

WATER, CLIMATE + SOCIETY

PHILOMATHIA WATER FUTURES RECEPTION + DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

OCT. 7 5:30-8:30PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

MCMASTER INNOVATION PARK

Whether through extreme events or sea-level rise, many of the impacts of climate change are delivered by water. The challenges are complex, and the need for science to inform decision-making has never been greater. This distinguished lecture hosts leading practitioners in Canada and the US to learn lessons from the frontlines of efforts to respond to climate change. The two lectures are complementary perspectives on the nature of the climate change challenges we face, and the policy options to adapt.



BOB SANDFORD

Hydro-Climatic Change: The Anthropocene & Its Consequences

Changes in the composition of the atmosphere have resulted in the intensification of the global hydrological cycle resulting in more frequent and intense extreme weather events. These changes, in combination with other impacts on the Earth system, are altering the parameters by which water can be effectively managed. We appear to have entered a new era in which water and water-related climate policy have become a moving target and will remain so until relative stability returns to our climate system. This presentation will focus on the policy consequences of our impacts and how we might be respond to greater hydro-climate uncertainty.

Sandford is the EPCOR Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of United Nations “Water for Life” Decade. He is also the Director of the Western Watersheds Research Collaborative and an associate of the Centre for Hydrology which is part of the Global Water Institute at the University of Saskatchewan.



KATHY JACOBS

The Science-Policy Interface: Climate, Adaptation and Decision-Making

There are many frames for understanding the interface between science and policy in the context of adaptation and decisions, including understanding the roles of institutions, perceptions of risk, ways of learning and knowing, and the role of participatory processes. This discussion will focus primarily on experiments in knowledge-action networks to adapt to climate change in the water sector, drawing from leading case studies in the Colorado River and National Climate Assessment coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Jacobs will draw from a 20-year career in water management and over 10 years working at the intersection of science and decision-making, including three years leading the National Climate Assessment for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She currently leads the Centre for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions at the University of Arizona