the potential implications for the individual scientist and the broader scientific enterprise.

For additional information or questions, contact Jessica Karis: karis@wisc.edu or 262-4932