

# Societal and Ethical Implications

## Associate Director Report

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# NNCI's SEI Team



LeeAnn Kahlor  
TNF



David Berube  
RTTN



Diana Hicks  
SENIC



Jamey Wetmore  
NCI-SW

This team develops independent research and training programs and works to support the rest of the NNCI sites that want to work SEI programs into their sites.



# Winter School on Emerging Technologies



January 3-10, 2024 *last year*

*This year:* January 3-10, 2025



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# NNCI SEI Webinar

## Philanthropic Funding of Scientific Research



**Evan Michelson**  
Program Director  
Energy & Environment  
Sloan Foundation



**Josh Greenberg**  
Program Director  
Technology  
Sloan Foundation



**Ian Philp**  
Program Officer  
Environment  
Spitzer Charitable Trust

Still available at the NNCI's YouTube page

# Science Outside the Lab program



HOW AND WHERE  
ARE SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY POLICY  
DECISIONS MADE?

HOW DO SOCIETY  
AND GOVERNMENT  
USE TECHNOLOGICAL  
KNOWLEDGE?

WHAT DO SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
POLICY JOBS  
LOOK LIKE?



# SotL 2024 Participants





# Science Outside the Lab 2024



Smithsonian  
Institution



**GAO**  
U.S. GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE



# SOtL - What we learned

## *How it all works...*

- I thought the research funders were ignorant, that they didn't know the details and were distributing the funding willy nilly. This week humanized these agencies really well.
- In one sense, I think I perhaps lost some humility after realizing how much federal science policy is shaped by scientists and engineers like me. In another sense though, I have gained humility by realizing how difficult it can be to actually effect lasting changes in governmental policy.



# SOtL - What the students learned

*That there is work to be done...*

- There are still a lot of hurdles for including diversity in research and funding
- I learned more about how policies get made, as well as why it's important for us to be involved.



# SOTL - What we Learned

## *How to engage with policy...*

- Science communication is mandatory when it comes to science policy. You need to be able to help others understand you.
- We talked about hard influence and soft influence and learned that soft influence is how most change happens.



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# SOtL - What Our Speakers learned

- I was able to gain insights into the research projects on multiple transformative technologies and learn about the perspectives of very qualified students on some of the policy questions currently being asked around diplomatic and policy circles.
- The dialogue with the group provided opportunities to share ideas and brainstorm about approaches to improve the current policy options in areas such as Artificial intelligence.

# SOTL - What we Learned

*Where to go from here...*

- We can use this information for a lot more than science policy.
- I learned that there is another way for us to respond... I used to be told there is academia and industry. Now I know of a third way to move forward in a career.
- I feel like I'm not alone. This was a reminder that there are other people working in this space, inspiring me to follow them.

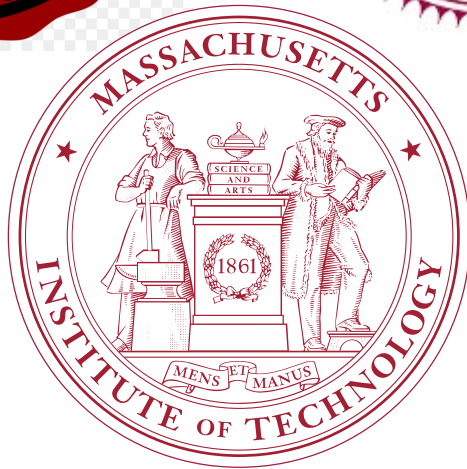


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# 2024 SotL Alums





# 2024 SOfL Alums

Future Science Policy Leaders  
Club established at the  
University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro last week

Mau Cabo, Jr. (2024)  
Nooshin KianvashRad (2024)  
Bukola Adesanmi (2023)



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**



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# 2024 SOTL Alums

THE EMBASSY OF GREECE PRESENTS

SHAPING TOMORROW:  
MY JOURNEY FROM  
ROBOTICS TO  
BIOENGINEERING AND  
SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

**Dimitris Boufidis**

PhD candidate at the University  
of Pennsylvania



 Thursday, October 24, at 6:30 pm

 Embassy of Greece  
2217 Massachusetts Ave, 20008, NW

## Dimitris Boufidis



# 2024 SOTL Alums

Jide Olugbade  
Georgia Tech

Adjunct Staff  
Rand Corporation





# 2024 SOTL Alums

## Amnahir Pena-Alcantara Stanford University

White House Fellow at NIST working in  
the Chief of Staff office

**NIST**  
**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce



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# Science Outside the Lab 2025

May 28 – 30, 2025

**Faculty Program**

June 1 – 7, 2025

**Graduate Student Program**

June 22-28, 2025

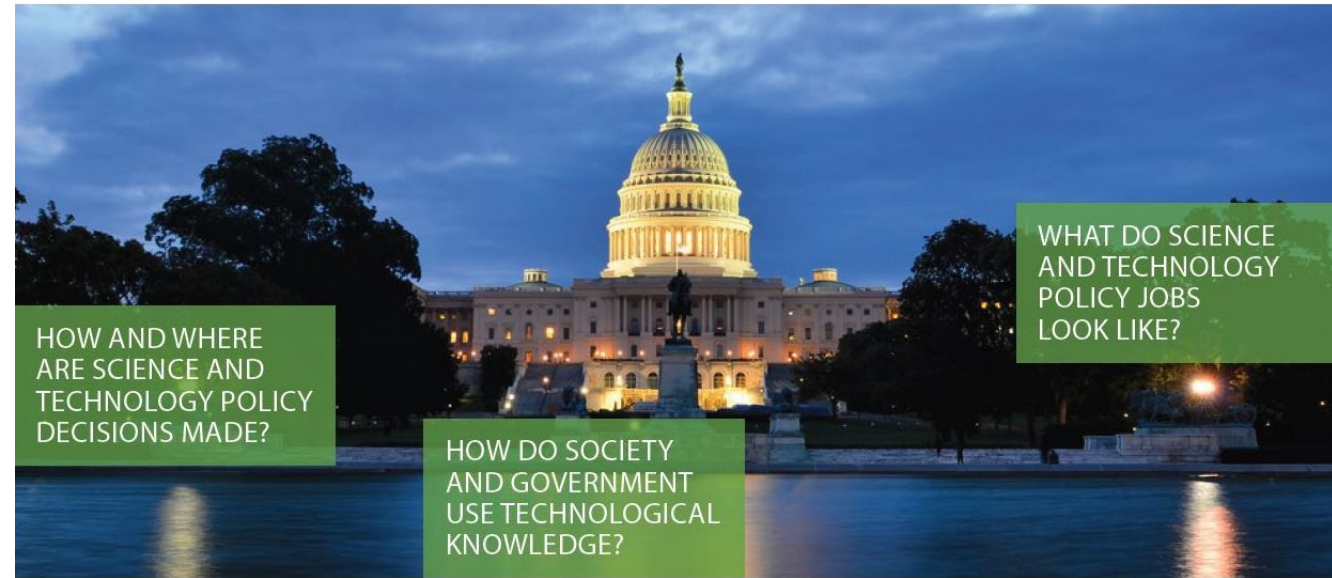
**Graduate Student Program**

Call for Applications:

**Late January 2025**

Applications Due:

**late February 2025**



<https://nnci.net/science-outside-lab>