From Wow to Yuck to Meh: The Normalization of Nano Risk

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Abstract: This seminar will explore the evolution of the discussion around nanotechnology and the environment from its early days to how it influenced conversations about other emerging technologies in the present. Topics will include policy decision making, public perception, and corporate social responsibility.

Bio: Kristen Kulinowski is the Director of IDA's Science and Technology Policy Institute, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center. In this capacity, she leads more than 40 researchers providing analysis of national and international science and technology issues for the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation, among others. In the first decade of the 21st century, Dr. Kulinowski was a Senior Faculty Fellow in Chemistry at Rice University and served as the Executive Director for the Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology (CBEN) and the Director of the International Council on Nanotechnology (ICON). Much of her work at Rice focused on bringing together diverse stakeholders to explore and communicate the potential risks of engineered nanomaterials. Dr. Kulinowski attained a bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry from Canisius College. She earned master's and doctorate degrees in chemistry from the University of Rochester.