

New Visions for Citizen Science

Speaker Biographies



Bob Perciasepe, *Deputy Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency*

Appointed by President Obama in 2009 as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Deputy Administrator, Bob Perciasepe continues a career spanning nearly four decades as one of the nation's leading environmental and public policy figures. An expert on environmental stewardship, advocacy, public policy, and national resource and organizational management, Perciasepe is widely respected within both the environmental and U.S. business communities. His extensive experience includes service both inside and outside of government. He served as a top EPA official in the administration of President Bill Clinton, who appointed him, first, to serve as the nation's top water official and later as the senior official responsible for air quality across the U.S. Prior to being named to his current position, he was chief operating officer at the National Audubon Society, one of the world's leading environmental organizations.



Kumar Garg, *Senior Adviser to the Deputy Director at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy*

Kumar Garg is a Senior Advisor to the Deputy Director at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy focusing on education and broader innovation policy. In particular, Kumar leads President Obama's "Educate to Innovate" campaign to improve science, technology, engineering and math education (STEM). As part of Educate to Innovate, which already has secured over \$700 million in private sector commitments, Mr. Garg works with a broad range of industry, foundations, philanthropists, states, non-profits, professional societies, and federal agencies to build on the President's call to action. Prior to his time in government, Kumar worked on behalf of parents and children seeking educational reform as an education lawyer and advocate. He served as a Supervising Clinical Lecturer at Yale Law School, supervising students in complex litigation in education.

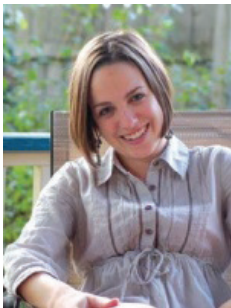


Lea Shanley, *Director, Commons Lab, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*

Lea Shanley directs the Commons Lab within the Science and Technology Innovation Program (STIP) of Woodrow Wilson Center. The Commons Lab seeks to advance research and independent policy analysis on emerging technologies that facilitate collaborative, science-based and citizen-driven decision-making, with an emphasis on their social, legal, and ethical implications. In 2010, Lea was a Postdoctoral Fellow on the Mapping Science Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2009, Lea was an American Association for the Advancement of Science/ Agronomy Society of America-Crop Science Society of America-Soil Science Society of America Congressional Science Fellow and primary science adviser to the Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Science and Space. She managed the Senator's priorities for federal R&D and crafted and negotiated legislation addressing earth observation, oceans issues, and hazards research and mitigation.

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Panelist Biographies



Erin Heaney, *Director, Clean Air Coalition of Western New York*

Erin Heaney has led the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York since 2009. Heaney ran the grassroots campaign against Tonawanda Coke Corporation that resulted in the federal indictment of the company's environmental control manager, a consent order with the EPA, and the reduction of benzene emissions by 86% in the Town of Tonawanda. Since then, the Clean Air Coalition expanded to begin organizing in several marginalized, Western New York neighborhoods around environmental health and justice issues. Erin has been awarded EPA Region 2's Environmental Quality Award, and has been featured as the Person of the Day by the Huffington Post.



Dr. Stuart Lynn, *Citizen Science Research and Technical Development Lead, Zooniverse*

Stuart Lynn started off life studying mathematical physics at Edinburgh University before deciding astronomy was prettier and easier to explain in bars, and obtained a Ph.D. in astrophysics. He currently works at the Adler Planetarium as a developer and researcher for Zooniverse. Stuart is fascinated by how web technologies can change both participating in science and museums, and passionate about getting everyone involved in doing robust science and making real discoveries online. Follow him on Twitter @Stuart_Lynn.



Dr. Lina Nilsson, *Innovation Director, Blum Center for Developing Economies; Founder, Tekla Labs*

Lina Nilsson is the Innovation Director of the Blum Center for Developing Economies, where she works to engage university-based science and technology initiatives in international development. Nilsson supports open science through Tekla Labs, a repository of open source documents for the construction of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) lab equipment. In 2013, Lina was named one of MIT Technology Review's Top 35 Innovators Under 35. A biomedical engineer by training, Dr. Nilsson believes that global challenges in health, environment, and development require grassroots contributions from the entire global scientific community.



Dr. Jake Weltzin, *Ecologist, US Geological Survey; Executive Director, USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN)*

The USA-NPN's National Coordinating Office guides the development of the Network, facilitates communication between scientists, land managers, policy-makers, and the public who are interested in assessing the effects of global change on natural ecological systems. Jake Weltzin assumed his position as Executive Director of the USA-NPN in August 2007. As its first Executive Director, Jake's vision for USA-NPN is "to develop a continental-scale instrument for integrative assessment of global change that simultaneously serves as an outreach and educational platform for citizens and educators."