

“How Can Scientists & Engineers Influence Public Policy?: Lessons Learned from the Field”

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FEB
Fri



Prof. Richard Barke

Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy

Friday, February 21, 2020

4:30pm to 6pm

DM Smith Bldg, Rm 105

FOOD & BEVERAGES PROVIDED

RSVP's appreciated (but not required) so that we can estimate food & beverages: mzak@gatech.edu

After graduating from Georgia Tech (Physics), **Professor Barke** earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Rochester. He has advised agencies in the U.S. and abroad, the U.S. Congress, and companies on how to incorporate expert scientific advice into public policy. In this lecture, he shares what he has learned over the years about the effectiveness of scientists in political arenas. Examples include cases from FDA, EPA, FCC, NASA, and the U.S. Congress.

Professor Barke's research focuses on the roles of politics within science and of science within politics, and the regulation of risk (particularly the FDA). Dr. Barke has written about topics such as the political behavior of scientific disciplines, the politics of science budgeting in Congress, and how scientists translate scientific findings into policy recommendations. Recent works involve the decision making processes by which science and ethics are reconciled in the regulation of research, particularly research involving human subjects and in nanotechnology. Currently he is writing a book about political, cognitive, and economic obstacles to long-term policy making.

- » Why don't policymakers take expert scientific advice more seriously?
- » How does S&T expertise get into the policy process?
- » Can a good scientist or engineer be a good policymaker?
- » What strategies and tactics can Tech students and alumni use to have more impact?

THE MEG & SAM FLAX LECTURE SERIES ON PUBLIC POLICY

invites top scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to speak to a wide audience of Georgia Tech students and faculty on issues of urgent importance in public policy. Our goal is not just a better understanding of current issues, but to get diverse perspectives on the proper role(s) for government in solving crucial problems. Because they practice at the cutting-edge of their fields, or on the front-lines of government policy, the

Flax Lecturers speak not from philosophy or theory, but from facts, data, and experience. Topics range from science & technology policy to energy and the environment, from pandemic threats to sustainable development, from artificial intelligence and cyber-security to monetary policy, and even outer space. All Flax lectures are free of charge. Members of the broader Georgia Tech and Atlanta community are welcome to attend.