

Joint EES/Biology/Physics COLLOQUIUM



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Insight Magnetics /APS Speaker

How is this Man Lying? Misinformation and Intimidation in the Climate Wars

Abstract

Yes, they're lying. But, how are they doing it, and why does it work so well? Politicians and pundits have always spun the facts, but rarely has the assault on truth seemed so pervasive, or so much of it focused on science. Candidates for NIH advisory positions are asked if they voted for Bush. A White House official redacts reports on climate science. Fish and Wildlife scientists complain of pressure to alter their findings. Meanwhile, Ann Coulter says global warming is a nutty superstition, Whistleblower magazine says it's a globalist conspiracy, and less than half of Americans think it's human-caused. If aggression and denial are part of our human heritage, nothing seems to bring them out like climate change. This talk illustrates some of the tactics in the climate wars, through the words of some prominent combatants: Rush Limbaugh, Richard Lindzen, Patrick Michaels, and the battered scientists from NOAA, NASA and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The talk ends with some questions for all of us as citizens and scientists: Are we as pure as we claim? Do we defend science in ways that make an easy target for demagogues? How can we engage other citizens comprehensibly, persuasively, yet honestly?

3-4 p.m., Friday, September 28th
Joint Colloquium Biology/EES/Physics
LOCATION: McLane 162